



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 8 • February 25, 2016

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

Spring-like weather has people out & about



The steeples and wind turbines of the Fairhaven skyline can be seen through the various lines and cables of fishing boats tied up at the dock in New Bedford on Sunday, 2/21. Although the sky was overcast, the warm temperatures, after the biting cold of the week before, enticed lots of people to be out and about, walking along the waterfront and on the hurricane barrier in New Bedford and Fairhaven.
Photo by Beth David.



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From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.



Beth David, Publisher

Okay, it's winter, but the weather can't seem to make up its mind. I hope you enjoy our cover shot. I can't for the life of me remember which pier it was.

Guess I should've written it down, huh? Some reporter!

In any case, my friend got a new camera and she wanted to go somewhere interesting to shoot. We went to a bunch of different places, including the docks in New Bedford, and the hurricane barrier in the south end. It was low tide, so we were able to go to Palmer's Island and shoot around the lighthouse, too. (Maybe I'll use that one next week.)

It was quite the excursion. If you are able to walk on uneven ground, you really ought to do that at least once. It's one of the things that make our little corner of the world so special.

Just make sure you pay attention to the tide or you'll get stuck on the island.

I'd like to thank the residents at Fairhaven Village D building who sent in a donation. I know they don't have a lot of money to spare, so I appreciate that they are helping to support my little weekly miracle.

Some of my readers have indeed heeded the call (okay, my begging), and I do appreciate every dollar. I truly hope enough of my readers help out, so I can keep this paper going.

The seals have arrived in Mass. (see page 12).

Now, let's not have a repeat of last year, when people swarmed around that little guy and he ended up dying. How embarrassing was THAT? We live along the Atlantic Ocean; we're supposed to know better. We're shore people, so we shouldn't get all in a tizzy when we see something that belongs on the shore.

If you see a seal, keep your distance. Get a pair of binoculars and watch it, but do NOT get close to it.

We have a fun little story this week about a family that got a pleasant surprise when they went out to eat one night last week (see page 19).

Nick and Sheryl Costa and the kids went out to dinner and a woman paid for their meal, not because they looked destitute, either. She did it because she simply enjoyed watching them interact as a family.

How absolutely wonderful is that?

One of the cool things about having this paper for so long is that I've gotten to meet so many people. I noticed Nick's posting on Facebook and was able to give him a call. I also remembered taking some pictures of the family at various events over the years. I'm willing to bet I have a picture of them at every parade we have. So it was really nice to be able to mine the archives and find a couple of good ones.

There's other good stuff in here, of course. As you turn the pages, be sure to notice who our advertisers are and tell them you saw their ads in the *Neighb News*. Until next week then...

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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Thursday, February 25, 2016

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Editor: Beth David

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Gofundme page set up for Dave Cardin

A Gofundme.com page has been created for David Cardin, the 61-year-old man whose pickup truck flipped over and landed in the water off Goulart Memorial Drive last Wednesday, 2/17.

Mr. Cardin is in serious condition at Tufts Medical Center in Boston.

In a press release on Tuesday, 2/23, the Fairhaven Fire Department stated: "The most updated information is that he is still sedated and intubated for breathing. He has opened his eyes on occasion. His condition is still listed as serious."

Mr. Cardin is a self-employed, licensed carpenter and a stevedore. His family has set up the Gofundme page to help with expenses, including medical and other bills.

Emergency officials and the medical team believe Mr. Cardin suffered from a medical episode, such as a heart attack or stroke, leading to the accident.

To help out, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/peq32wek>



David Cardin is in serious condition at Tufts Medical Center after suffering injuries when his pickup truck overturned in water off Goulart Memorial Drive in Fairhaven. Officials and his medical team believe he had a medical episode that led to the crash.

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.



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Presidential Primary is Tuesday

This Tuesday, 3/1, voters in Massachusetts will have their say in choosing the candidate from each party to face off with each other in November.

Polls are open from at least from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in all area municipalities statewide.

In the presidential primaries, there are several ballots available. Anyone enrolled in a specific party, such as the Democratic or Republican party, must take that ballot to vote.

Unenrolled candidates are allowed

to pick any ballot. Choosing a party's ballot does not change a voter's status from unenrolled.

To see sample ballots, visit <http://www.sec.state.ma.us>. You may also check your voter status by clicking on "voter tools" and following the links. You may also find your polling place by clicking on "where do I vote" under voter tools.

If you have any questions, call your local clerk's office.

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.

If you feel that your right to vote has been violated in any way, call the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Elections Division at 1-800-462-VOTE (8683).

Where to vote in Acushnet and Fairhaven

PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY: TUES. 3/1, 7 A.M.–8 P.M.

From the Acushnet Town Clerk

When the Community Center closed, June 30, 2014, it displaced Precincts II & III. Fortunately, The former Council on Aging Director, Heather Sylvia and staff welcomed Precinct III to the Council on Aging until the new library was completed. This still left Precinct II without a home. Fortunately, Fire Chief/EMS Director Kevin Gallagher stepped up. He and his staff agreed to host Precinct II until a more permanent home was available. So, for the Presidential Primary, March 1st and the Annual Town Election, April 4th, the precincts are as follows:

- Precinct I: Council on Aging, 59 ½ South Main Street
- Precinct II: Fire Station, 24 Russell Street
- Precinct III: Council on Aging, 59 ½ South Mains Street

If you are unsure of your precinct, you can view your voter information by entering the following web address in the browser: <http://www.wheredoivotema.com/bal/myelectioninfo.aspx> or by contacting the Town Clerk's Office at 508-998-0215, Monday–Friday 8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. and every Tuesday until 8:00 p.m.. In addition, we will also, have signage scattered around town to remind voters of the change.

You may also find your polling place at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us> and clicking on "voter tools" and then "where do I vote."

Where to vote in Fairhaven

Polls in Fairhaven will be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. on Tuesday, 3/1. Polling places are as follows:

- Precinct 1: Town Hall, 40 Center St.
- Precinct 2 & 3: Hastings Middle School, 3 School Street
- Precinct 4: Fire Station Meeting Room, 146 Washington Street
- Precinct 5 & 6: Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Avenue (Rte. 6).

A hero is an ordinary individual who finds the strength to persevere and endure in spite of overwhelming obstacles.

Christopher Reeve

Back to beginning on Rogers School

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Selectboard discussed a letter at its meeting on Wednesday, 2/17, from Michael Tavares, who wrote that he was no longer interested in the Rogers School property.

Mr. Tavares, who lives in Nova Scotia, but is from Fairhaven, had expressed an interest in building condominiums at the site. He also wanted the town to re-open Union Street to allow building several homes there.

The project would have required a Town Meeting vote to re-zone the property.

In his letter rescinding his interest. Mr. Tavares cited several reasons, including that the project would simply cost too much, the exchange rate from Canada was not favorable, and grant money would be difficult to get.

Mr. Tavares suggested in his letter that the town partner with a developer and "share in the risk, profits and realize a restored block with 25+ new tax accounts. Food for thought."

The board will discuss options at a future meeting.

In another matter, the board asked for letters of interest from residents to be on the Economic Development Committee/Industrial Development Committee.

Deadline for letters is March 4 at 4 p.m. The board will make its decision at its March 7 meeting.

Individuals should send letters of interest to the Selectboard Office, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719; or email to selectmen@Fairhaven-MA.gov

The board also discussed a letter sent by the New Bedford City Council asking for help with the opioid crisis.

Overdoses have spiked all over the country and the city has seen a sharp increase in demand for services.

The letter was sent to all surrounding towns and asks officials to inform the City Council "what their current treatment plans are regarding the utilization of Town properties, or future site plans relative to the opioid crisis; and further, are there any treatment centers or plans for inpatient or outpatient services..."

The letter states that the city's resources are "being exhausted due to the influx of residents in these surrounding Towns coming to New Bedford and expending our services."

Fairhaven Town Administrator Mark Rees will contact the other towns mentioned in the letter and report back to the board.

The board also discussed the capital planning requests of the Emergency Management Agency, after some discussion and mea culpas from the Capital Planning Committee, for apparently not including the EMA in last year's plan.

The EMA is looking for \$40,000 this year to buy a used truck to replace a 1996 truck with more than 110,000 miles on it.

They are also asking for \$30,000 to replace the roof of the EMA building next year. However, if the plan being proposed by the Cable Advisory Committee to locate the Public Access station there is approved, then the request will be withdrawn. The CAC proposal includes using public access funds to renovate the building. ●●●



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Photos and story reprints: 5x7, \$12; 8x10, \$20; call for wide format pricing; digital file, \$10.
Prices do NOT include sales tax (6.25%). Delivery/postage extra.

Show your support for the Neighb News
Send \$20 and we'll send this bumper sticker to you (ask for two!). Display it proudly to let the world know you read the *Neighb News*, and to let our advertisers see how many people read AND support the little paper with a big voice!



Send to: 166 Dogwood Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719
Actual size is 11.5"x3"

AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Be in a music video

Duane Darock and Samantha Johnson are in Fairhaven this weekend at Carousel Family Fun Center. Members of the public are invited to lace up their skates and join in the fun. **\$20/person.** You will be required to sign a waiver. **NO TICKETS AT THE DOOR.** Purchase tickets online at www.carouselskate.com. See page 24 for ad.

FHS Events

FAME Coffeehouse

FAME (Fairhaven Association for Music Education) will have its Coffeehouse on **Fri., 2/26, in the Performing Arts Center at Fairhaven High School at 7 p.m.** Tickets are \$5 and will be sold at the door. Come and view the talent that Fairhaven has to offer.

POPs Concert

The Fairhaven High School will be holding its annual **POPs Concert on Tues., 3/1, in the Fairhaven Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m.** Tickets are \$5 at the door. This year we have joined forces with the art department to have one spectacular show. Join us for an evening of magical fantasy!

Musical

From **Mar. 31 to April 3**, Fairhaven High School will present Rodgers and Hammerstein's *Cinderella* in the FHS Performing Arts Center. **Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors.** To order tickets visit the Fairhaven Performing Arts Center box office or call 508 979-4051 x11022.

Spring Concert

The Fairhaven Music Department will hold its Spring Concert on **Thurs., May 19, in the Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m.** Tickets are \$5 and will be sold at the door.

Colonial Club

The public is invited to celebrate the Fairhaven Colonial Club's 104th Anniversary Open House and Historical Tea on **Sun., 2/28, from 1-4 p.m. at the Coggeshall Memorial House, 6 Cherry St., Fairhaven.** Refreshments by the members of the Colonial Club. Special door prize.

Short Film Festival

Second annual Fairhaven Short Film Festival on March 4 & 5. See page 20 for details.

Blood Drive

During Red Cross Month in March, the American Red Cross encourages eligible donors to join in its lifesaving mission by giving blood. Since 1943, every U.S. president has designated **March as Red Cross Month** to recognize how the Red Cross helps people down the street, across the country and around the world.

Make an appointment to become a hero to patients in need by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Fri., 3/4, 1-6 p.m., Seaport Inn & Marina, 110 Middle St., Fairhaven

Easter Concert

The Saints & Singers Chorus concert, Fri., 3/11, 7:30 p.m., St. Joseph Church, 74 Spring St., Fairhaven.

The Saints & Singers Chorus is an ecumenical chorus, dedicated to sharing God's message of love and hope through music. Our cantata for this Easter, called "Jesus Changed Everything," arranged by Mark Brymer, illuminates the message that the sacrifice of Jesus has changed ... everything.

Admission is free with a freewill offering. Accessible

Free Trees to Join

Spring is in the Air. Join the Arbor Day Foundation in March and Receive 10 Free Trees. The Arbor Day Foundation is making it easy for everyone to celebrate the arrival of spring by planting trees.

Join the Arbor Day Foundation in March 2016 and receive 10 free white flowering dogwood trees.

"White flowering dogwoods are versatile trees that will break heavy winds and add beauty to your home," said Matt Harris, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "These fast-growing landscape trees are known for their soft needles and graceful branching, making them an ideal addition to any yard."

The free trees are part of the nonprofit Foundation's Trees for America campaign.

With planting instructions included, the trees will be shipped at the right time for planting, between

March 1 and May 31. The 6- to 12-inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge.

Arbor Day Foundation members also receive a subscription to Arbor Day, the Foundation's bimonthly publication, and The Tree Book, which contains information about tree planting and care.

To become a member of the Foundation and receive the free trees, send a \$10 contribution to **TEN FREE WHITE FLOWERING DOGWOOD TREES**, Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, Nebraska 68410, by March 31, 2016. Or join online at arborday.org/march.

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.

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 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.

Homecoming Apps.

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

Contact the FIA at fairhavenhomecoming@gmail.com

Billy Pires arrested in Sycamore Street hit and run

By Beth David
Editor

William "Billy" Pires, 20, a standout Fairhaven High School football player who graduated in 2013, was charged in connection with a hit-and-run accident that left two people seriously injured, one still in critical condition.

William James Pires, 15 Daniel Street, Fairhaven, was arraigned on Friday, 2/19, in New Bedford District Court on charges of leaving the scene of personal injury and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

On February 6th around 2:05 a.m., Fairhaven Police responded to the area of Sycamore and Winsor Streets

for a report of two people lying in the roadway. The victims, Christine Machado, 40, of Fairhaven and Terrence Hope, 50, of New Bedford, were immediately transported to St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford for treatment. Mr. Hope has since been treated and released. However, Ms. Machado was flown to Boston Medical Center via Med-Flight and remains in critical condition.

An investigation conducted by Detective Scott Gordon of Fairhaven Police and Mass. State Police Trooper Christopher Dumont assigned to the Bristol County District Attorney's Office resulted in the criminal

charges currently lodged against the defendant.

According to court documents, Mr. Pires and his mother conspired to hide the crime by having the car fixed at a body shop in New Bedford. She has not been charged.

Arthur Glassman, the owner of Glassman Automotive, told police that Billy's mother, Christine Pires, called and said that Billy's car needed a windshield and asked that the car be stored inside.

Mr. Glassman told police he was immediately suspicious about how the vehicle got damaged, and that he

HIT & RUN: cont'd on page 13

37-year-old New Bedford man killed in car crash in Fairhaven

By Beth David
Editor

A 37-year-old New Bedford man was killed in a single car crash in Fairhaven on Friday, 2/19, just after 2 a.m.

Fairhaven police spokesperson Sgt. Kevin Kobza said the vehicle was traveling southbound on Main Street between Winsor and Morgan Streets when it hit a parked car on Main.

Sgt. Kobza said that the driver was talking to police before the ambulance arrived.

"Then his condition quickly deteriorated," said Sgt. Kobza.

The man had told police officers he was suffering from pneumonia, but it is unclear if that had anything to do with the accident.

Sgt. Kobza said there was no

indication that drugs or alcohol were involved.

The *Neighb News* learned that the driver was Robert Silva, 37.

According to his obituary, he was an ammunition and explosives leader with the Army National Guard, and a member of the Acushnet Lions Club.

For arrangements, visit www.waring-sullivan.com

ATRIA FAIRHAVEN

Our residents are looking forward to an exciting, eventful February & March here at Atria Fairhaven. We'd love for you to join us.
(RSVP: 508-994-9238)

Join us for:

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.

Gentiva Healthcare Wellness Discussion Thurs., 3/3, 2:30 p.m. Gentiva Healthcare will be here providing helpful tips on beating the winter blues.



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Boston Gay Men's Chorus will benefit A Perfect Place

A performance of the Boston Gay Men's Chorus in New Bedford will benefit A Perfect Place, a drop in center for gay and questioning youth.

The BGMC will perform at the Zeiterion Theatre, 684 Purchase Street, New Bedford on Sunday, March 6, at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$15/\$25/\$35. Can be purchased at the Zeiterion box office or online at: www.zeiterion.org

Presented by The Grace Episcopal Church, New Bedford and The Z

A portion of each ticket will be donated to "A Perfect Place," the New Bedford Alliance of Gay and Lesbian Youth community center <http://www.sclgbtqnetwork.org/a-perfect-place.html>.

The Boston Gay Men's Chorus is

one of New England's largest and most successful community-based choruses. Founded in 1982, the 175-voice ensemble is celebrated for its outstanding musicianship, creative programming, and groundbreaking community outreach. The BGMC sings a wide spectrum of classical and popular music and creates social change by providing a positive, affirming image of the gay and lesbian community. Their overall mission is to create musical experiences that inspire change, build community and celebrate the differences within the communities they visit. We are thrilled to welcome them to The Z for their New Bedford debut!

NB-AGLY is a community-based youth organization where we provide

a safe space for LGBTQ youth and their allies. First organized in 2011, A Perfect Place started as a small group of teens who wanted to offer support and resources to other LGBTQ youth in the South Coast Region.

Today, organizers run A Perfect Place — a drop-in center for LGBTQ youth and allies ages 14-24. It is a youth-driven, peer-led, and adult-supported community center which is currently open from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays.

For more information about The Z, visit www.zeiterion.org

For Boston Gay Men's Chorus: <http://www.bgmc.org/>

For A Perfect Place: <http://www.sclgbtqnetwork.org/a-perfect-place.html>

Workshop for mini-grant program announced

The City of New Bedford, through its Department of Planning, Housing and Community Development (DPHCD) is proud to launch the 2016 CitiWorks Mini-Grant Program. This is the City of New Bedford's sixth year in providing CitiWorks Mini-Grants to neighborhood-based organizations

and other groups throughout the city. Successful projects provide physical improvements to neighborhoods which help make them healthier, safer, cleaner, and more attractive.

Eligible projects include tree plantings, public art, community gardens, and enhancements to public

spaces and are intended to help reinvigorate neighborhoods and develop community leadership.

For more information about CitiWorks, please contact Edward Bates at the DPHCD at 508-979-1500 or visit <http://www.newbedford-ma.gov/community-development/>.



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HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Leap Year/Frog Day

On Sat., 2/27, 10 a.m.–11:30 a.m., 425 Hawthorn St., celebrate the Leap Year at Buttonwood Park Zoo's Leap Year the Frog Way – a "hopping" event for your little leapers! Your morning will include all things frog in an educational yet fun experience for your family. Take home a frog craft, play frog games and activities, experience an amphibian encounter, get your face painted, enjoy frog themed refreshments and treats as well as admission to the Zoo for the day. This fun event will teach your family the importance of frog conservation.

Don't miss your chance, leap today and register, it only happens once every four years!

Space is limited and pre-registration is required so sign up today! Children under one year of age are free. Visit www.bpzoo.org or call 508-991-6178

Hockey Tryouts

The South Coast Panthers Youth Hockey Association will be holding spring tryouts for the upcoming 2016–17 season for both boys and girls. All tryouts will be held at the **Hetland Ice Rink at 310 Hathaway Blvd in New Bedford.**

All skaters MUST: Have a current USA Hockey registration number; Register online at www.southcoastpanthers.com; Pay a **\$150 (\$100 for midgets/U19 Girls)** non-refundable & non-transferable evaluation fee at the rink on the first tryout date. (Make check payable to SCPYHA)

- **Tues., 3/1, 5:30-6:20pm & Tues., 3/8 5:30-6:20pm:** Girls U10 (born in the years 2006, 2007....) & Girls U12 (born in 2004 & 2005)
- **Tues., 3/1, 6:30-7:20pm & Tues., 3/8 6:30-7:20pm:** Girls U14 (2002 & 2003) & Girls U16 (2000 & 2001)
- **Tues., 3/1 7:30-8:20pm & Tues., 3/8 7:30-8:20pm:** Girls U19 (1997-1999)
- **Thurs., 3/3 5:30-6:20pm & Thurs., 3/10 5:30-6:20pm:** Mites (2008, 2009)
- **Thurs., 3/3 6:30-7:20pm & Thurs., 3/10 6:30-7:20:** Squirts (2006 & 2007)
- **Thurs., 3/3 7:30-8:20pm & Thurs., 3/10 7:30-8:20 pm:** PeeWees (2004 & 2005)
- **Thurs., 3/3 8:30-9:20pm & Thurs., 3/10 8:30-9:20pm:** Bantams (2002 & 2003)**

**SCPYHA is offering full season

Bantams only. No 1/2 season teams.

- **Mon., 3/21 8:30-9:20pm & Wed., 3/23 8-8:50pm;** Midgets (2001–1998)

For more information, email, southcoastpanthers@gmail.com or visit www.southcoastpanthers.com

Mini Grant Orientat.

Have an innovative community project that could enrich your town, school, neighborhood or all of Greater New Bedford? If you are working as a volunteer with a local all-volunteer group then consider applying for a United Way of Greater New Bedford Community Building Mini-Grant. Grants of up to \$2,500 can help put your ideas into action. Learn more about the program including how to apply online and the types of projects and programs that qualify by attending an orientation session.

Groups with budgets of \$40,000 or less are strongly encouraged to attend one of two orientations that will be held at United Way, **105 William St. 2nd floor on Wed., 3/2 from 10–11:30 a.m. or Tues., 3/8, from 6–7:30 p.m.**

These sessions will discuss the program, eligibility and the application process. Registration is required. Please call 508-994-9625 ext. 19 or email minigrants@unitedwayofgnb.org.

Applications will be available March 1st at www.unitedwayofgnb.org and will only be accepted electronically. Grants must be submitted by April 22, 2016.

In 2015, 37 all-volunteer groups made an impact throughout Great New Bedford with projects funded by United Way's Mini-Grant Program. These projects range from garden projects and healthier living programs to outreach campaigns and family engagement opportunities. Be the change in Greater New Bedford, visit www.unitedwayofgnb.org to learn more about the Mini-Grants Program.

SAVE THE DATE:

NB Book Festival

Groundworks! is holding the first New Bedford Book Festival on **Sat. & Sun., 3/5 & 6, at 1213 Purchase St., New Bedford.**

The New Bedford Book Festival will take place over the two days from 11:00 a.m. until 4 p.m. each day and feature special readings and programming, a curated selection of artists

and all the imagination its participants bring to the table.

For more details visit www.NewBedfordNow.com.

Participants and attendees are invited to follow updates at Facebook.com/NewBedfordNow or send any questions to NewBedfordNow@gmail.com.

Little Shop of Horrors

Squeals of delight and screams of fright will fill the theatre with the Laurel Tree Players' grand-scale production of *Little Shop of Horrors*. One of the longest-running Off-Broadway shows of all time, this affectionate spoof of 1950s sci-fi movies has become a household name and family favorite.

Charming, tuneful and hilarious, with tongue firmly planted in cheek, *Little Shop of Horrors* never fails to entertain. Under the direction of Maurice Ouellette, *Little Shop of Horrors* opens on Fri., 3/18 at 8 p.m. with two other performances on Sat., 3/19 at 8 p.m., and Sun., 3/20 at 2 p.m. at Holy Family Holy Name School.

This is the perfect show for both the intimate venue and the company. The Laurel Tree Players have been delighting and entertaining audiences for 26 years.

The theater of the Laurel Tree Players boasts relaxed cabaret seating around tables where audience members can order drinks and a variety of tasty snacks. Tickets for the March 18th, 19th, and 20th production are now on sale at Holy Family Holy Name School at 91 Summer Street in New Bedford, MA 02740. For reservations, call the school at 508-993-3547. **Tickets are priced at \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and children.** Seating is limited. Bring your camera and have your picture taken with Audrey II, the man-eating plant, after the show.

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Get the *Neighb News* delivered **directly to your desktop.** Email us at NeighbNews@comcast.net, with your full name, and we will send you your very own PDF of the *Neighb News*.

You'll get it bright and early Thursday without even leaving your house.

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

Saltwater Fish Show

The Rhode Island Saltwater Anglers Association presents the 13th New England **Saltwater Fishing Show, Fri.-Sun., 2/26-28**, the largest saltwater fishing show in the northeast, at the **RI Convention Center, One Sabin St., Providence.**

Features tackle, rods, reels, electronics, charter guides, boats, motors, kayaks, coolers, clothing and much more. Free non-stop seminars in four seminar areas; 60 seminars with an all-star lineup of regional talent that will keep any fishing enthusiast busy for many hours. Meet the star of the show, "Wicked Tuna" Capt. Dave Carraro and mate Capt. Sandro Maniaci of tuna.com.

For schedule, exhibitor info, etc., visit www.nesaltwatershow.com/

Water for Flint

During this the Year of Mercy LaSalette Shrine will have "An Island of Mercy" where we will be highlighting different corporal works of mercy. Each month you will be invited to participate in one work of mercy. This month we are focusing on "Give drink to the thirsty."

We've all been horrified by what is happening in Flint, Michigan and their water supply. Children have been poisoned.

We wish to help them; we have contacted Catholic Charities in Flint, and we will send all monetary donations to buy water for people through them. They ask that we not send water because it would have to be shipped. They would prefer we give the money and use the money we would use to send it to buy more water.

You'll see a Water Jug in the foyer at the Island of Mercy. If you wish to help, put some money in the jug. Paper money is welcome! "Give Drink to the Thirsty"

National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette, 947 Park St., Attleboro, MA 02703; 508-222-5410

Comedy Dinner F-R

The Showstoppers community-service singing troupe has rescheduled its annual **Adult Comedy Night Fundraiser at Salerno's Seaside Function Hall located at 196 Onset Ave. in Onset**

Village on Fri., 2/26. Doors will open at 6:00 for cocktails and crudités. The original date was cancelled due to storm conditions.

Tickets are \$30 and include an Italian dinner buffet and comedy show featuring 2 comedians. Also available will be a Chinese auction, raffle, and cash bar. A limited number of tickets remain available for the rescheduled event which sells out annually.

Showstoppers Performing Arts, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. For more information or for tickets, email info@showstoppers.us or call 508-758-4525.

Stargazing

Join the Buzzards Bay Coalition and Mattapoisett Library on **Friday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m. for a stargazing walk led by Carl Herzog at The Bogs in Mattapoisett.** Far away from the city lights, the 200-acre Mattapoisett River Reserve offers visitors trails and a dark, expansive sky to view the stars.

This program is free and will last about an hour. Participants should meet by the parking area at **138 Acushnet Rd., Mattapoisett**, and dress for the weather.

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. To learn more about all our upcoming Bay Adventures, 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.

Seal Cruises

Buzzards Bay is an important stopover location for overwintering marine wildlife, most notably seals of the Northeast region. At "Gull Island," a small sandbar situated along the Elizabeth Island chain between Cuttyhunk and Penikese, is where seals haul-out at low tide. Harbor, grey, and harp seals are species commonly encountered.

Lloyd Center Education Specialist, Jasmine Smith-Gillen, will provide commentary about these fascinating creatures. Sightings of wintering water-birds on the boat ride out and

near the islands can also be expected.

After seal viewing, the boat will dock at Cuttyhunk for lunch-time and an opportunity to set foot on the island with its panoramic view of surrounding waters. At this point, participants are free to venture through town to the lookout, gaining a feel for the unique landscape and enjoying a panoramic view of the surrounding waters. Beachcombers are welcome to join Jasmine on a nature walk along the shore. In addition to learning about some unique marine wildlife, attendees will hopefully leave with a new appreciation for Buzzards Bay. Please bring binoculars, camera and appropriate clothing (layers, wind gear, hiking shoes).

This program will take place on **Sat., 3/5 & Sat., 3/19, from 10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.** Participants are to meet at the **Cuttyhunk Ferry Company parking lot located on the state pier off Route 18 in New Bedford** (visit www.cuttyhunkferrycompany.com for directions). Please arrive no later than 9:45am for check-in; boat leaves at 10:00am sharp.

The cost of the Cuttyhunk Seal Cruise is **\$43 for Lloyd Center members, \$45 for non-members, and \$20 for children.** Price includes lunch served on the boat and a packet of background materials. The vessel has a cash only snack bar and there is limited shopping available on Cuttyhunk Island. Space limited to 30.

To register for this event, call the Lloyd Center Event Line 508-558-2918 or simply visit www.lloydcenter.org and register online. Registration deadlines are Thursday, March 3, 4pm and March 17, 4pm. If you have specific questions regarding the program, contact Jasmine at jasmine@lloydcenter.org or 508-990-0505 ext. 13.

For more information about the Lloyd Center, visit www.lloydcenter.org or call 508-990-0505.

Have a fund-raising event coming up?

Listings for non-profits are free in the *Neighb News*.

Email to: neighbnews@comcast.net

Events are listed as space allows, in our format.

If you require specific wording, layout, and dates, ask for advertising rates.

Recipe of the Week

Drunken Pork Chops

4 1/2-inch-thick center-cut pork chops

1 tablespoon olive oil

1 onion, chopped

1 1/2 teaspoons fennel seeds

2 teaspoons paprika

1/2 cup dry white wine

1/2 cup canned low-salt chicken broth

1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice

Season pork with salt and pepper. Heat oil in heavy large skillet over medium-high heat. Add pork; sauté until brown and just cooked through, about 5 minutes per side.

Transfer pork to plate; tent with foil to keep warm. Add onion and fennel seeds to same skillet and sauté until onion is tender, about 5 minutes.

Mix in paprika; stir 15 seconds. Add wine, broth and lemon juice and boil until sauce thickens slightly, scraping up browned bits, about 5 minutes.

Season sauce to taste with salt and pepper.

Spoon sauce over pork chops and serve.

From www.epicurious.com

From our readers

Mahaney's support Roderick

To our fellow Fairhaven Citizens:

Carole and I are throwing our support behind Bernie Roderick in his campaign for Board of Selectmen.

Bernie's education, training and experience as a teacher, superintendent and member of the school committee match very well the skills and experience a selectman will need to function effectively in our newly organized town government.

The working relationship between the selectmen and the town administrator is not new to Bernie as it is very similar to the working relationship between the school committee and the superintendent of schools. His experience and expertise on both sides of this relationship will serve the town well.

Bernie's dedication is demonstrated by his long career and long time involvement in town government. He has served on the School Committee, Medical Insurance Study Committee, Town Government Study Committee, Board of Appeals, Social

Services Advisory Board and as a Town Meeting Member and Millicent Library Trustee.

Bernie's Juris Doctorate degree, and the accompanying analytical skills and knowledge of legal structures, has served him and our town well over his career. He has the ability to see through the complexity of interrelated issues and define the issue at hand. His teambuilding skills bring together the people and expertise needed to generate and evaluate possible solutions.

Along with these abilities and skills, it is Bernie's decisiveness that will get the job done and move our town forward.

Bernie has the ability to bring out the best in the people he works with. He does so by creating a climate of cooperation, respect and support. He is a man of integrity who uses his energy and commitment for the benefit of all Fairhaven's citizens.

We hope you will join us in supporting Bernie's campaign for the Board of Selectmen.

Thank you,

Carole & Jim Mahaney, Fairhaven

Don't forget to tell our advertisers you saw their ads in the *Neighb News!*

Support the Food Pantry

The Shepherd's Food Pantry at the Long Plain United Methodist Church in Acushnet spends more than \$5,500 each month to keep the shelves stocked. It serves more than 120 families each week and has seen a sharp increase in families seeking food.

Tax deductible donations may be sent to Shepherd's Pantry, PO Box 760, Fairhaven, MA 02719. Visit www.shepherdspantry.org

To share a recipe with your neighbors

Mail to 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719; fax to 508-991-5580; email to neighbnews@comcast.net (Email preferred)

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Barn completely destroyed by fire

Press Release

At 9:21 p.m. on Saturday, 2/10, the Fairhaven Fire Department received a 9-1-1 call from a neighbor reporting seeing flames in the area of Sweeney Lane in Fairhaven. Two Engines and a ladder truck responded to the area to find flames and small explosions coming from a large structure at 161 Alden Road, at the end of Sweeney lane.

A 30'x30' wooden barn was fully involved in fire when crews arrived. The barn was totally destroyed, and was used for storage of equipment including a Harley Davidson Motorcycle that was stored for the winter.

According to Wayne Oliveira, Public Information Officer for the Fairhaven Fire Department, the fire is believed to have started from an electrical trickle charger that was plugged into the motorcycle.

Neighboring homes on Suzanne Way also received some minor smoke and radiant heat damage from the flames.

Crews battled the heavy flames

that burned for over two hours. Mutual aid was received from Acushnet Fire and the New Bedford Fire Departments. All units left the scene at midnight.

No injuries were reported from the fire but one firefighter was transported to St. Luke's Hospital Emergency Room for chest pain, and is expected to be released. The owner of the property is Diane Hurley of Fairhaven. Damage is estimated to be approximately \$25,000 for the structure and \$50,000 for contents.



A fire completely destroyed this barn at 161 Alden Road in Fairhaven on Friday, 2/20. Photos from Fairhaven Fire Department.

Ice seals have arrived in Mass.: leave them alone

Press Release

New England Aquarium

The record frigid weather was not the only thing to arrive from Canada last week, the "ice seals" also arrived on the mainland Massachusetts coast from Cape Ann to the South Shore, fresh off of a long swim from Nova Scotia. Each winter over the last two decades, young harp seals and the occasional adult hooded seal take a mid-winter vacation from the ice fields of the Canadian Maritime Provinces and bask in the relative balminess of a New England winter.

This past week, Aquarium marine animal rescue staff and volunteers responded to calls from Marblehead, Nahant and Norwell for juvenile harp seals with their spotted, creamy white and brown colored coats. Weighing anywhere from 40-70 pounds, these 3-4 foot long seals often haul out in high profile locations. In the accompanying images, one can be seen lounging in a very nice neighborhood in Marblehead last week. It is also not uncommon for these seals to spend a couple of days out of the water in the same location.

In fact for hardy beach walkers, the winter may be the best time to see a seal in the wild along the Massachusetts coast, but there are some rules that the Aquarium would like to remind people of:

- **SEALS BELONG ON THE BEACH** They are not stranded. They haul out of the water regularly to rest.
- **SEALS NEED SPACE** Federal law requires people to stay at least 50 yards away. Too close of a human presence interrupts their rest and will cause them major stress and a possible decline in their health.
- **LEASH YOUR DOG** Dogs are the first to likely find a seal, and their excited behavior will likely disturb it.
- **WHAT CAN YOU DO?** Take pictures from a safe distance. Tell others approaching about the rules. If on the North or South Shores and the animal is visibly injured or ill, call the Aquarium's marine animal hotline at 617-973-5247.

They're cute, furry and have a face that could melt your heart, but don't get too close. When most people see a seal, they are excited, curious and concerned, which is great.

Unfortunately, people sometimes

do things which, although well-intentioned, can actually do more harm than good. Share the shore with seals to keep everyone safe and to create a lifelong memory.



A seal gets some sun in Marblehead last week. Photo by Diane Treadwell, courtesy of the New England Aquarium.

Two Fairhaven firefighters complete academy

Press Release

The Fairhaven Fire Department recently had two recruit firefighters attend the Massachusetts State Firefighting Academy in Stow, MA.

Firefighter/Paramedics Kevin Gonsalves and Shawn Grajales completed the nine-week academy.

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Mass. Firefighting Academy Director George D. Kramlinger announced the graduation of the 238th class of the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy's forty-five-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program on January 15, 2016.

"This rigorous professional training provides our newest firefighters with the basic skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely," said State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan. The Massachusetts Firefighting Academy (MFA), a division of the Department of Fire Services, offers this program, tuition-free. The ceremony took place at the Department of Fire Services in Stow, MA.

Twenty four graduated from 12 Fire Departments. The 24 graduates, all men, represent the 12 fire depart-

ments of: Auburn, Bedford, Bridgewater, Fairhaven, Maynard, Peabody, Revere, Scituate, Somerville, Tewksbury, Walpole, and Watertown.

Today's firefighters do far more than fight fires. They are the first ones called to respond to chemical and environmental emergencies, ranging from the suspected presence of carbon monoxide to a gas leak.

They may be called to rescue a child who has fallen through the ice or who has locked himself in a bathroom. They rescue people from stalled elevators and those who are trapped in vehicle crashes.

They test and maintain their equipment including self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), hydrants, hoses, power tools, and apparatus.

At the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy they learn all these skills and more from certified fire instructors who are also experienced firefighters. Students learn all the basic skills they need to respond to fires and to contain and control them.

They are also given training in public fire education, hazardous material incident mitigation, flam-

mable liquids, stress management, confined space rescue techniques, and rappelling.

The intensive, nine-week program for municipal firefighters involves classroom instruction, physical fitness training, firefighter skills training, and live firefighting practice.

Starting with Class #200, the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy changed its training format from 72 students in a 12-week program to a smaller class size of 24 students that starts every three weeks. There are still 72 students on campus at any one time, but the smaller class size is expected to achieve time efficiencies without compromising learning, and in fact improve education with smaller student/instructor ratios.

Students receive classroom training in all basic firefighter skills. They practice first under non-fire conditions and then during controlled fire conditions. To graduate, students must demonstrate proficiency in life safety, search and rescue, ladder operations, water supply, pump operation, and fire attack.

FIREFIGHTERS: cont'd on page 21

HIT & RUN: cont'd from page 6

told Christine if he found out the vehicle had struck a person or an animal that he would call police.

He was so suspicious, that he took pictures of the vehicle and searched the Internet for stories of any crashes.

Later that day, Sunday evening, 2/6, Mr. Glassman learned about the hit-and-run. He said he called Christine Pires and told her he was calling the police.

"He explained that at that point she [Christine] started to cry and she said she would come and get the car right away," reads the Fairhaven Police Department report by Det. Scott Gordon.

Then Billy Pires called to say he would pick up the car right away, according to the report. Then a woman claiming to be a lawyer called and told Mr. Glassman he had no right to keep the car from Billy.

Mr. Glassman contacted a friend who is a New Bedford Police Officer, who met Mr. Glassman to look at the car. After seeing the vehicle, he contacted the Fairhaven police.

At about 1:30 in the morning on Monday, 2/7, a search warrant was executed on the gray 2001 Mercedes

C240, registered to Billy's father.

Through their investigation, police ascertained that the car was used solely by Billy Pires.

The investigation showed that the roadway is straight and there were no parked cars, "allowing for a clear view up to where it is believed that the victims were struck in the roadway," reads the report. "It is reasonable to believe that the operator of the vehicle...was distracted or impaired in some way."

Police also recovered a broken piece of chrome trim from the scene that "fit perfectly to the broken bumper of the 2001 Mercedes."

Police also describe an attempt by Mr. Pires to hide his cell phone from police, and other uncooperative behavior. He refused to be interviewed by police.

Police found the phone and found incriminating texts between Mr. Pires and his mother. Although some had been deleted, officials were able to retrieve the texts.

Police also reviewed surveillance camera footage from DATTCO on Sycamore Street. They observed car similar to the 2001 Mercedes at 2:02

a.m. several blocks north of the crash. No other vehicles appear in the area for several minutes before or after the crash which was reported a few minutes after 2 a.m.

"Both victims were left unconscious on the ground until they were located by a passing vehicle at least five minutes after being struck," wrote Det. Gordon. "Based upon the hole by the intrusion of Machado's body inside of the vehicle and the shattering of the windshield across the driver's field of view, it is more than reasonable to believe that William "Billy" Pires knowingly left the scene of a crash with serious injuries without stopping or contacting 911."

Court records also state that Mr. Pires has an open criminal case in North Carolina for felony possession of cocaine for which he is currently out on \$2,000 bail.

Mr. Pires is due back in court on April 8. He must wear an ankle bracelet, cannot leave his home except for work, school, and legal or doctor's appointments, and must provide proof that he is in school. His mother posted \$500 cash surety.

Fairhaven Recreation Center

Open Mon-Thurs, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.;
Fri., 6 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-
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Kool Kids April

This 4 day program is a great opportunity to make new friends while participating in group activities such as soccer, floor hockey, cooperative games, and more. Kids need to bring lunch the first 3 days, pizza lunch will be served on Friday. Sneakers and active clothing must be worn. For more information, call Fairhaven Recreation at 508-993-9269. No program on Monday Runs April 19-22, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Grades K-5 Cost \$100.00 member/\$125.00 non-member

Babysitting Class

A comprehensive 2 1/2 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.

Ages: 11-14 Date: March 14th
Instructor: Beth Oleson. Time: 5:30-8 p.m. Cost: \$50 Members \$55 Non-members

Flashlight Egg Hunt

Join us for the 14th annual Flashlight Egg Hunt! Children will search for their eggs on the Recreation Center grounds, take pictures with the Easter Bunny and receive a special treat. Don't forget to bring your flashlight!

NO LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. NO WALK-INS NIGHT OF THE EVENT.

Friday, March 18, 7:30 p.m. Cost \$5 per child Ages 10 and under **Deadline to register is Tuesday, March 15.**

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Get the *Neighb News* delivered directly to your desktop. Email us at NeighbNews@comcast.net, with your full name, and we will send you your very own PDF of the Neighb News.

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http://fairhavenma.virtualltownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA_COA/index

Mall Trips

Mar. 2: Newport Grand, Middletown, Mar. 9: Providence Place Mall and
Trader Joe's Whole Foods

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

3/2 Dancing with D&D • 3/3 Ray J • 3/9 Silver Fox

Special Activities

WANTED: WWII and Korean Vets!

A day to remember, because we will never forget. Honor Flight New England transports World War 11 and Korean Vets to see their Memorials in Washington, DC at no cost to those who served. Email honorflightnewengland@gmail.com, call us at 603-518-5368, or visit www.honorflightnewengland.org

Presidential Primary Election

Tuesday, March 1st, 7 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Fairhaven residents, if you need a ride to the polls to vote, please call the Fairhaven COA at 508-979-4029

Free Groceries

Fairhaven residents, 60 years or older may qualify to receive free Groceries. Call Fairhaven COA at 508-979-4029 for more information.

PACE Fuel Assistance

If you need help filling out the form please call the Fairhaven COA for appointment, 508-979-4029.

Senior Circuit Breaker Tax Credit

Seniors over 65 may receive a tax refund for up to \$1,040! You qualify

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.

Calling all talented seniors

The Fairhaven Rotary and the Fairhaven Council on Aging will be having a senior talent show on Sunday, April 24, from 2-4:00 p.m. at the Fairhaven COA. We are recruiting seniors who would like to participate in this event by sharing their talent whether it be singing, dancing, comedy, magic, or any other fun talent. Call the Fairhaven COA at 508-979-4029 and ask for Anne Silvia to sign up. This is a FREE EVENT for the public. Refreshments will be served and prizes will be awarded.

Ongoing Programs

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Acushnet sets Town Meeting date; starts steps for new TA

By Beth David
Editor

The Acushnet Selectboard took the first steps towards finding a new Town Administrator in anticipation of Al Coutinho's retirement at the end of June. At its meeting on Thursday, 2/18, the board met with Mark Morse of MMA Consulting Group to discuss the steps the town needs to take and the time frame for hiring a new TA.

Mr. Coutinho has been in the position for 18 years. Selectboard chairperson David Wojnar said that he recalled it was a "fairly arduous" process that ended up with an in-house candidate.

Mr. Coutinho had been the town's Finance Director and, before that, the Town Accountant.

Mr. Morse advised the board to create a screening committee to work with MMA CG. He said his firm will vet candidates, and will verify their backgrounds and education. He told the board that competition for talent will be very different than 18 years ago.

"A whole bunch of people are aging out of the system," said Mr. Morse. "So there's a shrinking pool of candidates."

The process has three basic steps, he said: Making it clear what kind of person the town is looking for, advertising and outreach to find candidates, and prescreening. Then the board will make the final decision.

He said prescreening is more important than the board may realize, because people do lie on resumes.

"I was actually stunned," said Mr. Morse about one resume he received

from someone he knew who lied about his education. MMA CG will do background checks, he said, and will verify everything from education to experience.

"We have a person who spends their life basically researching people," said Mr. Morse.

He recommended a screening committee of five or six people, including a Selectboard member, if the board wanted.

He explained that screening committee meetings are not open to the

A whole bunch of people are aging out of the system. So there's a shrinking pool of candidates. [Mark Morse]

public. Information about candidates is confidential until the finalists are identified and they agree to be finalists.

Mr. Morse also told the board to expect the process to take about 100-120 days. Costs for his firm are between \$14,000 and \$20,000. He told the board his guess would be about \$16,000 for Acushnet.

Mr. Morse reiterated that things are different now.

"The dynamics of the business have changed," he said. "Eighteen

years ago you got a very large pool with a lot of qualified candidates."

Mr. Wojnar, however said that he felt that Acushnet would be a "very sought after job."

He said it was a "well run town," a great place with a great staff, and that the town was in "good shape" financially.

Mr. Morse told the board that MMA CG has been involved in many successful searches for town administrators, fire chiefs and police chiefs. He said most have stayed on the job for at least five years.

Mr. Coutinho said he would serve on the screening committee, but felt he should not be a voting member. The board also agreed that no town hall staff members should be on the committee.

"It's important that the board truly knows what they want," said Mr. Coutinho. "People will tell you what they think you want to hear."

Mr. Wojnar offered to be on the committee, saying he would have the best idea of what the board wanted, without appointing a sitting Selectperson. Mr. Wojnar is not running for re-election and his seat is up in April.

The board also received a letter from Municipal Resources offering to help the town with the TA search. Mr. Coutinho will contact them to get more information and possibly have them present to the board.

In other business, the board set Monday, 5/23, as the date for the annual town meeting. Deadline for article submissions is May 2.

ACUSH SELECT: cont'd on page 20

Acushnet candidate field set for April 4 election

Candidates in Acushnet's local election, set for April 4, have all filed their papers, and the field is set, leaving voters with a three-way race for Selectboard, two contested races for Housing Authority and a blank line for the School Committee.

David Wojnar has decided not to run for re-election to his seat on the Selectboard. Michael Cioper, David Costa and former Selectboard member Leslie Dakin, Jr., have all jumped in to fill the void. Mr. Cioper ran for the board in 2013, losing to Mr. Wojnar.

Rene Racine, running for re-election to the Housing Authority, faces a challenge by Robert Lanzoni.

Also, for the HA, Isabel Sousa and Lori Walsh are vying for an unexpired term that ends in 2020, which was made vacant when Arthur Bergeron resigned in May, 2015. Ms. Sousa was appointed to fill that position.

The School Committee has three spots on the ballot, two regular seats and one unexpired term. Incumbent Sarah Gomes is running for re-election for her seat, but no other candidate will be on the ballot for the other seat.

Jody Tavares, who was appointed to fill a vacancy on the School Committee, is running to fill the unexpired term of Frank Kuthan, who resigned

last October.

Also on the ballot will be incumbent Assessor Liberio Soares running for re-election; Thomas Fortin running for re-election to his seat on the Board of Health; incumbent Marc Laplante for Commissioner of Trust Funds; incumbent Marc DeSilva for Planning Commission; incumbent Charlene Fortin for Cemetery Board; incumbent Kristen Leotti and Nancy Francis for the two Library Trustee seats; Christopher Anderson running unopposed for Park Commissioner.

Call the Town Clerk's office with questions, 508-998-0215.



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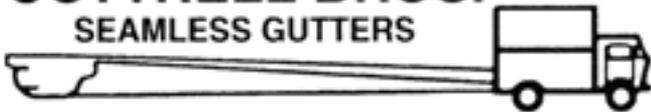
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from Louise Dupre

FHS Girls lose tough one to Case



The Fairhaven Girls Basketball team suffered a tough 54-32 loss to Case on the Lady Blue Devils Senior Night on Thursday, 2/18. With the loss, the rebuilding team dropped to 2-19 on the season and 1-15 in South Coast Conference Play. The team has only two seniors graduating from the team filled with underclassmen and look forward to a much improved season next year. ABOVE LEFT: Kacey McKenna works down low for the lady Blue Devils. ABOVE RIGHT: Laela Pepin takes the hard foul from a Case defender. BELOW LEFT: Mackenzie Bourgault drives around the Case defender. BELOW RIGHT: Grace Pelletier attempts the shot after driving the lane. *Photos by Ryan Feeney.*



Fairhaven family gets pleasant surprise at restaurant

By Beth David
Editor

When Nick and Sheryl Costa took their three children out for dinner, they were fully prepared for how it all works: You order food, they bring the food, you eat the food, you pay for the food.

So, that's what they did. Mr. Costa gave their server \$65. But she returned in a few minutes with a surprise: the whole \$65, plus a note.

A woman who had been seated next to them had paid for the whole family's meal.

She wasn't doing one of those pay-it-forward things, or claiming it was any kind of charitable contribution. She did it as a way of paying the Costas back for...well, being who they are.

"I was blessed by your family," said

the anonymous note. "It blessed me to see a happy family together enjoying their meal."

"Your little girl was precious to watch," the note continued. "I pray God's blessing upon you and your family. May you always [be] driven closer to each other and closer to Him."

Mr. Costa said he was shocked when he got the note from his server. He asked

who it was and then caught up with the

woman in the parking lot before she disappeared.

"I was so caught up in everything, I didn't think to get her name," he said. "She gave me a big hug."

She told him it was a pleasure for her to sit next to the kids.

"And watching the baby eat and get covered in food," said Mr. Costa with a laugh. "Her thinking was that you very rarely see people sitting down enjoying a meal together."

He said she was by herself and he felt great that



The Costa family got a pleasant surprise when a woman they did not know paid for the family's meal because she enjoyed watching them interact as a happy, loving family. Here they are on 10/10/15 when the Oxford School Bell was removed from the school. ABOVE: Nicky is in front, with his big sister Ella standing behind him. In back is mom, Sheryl, and dad, Nick, holding baby Alleah. BELOW LEFT: The whole family seems to delight in Alleah hitting the bell with a mallet. *Neighb News file photos by Beth David.*



she enjoyed his family, but he also had mixed feelings.

"There are other people out there that need a free meal a lot more than we do," said Mr. Costa.

But, that seemed not to be the point. She was not giving a meal away to a needy family. She seemed to be paying back for something she received from them.

"I would've been glad to have her sit with us and I would've taken care of her meal," said Mr. Costa. "Her kinds words mean way more to me than paying the meal for my family. It hit home. It went a long way."

"It was amazing, actually," said

COSTA: cont'd on page 21

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Second short film fest to benefit animal shelter

Press Release

The 2nd Annual Fairhaven Short Film Festival will “reel in” at Town Hall in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, on Friday March 4th and repeat on Saturday, March 5th.

Main presenting sponsor Howe Allen Realty will once again team with Asbury Shorts USA to present a highly entertaining screening of world renowned, award winning short films from the past and present.

Net proceeds from these two shows will benefit The Fairhaven Animal Shelter. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the first film blasts onto the screen at 7:00 p.m. both nights. Masters of Ceremonies will be Ashley Bendiksen of the ONE Theater Group and Tim Evans of Howe Allen Realty.

Asbury Shorts USA combines award-winning short films from past years with new international festival honorees, creating a rare opportunity for audiences to view amazing films on a real cinema screen instead of You Tube, smart phones or computers.

Academy Award nominated director Jason Reitman (*JUNO*, *Up in the Air*, *Thank You for Smoking*, *Young Adult*) calls Asbury Shorts: “The best short film show I’ve ever seen.”

The fast-paced and fun showcase features the best in comedy, drama and outstanding animation. Highlights of the two-hour program on

March 4th and 5th at Fairhaven Town Hall include:

The Girl and the Gondola: British director Abbe Robinson’s poignant and charming story of a young Venetian girl dreaming of becoming a gondolier like her father while battling 900 years of tradition. This short was recently awarded the Best International Short Film at The Garden State Film Festival and Best Short Film at The Martha’s Vineyard Short Film Festival.

Rust: A short documentary following an artist in Nova Scotia, Canada who creates pieces from found metal in and around his property. He lets the metal rust utilizing nature as his “co artist.” Director Ben Proudfoot from Halifax won “Best Short Film” at the Shelburne International Film Expo this past September in Canada.

Fait d’Hive: A classic dark comedy short from Belgium director Dirk Belien. The film was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Live Action Short Film a few years back.

In all, there will be 10 world-class shorts in the festival including Oscar nominees, “Best of Show” winners from various US film festivals and international honorees.

Asbury Shorts USA programs have been presented at: The Museum of Fine Arts Boston, Lake Shore Theatre

in Chicago, Summer Stage in Central Park, The Director’s Guild Theatre in Manhattan, The AERO Theatre in Santa Monica, Royal Festival Hall in London, The Alamo Draft House in Dallas, and the Leminske Theater in Berlin to name a few of the prestigious venues where audiences have enjoyed the world’s best short films.

Howe Allen Realty is proud to sponsor the Fairhaven Short Film Festival. Howe Allen Realty is a boutique style real estate firm whose agents demonstrate exemplary service and attention to their clients whether they are buying or selling.

From Westport to Wareham, Howe Allen Realty is the fastest growing real estate firm on the Southcoast. They are proud to be a part of the Fairhaven community and to sponsor such events as the Picnic on the Lawn for the Fairhaven Historical Society, various 5K runs, ONE Theater Group productions at Fairhaven Town Hall, and Concerts Under the Stars.

Fairhaven Town Hall is located at 40 Center Street in Fairhaven. Tickets cost \$12.00 general admission, and \$10.00 for students/seniors. To reserve tickets please go to: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2503679 For all show information please call: 888-491-9993 ext. 450. For information on the films being shown please call: 718.510.6929.

ACUSH SELECT: cont’d from page 16

The board also discussed buying a new unmarked car for the police department. The car needs extensive repairs, including a transmission, that will cost more than the car is worth.

Selectboard member Garry Rawcliffe asked if the town could get an old car from the Sheriff’s Department, possibly a car confiscated from drug dealers. He said after two months, the unmarked car is recognized by people in town. If they used the Sheriff’s Department, he said, maybe they can replace the car periodically.

“I know things are available,” said

Mr. Rawcliffe.

Mr. Coutinho said he would look into it.

For the Department of Public Works, the board discussed the infiltration assessment by Woodard & Curran of the sewer system.

“We had a lot of good news,” said Mr. Coutinho, adding that Acushnet has backups for every single pump station, which is unusual and impressed W&C.

He said the company did not believe that the increase in water during rain storms was from sump pumps, but rather from infiltration.

The next step is to try to isolate the areas and then use a camera to find the spots where water is seeping in.

Mr. Rawcliffe suggested that the company also look into the grease traps at restaurants and find out if the hair conditioner and gel from salons could be contributing to the problem.

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Public Hearings/ Legal Notices

Conservation Commission

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on March 07, 2016 at 6:30 P.M. in the Fairhaven Town Hall. Purpose is for the Request for Determination of the following matters as required by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 131 Section 40 as amended.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Notice of Intent Applicant Oliveria Investment Inc. (Ronald Oliveria) Location 35 Welcome Street Plot 31B Lot 1H Purpose construct single family dwelling within the 100' buffer zone and within the NRB.
- Request for Determination Applicant Town of Fairhaven Shellfish Department Location Hoppy's Landing Plot 42 Lot 23A Purpose remove rock and debris to make area for car top boat launch.
Jay Simmons, Chairman

FIREFIGHTERS: cont'd from page 13

Fire attack operations range from mailbox fires to multiple-floor or multiple-room structural fires. Upon successful completion of the Recruit Program all students have met national standards of National Fire Protection Association 1001 and are certified to the level of Firefighter I and II, and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operational Level by the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, which is accredited by the National

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COSTA: cont'd on from page 19

Nick's wife Sheryl, and called it a "very high compliment."

She said the only reason she can think of that made their family stand out is, "Just how much we love each other."

"We've always brought up our kids to behave when we're out, something you don't always see today," said Sheryl. "We take them everywhere, so they know how to behave when they're out."

She also said it was not the first time something like that happened. The day they got engaged, someone must have been listening in, and paid for their meal.

"I just hope she hears our story and appreciates our thank-you," said Sheryl.

In a Facebook post, Mr. Costa said it brought a tear to his eye to talk to the woman.

"She honestly brought a tear to my eye as I spoke with her in the parking lot seeing she was tearing herself as she was talking," Mr. Costa posted online. "I don't know her name or her story and probably never will... But, Ma'am, if you see this, thank you so much. Your kind words and gesture really hit me. If you see us there please sit with me and my family and dinner is on me and I will pay it forward..."

Board on Fire Service Professional Qualifications.

The guest speaker was Auburn Fire Chief Stephen M. Coleman Jr. who is a 25-year veteran of the fire service. He is an instructor at the Mass. Firefighting Academy, and teaches in the fire science programs at Quinsigamond Community College and Anna Maria College.

He spoke to the recruits about building trust within their communities through public perception.

Fairhaven Meetings

Conservation Commission

Mon., 3/7, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 2/25, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

Planning Board

Tues. 3/8, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 2/24, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Fri., 2/26, Town Hall, noon
Mon., 2/29, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet Meetings

Board of Appeals

Tues., 3/8, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Thurs., 2/29, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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		HIGH		LOW	
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Thursday	25	0928	2150	0240	1454*
Friday	26	1008	2231	0311	1524*
Saturday	27	1050	2317	0345	1556*
Sunday	28	1139	----	0421	1633
Monday	29	0007	1231	0504	1718
	March 2016	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m. p.m.		a.m. p.m.	
Tuesday	1	0059	1323	0600	1815
Wednesday	2	0150	1415	0706	1919
Thursday	3	0245	1515	0808	2019

*= Predicted minus tides from -0.1 ft. to -1.0 ft.
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Hawthorn Medical scholarships for medical field students

Press Release

To encourage academic preparation in the field of health care, Hawthorn Medical Associates is offering \$3,000 scholarships for public school seniors graduating in 2016 who will pursue education in the human health care field.

One scholarship will be awarded to an eligible senior at each of the following schools: Apponequet Regional High School, Fairhaven High School, Dartmouth High School, Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School, New Bedford High School, Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School - The William Holliday III, MD, Memorial Scholarship Program, Old Rochester Regional High School and Westport High School.

Students must be a high school senior residing in Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Lakeville, Mattapoisett, Marion, New Bedford, Rochester or Westport and be pursuing further full-time education from any accredited program during

the 2016-2017 academic year in the following majors or areas of study: nursing; pre-med; radiological technology; laboratory sciences; occupational therapy; pharmacy; physical therapy; respiratory therapy; certified medical assistant; or other health-related fields.

The application form and other information required for submission are available for downloading at www.hawthornmed.com/scholarships. Applications must be postmarked April 1, 2016 or earlier.

Please call 508-961-2571 with any questions and mail applications to: Marketing Department, Hawthorn Medical Associates, 535 Faunce Corner Road, Dartmouth, MA 02747. Only a complete application including all the required information will be considered. Scholarship awards will be sent to the college or university after enrollment has been verified.

Hawthorn Medical Associates was founded in 1970 with the goal of bringing needed physician specialists and health services to the greater

New Bedford community. The medical group now has more than 135 of the area's most respected physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners. These providers, who represent 19 medical specialties, are supported by state-of-the-art laboratory, diagnostic imaging and specialty services such as Coumadin Clinic, Diabetes Management Program, Rehabilitation Services and Urgent Care Center.

In 2012, Hawthorn Medical joined forces with Steward Health Care System giving patients expanded access to Steward's network of health care providers that includes Saint Anne's Hospital, Fall River, as well as Saint Anne's Hospital Regional Cancer Center and Saint Anne's Hospital Ambulatory Care Center that incorporates ambulatory surgery-endoscopy and sleep center on the Hawthorn Medical campus. To learn more about Hawthorn Medical, visit www.hawthornmed.com.

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All entrees priced at \$15.95 plus meals tax

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

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