

Acushnet officials appoint new member of harbor forum

By Carol Lee Costa-Crowell
Standard-Times staff writer
and Paul Gately
Standard-Times correspondent

ACUSHNET — After nearly three years of being the town's voice on the New Bedford Forum, Roland A. Pepin has been replaced.

Monday night selectmen appointed Selectman Peter W. Koczera to replace Mr. Pepin.

The forum is made up of federal, state, local and citizen representatives to review progress of the New Bedford Harbor cleanup.

Mr. Pepin resigned his seat on the newly created Board of Public Works last year when selectmen said he couldn't serve on both panels.

In replacing Mr. Pepin, selectmen cited a lack of communication from him about the forum's activities. Mr. Pepin denied the allegation, saying copies of the minutes of every forum meeting were given to selectmen.

Mr. Koczera was re-elected April 1 to a three-year term as selectman and said he could attend forum meetings. "I'll have more time now to devote to efforts such as the PCB cleanup," he

said.

The move to replace Mr. Pepin was proposed by Selectman Robert St. Jean and unanimously supported.

Selectmen met last summer with Mr. Pepin seeking increased communication on the cleanup process and the various U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's proposals to dispose of PCBs from the Acushnet River.

Mr. Pepin defended his record, saying he made every effort to communicate with Town Hall and added he never acted unilaterally when representing the town in New Bedford.

Mr. Pepin said yesterday he first got in a tussle with selectmen last summer when he put up signs along the Acushnet River at the EPA's request. Mr. Koczera, then selectmen chairman, said he wasn't informed the signs were going up.

Mr. Pepin said current Chairman Bverett L. Hardy Jr. called him yesterday to inform him of the replacement and to thank him for his service.

"He broke the news to me.

Frankly, I was shocked," Mr. Pepin said. "They never called me to attend Monday's meeting. I have continued to keep the board informed and appraised of the issues at all times."

He said the EPA supplies minutes of meetings and he has often given selectmen type-written reports.

Mr. Pepin said he has worked hard on the town's behalf, citing an EPA report attesting to his work in protecting the river's saltmarshes.

"In my opinion, this is not warranted. It's a total surprise to me and I felt like I was hit below the belt," Mr. Pepin said.

He is considering talking with Michael Keating, the forum's facilitator, to see if there is a way to appoint him to the organization.

"I've been on the board since it first came into existence. I've learned a lot and I really want to keep involved."

Mr. Pepin pointed out that selectmen in December gave him a certificate of appreciation for his work on the PCB issue and for the town.

For reservations or flyers, call Jean 758-6470 or Florence, 748-1918.

NEW BEDFORD

Council on Aging offices and Senior Center closed: Monday, Patriot's Day observed.

Blood Pressure Clinic: 1-3 p.m. Wednesday, Brooklawn Park, Irvington Street.

Chorale Group: Accepting new members, if interested come in any Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. For more information, see Henry James or Ruthame.

Widowed Persons Services (WPS): First Tuesday — 5:30 p.m. pot luck social, Dartmouth COA; Second Wednesday — 6-8 p.m. sup-

— 1-3 p.m. line dancing.
Buttonwood Senior
May 22 — Castleton, Sale
May 29 — Dan'l Webster
itage Plantation; June 2-4
Boothbay Harbor, Boothba
June 12 — Deerfield Int
Candle Shop. For inform
reservations, call 991-6170
a.m. Tours are not limited to
idents, others are welcome
St. Anthony's Senior
Monday, Anniversary B:
Thad's; bring gift for raffle
Sacred Heart/Holy
Seniors: Noon April 1
meal in parish center; bring
St. Francis of Assisi
1 p.m. Tuesday, church
wrapped gift for auction.
St. James Seniors: 1
day, Easter luncheon; t
whist.

FROM: Panasonic FAX SYSTEM

PHONE NO.: 5089613043

Apr. 11 1996 12:40PM P2

TV star drops in for dinner

By Carol Lee Costa-Crowell
Standard-Times staff writer

FAIRHAVEN — Nicky Soares felt like she would fly away Friday night.

The Margaret's Restaurant waitress got her big break and a big tip when, "I'll Fly Away" televi-

Follow the Sun to Days Inn New Bedford's
SUNDAY BRUNCH
EVERY SUNDAY From 11am-2pm
Adults \$12.95 Children \$6.95

OVER 30 HOT & COLD DISHES

DELICIOUS DESSERT DISPLAY

DAYS INN
New Bedford

Howland Designer Out celebrates
Superfund Records Center
SITE: NEW BEDFORD
BREAK: 13.03 **WHAT'S N.**
OTHER: 47523
with a Magnific
MALL-WID
Fri. - Sat. - Su
April 12, 13,