

**NEWS**

## Riders Ready

al peddlers set for Pan-Mass Trek. Page 3



**NEWS**

## Marine Life Center Rises

Fundraising 'Mermaid Ball' planned for Friday.

# The Bourne Enterprise

Friday, July 31, 2009



DON PARKINSON/ENTERPRISE

The streetscape of Buzzards Bay is changing as the new National Marine Life Center hospital takes shape. NMLC Director Kathryn Zagzebski said construction of the new building, which will be covered with translucent panels that will allow rehabilitating turtles, seals, and even dolphins and small whales to experience natural changes in light levels, is on schedule. She expects the hospital to be open by October 31, ready for the marine animal stranding season. The center's Mermaid Ball, an annual fundraiser that helps pay for the center's operation, is set for next Friday.

## Fundraising Ball Planned As New Marine Life Center Rises Along Main Street

By DIANA T. BARTH

The opportunity to dress up like a mermaid, or a pirate, and contribute to a good cause has come around again. The National Marine Life Center's Mermaid Ball is next Friday, and tickets are still available.

The event is made more timely this year because the framework for the center's rehabilitation hospital is now rising on Main Street.

The innovative building, designed by architects Cosestudi of Rochester, is going up with the help of general contractor W.W. Reich of Mashpee. The hospital facade will feature a clear, polycarbonate wall with marine animal decals.

The first floor of the new center will contain a pool for the rehabilitation of cold-stunned and stranded sea turtles, as well as a larger one for dolphins and small whales. A seal ward is also planned. A second-floor mezzanine will house life support equipment and provide additional program space.

Phase one of the construction, the life-support or pumping station structure, has been completed and is located to the rear of the complex.

Phase three, a new Discovery

Center, is slated to replace the existing mural-covered building, and is about three years down the road, said NMLC Director Kathryn A. Zagzebski. In the meantime, she said, the existing building will be connected to the new hospital via a covered ramp.

While funding, including grant money, is in place for a significant portion of the expansion, equipment and operating costs rely on donations and fundraising events like the upcoming Mermaid Ball.

Hosted at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy by Admiral Richard G. Gurnon, the ball will begin with a reception at 6 PM, where food and drink will be served to the tunes of the percussion group Explicit Noise.

This jumpstart to the festivities, tickets to which are \$100 per person, will be followed by live and silent auctions, and a buffet dinner.

Dancing to the group GQ and

the Lady will follow until 11 PM.

All proceeds from the ball go directly to the nonprofit center.

Both live and silent auctions will offer opportunities to contribute to the marine rehabilitation hospital, located in a stranding hot spot.

One of the items up for bid, organizers said, is the chance for a once-in-a-lifetime experience: the chance to captain a supertanker as it leaves Boston Harbor via the maritime academy's state-of-the-art bridge simulator.

Other auction items include the chance to pilot a real tugboat through Cape Cod Canal, or join a sea turtle rescue mission, helping save the lives of tiny turtles on Cape Cod.

At 9:30 PM, the Marine Life Center staff has said, they will unveil an opportunity "so rare, so unique and so secret that the lid's still tightly sealed."

It will prove to be the most

unique item ever presented for auction, staff said. Only those guests who are at the ball will have an opportunity to bid for it.

Tickets for the Mermaid Ball can be obtained online at [www.nmlc.org](http://www.nmlc.org), by phone at 508-743-9888; or by visiting the NMLC Discovery Center, open seven days a week from 10 AM to 5 PM at 120 Main Street, Buzzards Bay.

A full list of auction items, and of the center's 2009 sponsors, are also available online, as are artists' renderings of how the center will look, when completed.

*Discover On*

**It's Too Good To Keep**

Unique Handbags •

Great Cotton Sweaters

**CHRISTINA**

*a Boutique of Fine Clothing & Accessories*

## The Bourne Enterprise

ISSN 07470142 / USPS 185-040

Published every Friday by Falmouth Publishing Company

**KENNETH A. HEISLER**

Advanced Cosmetic Laser  
Skin Care and Rejuvenation