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A column created especially for people spending their golden years in Falmouth, written by these same senior citizens.

Grandkids visiting? Here are some fun things to do!

By Mary Fran Buckley

Summer isn't over yet! Grandchildren, nieces and nephews still have plans for a summer vacation on the Cape. How to entertain them when days at the beach get old, or the weather doesn't cooperate? We're very fortunate here in Falmouth to have numerous opportunities beyond playing on the shore. Let me guide you through some possibilities.

Falmouth Public Library: What a wonderful place to start (plus, it's air-conditioned)! Just about every day the library hosts an activity, from Family Storytime, to Zumbatomic (a fun and healthy dance and fitness program, separate sessions for ages 5–8 and 8–10), to Legos in the Library and Family Fun Fridays. This is just a partial list. For more information, go to the library's website, www.falmouthpubliclibrary.org, and click on "events."

Highfield Hall: Highfield Hall has week-long summer camps for children; most are filled in the spring—so keep this in mind next year and register early. Their last family event for the summer will be a Family Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, August 25, at 12:30. To find out more and check for rain dates, go to their website, www.highfieldhall.org.

Woods Hole Science Aquarium: Open Tuesday through Saturday, from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., the aquarium has 140 species of marine animals found in the Northeast and Middle Atlantic. Two highlights are the touch tanks on the upper level, and the seals, which are fed at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. most days. And during the summer, there are collecting walks at local beaches, led by WHSA aquarists and interns. For these walks, you must make a reservation in person at the aquarium. Their website (www.nefsc.noaa.gov/nefsc/aquarium) lists the dates, times and other relevant information. Or you can call the aquarium (508-495-2001) for more information.

Woods Hole Ocean Science Exhibit Center: Open from 10:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., May through October, the center features a short video on a day in the life of the deep submersible *Alvin* and highlights the discovery and exploration of the wreck of the *Titanic*. Visitors can explore a full size model of the inner sphere of the *Alvin* and imagine life at the ocean floor while watching footage taken at deep-sea hydrothermal vent sites. There is no admission fee, although there is a suggested donation of \$2 for those ages 10 and up. For information, go to www.whoi.edu, click on the education link and then the exhibit center link, or call 508-289-2663.

Museums on the Green: The museum is open Tuesday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in August, at 10:00 a.m., there are walking tours of Falmouth. On Saturday, August 3 at 2:00 p.m.,

commemorate the 200th anniversary of the publication of *Pride and Prejudice* with readings and tea in the garden. The Katharine Lee Bates Poetry Fest will be Monday, August 12.

Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve offers numerous activities throughout the summer for families and children. Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m., join a staff member for Creature Feature, which focuses on an animal or group of animals found along the coast. Every Saturday in August participate in an activity as part of Discovery Days, the Visitor Center open house. There is a junior ranger program for ages 8–12 on Thursdays, from 3:00– 4:30 p.m. Call the center (508-457-0495) or go to the website, www.waquoitbayreserve.org, to get a complete listing.

Cape League Baseball: Always a relaxing and enjoyable way to spend a summer evening, the Cape League boasts good baseball at an affordable price (donations are requested). The regular season ends on Sunday, August 4; the playoff games are August 6 through August 14. Schedules can be found on their website, www.capecodbaseball.org.

OceanQuest, Woods Hole is a non-profit marine educational organization with many activities. Reservations are required for their one-and-a-half hour long Discovery Cruises, which depart Mondays through Fridays at 10:30, 12:30 and 2:30 and Saturdays and Sundays at 12:30 and 2:30 (they must have 12 passengers to hold the cruise). Kids participate in hands-on marine experiments and are allowed to haul traps, operate instruments, explore touch-tanks, and learn about the native waters surrounding Woods Hole.

OceanQuest also hosts Family Fun Fishing cruises on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, 5:00–8:00, and Saturdays from 8:30–11:00 a.m. For information and reservations, call 508-419-6085, or go to their website, www.oceanquest.org.

Eight Cousins Bookstore: One of the summer highlights at the bookstore is the Gamewright Family Game Night. On Saturday, August 10, from 7:00–9:00 p.m. come to the bookstore for an evening of games, prizes—and more games. Author Linda Urban will be in the store August 13 at 2:00 p.m. Her books are aimed at children ages 8–11.

The Kindergarten Social will be held Saturday, August 11 at 11:00 a.m. This annual event, held for children entering kindergarten in the fall, helps ease the way into this new experience.

Storytime continues every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. for ages 2–5. For more information about these events, go to the website, www.eightcousins.com, or call the store (508-548-5548).

I'm sure there are more places to visit and enjoy—this is a brief introduction to what Falmouth offers to its visitors and local families alike. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Neighborhood Falmouth is a nonprofit, membership organization, operating since 2009 to help Falmouth seniors live safely and

comfortably in their own homes. For more information on joining, volunteering, and donating, call 508-564-7543; or visit www.neighborhoodfalmouth.org.