

What you can do & important  
dates

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## MAY IS WILDFIRE AWARENESS MONTH

We'd like to think our neighborhood is nothing but peaceful and safe. However we do live in a fire-prone region. Despite the recent rains, drought can be expected and risk of wildfires can come quickly. Projects that reduce wildfire risk and increase preparedness can be accomplished by people of all ages with a variety of time commitments. You might be asking, "What can I do in a single day to help stay safer from wildfire?" The answer is—a lot!

**CHECK:** Can you see your home's address number from the street? How about your neighbors'? If not, trim overgrown vegetation covering or blocking the numbers on your homes in case firefighters need to find you.

- Locate two alternate routes out of your neighborhood (besides the one normally used) and plan and practice a family evacuation drill using those alternate routes.
- Measure how close wood piles are located to the home. If any are closer than 30 feet, move them farther away from structures. Screen or box-in areas below patios and decks with wire screening no larger than 1/8-inch mesh to help keep embers out during a wildfire.

**CLEAR** : Rake and remove pine needles and dry leaves to a minimum of 3 to 5 feet from a home's foundation. Over time, continue up to a 30-foot distance around the home. Dispose of collected debris in appropriate trash receptacles.

- Sweep porches and decks, clearing them of leaves and pine needles. Rake under decks, porches, sheds, and play structures.
- On mature trees, use hand pruners and loppers to remove low-hanging tree branches up to a height of 4 feet from the ground (specific height depends on the type and size of tree). Collect downed tree limbs and broken branches and take them to a disposal site.

Check your possessions. Get tips from the [Insurance Information Institute on how to document your belongings](#).

Check in on others! Help elderly relatives or neighbors enter emergency numbers into their cell phones. Using large type, post their phone number and street address above their landline phone so it can easily be seen when providing information to an emergency dispatcher.

Remove items stored under decks and porches and relocate • them to a storage area. Gasoline cans and portable propane tanks should never be stored indoors or near the home.

Join forces with neighbors and pool your resources to pay for a chipper service to help clear debris.

**COMMUNICATE** : Create a family communication plan and build or update a • 72-hour evacuation kit for you, your family, and your pets.

[Contact the local Office of Emergency Management](#) about registering your mobile number to receive emergency notifications on your own device. After

registering your own number, register those of your family.

Inform young adults who babysit outside the home that they need to learn the family's emergency plan for wildfires and evacuations.

The Six Ponds Improvement Association continue to engage its members as part of our commitment to Firewise USA, which teaches people how to adapt to living with wildfire and encourages neighbors to work together and take action. For more information, see their website.

Thanks, STAY SAFE, and enjoy Spring!



**REMINDER: ROADSIDE CLEANUP DAY IS  
ACTUALLY TWO DAYS THIS MONTH!**

**Friday, May 17 & Saturday May 18 ...** meet at the corner of Clark Road and Long Pond Road at **10am** to pick up a purple bag and get instructions. Thank you for helping to keep our neighborhood beautiful!



## Meet Legislator Dylan Fernandes

### Learn about State Environmental Concerns

On Monday, May 13 at 7pm, **Dylan Fernandes**, the Massachusetts State Representative for Falmouth, Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket and a candidate for State Senate in the Plymouth and Barnstable district, will present an educational forum courtesy of Herring Ponds Watershed Association and hosted by Wildlands Trust on the environmental issues facing Massachusetts and particularly Plymouth and the Cape. He is the Vice Chair of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. As an advocate for clean water and air he has been instrumental in passing many bills and securing funding to protect people and our environment.

Come hear about our most pressing issues and for an opportunity to ask questions and make your concerns heard by this hard working young legislator and State Senate candidate.

**Date: Monday, May 13 at 7pm**

**Where: Wildlands Trust Barn, 675 Long Pond Road**

Registration is appreciated, please register  
here: [https://wildlandstrust.org/calendar/2024/5/13  
/meet-a-legislator-state-environmental-concerns.](https://wildlandstrust.org/calendar/2024/5/13/meet-a-legislator-state-environmental-concerns)



Six Ponds Improvement Association

Thank you for supporting the Six Ponds Improvement Association.

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[www.sixponds.org](http://www.sixponds.org)

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