



# VIPS Happenings

## Falmouth Volunteers In Public Schools

Volume 20, No. 3 Spring 2008

### VIPS Celebrates Volunteers!

This spring, the VIPS staff and several members of its board of advisors visited each of Falmouth's K-6 schools to celebrate our volunteers during **National Volunteer Appreciation Week**. We brought the party with us—VIPS banner, cake, balloons, and flowers—and left with a great admiration for each school's "personality," inviting atmosphere, welcoming staff, enthusiastic students, and volunteers happy to show off "their school." Thanks to all of you who hosted and visited with us. We have decided to make this an annual tradition, so be on the lookout for your invitations next spring! And, if you can't make the date reserved for your "regular" school, please consider visiting a different school. A special thanks to **Roche Bros.** and to **Balloon Creations** for their donations.



Of course, we held another big celebration this spring... the annual **Volunteer Recognition Dinner**, on Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. The exceptional staff at the **Coonamessett Inn** provided a sun-filled room and, as always, a delicious meal. Along with our sponsors, **Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank, Rotary Club of Falmouth, Slade Mortgage Company, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution,** and the **VIPS Board of Advisors**, those in attendance were welcomed by Superintendent Dennis Richards and thanked by VIPS director, Tracey Crago. This year, over 1,100 volunteers have contributed their time and talents to the schools. By early spring, 29,252 hours had been logged—and that is before the volunteer-intensive spring season had begun! *If you can give an hour, we can find a place for you!*

If you couldn't make this year's dinner, you should know about the 2007-08 Outstanding Volunteers of the Year. They are: **Wendy Paine** from Falmouth High School, a volunteer with the FHS Band Parents; **Rich Losordo** from Lawrence School, a volunteer coach for the school football and baseball teams; **Phyllis Goldstein** from Morse Pond, a volunteer for the theater program; **Tina Broderick** from East Falmouth Elementary, a classroom and PTO volunteer; **Dayna Meissner** and **Candice Dimond** from Mullen-Hall Elementary, co-organizers of numerous fundraisers, co-presidents of the PTO, and classroom volunteers; **Alan Elloian** from North Falmouth Elementary, classroom and event volunteer; and **Jim and Sheila Goldrick** from Teaticket Elementary, for their efforts with the Mile Club and classroom duties, respectively. This year's recipients received engraved plates designed for VIPS by Woods Hole potter **Tessa Lineaweaver**.

Also recognized at the VIPS dinner was **Joe Ferreira**, for his long commitment to VIPS as a board member and officer, and for his oversight of the "Computers for Kids" program.

In addition to the many adult volunteers, VIPS encourages and supports student volunteers. This year, the VIPS Board of Advisors, along with East Falmouth residents **Robert B. and Kathleen Rogers**, co-funded scholarships to two Falmouth High School students who



From L to R: Kathy Rogers, Tracey Crago, Katherine Womboldt, Nicole Silvia, and Bob Rogers

exemplified a dedication to volunteerism and community service. This year's recipients are **Nicole E. Silvia** and **Katherine R. Womboldt**, both seniors. Nicole, the daughter of Thomas and Annmarie Silvia of East Falmouth, will attend Saint Anselm College in September. Katherine, the daughter of John and Rose Womboldt of Falmouth, will attend Stonehill College.

### "Just Do It" (Please)!

When we say "it's never too late" to **log your hours**, we mean it! Sit down at your computer, type in the [vips@falmouth.k12.ma.us](mailto:vips@falmouth.k12.ma.us) address, and send us an e-mail with your name and a best-guess of your hours since the last time you logged them. Haven't logged any of your hours yet this year? It's OK...send the whole tally! That's it! In less than 4 minutes, **you** will have cleared your conscience of that nagging, guilty feeling and **we** will credit your hours towards our yearly total. Why do we care? Because your contributions matter! (And because funding organizations love to see the investment you make in our schools.) *Thank you!*

### Important Reminders

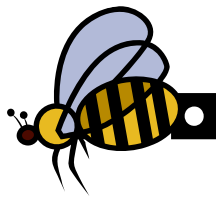
Mark Your Calendars for September 27<sup>th</sup>—the date for the **Fests of Falmouth 2008!** All of your favorite local restaurants will be there, offering "tastes" of their specialties. The bonus? All proceeds benefit VIPS! There is no excuse to miss the tastiest fundraiser in town! See you under the tent on Saturday, Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> at the Marine Park Bandshell!



From L to R: Rich Losordo, Wendy Paine, Sheila & Jim Goldrick, Phyllis Goldstein, Tracey Crago, Dayna Meissner, Candice Dimond, Tina Broderick

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## About VIPS

### Falmouth Volunteers In Public Schools (VIPS)

was initiated in 1982 as a way to increase interaction between Falmouth schools and the community. Today, 26 years later, VIPS has grown from eight volunteers at Falmouth High School to over 1,100 volunteers in all seven schools. VIPS provides the schools with an organized, reliable volunteer corps that supplements and enriches the curriculum. Volunteers are given the opportunity to use their talents, time and energy in creative, worthwhile ways. Each year, volunteers log thousands of hours—nearly 44,000 last year alone—while supporting the students, faculty, administration and the community. Local businesses contribute to this unique partnership by sponsoring events, providing tax-deductible contributions, donating raffle and auction items, and providing release time or support for employee volunteers.

#### VIPS Staff:

**Tracey Crago** – Director

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**Drawdé Geishecker** – Secretary

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## School Buzz

At **Teaticket Elementary**, volunteers have helped “rescue recess”—and their efforts earned \$250 for recess toys and equipment! Teaticket parents **Stacy and Craig O’Malley** heard about the Cartoon Network *Rescuing Recess Volunteer Challenge* and brought it to the attention of staff members. One of thousands of entries nationwide, Teaticket’s volunteer hours—accumulated from Mile Club and physical education classes—put it at the top for Massachusetts. Volunteers who helped make the award possible include **Jim Goldrick, Sterling Geggatt, Jill Crowell, Kelly Geist, Drawdé** and **Frank Geishecker, Denise Acquaviva, and Lee Thunberg.**

## Crane Classic Golf Tournament Benefits VIPS

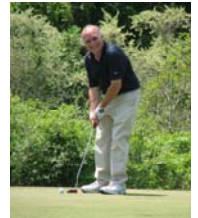
The weather was picture-perfect and the course at **Falmouth Country Club** was in great shape as golfers hit the links to benefit VIPS. The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual *Crane Appliance Golf Classic* was held Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to our major sponsors,

**Bob and Paula Crane**, the event is one of the largest fundraisers for VIPS. With lots of help from planning committee members **Rick**

**Baldwin, Mike Bishop, Paula Crane, Dana Gonsalves, Greg Lanoue, and Don McCarthy,** and staff members

**Drawdé Geishecker and Kathleen Pokraka**, the golfers enjoyed lunch (courtesy of **DFM Insurance**), a round of golf, and dinner catered by **La Cucina Sul Maré**, while trying their luck with raffles and bidding on auction items donated by local businesses. Special thanks to **Tim Kelly** of White Tie Limousine, **Harry Turner** of

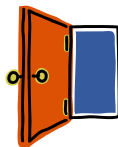
Obsession Boat Sales, **Tim Denmark** of Royal Health Group, **The Black Dog**, and many Crane Appliance vendors for their contributions to the event. Auctioneer **Dana Panepinto** really got things going with the live bidding, and event volunteers **Carolyn Woods, Donna Longval, Annie Craft, Mike Bishop, Vanessa Schneider, Rick Baldwin, Ralph Hannon, Anthony Chinappi, Patty MacConnell,** and the wonderful staff at Falmouth Country Club—under the direction of **Ryan Phelps and Scott Roberts**—kept everything running smoothly.



*Congratulations go out to this year’s winners:*

First Place, Men’s Division—**Scott Worrirow, Don Mechisen, Mike Mechisen**; First Place, Scotch Foursome—**Bob and Nicole Walker, Linda and Mark Skiba**; Second Place, Men’s Division—**Chris Potter, John Ceneli, Craig Medeiros, Eddie Mauer**; Third Place, Men’s Division—**Jack Basile, Steve Nickerson, Peter VanMagenen, Ed Gula**; Longest Drive (Men’s)—**Chris Parker**; Longest Drive (Ladies)—**Nicole Walker**; Closest to the Pin Winners—**John Silvia, Steve Nickerson, Ray Marks.**

If you like to golf, join us May 29, 2009 for next year’s event. For more information and photos from this year’s tournament, check out our website, [www.falmouthvips.org](http://www.falmouthvips.org) and go to Events.



## Inside VIPS

**VIPS Board of Advisors Elected at Annual Meeting.** VIPS would like to recognize the contributions made by our outgoing advisory board members: **Joe Ferreira, Lizanne Foley, Trish Herlihy, John Sorgi, and Nancy McDermott.** As we bid a heartfelt and thankful goodbye to these individuals, we welcome our newly-elected board members, whose terms begin in September: **Karen Chorches, Dayna Meissner, and Barbara Urban.**

VIPS has received funding that will help support its volunteer recognition efforts (**Wal-Mart Foundation**) and two of its hallmark programs: mentoring (**Woods Hole Foundation**) and the Cross-Age Science Teaching (CAST) program (**Falmouth Education Foundation**). We gratefully acknowledge this local support—a great investment in VIPS and in the programming that enhances the education of Falmouth students.



## Spotlight: Falmouth Band Parents

They deliver poinsettias, haul away needle-shedding Christmas trees, dispose of unwanted computer equipment and household electronics, recycle ink cartridges, sell citrus fruit, cookie dough and pizzas, hold bake sales, and collect Box Tops. “They” are the **Falmouth Band Parents, Inc.**, an extremely organized, highly involved group of parents and students whose hard work supports the band programs at both the Lawrence School and Falmouth High School.



**Sueanne Bouchie**, who in three years helped raise over \$20,000 for the Lawrence band programs, says the funds help support student musicians, purchase uniforms and instruments, and offset travel costs to competitions and festivals. Lawrence music teacher LaVada Studley credits Sueanne for her exceptional dedication to the Lawrence program. “I don’t know what I would have done without her, she has a special way of inviting other parents to share in the fun.” Lawrence students recently participated in—and won

several trophies in honor of their performances—at “Music in the Parks,” a competition for band and chorus members, held at Six Flags New England. For the Bouchies, volunteering, raising funds, and performing is a family affair: Sueanne and her husband, Bob help support the program, while son Michael, a junior at FHS, and daughter Sarah, an 8th grader at Lawrence, perform and participate in fundraisers.



At FHS, **Wendy Paine** says that the support of Falmouth Band Parents lowers the participation costs for every student, whether it is a trip-related expenses (every other year), instrument repairs, or instrument purchases. Paine was a band member herself when she attended FHS, and her mother was a member of Falmouth Band Parents. Wendy and her husband, Mark, have been active members since their daughter Rachel, who graduated this year, was a freshman. Paine estimates that between 30-40 parents participate in the FHS program each year. Parents are encouraged—though not required—to join; annual dues are \$5 per family.

Funds are also raised at the Barnstable County Fair (volunteers are paid for cleanup duties, netting approximately \$2,500 each year) and the Falmouth Road Race (volunteers earn between \$800 and \$1,000 each year working the post-race food stations). Regardless of whether the parents join, all student band members benefit and all are eligible to earn points by volunteering in fundraisers. A big expense offset by the Band Parents is the purchase of instruments. Recently, funds were used to buy an alto saxophone and marimba. These instruments provide students with an opportunity to try out and get experience with specialized instruments at the high school level. *Thank you, Falmouth Band Parents!*

## Volunteer Profile: Mike Bishop



It helps to be tall when you volunteer in a school library. Just ask Mullen-Hall parent **Mike Bishop**, whose son Brendan is a second-grader in Deb Mulkeen’s class. Bishop, who volunteers in the classroom and sometimes helps out in the library, assists students in picking out books, looking up selections on the computer, and even pulling down those hard-to-reach books on the top shelf.

Bishop, who works in the computer and information systems department at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), has volunteered in Falmouth schools ever since his son started Kindergarten at East Falmouth, then first grade at Mullen-Hall. He says it’s getting to know the students and teachers that he likes the most. “It’s fun when Brendan comes home and talks about what went on in the classroom and I can put a face with the name,” says Bishop. He likes interacting with his son’s classmates and

*(continued above)*

## Profile (cont’d)

becoming familiar with their personalities. “It’s great getting to know the teachers, too,” says Bishop, “because once you have established a relationship, it’s easier to communicate about the school work. It also makes for easier transitions throughout the year.”

Bishop also volunteers for sports programs, both at the Falmouth Recreation Department, where he has coached soccer and basketball teams, and at the travel level, coaching the Falmouth Youth Soccer program’s U9 boys’ team. He also coaches a double-A division team for Falmouth Youth Baseball. This spring, he volunteered to coach an afternoon basketball program at Mullen-Hall, part of the PTO after-school enrichment offerings.

As a member of the Portuguese-American Club of Martha’s Vineyard, the Falmouth Elks, Midway Trap and Skeet Club, and co-chair of the Crane Appliance Golf Classic—a golf tournament to benefit VIPS—Bishop divides his time between his own interests and those of his son. “I like the camaraderie involved with volunteering,” says Bishop. “Once you eliminate the financial compensation, it’s a great feeling: no one is doing it for the money, they’re doing it for a great cause.”



### Give the Gift of VIPS!

Stumped with gift ideas for someone who has everything? Commemorate a special occasion by making a **tax-deductible contribution to VIPS**. We'll acknowledge your gift and send a card to the recipient. This is a great way to give a gift and support VIPS programming at the same time. Interested in learning more? Contact us at [vips@falmouth.k12.ma.us](mailto:vips@falmouth.k12.ma.us) or visit our website at [www.falmouthvips.org](http://www.falmouthvips.org) for more information.

### Help Wanted!

We're gearing up for the next big VIPS fundraiser: the annual **Feasts of Falmouth and Beyond**, scheduled for **Saturday, September 27th** at Marina Park. We could use lots of volunteers in the morning, between 7:30–10:30 a.m. to help set up tables and chairs, and unload supplies. Volunteers are also needed during the event (11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.), to help punch tickets at each table, manage trash and recycle bins, stock supplies at each station, and crowd management. After the event, volunteers are needed to break down tables and chairs, load up the truck with leftover supplies, and make sure the park is restored to pre-event condition. This generally takes an hour. Can you help? Bring a friend and join us for the tastiest fundraiser in town! Give us a call at (508) 548-1621 or send an e-mail to [vips@falmouth.k12.ma.us](mailto:vips@falmouth.k12.ma.us).

### Share Your Ideas!

VIPS is looking for your input and ideas about...well, everything! Have an idea for a newsletter article? Is someone worthy of recognition? Is there a program that could use some support? Do you have ideas for the VIPS website? How can VIPS be a part of your school events? Let us know! Call or e-mail us anytime!

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