



Meeting Seniors' Needs

Newsletter

April 2011

Office Phone: 508-564-7543

NF Annual Meeting Set for April 28

April 6, 2011, marks the two-year anniversary of Neighborhood Falmouth, a cause for celebration as we gather on Thursday, April 28, for our annual meeting. It will take place at 2:00 p.m. at the Congregational Church on Falmouth Village Green, in the Fellowship Hall at the back of the church, where there is an entry (and elevator) off the church parking lot.

The Governance Committee, led by Redwood Wright, is assembling a fine group of board nominees for election at this meeting. We would welcome your suggestions at 508-540-5736 or mayred@mac.com as the committee's work continues. There will also be reports from officers and committee chairs and a chance to discuss our organization and its direction. Coffee, tea, anniversary cake, and other goodies will be offered following the meeting. Please join us for this Neighborhood Falmouth gathering!

“Get Your Papers in Order – and Put Your Mind at Ease”

A panel discussion on executing and organizing vital records will be presented on Tuesday, April 12th, 2 p.m., in the Hermann Foundation Meeting Room, Falmouth Public Library. The panel will include attorney Carol Kenney, Dr. Seth Harvey, a Chapman Cole & Gleason representative, and Vicky Cullen and Oneta Stroumtsos sharing experiences as powers of attorney and executors. Reservations are suggested (call 508-564-7543) to insure sufficient seating. Last-minute attendees are also welcome.

Falmouth Academy Work Days

We are delighted that students from the Senior and Junior classes at FA are offering members of NF two work days this spring.

Junior class – Tuesday, May 10th

Senior class – Thursday, May 12th

They are willing to do spring chores both indoors and outdoors. **Please call the office ASAP** to let us know if you would like to have help from the students on either of these days. This will be the third year that the senior class has given NF members a work day; this year the junior class is also offering their service.

Meet for Breakfast/Coffee

We have reserved tables at the Falmouth Grille (formerly Hearth and Kettle) for Monday, April 11th, at 9 a.m. Please join us if you can—it's a great way to begin the week.

Meet for Lunch

We are reserving tables at the Coonamessett Inn for 11:45 a.m., Wednesday, April 20th. Please call the office to reserve a seat or, if you find you can attend at the last minute, just come. We'll simply add another chair.

Requests for a Volunteer

Please do your best to give at least 72 hours of notice for any service request in order to allow the assisting volunteer to plan ahead. We try to accommodate last-minute requests but cannot promise that anyone will be available to help in these cases.

Tax Suggestion for 2011

One of our members recently discovered that she could notify her traditional IRA provider of an amount she wanted to send to a charity and ask that a check be sent directly to the charity. At tax time, the provider will send her and the government a distribution form saying payment was made by her to the charity. Larger amounts (\$1,000 or more) may be arranged by telephone; for smaller amounts, she writes a letter to the provider. Anyone considering this should call their own IRA custodian for more specific information.

Reminder

Twice a year (spring and fall), Eastman/Ace Hardware will provide members of NF with two free 9-volt batteries for your smoke alarms. If you need help installing them, give us a call and a volunteer will be happy to assist you.



**Joe Day, Member
Neighborhood Falmouth**
by Mavise Crocker

Joe Day belongs to what has been called the Greatest Generation of American citizens. Born in the mid-1920s he lived through the Great Depression of the 1930s then through World War II of the 1940s. His early life was formed by these events and resulted in the values of the era: hard work, good education,

loyalty and service to our country, and a healthy work ethic.

He was raised in Waltham, attended Exeter Academy, and entered M.I.T in the fall of 1942. His education was interrupted, however, when he was drafted into the Army and assigned to the Signal Corps as a radio operator. For the next three years Joe Day, a lad of 18, grew to adulthood in what some have called seeing the world courtesy of the U.S. Government.

After a brief training period to learn Morse Code on the "speed key" machine, he was sent to Melbourne, Australia, traveling miles across the Pacific without a convoy. From there he went to India and over the Himalayan Hump into Burma.

As he traveled around this exotic Asian world, there was little opportunity for our men in service to fraternize with Chinese citizens. They were there for one reason: to finish the war in the Pacific. Joe's work might be likened to the email system of today: sending messages to Army outposts all over the region—messages that were received and translated immediately on receipt.

With the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan in August of 1945, the war was virtually over for the servicemen who had fought in the Pacific area for many months... but for Joe Day the best was yet to come. He didn't have enough points (time in service) to come home early after peace was declared, so his unit was flown to Shanghai, which, Joe says, was the highlight of his army career.

The war was over; the stress was gone, and the boys who stayed could now enjoy the benefits of their "wartime cruise"—the Chinese food, the relaxation, and the camaraderie with their buddies. For Joe there were two main reasons why his stay in Shanghai was so important. First was the opportunity to travel north and spend time in the capitol.

Second was finding that the theater engineer was an M.I.T. graduate and president of the M.I.T. Club of Shanghai. It turned out that his immediate boss was also an M.I.T. graduate, so there was an immediate rapport and friendship with these men. It was six months later in March of 1946, that Joe and his unit finally started the long voyage home.

After his wartime service Joe took full advantage of the G.I. Bill, which enabled returning veterans to attend college with tuition fully paid by the government. In the spring of 1946, Joe Day returned to M.I.T. where he graduated four years later with a degree in civil engineering.

Still hungry for more education, Joe applied to Harvard Business School, where he obtained his M.B.A. degree. Well fortified with his educational background, 1953 found him in the employ of Wexler Construction Company in Boston, where he remained for thirteen years.

This was the beginning of a very productive and interesting career for Joe. As he worked with several different companies, including Macomber Construction, Aberthaw, and Gilbane, he and his wife and two daughters moved around the Massachusetts area from Concord to Winchester to Duxbury, with Joe commuting to his various jobs, even to areas as distant as Rhode Island.

Finally Joe Day stopped commuting. He and his wife had always loved Maine, where they vacationed for many years, so they retired to Brunswick in 1990. But Joe's working days were not over, for he continued a phase that had been central to his career: that of arbitration and training lawyers in construction safety. Later, they were lured to Cape Cod where their daughter was living. In a secluded woodland section of Falmouth, they built a beautiful home that they enjoyed together until his wife's death in 2002.

Today, Joe is fully retired and still enjoying his home and very active life. In addition to

pursuing his varied interests in music, reading, and computer work, he has been on the boards of the M.I.T. and Harvard Clubs of Cape Cod. Thus, with his war experience, his education, and his varied career in construction engineering, Joe Day is a true representative of the Greatest Generation.

Editor's note: Our sympathy goes out to Joe on the March 31st death of his daughter Sarah Mann, following a long illness.

NF/Senior Discounts

Falmouth Taxi Company: now offering a 25% discount to Falmouth Seniors. Be sure to ask for the discount if you use their service.

Eastman/Ace Hardware: 10% discount to members of NF on most full priced items and available every day. Just show your membership card to the clerk.

Windfall Market: 5% Senior discount every Wednesday.

Family Foods: 10% Senior discount every Wednesday (no deli items or alcohol).

Mahoney's Garden Center: 10% Senior discount every Wednesday.