



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

A FREE! publication of all things Fairhaven
Including event listings from Cape Cod to RI



*The little paper
with a big voice!*

Volume 11, Issue 6 • February 11, 2016

Teeming with information you need.
(And some you don't need, but will be glad you have anyway.)

Cable Access station to get new life



Joe Booth of JMBA+ Architects explains the proposal for the new Cable Access facility to be built in the town building at 150 Sconticut Neck Road that is currently being used by the Emergency Management Agency. The building is large enough for the EMA to share with the new cable studio that would include a kitchen for cooking shows. See page 12 for story. *Photo by Beth David.*



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Also Inside:

- **Board of Appeals:** Page 4
- **Acushnet News:** Page 16
- **Puzzles attack 10 yrs ago:** Page 13
- **Carter case update:** Page 10

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

Looks like we might have a public access station soon (see page 12).

You remember public access, right? It was THE place to rant and rage against all the injustices of the world. Anyone can have a show. That's right, anyone.

Of course, there are those who will try to steer the content and control the messages and all that. But public access is supposed to be for the regular person to be able to get out there and say whatever he or she wants to say, the good, the bad, and the ugly.

Back when it first started, decades ago, it was wild to see what people put up there.

Before YouTube, there was Public Access.

I have missed having our local loonies...um...our local characters out there just saying whatever they want.

I think the *Neighb News* should have a show. What do you think? We'll be able to flush out some of the stories we cover every week and maybe get some guests in to talk about them; a talking heads show, as they say.

Sounds like fun to me.

We had a bit more snow this weekend and then again on Monday (see page 6).

Compared to last year, it was nothing, though, right. And, considering it was the same weekend 38 years ago that the big Blizzard of 1978 hit, ah...it was nuthin.

Remember that one?

I do. We took out the old Toyota, against the law even, and went to my cousin Annie's for her birthday. My two sisters and I thought it was just wrong that her birthday not be celebrated. We made a cake and stood out in the street and lit the candles. After the snow stopped, it was eerily still out there. We threw snowballs at her window until she came out on the porch.

Then we sang "Happy Birthday" to her while standing in the middle of Pleasant Street in New Bedford holding a cake with lit candles.

Ah...to be young and foolish again.

Back to the present.

We're in for some super-cold weather in a day or two. Looks like February will be February after all, for this weekend at least.

After that...?

We have a bunch of other good stuff in here, of course. Be sure to thumb through slowly and notice who our advertisers are. Tell them you saw their ads in the *Neighb News*. And please, please, please, if you haven't donated to the *Neighb News* yet, please send in just \$20. This paper cannot survive without the support of our readers. If you think the news you get within these pages is worth \$20 a year, then please send it in.

We want to keep publishing, but we can't do it without your help.

Until next week then...see ya,



Beth David, Publisher

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Volume 11, Issue 6

Thursday, February 11, 2016

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Editor: Beth David

Published weekly on Thursdays by
Fairhaven Neighborhood News, LLC, at
166 Dogwood Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

NeighbNews@comcast.net

www.NeighbNews.com

508-979-5593 • Fax: 508-991-5580

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our story on voting in the primary, we made a rather glaring and contradictory error. To clarify: If you are enrolled in a party, you must take that party's ballot in the primary on March 1; if you are unenrolled (commonly referred to as independent), you may choose any ballot. We apologize for any confusion our error may have caused.

Hit & run leaves two seriously injured

Press Release

Fairhaven Police responded to the area of 55 Sycamore Street just after 2 a.m. on Saturday, 2/6, after receiving a report of two people lying in the roadway. When police arrived they found an unconscious 40-year-old female and a 50-year-old male who was conscious and walking under his own power.

It appeared as though both parties were walking northbound on Sycamore Street in the roadway. They were apparently struck from behind by a vehicle near the intersection of Morton Street, and launched approximately 25 feet north, landing in the area of 55 Sycamore Street near Winsor Street.

Both victims were transported to St. Luke's Hospital with serious injuries by Fairhaven Fire Department Paramedics. The female party was later airlifted to Boston Medical Center by MedFlight.

Police were notified of the accident by a passing snowplow driver who found the victims, both of whom were unconscious when they were initially found. The male party eventually

regained consciousness, but was unable to provide an account of events.

Fairhaven Officers canvassed the neighborhood and spoke with area residents to determine if anyone saw or heard the accident. Fairhaven Detectives are also investigating this case. Officer James Bettencourt and Massachusetts State Police Trooper Ed O'Hara are completing an accident reconstruction of the scene.

Sgt. Kevin Kobza, spokesperson for the Fairhaven Police Department, said in a follow-up phone interview that the investigation is active and ongoing.

If anyone has any information about this case, please contact Fairhaven Police Detectives at 508-997-7421. Callers can remain anonymous.

Don't forget to tell
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Free Political PR

The *Neighb News* will give all candidates for townwide public office in Fairhaven and Acushnet a chance to get their message out. You may submit an article of approximately 500 words, with a picture, and we will publish at no charge before the April 4 election.

DEADLINE: Friday, 2/26.

Send by email (preferred) at NeighbNews@comcast.net, or by fax, 508-991-5580, or mail to 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719. Please put text in the body of the email.

Call 508-979-593 or email with questions.

Absentee ballots available

Absentee ballots are available for those unable to vote in person on March 1 in the Presidential Primaries.

Contact the Fairhaven Town Clerk's office at 508-979-4025, Ext. 3.

Contact the Acushnet Town Clerk at 508-998-0215.

Contact the City of New Bedford Election Office, 133 William Street, Room 114, at (508) 979-1420.

Town Crier

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Sat., 2/20, The Relics, 8 p.m.-Mid.

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Appeals board approves two

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals approved two requests at its meeting on Tuesday, 2/2.

Wayne Fostin Jr., of 15 Manor Drive, received a special permit for home occupation as a plumber. Mr. Fostin told the board there would be no outdoor storage on the property.

Board member Rene Flurent, whose habit is to read the various restrictions on a home occupation special permit to all petitioners, told the board that he had an opportunity to talk to Mr. Fostin and that he was "well aware" of the restrictions.

Building inspector Wayne Fostin left the room during the discussion citing a conflict of interest because his son was the petitioner.

The board voted unanimously to grant the special permit.

Board members Joseph Borelli, Francis Cox and Daryl Manchester were absent.

In another matter, the board also approved a special permit for construction in the Nasketucket River Basin, at 24 Welcome Street. V-Corp LLC seeks to construct a single family home on a now-vacant lot. Board member Jaime DeSousa left the room citing a personal relationship with the petitioner.

Corey Medeiros of SITEC Engineering told the board that the plan calls for a house, garage and

driveway. He said the plan received approval from the Conservation Commission.

"The impact to water quality is close to zero," said Mr. Medeiros.

When it became clear no other board members would have questions on this petition, either, Mr. Flurent reminded the board why the NRB was created. The area was once the source of the town's water supply and is supposed to be protected as a backup source for town water if there is ever a problem with the wells the town now uses.

Mr. Flurent said the board is often too quick to approve building in the NRB.

"There's a specific reason it was created," said Mr. Flurent.

He said building in the NRB puts the water at risk.

He said he would approve it, "reluctantly," but urged the board to pay closer attention to why restrictions exist in the first place.

In another matter, the board addressed a letter from Donald and Monica Kelly requesting a return of the \$155 fee for a hearing they had for a variance for a fence that was installed improperly at their property on 345 Bridge Street.

Addressing the unusual request, ZBA Chairperson Peter DeTerra said the board was not in the habit of returning fees because a petitioner was unhappy with the vote.

"I agree...100%," said Mr. Flurent. "He did have a hearing...he got what he paid for."

The board rejected the request unanimously and adjourned after 11 minutes in session.

Support the Neighb News

Here at the *Neighb News*, we know you want us to continue publishing. Your support is needed to keep us fiscally sound and healthy. Any small amount will help us stay afloat.

Just clip the coupon and send it with check or money order to *Fairhaven Neighborhood News*, 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719.

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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Book Club

"A lovely novel about the search for family that also happens to illuminate a fascinating and forgotten chapter of American History" is the description of *Orphan Train*, to be discussed on **Thurs., 2/18, at 10 a.m. at the Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven.** This novel can be obtained at the Library, and through SAILS, the inter-library site.

All are welcome to attend. The meeting room is accessible and easily entered by Walnut Street.

Between 1854 and 1929, so called orphan trains transported more than 200,000 orphaned, abandoned, and homeless children, many being first-generation Irish Catholic immigrants, from New York to the Midwest for "adoption" which often turned out to be indentured servitude. This is a book of fiction, but well researched by Christina Kline, the author. This is a story that will make for a thoughtful, lively discussion.

For more information, call Norma Markey at 508-993-3745.

Cataldo Scholarship

The North Fairhaven Improvement Association's Joseph Cataldo Jr. Scholarship applications are now available at the Guidance Office of Fairhaven High School, Greater NB Reg Voc-Tech HS, Bishop Stang HS, and Bristol Agricultural HS.

The Joseph Cataldo Jr. Scholarships are open to qualified high school seniors who are Fairhaven residents enrolled in a full time degree program. **The deadline for filing the application is April 22, 2016.**

Applications may also be requested by mail: NFIA Scholarship Committee P.O. Box 877 Fairhaven, MA 02719.

Homecoming Fair Apps Available.

Vendor applications are now available for the 2016 Fairhaven Homecoming Fair hosted by the Fairhaven Improvement Association.

Applications are open to the community and can be found at the following locations: Fairhaven Town Hall (40 Center St.), the Millicent Library (45 Center St.), the Fairhaven Visitor's Center (141 Main St.) and on our Facebook page (Fairhaven

Improvement Association).

Apply to become a part of this Fairhaven tradition. We hope to see you there!

For more information, please visit <http://fairhavenimprovement.org/> and our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/FairhavenImprovementAssociation>

Contact the Fairhaven Improvement Association at fairhavenhomecoming@gmail.com

Candidate nights

The North Fairhaven Improvement Association has invited the four candidates running for Selectboard to an NFIA meeting. They are scheduled at 7:30 p.m. and will be allowed to address the members of the NFIA and interested community parties. They will have 15 minutes to present themselves and 15 minutes to take questions

Two candidates are left: **Pattie Pacella on Feb. 17, incumbent Geoff Haworth on Mar. 16.**

Get the info from them directly and have the opportunity to ask YOUR questions. Please mark your calendar!

Most Dangerous Intersections

The Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) regularly compiles a list of the most dangerous roadways and intersections in our region, as well as studies locations identified as safety problems on a regular basis. The most recent of these reports is entitled *The 100 Most Dangerous Crash Locations in Southeastern Massachusetts 2010-2012.*

By identifying these locations, actions can be initiated that will generate improvements to make our roads safer for all users. Crash data for 2010 through 2012 (the most recent available) has been compiled by location and by crash type to identify the most dangerous locations in our region.

This report identifies the 100 most dangerous intersections, as well as locations with the highest number of pedestrian crashes and bicycle crashes in the region. The report also provides data on fatal crashes, as well as information on seat belt use and strategies being utilized by the state to improve safety.

SRPEDD is releasing this report to coincide with its Regional Transportation Plan, a comprehensive, long-term analysis of existing and future needs of the regional transportation system. Copies are available in SRPEDD's 27 communities, in each city and town hall, and at the main public library. Both documents are available on SRPEDD's website: www.srpedd.org

West Island 5k

Registration is open for the 5th annual West Island 5K Run/Walk to be held on Sunday, April 24, at 11 a.m., starting and finishing at 41 Causeway Rd., West Island, Fairhaven

The Fairhaven High School Cross Country program benefits from this event, run on a US Track and Field certified course. **Entry fees range from \$15 to \$25. There is also a Kids Mile Run with an entry fee of \$5.** Shirts to first 600 5k registrants; neoprene wrist bands to Kids Mile entrants. Cash prizes.

Register online at <https://racewire.com/register.php?id=5932> For more information visit <http://westisland5k.org> or email info@westisland5k.org.

Cookies for Troops

Girls Scouts Troop 68116 would like to thank everyone who donated last year to our Cookies for a Cause during our Cookie Booth sales.

Girl Scout cookies are on sale now for \$5.00 and if you would like to donate or purchase cookies for yourself please contact me at the follow number.

With the help of many we collected over 75 boxes to send to our troops serving overseas which was very well appreciated.

If you have any questions or want information about joining Girl Scouts please contact Debbie Rock at 508-984-5123.



Winter finally arrives...in a big way



Our Lady's Haven in Fairhaven is surrounded by snow-covered trees on Saturday, 2/6, the day after the town got a pretty healthy 5.5" inches of snow the day before. It was a wet, heavy snow that clung to trees, making for many beautiful scenes around the region. The area got socked on Monday with blizzard like conditions and wildly divergent accumulations. Fairhaven got around six inches on Monday, but the wind caused a lot of drifting making it seem like more. The area was due to get a dusting of 1-2 inches Tuesday night or Wednesday. *Photo by Beth David.*

HOURS

Bar Hours

Sunday: Noon-10 p.m.	Thursday: Noon-10 p.m.
Monday: 4-10 p.m.	Friday: Noon-11 p.m.*
Tuesday: 4-10 p.m.	Saturday: Noon-11 p.m.*
Wednesday: 4-10 p.m.	*Later w/live entertainment

Kitchen Hours

Sunday: Noon-9 p.m.	
Monday: 4-9 p.m.	Thursday: Noon-9 p.m.
Tuesday: 4-9 p.m.	Friday: Noon-10 p.m.
Wednesday: 4-9 p.m.	Saturday: Noon-10 p.m.

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Join us for:

Valentine's Day Party Sun, 2/14, 2:30 p.m. Entertainment with Joe Foster. Love is in the air at Atria Fairhaven! Bring your sweetheart and dance to your favorite love song! Refreshments will be served.

Musical Entertainment with Chris Waters Mon., 2/29 2:30 p.m. Chris Waters returns to Atria! Join us for a delightful afternoon and sing along to your favorite tunes!

Pretty Things Wed., 3/2, 11-2:30 Pretty things shopping boutique will be here at Atria just in time for spring. A nice selection of hand bags, jewelry and gift sets.



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HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Spaghetti Supper

Pilgrim United Church of Christ presents its annual **Valentine Spaghetti Supper**, with raffle on **Sat., 2/13, 6 p.m., at Pilgrim Church Home, corner Purchase & School Streets.**

Includes: Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert, Beverages,

Adults \$10. Children under 12, \$5. To reserve: 508-996-1498, 508-993-3407 To Benefit Holiday Meals at the Soup Kitchen

Health Screenings

The Southcoast Wellness Van travels across the region bringing health screenings into the communities of Southeastern Massachusetts. Free mobile health services available by the staff include: Cancer screenings and education; Blood pressure screening; Cholesterol screening; Teen resource information; Glucose (diabetes) screenings; Nutritional information and education; Health education services; Medical physician referral; Vaccinations.

Look for signs when arriving if you do not see the van outside.

For more information and to schedule free screenings, please call Susan Oliveira, RN, at 508-973-8740 or email oliveiras@southcoast.org. You can also check the schedule online at www.southcoast.org/van/ or subscribe to daily notices on Twitter, Facebook and RSS feeds.

- **Tues., 2/16, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Brickenwood**, Harvard St., New Bedford. Health Screenings & Vaccines
- **Thurs., 2/18, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Stop & Shop**, 1001 Kings Highway, New Bedford. Health Screenings & Vaccines
- **Fri., 2/19, 1–3 p.m., Tripp Towers**, 12 Ruth St., New Bedford. Health Screenings

February Vac. Prog

The Andrea McCoy Recreation Center is now enrolling students for the annual February Vacation Camp. The February Vacation camp will run **Mon., 2/15, through Fri., 2/19**. Parents may enroll their child in a camp-like experience from 8am – 4pm, Monday through Friday for a **total cost of \$120.00 for residents or \$160.00 for non-residents.**

A morning snack and lunch will be provided each day. Throughout the

week, students will participate in educational and recreational activities; they will have the opportunity to go on field trips, participate in science experiments, build a boat with the New Bedford Community Boating Club, and celebrate Presidents Day with activities and games.

Interested parents may register their children at the Andrea McCoy Recreation Center, located at 181 Hillman Street, New Bedford, MA 02740. Parents may also reserve a seat for their child by visiting the City of New Bedford website and completing a registration form on the Parks, Recreation & Beaches page. If registering two children at once, a sibling discount is available at 50% for the second child's enrollment.

For more information regarding the February Vacation Camp, spring registration or other programming, please contact the Recreation Manager, India Russell-Pena at india.russell@newbedford-ma.gov, or call (508) 991-3015.

Story Hour

Toddlers love to go places and have fun. New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park offers free, engaging activities each week at **Whales, Tales and Sails**. This free, one-hour story hour for children 0–5 takes place each Friday morning beginning at 10:00 a.m. and features professional storyteller Jackson Gillman, and includes stories, fingerplay, songs, and crafts at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park's Corson Maritime Learning Center, 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford. Accessible.

Upcoming themes are: **Feb. 12, Valentines; Feb. 19, Big/Small; Feb. 26, Dreams**

For more info, call 508-996-4095, or visit www.nps.gov/nebe.

Breakfast Series

Thurs., Feb. 18, from 7:30–9 a.m., Wamsutta Club, 427 County St, New Bedford. Keynote speaker, Jim Peyser

This popular breakfast series is a high-profile, fast-paced and educational program geared towards executives, senior managers, professionals and small business owners. Each of the programs has a business-oriented focus and features a popular speaker to present on a topic of interest to

local businesses. The Good Morning SouthCoast! breakfast program is also a great way to network with other Chamber members!

As Secretary of Education, Jim Peyser directs the Executive Office of Education which is responsible for early education, K-12, and higher education in Mass. He is Governor Baker's top advisor on education and helps shape the Commonwealth's education reform agenda.

\$27.50/Members, \$45/Non-Members; \$250/Table of Ten (Members). Register at <http://newbedfordchamber.com> or contact Deven Q. Tillman, Program and Events Manager, dillman@newbedfordchamber.com

Free Film

The Dock-U-Mentaries Film Series continues on **Fri., 2/19 at 7 p.m. in the visitors center of the New Bedford Whaling National Park, 33 William St., New Bedford**, with a screening of *The Breach* a new award winning film written and directed by Mark Titus. All programs are open to the public and presented free of charge. Accessible. This month's program is co-sponsored by Eating with the Ecosystem.

Dock-U-Mentaries is a co-production of New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, the New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center, and the Working Waterfront Festival.

When fishing guide/filmmaker Mark Titus learns why wild salmon populations plummeted in his native Pacific Northwest, he embarks on a journey to discover where the fish have gone and what might bring them back. Along the way, Titus unravels a trail of human hubris, historical amnesia and potential tragedy looming in Alaska — all conspiring to end the most sustainable wild food left on the planet. Battle lines are drawn and the fight for resource control begins as the story unfolds through the voices of the people who know the salmon best: Fishermen, tribal leaders, scientists, artists, authors and chefs — all with a shared knowledge and passion for wild salmon as cultural treasure, mystery from the sea and vital food source.

For information, call 508-996-4095, visit www.nps.gov/nebe or visit the park's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/NBWNHP>.

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

Book Sale

The Friends of the Mattapoistt Library's monthly Book Sale is **Sat., 2/13, from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the library, 7 Barstow Street.** This month, the Friends offer nearly all new fiction in nearly new condition. Popular authors like Jodi Picoult and Stephen King are well represented, there is a good selection of children's books, and you could find just the right book for your sweetie in time for Valentine's Day.

Bird Walk

Spend a morning looking for wintering ducks on the Acushnet River at **The Sawmill, 32 Mill Rd., Acushnet with the Buzzards Bay Coalition on Sat., 2/13, from 9-10:30 a.m. The walk is free, and will run about an hour and a half.** Participants should meet by the Hawes Family Learning Center at the park entrance. Binoculars will be available or you can bring your own.

This walk is part of the Coalition's Bay Adventures series: programs designed for explorers of all ages to get outside and discover Buzzards Bay. Visit www.savebuzzardsbay.org/bayadventures.

Registration is required for all Bay Adventures. To RSVP online, visit www.savebuzzardsbay.org/bayadventures or contact the Buzzards Bay Coalition at (508) 999-6363 ext. 219.

Star Gazing

Join Dartmouth Natural Resources Trust (DNRT) and guest leader Gerald P. Dyck for a free "Star Gazing" event at DNRT's Manny Rose Perry Agricultural Reserve on **Barney's Joy Road, Dartmouth, at 5:30 pm on Fri., 2/12.**

Mr. Dyck, former music teacher in the Dartmouth Public Schools and life-long active amateur astronomer, will lead participants in orientating themselves to the night sky and identifying major winter constellations and other points of interest. After an hour of naked-eye and binocular viewing, participants will be able to view some planets and other stellar bodies through a telescope. Participants are encouraged to dress appropriately for the evening's weather and to bring binoculars if they have them.

Parking for the walk will be on the

west side of Barney's Joy Road, approximately 4/10th of a mile south of its intersection with Horseneck Road in Dartmouth. If the weather is poor for star gazing, the walk will be postponed to Saturday, February 13 at 5:30 p.m. You can find a map to the walk location and get cancellation information at www.dnrt.org or call the DNRT cell phone at 508.525.9266 on the day of the walk.

Auditions

Buzzards Play Productions will be holding auditions for its April/May production of Neil Simon's comic play, "The Odd Couple" on Sat., 2/13, from 1-3 p.m., Wed., 2/17, from 7-9 p.m. and Sun., 2/21, from 1-3 p.m., at the theatre, 3065 Cranberry Highway East Wareham. "The Odd Couple" will be directed by Traci Antil of Fairhaven.. Auditioners are strongly encouraged to e-mail the director at tre0714@aol.com for an audition slot. The plot centers around 2 ex-army buddies, Felix Unger, a neat-freak news writer whose marriage is ending and Oscar Madison, a slovenly, recently divorced sportswriter. Felix has been thrown out of his house by his wife. When he shows up at his friend Oscar Madison's apartment on poker night, depressed, suicidal and homeless, Oscar offers to let Felix move in with him. Within days Felix and Oscar nearly come to blows after a disastrous dinner date with the giddy Pigeon sisters who live upstairs.

The characters have an age range of 20's to 40's and consist of Felix and Oscar with 4 other poker players and the 2 Pigeon sisters.

Woman's Club

Please join us at noon, **Feb., 2/18, Reynard Hall, Mattapoissett Congregational Church, 27 Church St.,** for lunch followed by a fascinating program on the Plymouth County Jail. Our February program will be presented by Becky Lee who has worked in the Community Outreach division of the Plymouth County Sheriff's Department for several years, speaking to organizations, working with each of Plymouth County's Councils on Aging and other committees, as well as helping to coordinate special events for seniors.

Her presentation will provide an

historical view of the Plymouth County Jail from the days of the first English settlers in Plymouth to today's modern facility, giving us an inside look at law enforcement through the years. We will also learn about some of the interesting characters who have spent time in the Plymouth County Jail as well as interesting laws of the area through the years. For example, did you know that in the time of the Pilgrims, smoking in an outhouse was against the law?

For more information, reservations, or directions, please call Barb at 508-864-5213.

The Big Top

Spindle City Ballet's Jr. Company will be presenting a circus ballet entitled "The Big Top", **Sat., 2/13, at 2:00 pm at Bristol Community College in Fall River.**

Come follow the adventures of a young girl named Beth as she sneaks away into the magical world of the circus against her parents' wishes. At first she is excited by the exotic and intriguing atmosphere of this wonderful place full of Clowns and Aerialists, but quickly she learns that the circus isn't all fun and games when she encounters the Gypsies and Wildcats. Beth befriends a friendly clown who helps her along her journey and restores her optimistic view of the mysterious and colorful world of The Big Top.

Tickets are \$15-\$25, available on line at spindlecityballet.org or by calling 508-536-6073. For more information email Lisa Bibeau, lisabibeau@spindlecityballet.org

Nature Discoveries

Join Lloyd Center for the Environment's Outreach Specialist Jen Wimmer in Nature Discoveries. Participants will investigate nature topics by reading nature-themed books and exploring the Lloyd Center. Live animal demonstrations, specimens to observe and touch, hikes, activities and crafts bring nature themes to life for Lloyd Center Nature Discovery guests. This hour long adventure is appropriate for children ages 2-6 (younger or older siblings are welcome as well).

This program will take place on

HAPP: cont'd on page 22

Recipe of the Week

Parmesan Crusted Chicken

1/2 c. Mayonnaise (I use

Hellman's)

1/4c. Parmesan cheese grated
(bottled)

4 boneless skinless chicken
breast

4t. Italian Bread crumbs

Oven at 425.

Combine mayo and cheese in a med. bowl. Arrange chicken on a baking sheet. Evenly top w/mayo mixture.

Sprinkle with bread crumbs. Bake until chicken is cooked thoroughly about 20 minutes.

Deelish!!

Bevy Lussier

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Carter Case continued

By Beth David

Editor

The case of Michelle Carter, the Plainville woman charged with manslaughter in the suicide death of Conrad Roy III was in court on Tuesday, 2/2. A new date is pending for trial or pre-trial hearings.

The case is moving through the pre-trial mechanics as both sides await a ruling from the Mass. Supreme Judicial Court on whether or not the case should be dismissed outright, or whether Ms. Carter should be tried as an adult.

Ms. Carter is being tried as a "juvenile offender," which means she is being tried as an adult for something she did as a minor. She was just 4 weeks shy of her 18th birthday when Mr. Roy was found on July 13, 2014, in the KMart parking lot in Fairhaven.

He was in his pickup truck with a gas-powered water pump, and had died from carbon monoxide poisoning.

Ms. Carter was not with Mr. Roy, but the two had been texting for hours. Ms. Carter encouraged Mr. Roy to go through with his suicide attempt, telling him to get back in the truck when he got out because he was scared it was working.

The defense asked for the case to be dismissed on the grounds that her actions were protected speech by the First Amendment. If the court does not dismiss the case, the defense asked that Ms. Carter be tried as a

juvenile, which would bar the public and the press from the proceedings and would result in lesser penalties in case of a guilty verdict.

Both motions were denied by judge Bettina Borders in September and the defense appealed the ruling.

In that ruling Judge Borders said that there was sufficient evidence for probable cause due to her repeated texts "counseling" him on ways to kill himself. She said the First Amendment does not protect conduct that threatens another.

In a ruling on 2/1, Associate Justice of the SJC Margot Botsford referred the matter to the full court.

The defense motioned for a stay of all proceedings until the matter is decided by the full court, which will probably be in March or April.

The District Attorney filed in opposition to the request citing several reasons, including that Ms. Carter will be 20 years old in August.

Once she turns 20, she may not be tried as a juvenile. So if the court decides she must be tried as a juvenile, the case must go to trial before August.

In their opposition to the motion to stay, the DA's office said that all pre-trial proceedings could continue so that both sides will be ready to go to trial when the decision comes down from the SJC, and that there were other ways to protect Ms. Carter's privacy should the court decide she deserved that protection as a juvenile.

To share a recipe with your neighbors

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Cable Access Committee looking for input

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Cable Access Committee has been busy the last year or so working on a way to get channel 95 back up and running. For eight years, the channel has been dark.

After Comcast got out of the business of running cable studios, most municipalities moved their cable access operations somewhere else. Fairhaven's channel went dark.

The various reasons for that have been debated, but it is, as they say, old news.

The job for the newly invigorated CAC is to get the channel live again. The money has been accumulating in the account and the contract with Comcast expires in two years.

So, now is the time.

The account is funded by a percentage of bills charged to cable subscribers. Comcast is required to set aside 4% of gross revenues from Fairhaven customers.

The money is split up among the three local stations: Public Access on channel 95, Educational Access on channel 9 and Government Access on channel 18 (PEG).

The CAC systematically looked at all the buildings owned by the town and how they were being used.

They decided the most logical place for a new studio was at 150 Scoticut Neck

Road, which was once the Council on Aging building and is now being used by the Fairhaven Emergency Management Agency. The EMA is only using a small portion of the building.

The CAC discussed the possibility with the EMA and the Selectboard, and has been pursuing the possibility for months.

On Saturday, at a special outreach event for the public, the CAC presented its proposal, which includes extensive renovations to the EMA building, including some much-needed repairs.

"It's a unique way to rehab a town building," said CAC member John Methia after the meeting.

The plan calls for making a new entrance at the front of the building, dividing up the inside to create studio space, conference space, and a full

kitchen to accommodate cooking shows.

Costs of the renovations and repairs were not available because the feasibility study is still in the works, but the account has just over \$1 million, which should be enough to do the work. The amount available will determine how much extra maintenance work will be done on the outside of the building.

The funds are split among the three stations with 1.75% going towards the educational channel and the other 2.25% going to government and public access.

The money can only be used for PEG access.

Attorney William Solomon, who is consulting for the CAC, said the money should be seen as Comcast's rent to the town for using the town's

profits, tourism destinations and shows for children and seniors.

She said they have staff available to help people create their shows and learn the equipment.

Mr. Sherwood told the public that the station can be used for local news, pointing out that most local stations are really Boston or Providence centered, with very little coverage of town events.

Mr. Solomon, Ms. Richard and Mr. Sherwood preferred to call the station "community" access, rather than "public" access, to stress that the station is for the community and can be used to build community.

Mr. Solomon said community programming is part of the way government communicates with the public, the way the public communicates to the government and the way community groups communicate to the public.

With all the talk about parades, festivals and Scouts, there was little talk about content that might be offensive to some viewers.

After the meeting, Mr. Sherwood said that the FCC (Federal Communication Commission) rules apply to public access stations, too.

He said adult content can run between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. CAC member John Methia said that the committee was not concerned about limiting free speech, but wanted to make

sure all those interested would have a chance to have their messages heard.

"Public access is a free speech channel," said Mr. Sherwood, adding that "political speech" is the most protected speech.

Architect Joe Booth of JMBA+ Architects, said the EMA was using about 1/3 of the building. He said some space would be shared, such as a conference room and upgraded, accessible restrooms; and some space would be specifically for the studio. A full kitchen would make it possible for people to create cooking shows.

The plan also includes repairs and maintenance on the building. The costs of the proposal were not available. Mr. Booth will submit two different options in his feasibility



This architect's rendering shows the front of the proposed EMA & Cable Access building on Scoticut Neck Road. The Cable Access Committee is recommending that the town use the Cable Access funds to build a studio in the building and do extensive renovations and repairs. The money would come from an account set aside for public access television funded by a percentage of bills to Comcast cable subscribers. *Submitted image.*

public ways to conduct business.

Chuck Sherwood, of Community Media Visioning, told the public that the town and community leaders can use the public access channel in many ways to build up community and let the public know what's happening around town.

He pointed to a nonprofit, Plymouth Area Community Television (PACTV), that serves the communities of Duxbury, Kingston, Pembroke and Plymouth. The organization runs the public access stations for those towns.

PACTV Executive Director Nancy Richard highlighted the different kinds of programming that PACTV encourages, including programs on businesses and events in the various municipalities it serves, public service announcements for non-

CABLE: cont'd on page 21

Community remembers Puzzles attack and progress made

By Beth David
Editor

Approximately 50 people attended the 10-year-commemoration of the Puzzles attack on Saturday, 2/6, at the First Unitarian Church in New Bedford.

On February 2, 2006, at about 12:30 a.m., Jason Robida went to Puzzles Lounge in New Bedford, confirmed with the bartender that it was a gay bar, and then used a hatchet and a gun to attack three men. Mr. Robida was pulled over in Gassville Arkansas, where he killed police officer Jim Sell. Mr. Robida then killed his female passenger, Jennifer Rena Bailey, and then turned the gun on himself as police fired into his vehicle.

Within hours of the attack, the community held a vigil in front of Puzzles, which is now closed. A few weeks later, an open forum was organized in New Bedford, where many people spoke about the discrimination and bullying they faced because they were not heterosexual.

The LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) community in this area had not been very organized, except for a small group that organized to fight for same-sex marriage. That group, the former Marriage Equality Coalition, quickly organized the vigil and the forum.

At Saturday's event, speakers recalled the Puzzles attack, but focused on the response of the community and the progress made in LGBTQ rights.

"Here we stand on the side of love," said Karen Anderson, Coordinator of Ministerial Services at First Unitarian. "Love, I believe, is the most powerful force in the world, and in the end, it always conquers hate."

Rebecca McCullough of The Women's Center, told the crowd that New Bedford really is a close-knit

community, and that the culture of acceptance was still evolving.

She said accepting diversity was not enough, that diversity should be celebrated.

Pamela MacLeod Lima, Executive Director of The Women's Center said it was important to work towards a community where all citizens feel welcome.

She said a lot of people were proud at the way the community reacted 10 years ago, and that there has been a lot of progress, but more work needs to be done.

"We want the LGBTQ community to know The Women's Center is here for them," said Ms. MacLeod Lima, adding that TWC helped to start A Perfect Place, a drop-in center for LGBTQ youth downtown.

Gail Fortes, Executive Director of

Stay strong and
stay a little angry
[Andrew Pollack]

the YWCA SE Mass. said people may wonder why the YWCA is involved in LGBTQ issues.

"New Bedford is my home town," said Ms. Fortes, adding that she wanted to see something positive come from "this horrible tragedy."

"[We have] a special community in New Bedford and we want everyone to be part of it," said Ms. Fortes.

Andrew Pollack of the Marriage Equality Coalition of the SouthCoast emphasized the need to stay organized. He said the reason the vigil and other community events 10 years ago were so successful and were put

together so quickly was because the LGBTQ community was already organized.

He encouraged young people to keep their friends' phone numbers, emails and social media accounts handy and active.

He said the

Unitarian churches were "phenomenal" in their support, and that people were just shocked that something like the Puzzles attack could happen here. But when it did, they put the vigil together in a matter of hours, and were shocked at how many people showed up.

"We said we were not going to be the victim of the day," said Mr. Pollack, and recounted the marriage victory, and how Massachusetts became the first state in the country to legalize same-sex marriage.

"Now, in 2016, it's across the country," said Mr. Pollack, adding that there was still a lot of work to do. "Stay strong, and stay a little angry."

John Masson, Coordinator of the LGBT Youth, Education and Schools Committee, and adult leader at A Perfect Place, talked about the efforts in the schools

So did Lawrence Finnerty, who was assistant superintendent of New Bedford schools in 2006 and is on the New Bedford School Committee now.

Dr. Finnerty said he was saddened to hear at the community forum that students were not safe in school.

"I couldn't believe what I heard," said Dr. Finnerty, adding if they could not be safe in school, then where? "That night really changed my life."

He said the school department made a serious effort to change, and, he believed, had made many positive changes.

"Everybody needs to be comfortable in school," said Dr. Finnerty. "We have made improvements. These are our schools."

Autumn Bishop, Peer Leader at A Perfect Place, said she started going there three years ago. She has been a peer leader for two years and said it changed her life.

"Having this group of people in your life who are so supportive and accepting of you is so important to me," said Ms. Bishop. "I hope A Perfect Place continues to help youth prosper and achieve things they thought they would never even have the opportunity to do."

Joseph da Fonseca, the network coordinator for the South Coast LGBTQ Network, told the crowd that many people, including politicians and city leaders, came together to change things after the Puzzles



A candlelight vigil crosses from Union to Pleasant Street on Saturday, 2/6, in commemoration of the attack on three men at the Puzzles Lounge in New Bedford 10 years ago. Photo by Beth David.

PUZZLES: cont'd on page 21

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Kool Kids February Vacation

This 4 day program is a great opportunity to make new friends while participating in fun group activities, like basketball, dodge ball, tag and hockey. Kids need to bring lunch and a snack for the first 3 days of the program, Friday a pizza lunch will be served. Sneakers and active clothing must be worn each day of the program. Session starts: Tuesday February 16th -19th Time: 800am-300pm Cost \$100.00 for members / \$125.00 for non-members

Open Gym Volleyball

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Day & Time: Wednesday 6-8 PM
Cost: Free with your play card/ or \$5 Drop in. Ages: 14+

Babysitting class

March 14th Date: Instructor: Beth Oleson Ages: 11-14. Time: 5:30-8 PM
Cost: \$50 members/ \$55 non-members

This is a comprehensive 3 hour course for 11-14 year olds. Topics will include first aid, choke saving techniques, mealtime bedtime, diapering, discipline, contracts and ethics. Pizza will be provided.

In the name of God,
stop a moment, cease your
work, look around you.

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Mall Trips

Feb. 17: South Shore Plaza
2/24: Hyannis Mall, Xmas Tree, Trader Joe's

Mar. 2: Newport Grand, Middletown,
Trader Joe's

Entertainment: 12:30-2:30 p.m.

2/24 Ray Jay

Special Activities

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PACE Fuel Assistance

PACE Fuel Assistance & Recertification Form, The Fuel assistance program starts in November for the 2015-2016 season. If you received fuel assistance last year you should have already received renewal in the mail to be filled out. If you need help filling out the recertification form or a new application for fuel assistance call the Senior Center at 508-979-4029 for a appointment.

Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit

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for a tax refund if you own property in Mass. and you are paying more than 10% of your total income in real estate taxes and water bills or if you rent and you are paying more than 25% of your total income. You will need proof of income, real estate taxes, water bills or rent receipts. Call the Fairhaven Senior Center at 508-979-4029 for more information.

Preventing Elder Financial Abuse

Presented by Webster Bank at the Fairhaven Senior Center Monday, February 29th from 1-2:00 p.m. Please call to reserve your seat.

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Four Consecutive Mondays from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the Fairhaven Senior Center, 229 Huttleston Ave. Fairhaven. Jan. 25: Registered Nurses will discuss Lifestyle, medication and home monitoring. Feb. 1: Registered dietician will discuss nutrition and hydration. Feb. 8: Physical Therapist will discuss activity, energy conservation, exercise and breathing exercises. Feb. 22: Variety of speakers who assist those living with heart failure. For more info, or to register call Community Nurse at 508-992-6278 or the COA, 508-979-4029.

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A/G Consumer Mediator; Bingo; Board Meeting/monthly; Bridge; Caregiver Support & Education Group; Chair Yoga, Computer Training; Fit Quest; Friends of Elderly/monthly meeting; Grocery Shopping; LGBT Supper Club; Line Dancing; Live Band; Medical Transportation; Nutrition Program/ meal served; Osteoporosis class; Outreach Coordinator; PACE Fuel Assistance; Pitch; Reassurance Program; Shopping; Singles Senior Supper Club; Supportive Senior Social Day Program; Tai Chi; Tap 'N' Time, Walking Clubs, Zumba.

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Storms cause power outages in Acushnet; man loses fingertips

By Beth David

Editor

An unidentified Acushnet man lost the tips of two fingers on Monday, 2/8, at about 3 p.m. while clearing snow from his snowblower.

According to Acushnet police chief Michael Alves, police responded to a home on Hathaway road and found a male who had put his hand in a snowblower to clear the auger.

Chief Alves took the opportunity to stress safety when using snow blowers and other dangerous equipment.

"You've got to shut the machine

down," said Chief Alves.

He also said that sometimes, the tension left in the auger can cause injury even if the machine is off.

He said operators should use a device that often comes with the newer machines to clear out jams, or a stick.

"We urge people to shut the machine off and use the device," he said.

In a different storm, Main Street experienced two power outages on Friday, 2/5. Power outages were due to downed power lines in two places on Main Street.

The Fire Department responded to a fire on Main Street near Perry Hill Road and a fire near 850 Main Street, both around 9:30 p.m., according to the Acushnet Fire & EMS Department Facebook page.

Main Street from Perry Hill Road to Leonard Street was closed for several hours on Friday night.



LEFT: Main Street is closed from Perry Hill Road to Leonard Street on Friday night, 2/5, around 9:30 p.m., due to a downed power line. Photo from Acushnet Police Facebook page. ABOVE: Fire firefighters extinguish one of two fires on the roadway on Main Street caused by downed power lines. Photo from Acushnet Fire & EMS Department Facebook page.



Agricultural Comm. seeks donations for "Right-to-Farm" signs

Press Release

The Acushnet Ag Com thanks everyone for their support in passing the Right-to-Farm Bylaw at the October Town Meeting!

We are now working on raising funds for our town's Right-to-Farm signs. The signs are \$55.00 each.

We need eight signs to cover the roads coming into Acushnet. We need DONATIONS from our town residents and businesses to buy the signs.

Please help us out by donating to the Acushnet Ag Com.

Checks can be made out to The Acushnet Agricultural Commission

and dropped off at the Town Treasurer's office or in the drop box.

Our email address is acushagcom@gmail.com. Our next meeting will be on February 18, 7 PM at town meeting room.

Thank you for your support.

Acushnet Senior Center to host free series on heart health

Press Release

Community Nurse Presents "Healthy Living with Heart Failure, a series that offers those living with Heart Failure a chance to learn healthy strategies from healthcare professionals.

Community Nurse Home Care is a Not-For-Profit home care agency dedicated to the wellness of our Community. We are proud to announce a new upcoming wellness program offered to members of our community at no cost.

This program will focus on Heart Failure Education and will include four one-hour sessions. Each section will feature a different guest speaker who will be available for questions

after the presentation. Guest speakers will include Nurse Practitioners, Physical therapists, Dieticians and Physicians. The program will be held at the Acushnet Council on Aging, 59½ Main St. Acushnet, MA, on Thursdays from 10-11:30 a.m. beginning on March 10

March 10: Erin Van der Veer, N.P. and Lisa Russell, R. N. from Community Nurse will discuss the Course of heart failure and how lifestyle, medication and monitoring at home can influence your condition.

March 17: Barbara Canuel, R.D., Community Nurse, is a registered dietician. She will discuss Nutrition concerns and make recipe suggestions

March 24: Maria Pine, PTA, Community Nurse, is a physical therapy assistant. She will discuss exercise, breathing exercises and shortness of breath

March 31: Dr. Michael Rocha M.D. is a cardiologist at Hawthorn Medical Associates and director of Heart Failure Services at St. Luke's Hospital. He will discuss sensible, down-to-earth strategies for health and wellness.

The series is complimentary, but registration is required. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information or to register, please call Community Nurse at 508-992-6278.

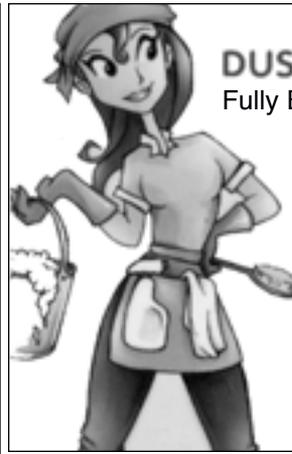


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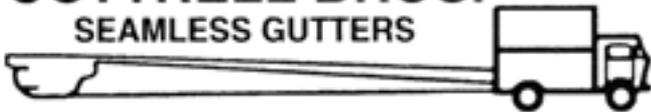
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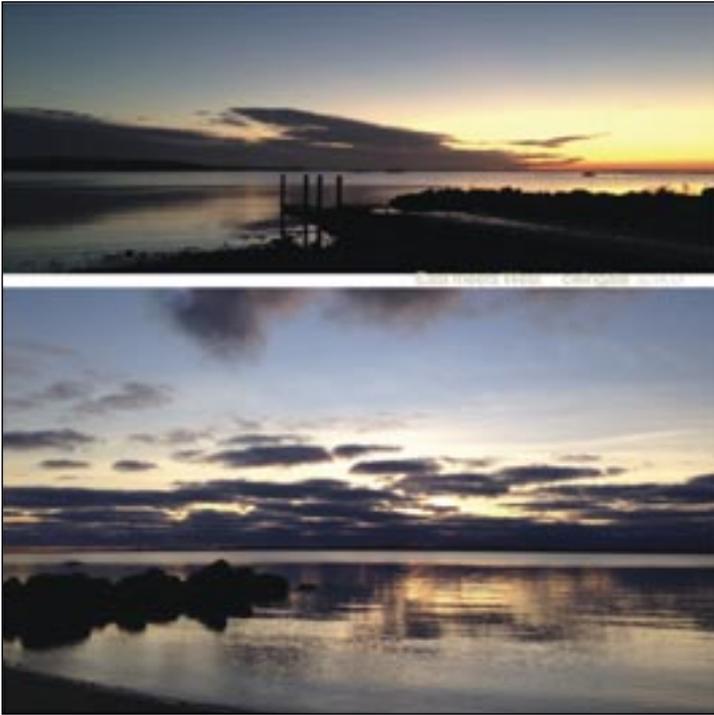
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A simple ad
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from Louise Dupre

East meets west



Carolyn Wingate has been taking a picture at sunrise and sunset at the same two places on Sconticut Neck, east side and west side, for the last year. Here are some of her photos for you to compare. *Photos courtesy of Carolyn Wingate.*




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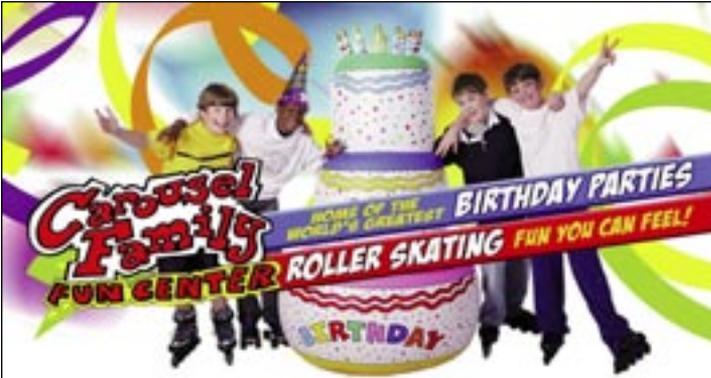

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Fairhaven High School boys fall to Voc-Tech



The Fairhaven boys basketball team traveled to GNB Voc-Tech to play an SCC rival. The Blue Devils were not able to match the offense power of the Bears, and lost 60-32. With the loss, the team drops to 5-12 overall and 3-10 in SCC play. Austin Cabral led the way with 13 points, and Craig Demers put up 9 points. LEFT: Austin Cabral drives around the perimeter for the Blue Devils. RIGHT: Tyler Lopes fakes a shot for the Blue Devils. BELOW LEFT: Austin Cabral moves the ball down low to Jarrod Larocque. BELOW RIGHT: Kyle Franks drives between two GNB Voc-Tech defenders. *Photos by Ryan Feeney.*



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CABLE: cont'd from page 12

report, one with additional upgrades to the building, the other with less exterior work on the building.

In his proposal on Saturday, Mr. Booth said most of the changes will make the building fit in better with the residential area, and make it more inviting for those not familiar with how to get into it, such as moving the entrance to the front.

"For the most part, we would be giving this building new life for generations to come," said Mr. Booth.

The CAC also hopes to be able to negotiate high-definition and on-demand for the PEG stations.

Saturday's event should be cablecast on government access channel 18 and will soon be available on-demand through a link on the town's website: www.fairhaven-ma.gov

The CAC invites comments from the public. Call CAC Chairperson Barbara Acksen, 508-993-0317, or email CableTVcommittee@fairhaven-ma.gov.

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FREELANCE REPORTERS NEEDED Write for the *Neighb News*. We need reporters for evening meeting coverage. Reporting experience not required, but must have a solid grasp of grammar, good writing skills, and an understanding of what news writing is vs. your Great American Novel. Freelance only. Email Beth at NeighbNews@comcast.net or call 508-979-5593.

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PUZZLES: cont'd from page 13

attack.

"So many of us follow the paths cleared by you," he said, adding that an LGBTQ support group was "terribly important to me and my coming out process."

After the speeches, the group walked to A Perfect Place at 484 Pleasant Street, downtown, for an open house.

Zoey Lakkis, 21, said she was 15 or 16 when she started going to A Perfect Place.

"It's my second family," she said.

The peer leader was talking about what "transgender was," said Zoey.

"And that's how I figured out who I was."

Scott Lang, who was mayor at the time of the attack, said he felt it was important to be there on Saturday.

He said inclusiveness was very important, and, as a human rights issue, it requires work every day.

"I just want to be part of the community that recognizes that," he said.

The evening concluded at LePlace, a gay bar on Kenyon Street in New Bedford, and featured some acts from Puzzles 10 years ago.

For more information on the South Coast LGBTQ Network, visit www.sclgbtqnetwork.org

Fairhaven Meetings

Beautification Committee

Wed., 2/17, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 2/11, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Cable Access Committee

Sat., 2/6, Town Hall, 10 a.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 2/22, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Council on Aging

Mon., 2/8, Senior Ctr., 9:30 a.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 2/11, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

Marine Resources Comm.

Tues., 2/23, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board

Tues., 2/9, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 2/10, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 2/17, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet Meetings

Agricultural Commission

Thurs., 2/18, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Board of Appeals

Tues., 2/15, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Wed., 2/10, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Library Trustees

Tues., 2/9, 232 Middle Rd., 3:30 p.m.

Police Station Bldg. Comm.

Wed., 2/10, 60 Middle Rd., 3 p.m.

Planning Board

Thurs., 2/18, Parting Ways, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Thurs., 2/18, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

US Army Corps of Engineers, Cape Cod Canal/Wing's Neck

	Feb. 2016	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	11	0952	2221	0305*	1526*
Friday	12	1043	2315	0351*	1610*
Saturday	13	1139	----	0440*	1658*
Sunday	14	0013	1239	0539*	1757*
Monday	15	0112	1337	0701	1911*
Tuesday	16	0210	1438	0900	2028
Wednesday	17	0313	1545	1046	2245
Thursday	18	0421	1651	1144*	2349
Friday	19	0518	1743	----	1235*
Saturday	20	0605	1827	0040	1325*
Sunday	21	0647	1909	0131	1410*

*= Predicted minus tides from -0.1 ft. to -1.0 ft
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HAPP: cont'd from page 9

Sat., 2/13 from 9:30–10:30am. Meet at the Lloyd Center's Visitor Center, 430 Potomska Road in Dartmouth. **Cost: \$5 for Lloyd Center members and \$6 for non-members. Space is limited to 20. All ages welcome.**

Pre-registration is not required for this event. For info, call Jen Wimmer at 508-990-0505 ext. 14 or jen@lloydcenter.org.

Jazz Night F-R

Join New Bedford Community Connections Coalition and United Way of Greater New Bedford for an evening of Jazz, Rhythm & Blues at the Century House! Performers include Samantha Johnson, Stan Strickland, Wannetta Jackson, Jackie Santos and the A-List and DJ Lady K. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. There will also be a cash bar and wine pull. **Tickets are \$50 per person.**

Money raised will benefit the Take This Child to Heart Fund which provides programs and services to children in the care of the Department of Children & Families, the Family Resource and Development Center and New Bedford Community Connections.

Sat., 2/13, 8 p.m.–Mid., at Century House, 107 So. Main St., Acushnet.

To reserve tickets, call 508-994-9625 ext. 22.

Essex Steam Train

The Essex Steam Train will operate its annual Eagle Flyer eco-excursion starting President's Day Weekend, **Feb. 13-15, & 20-21.** This unique journey through the Connecticut River Valley is a great way to enjoy fresh air and catch a glimpse of local wildlife with the whole family.

The 2.5-hour trip begins with a Vintage Diesel Locomotive 0900 at Essex Station at 1 Railroad Ave, Essex, CT 06426. Train riders can hop aboard along with a group of Master Wildlife Conservationists from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. These expert naturalists will act as guides, teaching riders about our national symbol, the Bald Eagle, and its migration south to the Connecticut River Valley.

The trip is perfect for all adults and children over the age of 2. Guests are encouraged to bring binoculars and cameras to capture beautiful photos of Connecticut's birds and wildlife.

Tours depart at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. from Essex. Passengers are accepted at Deep River, Chester, Hadlyme and Haddam on a space-as-available basis and tickets are cash-only at these local stops. Coffee, tea, hot soups, sandwiches and snacks will be available onboard.

Tickets can be purchased online or at the Essex Station, where all forms of payment are accepted. Coach Tickets cost \$25 for adults and \$15 for children ages 2-11 (children under age 2 are free); First class tickets are also available for \$40. For more information, and to buy tickets online, visit <http://essexsteamtrain.com/special-events/eagle-flyer/>.

Firefighters Ball

The Firemen's Ball will be held on **Sat., 2/20, at the Century House, 107 South Main St., Acushnet.**

This event will benefit a Public Safety Scholarship. Cocktail hour begins at 6 p.m. (cash bar) followed by dinner at 7 p.m. **This is a black tie event.** Class A uniforms for firefighters and formal attire requested for non-uniformed attendees.

Tickets are \$50.00 per person or \$80.00 per couple. Tickets can be purchased at Mike and Wayne's Uniforms, Dorothy Cox Chocolates or by calling David Wilson 774-930-5183 or Heidi Winnett 774-263-6872.

Dancing and a silent auction will follow dinner. Please support The Firemen's Ball and join in the fun to fundraise for a good cause to benefit the newly established Public Safety Scholarship.

School Vacation Week events

At The Aquarium

If you are staying close to home this February school vacation, the Aquarium has the ticket to many tropical getaways including the opening of "Galapagos 3D: Nature's Wonderland" in the Simons IMAX Theatre; our daily penguin feedings; Myrtle, our 560-pound green sea turtle; Shark and Ray Touch Tank and more.

Over the February School Vacation Weeks, the Aquarium will be open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Sunday. Visit www.neaq.org for more details or to buy tickets. Call 617-973-5200 for more information.

Winterfest at Old Sturbridge

Keep the kids busy during February school vacation week at Old Sturbridge Village with a mix of invigorating outdoor fun and cozy indoor activities and hands-on crafts.

Visitors can enjoy a horse-drawn

winter sleigh ride, and sledding on 1830s-style reproduction sleds (weather permitting). Indoor activities include candle-making, constructing a paper George Washington militia hat, and writing with a quill pen. Children can make, and take home, a "thaumatrope," a 19th-century toy that fools the eye.

For all times and details, please visit www.osv.org or call 800-733-1830.

At Isabella Gardner Mus.

The Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum offers the perfect winter respite over February school vacation where you can experience the four-story Renaissance-styled Palace blooming with orchids, jade plants, and other flowering plants, and there are special events planned for children.

From Mon., 2/15 through Fri., 2/19, children ages 7 and up are invited to explore hidden treasures at the

Museum (closed Tuesday). Different activities for each day.

Tickets to the Museum are \$15 for adults; \$12 for seniors; and \$5 for college students. Admission is free to visitors under 18, museum members, and members of the US military and their families. Children under 12 must be accompanied by a paying adult.

Theatre Camp

Ocean State Theatre Company is proud to announce the expansion of their award-winning theatre camp for students ages 9-14 at OSTC's Educational Annex in Warwick, RI from Feb. 15–19 and April 18–22. Spots for both camps will be filled on a first come/first served basis. Space is limited.

Applications are available online by visiting www.OceanStateTheatre.org. For registration information call (401) 921-6800 or visit www.OceanStateTheatre.org.

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