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INSIDE

THE VALLEY BREEZE &
Observer

Popular pup visits Foster

Meteorologist Ron Trotta and author Elly McGuire presented a Schmitty the Weather Dog Science Sing Along Show at the Moosup Valley Grange in Foster on Tuesday. **SCHMITTY THE WEATHER DOG**, is a 4-pound Yorkshire terrier who has appeared on "The Ellen Show" and "Access Hollywood" and on stage with Oprah in Central Park. Schmitty along with Trotta and McGuire teach weather science to children and adults. Above, **WHITNEY DESROSIERS**, of Foster, joins other parents in singing about Schmitty. See more photos on page 6.



VALLEY BREEZE PHOTO BY CHARLES LAWRENCE

Scituate Fire Department experiencing communication dead zones

By **JACQUELYN MOOREHEAD**
Valley Breeze & Observer Staff Writer

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SCITUATE - During an emergency response to Matteson Road on Feb. 3, Potterville Volunteer Fire Department Chief Robert Greenway said he feared the worst when he received the emergency signal from dispatch designating a "man-down" situation from inside a burning two-story home.

The seriousness of the "life-safety" situation was doubled by the fact that while Greenway stood outside the blazing home, he couldn't radio to his men inside. In an all-too common scenario for the Scituate Fire Department, Greenway and his crews were in a communication "dead zone."

Greenway explained that the town fire department's communication system works on a repeater, first sending messages to the system at the Chopmist Hill Fire Department and then transmitting the message. Though crews could be as close as 20 feet, he said, hills, valleys, and other geographic features often block the signal back to CHFD.

In the Matteson Road fire, an inside firefighter accidentally hit the "man-down" button on his radio. Greenway said the outcome was fortunate, but the situation is troubling, and he worries about the firefighters inside burning structures.

"It's frustrating when you're 40 feet apart and you can't get a progress

See **SFD**, Page 8

Sewer capacity problems in economic growth overlay district

By **JACQUELYN MOOREHEAD**
Valley Breeze & Observer Staff Writer

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SMITHFIELD - Questions are being raised about the capability of sewers in the town's economic growth overlay district to handle continued growth.

Blue Water Realty and Tristan

Development presented a pre-application concept review for a mixed-use site to the Planning Board during a Feb. 15 meeting. The proposed project, Mowry Hill Commons, is a 30,000-square-foot building with 15 residential units in the back, and six shopping units in the front, on a 2.21-acre lot at 150 George Washington Highway. The plan for the project located

just outside of the growth district, a zoning area designed to incentivize commercial growth, calls for a tie-in to current sewer mains inside the district, but Project Engineer Joseph Casali raised concerns about over-burdening sewers.

"If you look at the entire economic growth overlay district you

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Schmitty the Weather Dog comes to Foster



VALLEY BREEZE PHOTO BY CHARLES LAWRENCE

Meteorologist **RON TROTTA** introduces **SCHMITTY THE WEATHER DOG** to the gathering including **ABIGAIL GILBERT**, 3, of Foster, and her mother, **MELINDA**. Schmitty and Trotta teach weather science to children and adults.



Meteorologist **RON TROTTA** and author **ELLY MCGUIRE** presented Schmitty the Weather Dog's Science Sing-Along Show at the Moosup Valley Grange in Foster on Tuesday. Schmitty the Weather Dog is a four-pound Yorkshire terrier who has appeared on "The Ellen Show" and "Access Hollywood" and on stage with Oprah in Central Park.



RON TROTTA is a musical meteorologist living in New York City who has produced national weather stories for TV shows like ABC World News Tonight With Peter Jennings. More importantly, Trotta is the meteorologist who works with STEM star, **SCHMITTY THE WEATHER DOG**, a 4-pound Yorkshire terrier with a nose for the weather. Together with NYC's children's book author, **ELLY MCGUIRE**, they have

created a Science Sing-Along Show – an educational STEM enrichment program for elementary school students. Using literacy, music, and a really cute dog, their goal is to inspire students, especially girls, to get excited about studying STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) subjects.

BIG NEWS

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