



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 10, Issue 47 • December 10, 2015

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

Santa visits Benoit Square



Santa Clau, surrounded by his trusty helpers, comes to Benoit Square in North Fairhaven on an antique fire truck on Friday, 12/4, for the annual lighting of the square. About 100 people sang Christmas carols and had a chance to visit with the Big Guy. See page 16 for story. This weekend, Santa will be busy in Fairhaven and surrounding areas as he is expected to make many personal appearances before Christmas Day arrives. *Photo by Beth David.*



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Also Inside:

- **Oxford Proposals:** Page 4
- **Acushnet news:** Page 12
- **Town Admin interviews:** Page 19
- **Selectboard:** Page 18

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.



Beth David, Publisher
(with...you know who)

This is it, the big weekend. If you've had trouble finding your Christmas Spirit, this is the weekend for you. Fairhaven's Old Time Holiday has everything you need to feel the season's special magic. From stuff to buy, to stuff to eat, to singing in the streets and opportunities to see Santa Claus himself, Fairhaven has it all (see pages 3 & 5)

The center of town will be bustling with people and the bells of the churches will be ringing and Tourism Director Chris Richard will be gadding about in some sort of costume that is sure to make you smile.

The lights are all it up at Benoit Square and the wheelchair accessible gazebo is the perfect place to sit and check it all out.

Santa Claus is making many appearances in our little town this week. The town hall sing on Saturday is always a favorite. It's a quintessential New England get-together in front of our magnificent town hall building. Santa will make an appearance and hand out candy canes to the children (of all ages). Then you can go inside and enjoy free hot chocolate and cookies, all courtesy of the Fairhaven Improvement Association.

The Town Hall shops during the day on Saturday offer lots of great ideas for gifts. The First Congregational and the Unitarian Churches will also have vendors with unique gifts.

Check out pages 3 and 5 for the complete list of events. But, the best part of the day will be the festive mood everyone will be in. So even if you don't find an event that tickles your fancy, take a stroll in the center on Saturday and just watch the big doings.

It'll be worth it.

While you're browsing the happenings, be sure to note how many opportunities there are to give to those less fortunate than you. There are quite a few listings for Toys for Tots and other places that will take toys and clothes for children to receive on Christmas day.

And, there is always a need at the food pantries, which give special meals around the holidays.

And, right, almost forgot, we actually have some meeting coverage in this issue. The Selectboard interviewed three finalists for the Town Administrator position (page 19), but they haven't made a decision yet. The board also met with the developers interested in buying the Oxford School (page 4), but haven't voted on that yet, either, although Mr. Murphy is clearly ready to vote and has been for awhile.

The board also had a regular meeting (page 18), and we covered that, too.

One last thing, next week is our LAST ISSUE of the year, so if you have any listings for the rest of December or the first week in January, get 'em in now.

Until next week, then...see ya,

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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Contents

Acushnet News.....	11
Acushnet lights.....	17
Classifieds	21
COVER: Benoit Square Lights	16
Douglass Tree Farm Christmas tree sale	8
Fairhaven Selectboard	18
Fairhaven Selectboard Town Admin. interviews	19
Happenings	5, 6, 7
Legal Notices/Public Hearings.....	
Letter from the editor.....	2
Oxford School proposals.....	4
Recipe of the week.....	10
Recreation Center this week.....	14
Senior Center this week	14
Tides	21
Upcoming meetings/Fairhaven & Acushnet	21

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

First They Came...

First they came for the Socialists,
and I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Socialist.
Then they came for the Trade
Unionists, and I did not
speak out—
Because I was not a Trade
Unionist.
Then they came for the Jews, and
I did not speak out—
Because I was not a Jew.
Then they came for me—and
there was no one left to
speak for me.

Pastor Martin Niemöller

One of the advantages
of being disorderly is
that one is constantly
making exciting
discoveries.

A. A. Milne

Old Time Holiday Events in Fairhaven

Saturday, 12/12

A full day of events from morning into early evening are scheduled in the historical town center for the Old Time Holiday weekend.

Crafts & Chairs

Millicent Library Crafts & Chairs **Saturday, 12/12, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 pm. Millicent Library, 45 Center St. (Walnut St. entrance).**

Library ChairsFriends of the Millicent Library will celebrate the library auditorium's new chairs and tables, with a grand opening at 9:00 a.m. followed by children's crafting projects and light refreshments through the day. Use the handicap accessible Walnut Street entrance to the auditorium. Sponsored by Friends of the Millicent Library. For more information, email friendsmillicentlibrary@gmail.com.

Holiday Marketplace

Step back in time at **Holiday Marketplace** which will take place at the beautiful, gothic **Unitarian Memorial Church, 102 Green Street**. Local artists and crafters will set up display booths offering a unique collection of holiday goods. Baked goods and holiday greens will also be available. Saint Nicholas will be on

hand, too, to greet visitors. Admission is free. It runs from **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**, during which time the sanctuary of this magnificent English gothic style "cathedral" will be open for **guided tours**.

Soup & Sandwich Luncheon

The Unitarian Church will also hold a **soup and sandwich luncheon** at its Harrop Center building on Center Street from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Hot soup, chowder and a variety of sandwiches will be available.

Cookies & Santa

The English Tudor style **Our Lady's Haven**, 75 Center Street, built originally as the Tabitha Inn by Henry H. Rogers in 1905, will open its lobby to visitors from **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** There they will be treated to Christmas cookies and hot chocolate. **Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.** to meet children and pose for photos. Sponsored by the Diocesan Health Facilities Organization. The lobby is handicap accessible via Laurel Street side entrance.

Town Hall Shops

The Town Hall Shops at Town Hall, 40 Center Street, will be the

OLD TIME: cont'd on page 5

Woman arrested in 2011 armed robbery

Fairhaven Police Dept. Press Release

A suspected was arrested late Tuesday morning, 12/8, in connection with a 2011 armed robbery that occurred at the Fairhaven Comcast Store, formerly located at 244 Huttleston Avenue. The store, which has since closed, was robbed around 4:30 p.m. on November 9, 2011 by a person brandishing a handgun.

During the robbery, someone believed to be a male party entered the Comcast building and robbed the front office, brandishing a handgun. The suspect demanded money from the cashiers, who fled from the office area. The suspect jumped over the counter, grabbed an undetermined amount of cash from the drawers, and fled from the store.

The suspect was described as a thin white male, approximately 5 feet 5 inches tall in his late teens to early twenties, with blue eyes. The suspect was wearing a brown hooded sweatshirt that covered most of his facial features. He was also wearing

gloves, sunglasses and what appeared to have been female make-up or face paint to disguise his features.

A short time later, Walgreens Pharmacy, which is located nearby, reported a suspicious male had just left their store. This male bore many similarities to the armed robbery suspect from Comcast. He was similar in height, weight and age, and appeared to be wearing female make-up on his face. He also had long blonde hair however, his clothing was somewhat different. The male party that entered Walgreens was wearing black leggings under a pair of dark colored basketball shorts and a blue t-shirt.

Investigators discovered some discarded clothing behind the Narragansett Café they believe may have been dumped there by the robbery suspect. The clothing was sent to a crime lab for DNA analysis. DNA was located on the clothing and was matched to a female party



Devyn Stone, 25, of Mott Street, New Bedford, was charged with armed robbery for a 2011 robbery at the Comcast store in Fairhaven. *Police photo provided.*

identified as Devyn Stone. Stone, now 25 years old, has a last known address of 60 Mott Street, New Bedford.

With the DNA evidence in hand, Detective Scott Gordon presented the case to the Grand Jury and an indictment was handed down. An arrest warrant was issued against Stone, who was taken into custody by the Bristol County Sheriff's Office Apprehension Unit at the intersection of State Street and Maxfield Street in New Bedford. Stone was arraigned in Third District Court Tuesday afternoon and was charged with armed robbery.

Selectboard gets more details on Oxford School proposals

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Selectboard met with both companies interested in buying the Oxford School building at a special meeting on Thursday, 12/3.

The board, however, did add a couple of other agenda items, including the hiring of a part time Social Day Program worker. The matter came up in the last meeting, but board members decided they did not want to hire Julio Morales without meeting him face-to-face.

Council on Aging Director Ann Silvia appeared before the board to express her dismay and anger at the board for not hiring Mr. Morales at their last meeting. Standing squarely in front of Selectboard Chairperson Geoffrey Haworth, with hands on desk and leaning forward, Ms. Silvia took issue with several statements Mr. Haworth made at the last meeting when the hire was not made. She said her issue was directly with Mr. Haworth and not the other board members.

After a little back and forth about what exactly was said at the last meeting, Mr. Haworth stuck to his contention that the only reason he did not want to vote on the hire at the last meeting was that he felt the board should not be a "rubber stamp," and should meet every person it hires.

He noted that the board did the same thing with the Shellfish Department, and it was a town-wide policy.

"We should see the employees so we know who is getting hired," said Mr. Haworth, adding that the public also has a right to see who is getting hired by the town.

Ms. Silvia said the Social Day clients needed help with everyday tasks and her need to hire Mr. Morales was an emergency.

She said that her department should not be compared to the Shellfish Department.

"I never saw a quahog with dementia," said Ms. Silvia, a line that got chuckles from most of the room, including the Selectboard.

"We're talking about employees here," said Mr. Haworth, adding it has "nothing to do" with her department specifically.

Ms. Silvia would not let up, saying it was "ridiculous" to take five weeks to hire someone to work with people

with dementia.

"These poor little things" need someone to walk them to the bathroom, said Ms. Silvia.

Mr. Haworth said it was a miscommunication that kept it off the agenda at one meeting, and then did not make it clear that she and Mr. Morales needed to be at the last meeting. Mr. Haworth said that the board should meet with Ms. Silvia to talk about staffing issues, because, he said, it should not be such an emergency to hire a part time person.

In the end, the board hired Mr. Morales. He said he worked with the Meals on Wheels program and knew some of the people in the Fairhaven Social Day program.

The main event of the night was hearing from the two developers who

My vote is clearly
not with Stratford. I'm
going with Sherwood
[Charles Murphy]

have made proposals for the re-use of the Oxford School building. The board had a list of questions that had been sent to the developers to discuss at the meeting.

The Stratford Capital Group is proposing 63 units of housing at the site. Construction will include knocking down the 1951 addition and building a new four-story addition facing Livesey Park.

Keith McDonald, speaking for the Stratford Group told the board that they had made adjustments to the site plan to accommodate more parking. The company will construct 20 community parking spaces at a strip along Livesey Park. The main lot will have 55 spots for residents, including two for employees.

The company also promised to seek funding for a 62+ housing development, not 55+, to address fears from town officials and residents that a 55+ facility would allow children and place a strain on the school system.

The company also estimated 441 traffic trips per day, and said they would conduct a traffic study before building the facility.

What did not change was the timeline. The company will not take ownership of the building until funding is in place, which could take up to two years, but reiterated that maintenance costs of the building during that time are negotiable.

The units will be affordable housing and could include dedicated units for veterans if the town prefers. Apartments would be awarded by lottery and Fairhaven residents would have preference, Mr. McDonald told the board.

The company would pay regular taxes on the building, estimated at \$17,500 annually, and is proposing to pay \$325,000 for the building.

The company will rely on historic housing grants and other state funding, as well as affordable housing credits. Mr. McDonald said the credits can be sold.

Residents voiced concern about the traffic from the extra cars and added parking woes because of the 55 spots instead of at least one per unit.

Mr. McDonald told the board that the facility needed to be large enough to be profitable, taking into account the rents being under market rate.

The company estimates development costs at \$16.2 million.

Selectboard member Charles Murphy, a North Fairhaven resident who has made it clear from the start that he does not support housing in the building, said he was "truly worried" that the funding would not come through for the project.

Mr. McDonald said he was confident that the funding would come through.

Dan Aguiar of Sitec, speaking for Alex Stylos of Sherwood Construction, showed the board a new layout of the property that included his plan for renting different parts of the building addition to various tenants, and adding some community parking spaces.

The three phase plan includes a day care, nonprofit businesses in the addition, and allowing use of the gym by the community at least one night a week.

Mr. Stylos said he hopes to include a food pantry and a 100-student day care. He told residents that he would not be looking to put a charter school in the building, a proposal that concerned residents and school

OXFORD: cont'd on page 26

AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

OLD TIME: cont'd from page 3
Events are on Sat., 12/12

location where local non-profit, civic, school and church groups will sell crafts, holiday ornaments, baked goods and other items as well as hold raffles and silent auctions. The Town Hall will be open from **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Twenty-seven groups will be at town hall.

For the children there will be cookie decorating, craft making, and face painting. Fairhaven music students from the public schools will entertain during the day. F.A.M.E. and the Boy Scouts will offer **food and refreshment outside on the Town Hall steps.**

Admission is free. The Town Hall Shops event is sponsored by the Fairhaven Office of Tourism. Accessible.

Old Brick Faire

From **10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** at the First Congregational Church, 34 Center Street. Crafters will be selling Vermont cheddar cheese, baked

goods, gourmet foods and other items. There will also be a raffle. "Heavenly Treasures," the church's thrift shop, will be open throughout the day. A **lobster roll luncheon** will be served as well, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or until sold out. Chowder and hotdogs will also be available. We are fully accessible.

Ornament making

If you're in a crafty mood, children and adults can **make holiday ornaments at a cost of \$2 to \$5 each** at Art on Center, 15 Center Street, between **10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.** Hot chocolate and cookies will be served. Members' art will be on sale in the gallery. Accessible.

Sing-along PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE

To cap off the evening, the Fairhaven Improvement Association will hold its **annual sing-along on the Town Hall steps starting at 6:00 p.m.**

In a tradition dating back to 1975, luminaria will light the street while community members sing carols until a visitor from the North Pole arrives on a fire truck. Refreshments in the Town Hall afterwards. Free.

Contact Info

The Old-Time Holiday in Fairhaven is sponsored by the participating non-profit, civic and church groups in town, with promotion coordinated by the Fairhaven Office of Tourism, which first developed the cooperative event in 1998.

All of December's events in Fairhaven are shown online at <http://FairhavenTours.com> A handout sheet is also available at the Visitors Center at the Academy Building, 141 Main Street, Fairhaven, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to Noon and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Call 508-979-4085, email FairhavenTours@aol.com. The Visitors Center will not be open on Saturday, December 12 during the Old-Time Holiday.

Kickball

School Staff vs. Fire Dept.

Help Us Rise To The CHALLENGE... Wood & East School Staff vs. Fairhaven Fire Department, on Fri., **12/11, at 6 p.m. UNDER THE LIGHTS at Fairhaven High School**

Cheer on the staff as they CHALLENGE the Fire Department to a game of kickball! To collect Toys for Tots! **Can you help us RISE TO THE CHALLENGE of collecting 500 toys?**

We kindly ask each family to bring an unwrapped toy. Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase. Please be prepared as bathroom facilities will not be available. We hope to see you there!

Don't forget... posters are encouraged — for the STAFF!

Candidates Nights

The North Fairhaven Improvement Association has invited the four declared candidates running for Selectboard. 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. **On Dec. 16 Dan Freitas; on Jan. 20, Bernie Roderick; on Feb.**

17, Patty Pacella; on Mar. 16, incumbent Geoff Haworth.

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

Lessons and Carols

Sun., 12/13, at 4 p.m., Unitarian Memorial Church, 102 Green St. The Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven presents a service of lessons and carols, with seasonal readings and music performed by Music Director Dwight Thomas and the choir of the Unitarian Memorial Church. All are welcome. Free. (Donations accepted.) Accessible. For more info: 508-992-7081.

Fill The Bus w/Toys

The Fairhaven Police Department will be partnering with Safezones.org to sponsor the 5th Annual Safe Zones Fill the Bus Toy Drive. Please join us by dropping off a new, unwrapped toy **at the Fairhaven Police Station Sat., 12/12, from 10am until 4pm.**

Our goal is to "Fill the Bus" with plenty of toys to distribute to needy families throughout our community in time for the Christmas holiday. Toys for children of all ages are needed. Although the "Fill the Bus

Toy Drive" will be held December 12th, toys can still be dropped off at the Fairhaven Police Department from now **until Christmas Eve.**

We are asking for toys for children of all ages to brighten the Christmas holiday for less fortunate children in our community. All contributions are welcome and will be greatly appreciated. The members of the Fairhaven Police Department and the Volunteers at Safezones.org would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy holiday season and extend our best wishes for a wonderful New Year.

Toys for Tots/ Picture with Santa

The Fairhaven Firefighters Association Local 1555 is holding its first annual Toys for Tots Drive, **now until Dec. 13.** Drop off NEW, unwrapped toys only from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., any day, at the Fairhaven Fire Station, 146 Washington St.

Picture Day with Santa: Sun., 12/13, from 1-4 p.m. Bring a toy!

Bird Walk

Join the Buzzards Bay Coalition and the Paskamansett Bird Club for a

cont'd next pagez

STILL AROUND TOWN

morning walk on **Sun., 12/13, from 8–10 a.m. to look and listen for birds along Shaw Farm Trail**, which connects the bike path with Nasketucket Bay State Reservation in Mattapoisett. We'll walk along Shaw Farm Trail to the state reservation and back, roughly 2 miles total. Binoculars will be available or you can bring your own. Please dress warmly and wear sturdy shoes or boots. Meet at the bike path at approximately 94 Shaw Rd., Fairhaven.

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

To learn more about all our upcoming Bay Adventures, visit www.savebuzzardsbay.org/bayadventures.

Toy Drive, West Isl.

Once again, Cathi & Bob Konicki will dedicate their Toys for Tots toy drive to Lance Corporal Matthew Rodriguez, the Fairhaven Marine who was killed in Afghanistan on 12/11/13.

Please join us on Sat. Dec.12 from 2 p.m. at our home, 151 Balsam St., Fairhaven. Please bring a toy for the children on or before that date, or drop off at Mackatan General Store, 39 Causeway Road, West Island.

Last year we collected over 250 toys. Let's try to beat that number.

Toys for Tots is a national program sponsored by the US Marines that

provides toys to kids who might not otherwise get any presents for Christmas. Your generous donation of a new toy or money to purchase a new toy will be greatly appreciated.

POMC Vigil

Holiday candlelight vigil for non-violence and to honor those who have died by violence. **Sun., 12/20, 4 p.m., at Unitarian Memorial Church, 102 Green St., Fairhaven.** By the SE Mass. Chapter of Parents of Murdered Children, for family and friends who have suffered a loss from a violent death.

Bring a picture of your loved one to be hung on our memorial tree. Refreshments will follow. Visit www.POMC.org

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

New Bedford Holiday Events

The following events are all family friendly.

- **Bullard Street Neighborhood Assoc. Tree Lighting Sat., 12/12, 6:30 p.m.**, Riverside Park, corner of Belleville Ave. and Tallman St.
- **Far North End Neighborhood Assoc. Tree Lighting Sun., 12/13, 6:30 p.m.**, Fire Station #5, 3665 Acushnet Ave.
- **Brooklawn Park Assoc. Tree Lighting, Mon., 12/14, 6:30 p.m.**, Brooklawn Park (1997 Acushnet Ave.)
- **Harrington Park Tree Lighting, Wed., 12/22, 6:30 p.m.**, Harrington Park, Court St. & Tremont St. (across from Hathaway School)
- **Custom House Square Holiday Celebration, Sat., 12/12 & Sat., 12/19.** Custom House Square (Intersection of William St. & Acushnet Ave. in the Historic Downtown). **An array of holiday activities**, including **FREE horse drawn carriage rides** (12-2pm & 3-5pm), Wicked Good Kettle Corn, barbershop quartet-style sounds from the New Bedford Harpoon Harmonizers, street performers and a surprise **visit from the Grinch!** Take pictures on the big red sled and experience so much more!
- **Annual Santa Sightings 5K Fun Run & Walk! Sat., 12/12, 1 p.m.** Starts at MacArthur Dr. & Union St. Every participant is encouraged to

bring a gift for Gifts to Give. Register at: www.nbsantarun.com. Every 5K participant receives a Santa Suit. Organizers are hoping to get 2,000 Santas this year. So don't be shy!

Christmas Food Sale

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church Christmas Food Sale, **Sat., 12/12, from 10 a.m.–1 p.m., 235 North Front St.** NB Featuring Frozen Polish foods, kielbasa, rye bread, blessed Oplatek wafers. *Wesoly Swiat* (Merry Christmas)

Holiday Concert

The Greater New Bedford Choral Society, on **Sun., 12/13, at 3:00 p.m.**, presents a Holiday Concert featuring: Medieval Nativity Songs, "Magnificat" by Giovanni Battista Sammartini, contemporary Christmas Songs from England & USA. **At First Unitarian Church, 71 8th St. (corner of Union St.), New Bedford.**

Tickets: \$15/Adults, \$12/children 12 and under accompanied by an adult

House Tours

Sponsored by the **New Bedford Preservation Society.** **Candlelight Tour on 12/12 from 4–8 p.m.; Afternoon tour on 12/13 from 1–5 p.m.** **Pre-Tour Sunday Brunch on 12/13, from 11–1.** **Tickets: \$23 at door, \$19 online by 12/11.** Call 508-997-6425 or visit www.nbpreservationsociety.org

Toy Drive

Join the New Bedford Firefighters' Union and United Way of Greater New Bedford in their 17th Annual Toy Drive to provide toys to local youth this holiday season. New, unwrapped toys, gift cards or movie tickets can be donated at locations throughout the SouthCoast **through Mon., 12/14.**

From trucks and dolls to games and books, items for all ages newborn to teens are needed. Gift cards and movie tickets make great gifts for teenage recipients.

New, unwrapped toys or gift cards can be dropped off at more than 25 locations in New Bedford. These toys will be distributed to local organizations serving youth throughout New Bedford. For a list of drop-off locations, visit www.unitedwayofgnb.org

Dance Troop F-R

Amazing, dynamic, spectacular... Master Illusionist Lyn Dillies, Parent's Choice and Merlin award winner, is America's premier female illusionist for an undeniable reason: Her captivating stage show is one for the ages — all ages, in fact.

Don't miss this wonderful, affordable opportunity to witness The Magic Of Lyn on **Sat., 12/12, at 3 p.m. matinee and a 7 p.m. evening show in the beautiful Keith Middle School Auditorium, 225 Hathaway Blvd, New Bedford.** This show is to

HAPPENINGS NB: cont'd on page 21

Children's Clothing

Gifts to Give is in dire need of children's clothing, especially winter clothes. Please donate your gently used coats, hats, scarves, gloves, boots, shoes, etc. We also need new socks and underwear for all ages.

For more information, visit <http://www.giftstogive.org/what-we-accept/what-we-need/>

The **GiftsToGive Philanthropy Factory, 1 Titleist Drive, Acushnet**; 508-717-8715. Open 9 a.m.-2 p.m. every day, except Sunday for drop-offs. Also drop off at **Emma Jean's, 115 Huttleston Avenue, Fairhaven.**

Candle Lighting

The Worldwide Candle Lighting gives bereaved families everywhere the opportunity to remember their children so that their lights may always shine! We invite you to join The Compassionate Friends South-Coast Mass Chapter on **Sun., 12/13, at 7 p.m.**, Smith Mills Christian Congregational Church, 11 Anderson Way N. Dartmouth.

For more information contact Ann, 508-333-9096, or Gina, 508-287-1780; tcfsouthcoastmass@gmail.com

Light refreshments will be served. You may bring your child's favorite dessert if you like.

LNG Meeting

On **Thurs., 12/10, at 7 p.m.**, South Coast Neighbors United (SCNU) will hold a public forum at **St. John Neuman Hall, Cathedral Camp, 167 Middleboro Rd., E. Freetown**, to address plans by Eversource and Spectra Energy to construct an expanded Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility on Peckham Rd in Acushnet and to run a new gas pipeline through Freetown to supply the tanks.

South Coast Neighbors United is a coalition of concerned citizens who share the common goal of preventing the proposed LNG expansion in a predominately residential neighborhood. The educational forum will discuss the proposal and the steps being taken by concerned citizens to prevent this expansion.

The event is open to all residents of Acushnet, Freetown, New Bedford, and surrounding towns.

Contact SCNU, info@scnu.us, or visit www.scnu.us or www.facebook.com/groups/1244987295518375/

Crafts Fair F-R

Holiday Crafts Fair for a Cause, Sun., 12/13, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at Gifts to Give, 1 Titleist Dr., Acushnet. Features 50+ Local Vendors. Something for everyone: Holiday Items, Unique Gifts, Wood, Glass, Textiles, Jewelry, Candles, Bake Sale, Chinese Auction, Free Admission, Free Door Prize Entries, Free Face Painting and so much more. Holiday entertainment provided by the Showstoppers 11 a.m.-1 pm. Appearances by local Pageant Title holders. Our Sisters School students are selling student made items and offering free face painting. While you're here support local youth, Girls Scouts selling cookies.

Contact: Annette, 508-971-1401 or annette@giftstogive.org. Visit www.giftstogive.org/december-13-2015/

Scleroderma Group

The Fall River and Nearby Bristol County Areas Scleroderma Support Group holds meetings every third Tuesday of the month. Next meeting is **12/15 in the 2nd floor conference room at Stop & Shop, 501 Rodman St., Fall River, from 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

Contact Christine at 508-675-4152, or Donna Bernier, 774-488-6775.

Scleroderma, which is also known as systemic sclerosis, is a chronic, auto-immune disease that causes a hardening of the skin, and can also affect organs. For more information visit <http://www.scleroderma.org>

Dinner for Two F-R

Give the gift that lasts all year long, and help a not-for-profit organization at the same time. During this holiday season and throughout the month of January, the Showstoppers community-service singing troupe will be selling the Dinner For Two® Dining Books at the regular cost of \$29.95. Ten dollars of the purchase price will help fund the Showstoppers.

This year's Dinner For Two® book features \$1500 in savings at establishments across SE Mass, including Cape Cod, as well as Newport and Providence. Each of the 100+ "buy one, get one free" coupons is good through December 30, 2016.

To purchase a book, or for more information about Showstoppers, please call 508-758-4525 or email

info@showstoppers.us.

Toys for Tots

Members of the Massachusetts State Police and United States Marine Corps Reserve urge the public to support Toys for Tots through donations of toys or money.

Donors are asked to give new, unwrapped, non-violent toys, designed for either boys or girls, ages newborn to 14. As in years past, toys can be dropped off at **any State Police Barracks through Wed., 12/16.**

Anyone wishing to make a monetary donation can mail a check made out to Toys for Tots MA and mail it to MSP Toys for Tots Coordinator, 124 Acton Street Maynard MA 01754 or they may visit the program's website at www.toysfortots.org.

Holiday special

Buzzards Play Productions presents "A Very Special Holiday Episode," an original revue featuring songs and short playlets about holiday TV specials and movies. Opening Night is Fri., 12/11, at 8 p.m. Matinees Sat., 12/12 & Sun., 12/13, at 2 p.m. Next week's schedule: Fri. 12/18 at 8 p.m. On Sat., 12/19, a matinee at 2 p.m. and an evening performance at 8 p.m. The final presentation, a matinee, will be held on Sun., 12/20, at 2 p.m.

Tickets: **\$12/Adults; \$8/Children** 12 years and under. Buy online at www.brownpapertickets.com or at the box office. Call: 508-591-3065 or e-mail: buzzplayprod@gmail.com

Jewelry Sale

Come play dress-up with the Friends of the Mattapoisett Library at the **Winter Jewelry & Accessory Sale, Sat., 12/12 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow St.** A Members-only Preview will be Fri., 12/11 from 6-8 pm. Memberships are available at the door, and are a great idea for a gift that gives twice over.

Donations of jewelry, scarves, and bags can be brought to the library up to the time of the sale. It is through membership and the sales that the Friends are able to help support the many programs and events that keep the library a vibrant part of the community.

Douglass tree sale has biggest year ever

The Douglass Tree Farm's annual Christmas tree sale to benefit ALS research had its biggest year ever, raising more than \$20,000.

"I have not done a stump count but have calculated the approximate number of trees at 390 (or more) after adjusting for extra donations," wrote Dick Douglass in an email. "This works out to at least a tree every two minutes we are open."

Saturday alone took in about

\$11,400. The weekend's receipts totaled \$19,431, but with donations that have been pledged, the total for this year's effort will "easily top \$20,000," wrote Mr. Douglass. "We are thankful for the many volunteers, many of which have been helping for the entire 15 year run. The Fairhaven/ORR hockey team help on Sunday provided a much appreciated assist to a number of very tired arms."

To learn more about the Douglass

family's annual fundraising, visit <http://community.als.net/thedouglassfamilyeffort>

At the tree farm, people get to pick their trees and cut them down, or have volunteers cut them down.

"It adds an adventure to it," said Devin Byrnes of New Bedford, who picked a tree with his wife Rosanna and their daughter Jane. "It's the experience of coming out here and it's for a good cause."



LEFT: Zhanhua Yu carries a tree for Erin Merrill of New Bedford. Mr. Yu is an exchange student from Chiina, where they do not have Christmas. Attending Bishop Stang High School and living with a Fairhaven host family, Mr. Yu said the new experience was interesting and he was having fun. RIGHT, L-R: Dan, Cameron, Connor, Chloe, and Jennie Martel of West Island make their way back to the car after picking their tree at the Douglass Tree Farm's annual Christmas tree sale on Sunday, 12/6. Photos by Beth David.



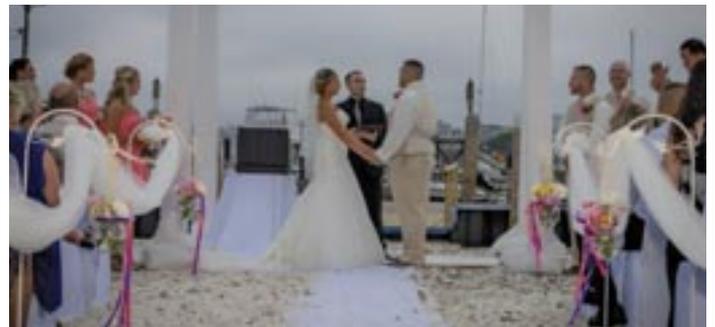
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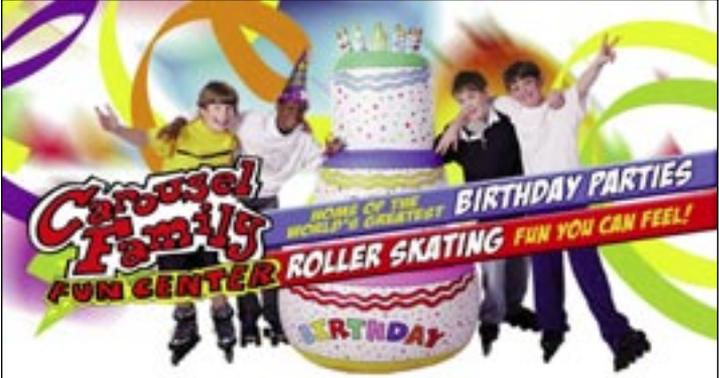
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Recipe of the Week

Crispy Baked Buffalo Wings

- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp cayenne pepper
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 20 chicken wings
- 1/2 cup melted butter
- 1/2 cup hot pepper sauce

Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil, and lightly grease with cooking spray.

Place the flour, cayenne pepper, garlic powder, and salt into a resealable plastic bag, and shake to mix. Add the chicken wings, seal, and toss until well coated with the flour mixture. Place the wings onto the prepared baking sheet, and refrigerate at least 1 hour.

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Whisk together the melted butter and hot sauce in a small bowl. Dip the wings into the butter mixture, and place back on the baking sheet.

Bake in the preheated oven until the chicken is no longer pink in the center, and is crispy on the outside, about 45 minutes. Turn the wings over halfway during cooking so they cook evenly.

From www.Allrecipes.com

Le Desserterie — So Very, Very French

Press Release

No one understands the ingredients, such as refined sugar, white flour, butter, cream, chocolate and dough, like the French. And no one can weave so few ingredients into something so magical as a true patissier.

So when word got out last May, at the Taste of Southcoast, that a French boulangerie (bakery), patisserie (pastry shop) was coming to downtown New Bedford, you could almost hear “Vive la France!”

The excitement continued that day as Le Desserterie (pronounced la-dessert-tier) walked away with the first prize trophy for Best Desserts in all of Bristol County for 2015/2016!

The moment you step inside Le Desserterie the air is filled with the sweetest aromas of delicate and flavored macarons (shipped direct from Paris), French Eclairs from heaven, chausson aux pommes (apple turnover), oversized croissants (and pain au chocolate), old fashioned (thick) cotton candy, home-made gingerbread cookies shaped like Santa Claus, Christmas Trees, Angels and Gingerbread People, Napoleons, tartes, cakes, a wide variety of desserts in all shapes and sizes including apple-pear figs with almonds, that are soft, nutty, chewy, and worth going out of your way for. They also have a small assortment of freshly baked breads like cinnamon and chocolate; and fruit loaves like

95% of their cupcakes include a generous filled center (creamy, caramel, chocolate, vanilla or fruit filled)

Owner Mary Kelly has informed me that the cupcakes tend to sell out early as all of her bakery items are made fresh and she only sells a limited number of each per day.

“I hate to waste food and being a small business I can’t afford to throw money away, so I would rather bake in smaller quantities and sell out on a daily basis versus trying to resell day old cupcakes. Fresh will always be best,” says Ms. Kelly. “Our gourmet cakes and slices and cupcake flavors are different and unique, we sell Pink Champagne, Pistachio Almond, Raspberry Coconut, Toffee Crunch Cake and 12 other unique flavors that you cannot get anywhere else, and our more than generous cake slices will cost you \$5.50 a slice, still much cheaper than an after dinner “frozen boxed” dessert from most restaurants.”

Le Desserterie offers a warm and welcoming atmosphere where you feel as though you have been whisked away to a small Parisian café where you can satisfy your sweet tooth and sit down and relax in what can only be described as the most adorable “Paris-Themed” booths around, with comfy leather white loveseats adorned with colors of Pink, Black and White to enjoy some superlative pastries. The seating area can accommodate up to 20 people comfortably. Small, intimate and oh so very French!

You’ll just have to stop by, say “bonjour,” grab a baguette, and experience a little slice of Paris in downtown New Bedford.

Special offer for a limited time: Buy a pastry and get a hot coffee for only \$1 (eat-in only).

Le Desserterie is located at 246 Union Street Downtown New Bedford, 508-514-9600, www.ledesserterie.com

Hours are: Tues.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–6 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., noon–8 p.m.



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caramel apple, pumpkin and gingerbread fill the bakery racks every day.

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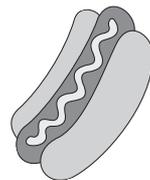
Support the Food Pantry

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

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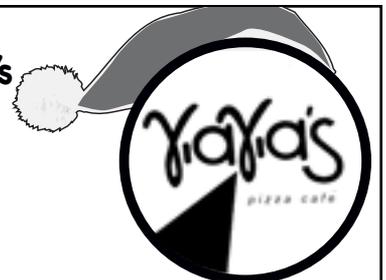
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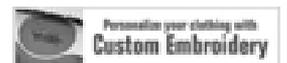
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Acushnet's new police station ready to be occupied



The Town of Acushnet held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, 12/5, to commemorate the completion of the new police station on Middle Road. The building was open for tours after the ceremony, which included remarks by Selectboard members and police chief Michael Alves. The police department planned to move into the building this week. **LEFT:** Acushnet police chief Michael Alves cuts the ribbon on the new police station on Saturday. **MIDDLE:** Acushnet police chief Michael Alves speaks to the crowd. **TOP RIGHT:** The crowd gathers outside the new police station Middle Road in Acushnet for a ribbon cutting ceremony and public tours of the building. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** A conference room in the new building has a white board and computer area. *Photos by Jim Mahaney.*

Miniature horse shot in Acushnet



Max, a two-year-old miniature horse owned by Julie Nightlinger in Acushnet, was shot in the hoof on December 1. Ms. Nightlinger posted online that Max will need a prosthetic leg after weeks in an animal hospital. She has created a GoFundMe account to help pay for his care.

"Although Max may never pull a cart or run again, we are going to train Max to be a therapy horse and be able to visit children and adults in hospitals," wrote Ms. Nightlinger. "May he bring love to others and have many more years to live!"

Visit <https://www.gofundme.com/tcdnw75e> to donate. For updates on Max's condition, visit his Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SavingMax/>

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Dec. 25, Christmas Day, closing at noon (Friday)

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 Thurs., 12/17, Karaoke by Pat Long, 8 p.m.–Mid.
 Sat., 12/19, The Relics, 9 p.m.–1 a.m.

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Youth Basketball

Fairhaven Recreation Youth Basketball League Registration: Nov. 7th & 14th from 8AM-2PM Cost:\$10. Age is determined as of December 1, 2015. Divisions will be as follows with sufficient numbers;

Pee Wee (Co-Ed) Ages 6-8

Junior Ages(Co-Ed) 9-11

Senior (coed) Ages 12-14 Open to all Members! Please bring 2 proofs of residency and a copy of child's birth certificate to registration. Information on new evaluation schedule available at registration.

Attention!!!

Calling all basketball enthusiasts! We are looking for motivated, committed individuals to volunteer as basketball coaches for this league. We are also in need of officials for the league, pay is roughly \$15 per game. For more information and to fill out a volunteer application please call or stop by the Recreation Center during league registration hours

Kool Kids C-Mas

This 3-day program is a great opportunity to make new friends while participating in fun group activities such as pillo polo, floor hockey, dodge ball, cooperative games, flag football, arts & crafts, etc. Kids will need to bring their own lunch for the first 2 days of the program. The last day is a pizza lunch. Sneakers and active clothes must be worn each day. Kids will be grouped according to their current grade in school, K-5, Dec 28 ,29 & 30. Drop off 8 a.m., pick up by 3 p.m. Cost: \$75/Member; \$100/Non Member

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Mall Trips

Dec. 16: Hyannis Mall, Xmas Tree Shop, Trader Joe
Dec. 23: Emerald Square Mall
Dec. 30: South Shore Plaza

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

12/10 Silver Fox • 12/23 Ray Jay

Special Activities

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Senior Center will be **OPEN half a day** DECEMBER 24th and 31st. Lunch will be served. The Center will be **closed on December 25th and January 1st**. If you need to go shopping or banking, make sure you call ahead on Monday or Tuesday of Christmas week (Dec. 21 & 22) and New Year's week (Dec. 28 or 29)

Telephone Reassurance

The Telephone Reassurance Program is a free service available to Fairhaven senior citizens, offering a daily personal contact to help with a feeling of security and caring, knowing a daily call will be made to confirm all is well. The program was designed for seniors who live alone and would benefit from a daily telephone call to be sure everything is all right. To subscribe, simply telephone our office and ask to be placed on our call list, 508-979-4029

Free Groceries

SENIORS, Could you benefit from free groceries each month? If you are a Fairhaven resident, 60 years old or older, have MA Health or receive SNAP benefits, you may qualify to receive free non perishable healthy groceries provided by Commodity Supplemental Food Program. The two bags of groceries will be

delivered to the Fairhaven Senior Center where you will be able to pick them up. Verification of identity, age, residence and income will be required upon applying. If you are interested in applying or finding out more about this program call the Fairhaven Senior Center, 508-979-4029, and ask for Anne Silvia.

South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc.

Thurs., Dec. 10th, 9:30 -11:30 a .m. Rosa Farizo will be at the Senior Center to answer your questions concerning, Social Security Benefits, Subsidized housing, Public Housing, SNAP, Nursing Home related programs. This is by appointment only. Please call 508-979-4029. Funded in part by Coastline Elderly Services to provide free legal assistance to seniors age 60 and over.

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.

Ongoing Programs

Call 508-979-4029 for days and times

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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Santa visits Benoit Sq. for annual lighting

By Beth David
Editor

Santa Claus visited Benoit Square on Friday, 12/4, to help the North Fairhaven Improvement Association celebrate the annual lighting of the square. Around 100 people of all ages joined in to sing Christmas carols and visit with the Big Guy.

Keith Mahoney, choir director at Good Shepherd Church, led the crowd in song until Santa rolled in on an antique fire truck.

NFIA president Bob Cormier emceed, holding a moment of silence for Antone "Red" Medeiros, who died last week.

Mr. Cormier also thanked the sponsors and volunteers who helped decorate and helped with other logistical aspects of the evening. He also made a pitch for new members.

The crowd sang several Christmas songs, ending with "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," as the big guy rolled in with sirens a-blaring.

Inside the NFIA building, children (and some adults) had the chance to sit on Santa's lap and receive a coloring book and candy canes.

The square will be lit until the first week in January.

The NFIA has been hosting community events since 1965. To



learn more, visit <http://northfairhavenimprovementassoc.weebly.com/> The group meets the third Wednesday of every month at 267 Adams St., North Fairhaven.



ABOVE LEFT: People gather in Benoit Square in North Fairhaven and sing Christmas carols while waiting for Santa Clause to arrive on Friday, 12/4, at the annual lighting celebration. ABOVE MIDDLE: Keith Mahoney, who was leading the crowd in song, holds the mike for a young girl to help him out.. ABOVE RIGHT: Carson and Hudson Davis pose for their big moment with Santa. BELOW LEFT: Grace Pacella gives Santa a big smile. BELOW MIDDLE: Although clearly in awe of the Big Guy, Brianna manages to get out a few words. BELOW RIGHT: The gazebo at Benoit Square is decorated with Christmas lights and a Christmas tree. *Photos by Beth David.*



Santa Claus visits Acushnet for annual lighting celebration



Santa Claus made a special trip to Acushnet on a fire truck to listen give children a first-hand chance to tell the Big Guy about their Christmas hopes at the annual Christmas lights ceremony sponsored by the Acushnet Firefighters Association on Sunday, 12/6. The Ford Middle School Choir, Miss Apple Peach and Junior Miss Apple Peach helped with the singing until Santa arrived. TOP LEFT: Liam Rezendes has nothing but smiles on his face as he talks to Santa. TOP MIDDLE: Madison Lefrancois looks like she's thinking hard to make sure she doesn't forget anything. TOP RIGHT: Jayden Rezendes looks pretty comfortable talking to Santa. ABOVE LEFT: Charlotte Katz overcame her fear of Santa this year and has a quiet conversation with the Big Guy. ABOVE MIDDLE: Daniella Desroches gives Santa a big smile as she tells him what she wants for Christmas. ABOVE RIGHT: Some of the decorations in front of the fire station. BELOW: Children visiting with Santa after the singalong have various reactions to the man in the red suit. BOTTOM: The lights in front of the Fire Station. BOTTOM LEFT: Tori, 2015 Miss Jr. Apple Peach, leads the crowd singing Christmas Carols. *Photos by Beth David.*



Selectboard asks for letters of interest on Rogers; no TA decision

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Selectboard held off on voting for a new Town Administrator at its meeting on Tuesday, 12/8, citing a need to do more research. The board had previously indicated that it would vote that night.

After going into executive session to discuss the Town Administrator contract, the board announced that it would not vote that night.

Although board members would not say what prompted the need for the research, an Internet search found that finalist Mark Rees had been offered an interim TA position in Amherst between the time of the interviews and the meeting on Tuesday. The board will hold a special meeting on Monday, 12/14, at noon to announce its decision.

In another matter the board discussed the possibility of reaching out to the public for someone who might be interested in buying the Rogers School building. The last Request for Proposals got no responses for the Rogers building.

Town Counsel advised the board that it was legal to reach out to the only applicant who responded during the first round, and to ask for letters of interest.

Anyone interested in buying the school, or learning more should send a letter of interest by December 31 to the Selectboard office at town hall.

In another matter, the board gave its support for an oyster restoration project in Little Bay. The project is larger than an earlier project and was supported by the Marine Resources Committee.

Steve Kirk of the Nature Conservancy told the board that the project will support the local fishery and improve water quality. Money for the project will come from the Bouchard Oil Spill mitigation fund.

The project will involve permitting by the Conservation Commission, state and federal agencies.

"I honestly believe in this project," said Frank Coelho, a member of the Marine Resources Committee (MRC). He said the other project was going "very well," and the committee supported the new project.

"This is a very good project for the town," said Robert "Hoppy" Hobson, a member of the MRC.

He said the town was the hardest

hit by the oil spill of 2003.

"This is something we're [going to] get back."

Selectboard members voted unanimously to support the project, but also asked for Mr. Kirk and the MRC to do sufficient outreach to the public. They noted that another project got very far along and then was strongly opposed by the public, ending in the project not going forward. Although board members did not name the project, they seemed to be talking about the failed fish pier project at Hoppy's Landing.

Mr. Kirk said the oyster project application would be in the town's name, which is one difference from the fish pier project.

"I think it's a great project," said

In his letter, Mr. Crotty said that, "it appears that [North Street] has been certified by the Land Court as a public way"

Selectboard chairperson Geoffrey Haworth.

He encouraged Mr. Kirk to send a letter to the West Island Improvement Association to avoid a repeat of the last project.

"Then I'll feel like we've done our due diligence," said Mr. Haworth, adding he just wanted to make sure they were "dotting the i's and crossing the t's," and making the public "well aware of this project."

The oyster beds will be near Girl Scout Island at the end of Edgewater Street.

The board also held a public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant application.

Town Planner and Economic Development Director Bill Roth told the board that he had abandoned plans to continue improvements to Plymouth Avenue after neighbors complained about the end result of the Francis Street changes in the same neighborhood.

He said he held the required

neighborhood meeting and neighbors were "adamantly opposed" to the project.

Neighbors missed the large trees and did not like the look of the concrete sidewalks and brightly painted crosswalks. They felt the changes took away from the "quaint" feel of the neighborhood.

The FY 16 application will instead focus on improvements to the grounds and buildings of the Fairhaven Housing Authority. The parking lot and sidewalks are in disrepair and are not up to current accessibility requirements.

The grant will also be used for improvements on Hedge Street, including work near the Acushnet River, which will require federal and state permits.

Diane Hahn, a resident of the neighborhood affected by the first round of changes, said she was happy that the project would not continue.

"Thank you Mr. Roth for giving us a voice in our neighborhood," she said, adding that the "country lane feeling" was lost on her street, and she did not want it to happen again.

She agreed that Hedge Street had more pressing issues that needed to be taken care of.

Krissane Sheedy, Executive Director of the Fairhaven Housing Authority, said the parking lot was in need of paving and there were some American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance concerns that the project would address.

"We're starting to have some serious tripping hazards," said Ms. Sheedy.

In another matter, the board forwarded a letter from Town Counsel Thomas Crotty to the Conservation Commission and to Jay Simmons, a resident of North Street and the ConCom Chairperson. The letter addresses a dispute centering on public access on the portion of North Street that is not paved, but as a walking path that leads to the water.

Lee Miguel of 3 North Street has laid claim to the path and has tried to prevent the public from using it, causing friction in the neighborhood.

In his letter, Mr. Crotty said that, "it appears that the street has been certified by the Land Court as a public way, in a 1958 decree certifying the ownership of Mr. Miguel's property in a predecessor in interest."

Selectboard interviews three finalists for Town Administrator

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Selectboard interviewed three finalists for the position of Town Administrator at a special meeting on Saturday, 12/5.

The board had mostly the same questions for the three, who were chosen by a screening committee. The Collins Center for Public Management at UMass Boston conducted the search and received 26 applications for the position. The center whittled that number down to 12 for the screening committee, which interviewed seven and recommended three to the Selectboard.

Gregory Enos, 38, lives in Brockton and is the Assistant Town Administrator in Whitman; Michael McCue, 49, lives in Mansfield and is the Town Administrator in Rochester; Mark Rees, 59, lives in North Andover and is the former City Manager of Portland, ME.

Mr. McCue told the board that although he had only been in Rochester for a short time, local TA opportunities do not become available very often, so he felt he should apply for the job. A former TA in Avon, Mr. McCue said he liked being closer to Cape Cod.

Mr. McCue told the board that he was also attracted to Fairhaven because of its history and its connection to Japan.

Mr. McCue said he was on the Selectboard in Mansfield, so he has been on both sides of the table.

"So I got a rather comprehensive look of pretty much every fact of town government," said Mr. McCue.

He said he has been through "some of transitions" that Fairhaven will go through with its first TA.

Mr. McCue said he has some ideas about economic development, including how to help property owners fill some empty buildings in town.

"Economic development is not just about revenue," said Mr. McCue. "It's about good jobs."

His management plan will include monthly staff meetings, at a minimum. He said he is not a micromanager, though and expects competent people to do their jobs.

"My role is to advise and assist," said Mr. McCue.

He also said he was a "strong proponent" of professional training and will make wider use of the

Internet to get information to the public.

When asked to give an example of his conflict resolution experience, Mr. McCue said he once had to fire someone, but did everything he could to avoid it. He said he even prevailed to prevent the person from collecting unemployment, which is difficult.

"You document, you document, you document. You make sure," said Mr. McCue.

He also said he was successful in curtailing a lot of spending by making difficult decisions.

"You've got to do what you've got to do," said Mr. McCue.

Selectboard member Charlie Murphy asked his favorite question: How do you deal with stress?

Mr. McCue said he exercises, and although he knows he needs to be available 24/7, he knows how to relax.

"I am able to detach myself and be with my family, enjoy my family," said Mr. McCue.

Mark Rees was the only finalist who told the board that he would be moving to Fairhaven if he got the job.

He said his experience included creating a TA job in two municipalities, and he believes in a team approach.

"I don't want to set up anybody for failure," said Mr. Rees. "But I also hold them accountable."

He said he sees himself as a motivator and mentor and has a reputation as being fair and supportive.

"It think it's critical you treat everybody the same," said Mr. Rees.

He also said that it was important to keep the town's website updated to get information out to residents. Transparency builds confidence within the community, he said,

Mr. Rees also said he is experienced at negotiating with unions and is able to make them understand the long-term consequences of their demands.

He promised to be responsive to residents, saying that local government is the business of providing



The three finalists for the town administrator position in Fairhaven interviewed with the Selectboard on Sat., 12/5. Clockwise from top: Mike McCue, town administrator in Rochester; Mark Rees, former Town Administrator in Portland, ME; Gregory Enos, Assistant Town Manager in Whitman. The board has decided to hold off on announcing a decision until a special meeting scheduled for noon on Monday, 12/14. Photos by Beth David.

services.

Mr. Rees also said he had many ideas for getting businesses back in to fill up the empty storefronts.

He also said that he understood that a good school system was important to make a place attractive to young families.

Mr. Rees called Fairhaven a "very attractive community," and said this job would probably be his "last stop."

"So I'd like to go out on a positive note," said Mr. Rees.

On his end, he had questions about the working waterfront, flood zones and business development.

Mr. Rees also noted his budget experience, saying it was critical that the town makes sure the budget is "not based on wishful thinking."

Mr. Rees's resignation from his job in Portland was in the news. He told the board that he was "collateral damage" in a political situation. He was city manager, with a mayor that was elected by the city council. A change in government resulted in the mayor being elected by popular vote.

"I was kind of caught between that power struggle," said Mr. Rees.

Mr. Enos was the only candidate who did not have TA experience. He told the board that his experience as an Assistant TA in Whitman and his experience working in New Bedford gave him the necessary qualifications and skills to do the job.

Mr. Enos worked as a neighborhood planner in New Bedford for 6 1/2 years. He said he understood the commute and had no problem with late meetings, adding it was an easier commute than Boston.

Mr. Enos said he would be there to listen to people and not be a "dictator," but also not be "laissez

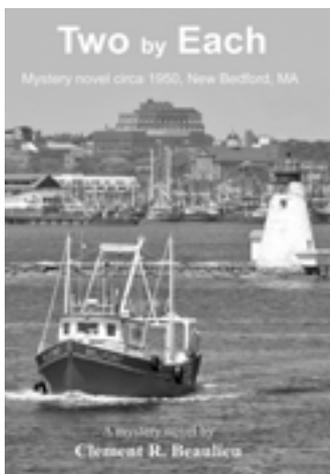
TA: cont'd on page 26

The “kids” from up the hill



“Just a bunch of kids who used to hang ‘up the hill’ on warm summer nights” on West Island, many moons ago, got together on Saturday, 11/20, at Stoneforge in Raynham for a first ever reunion.” We can’t believe we waited this long to get together,” wrote Stacy Moulding Martin in an email. Pictured: Stacy Martin, Nancy Flibotte Lee, Debbie West, Glenn West, Reese Wittee, Pat Casey, Donna Curelop, Steve Ober, Milissa Glynn-Immar, Kai Rose, Janet Rose, Regina Sullivan, Ray Mitchell, Michelle Cloutier, Lynda Galbato, Scott West, Kevin Hodson, Randy Nelson, Phil Rose, Peter Ostiguy. *Submitted photo courtesy of Stacy Moulding Martin.*

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Fairhaven Meetings

Agricultural Commission

Wed., 12/16, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

CDBG Forum #3

Thurs., 12/10, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Community Preserv. Comm. TIME CHANGE

Thurs., 12/17, Town Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 12/14, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Council On Aging

Mon., 12/14, Sr. Center, 9:30 a.m.

Dog Park Committee

Wed., 12/16, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 12/17, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

Planning Board

Tues., 1/12, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 12/16, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 12/14, Town Hall, Noon

To announce TA choice

Mon., 12/21, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet Meetings

Board of Health

Mon., 12/15, Parting Ways, 6 p.m.

Planning Board

Thurs., 12/17, Parting Ways, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 12/14, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Dec 2015	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Friday	11	0729	1953	0017	1302
Saturday	12	0811	2038	0100*	1346*
Sunday	13	0856	2124	0148*	1431*
Monday	14	0941	2211	0237*	1514*
Tuesday	15	1030	2303	0325*	1556*
Wednesday	16	1123	----	0412*	1642*
Thursday	17	0000	1222	0506*	1738*
Friday	18	0058	1320	0616	1845*
Saturday	19	0154	1417	0733	1950*
Sunday	20	0252	1519	0846	2052*
Monday	21	0356	1625	1018	2159*
Tuesday	22	0457	1723	1134*	2302*
Wednesday	23	0548	1812	----	1228*
		----	----	----	2353*
Thursday	24	0635	1859	----	1325*

*= Predicted minus tides from -0.1 ft. to -1.0 ft
**Predicted minus tides from -1.1 ft to -2.0 ft or more

HAPPENINGS NB: cont'd from page 6
benefit The Supreme Perfectionists Competition Dance Team!

Tickets: General Admission, \$15; College Students with valid ID, \$12; Senior Citizens (65+), \$10; Children (ages 2-18), \$10; Military (with valid ID), \$10. Children under 2 that remain on a ticket holders lap, FREE

Free Flu Vaccine

The Greater New Bedford Community Health Center will provide free flu vaccine on **Sat., 12/12, from 8:30-11 a.m., 874 Purchase St., New Bedford.**

The vaccine provides protection against seasonal flu and will be available to both adults and children six months and older. For further information, please call 508-992-6553.

Socks for Vets

During this 2015 Holiday season The Law Office of Surprenant & Beneski, P.C. and the Wound Care Center at Vibra Hospital of SE Mass. are once again teaming up to hold a "Socks for Vets" sock drive. They will be collecting new socks for the Veteran's Transition House in New Bedford as a way of giving back to the community and saying "Thank You"

to those who have sacrificed so selflessly for our nation.

This campaign will run continuously until Dec. 31. New Sock donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday (9-5) either at Surprenant and Beneski, P.C. 35 Arnold Street, New Bedford, or at the Wound Care Center at Vibra Hospital of SE Mass. (formally known as New Bedford Rehabilitation Hospital) 4499 Acushnet Avenue, New Bedford. Thank you to everyone in advance for your support.

Free Parking

New Bedford is offering a special Holiday Parking Program. From now **through Friday, January 1, 2016**, the City of New Bedford will offer FREE parking at your first metered space for up to two hours in both the Downtown and on Acushnet Avenue, or up to two hours FREE parking at the Elm Street Garage, and the Zeiterion Garage!

Contact the Traffic Commission Office, 51 Elm St., is open Mon.- Fri., 8-5. Call 508-961-3153 with questions.



A Wood School Thanksgiving



Fairhaven's Leroy L Wood School celebrated Thanksgiving with a meal for all students together in the gym. "Listening to the sound of children sharing great conversation with their buddies while enjoying their meal together was beautiful!" wrote Daniel Roselle on the school's Facebook page. *Photo from the Leroy L. Wood School Facebook page.*

Acushnet Lions collect toys



The Acushnet Lions Club collected a big box truck full of toys for the Toys for Tots program on Sunday, 11/29. A group of about 100 motorcycles joined in the ride from the Rivers End to Long Plain United Methodist Church and back to the Rivers End for the post-party. Cost of the organized bike run was a toy for the drive. The Adam Taylor Memorial Foundation donated two carriages of toys, and Scouts from Pack 51 helped with loading up and unloading. The toys were transported to the Toys for Tots program run by the United States Marines for distribution to less fortunate children in the community for Christmas. To learn more about the program, visit www.ToysForTots.org. Toys may be dropped off at any Fire Department in the area. Toys should be new and unwrapped ABOVE: The view from the truck full of toys shows the volunteers who helped collect toys on 11/20. *Photo courtesy of Mike Cioper.*

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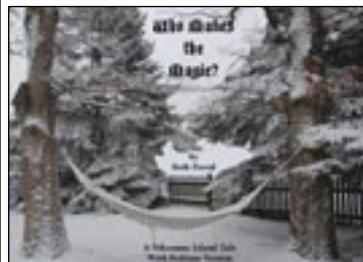
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Identity Theft/Consumer Fraud

By: Glenn C. Silva

Special to the Neighb News

"I never thought it could happen to me!"

I hear those words more often these days in my line of work. Today it was from someone that lived around the corner from me. She had been adamant about never buying anything online with a credit card or paying bills on the computer. She always kept her antivirus up to date and in her own word: "Never, EVER clicked on something that didn't seem right."

Yet, here I was, securing and cleaning up her computer and helping her contact her bank and credit card companies to prevent any further unauthorized purchases using her information.

She was another victim of consumer fraud/identity theft, and added to that ever-increasing statistic as we have grown to depend on the computers and technology in our everyday lives.

The cost for credit card fraud in the U.S. was \$8 billion in 2014. About half of debt/credit card fraud is done using the Internet and that number is only going to increase.

As of October of 2015, major card companies were required to install an EMV chip in credit cards which would significantly reduce fraud at the retail store level, but offer no additional protection if used online

If you have recently received a new card it'll be in there. Some statistics are saying 1 in 3 people have been or will be affected by some sort of consumer fraud. Chances are you know someone who has been.

Here is how this latest scam works and what you can do to protect yourself.

The unsuspecting customer receives an unsolicited pop-up message on their computer telling them to call an 800 number or they receive a telephone call from what appears to be a well-known computer company.

I myself have received these bogus calls mostly claiming to be from

Microsoft, Windows, or some other well-known computer company.

Once the person has you on the phone they make some very open-ended statement like, "We noticed you had a computer and you have been on-line recently and your computer seems to be running slow and has a virus."

They go on to let the person know that they can fix this for "free" because they support their product. They ask the user to go to a website and download a program that allows the "technician" remote access into your computer so they can look to see what could be wrong.

All for free — so far.

The cost for credit card fraud in the U.S. was \$8 billion in 2014. About half of debt/credit card fraud is done using the Internet and that number is only going to increase.

Once that is done, the technician takes over your computer and runs one or two pieces of software showing that there is so much wrong with the computer.

It is at that point where the technician states that although they can fix your computer it is much worse than originally suspected and asks for a credit or debit card to continue the "fix".

I've heard dollar amounts anywhere from \$19.99 to \$300.00+ to fix an infected computer. The people are very convincing and always guarantee their work. (Remember, there might not be anything even wrong with your computer, this is a scam!)

Some people at this point hang up the phone and think that this is a scam, and they are right. However what they don't do is uninstall (if possible) the

software that allows the person to connect to their computer. I've seen cases where people have had their data wiped remotely and even been locked out of their computer. Then the technician calls back insisting that you let them help you. (Companies NEVER call you offering to help clean your computer.)

Some people allow the call to continue and give their bank or credit card number over the phone feeling safe that it was not put over the internet. Sometimes the technician runs a few programs letting the customer know they are all set while most of the time they render the computer near useless for the customer to use.

Consumer fraud/identity theft is serious!

Always monitor your bank and credit card statements. Even if you don't buy things online or fall prey to the unsolicited phone calls, things can still happen.

Many major retailers have been in the news the last few years claiming their databases of credit card numbers were compromised in some way. Home Depot, Target, JCPenney, just to name a few, and just this past November 24th (yes that is two days before Black Friday) Amazon suffered a potential password leak with an unknown number of accounts affected according to ZDNet.

The best thing you can do if you suspect that your computer has been compromised or you have fallen victim to one of these scams is to contact a local computer person that can make sure you really don't have a virus and that the technician hasn't put any on your computer and that any remote software is fully removed.

If you have given anyone your credit card or bank account information you should contact the issuer immediately and let them know about the fraud. The worst thing to do is nothing and think that the problem will just go away on its own.

Glenn Silva, owner of Fairhaven Computer Repair and HTE Computer Consulting+ has been servicing local individuals and businesses in the community with their computer needs for 21+ years. He is also currently offering Microsoft Windows 10 training. He is self-syndicated and his column can be read in numerous printed and online sources. He can be contacted at: glenn67@comcast.net.

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.shepherdsparnry.org



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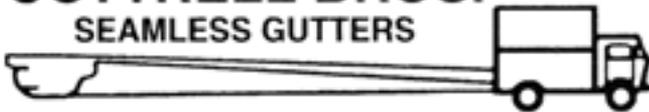
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from Louise Dupre

OXFORD: cont'd from page 4

committee members because it would affect the public school budget.

Mr. Stylos is offering \$25,000 for the building, but said that he would take ownership of the building immediately and start renovations immediately. He is asking for a three year exemption to start paying taxes, but then will pay normal taxes based on the regularly assessed value of the building.

He said the three-year tax-break would be enough to give him the "head start" he needs.

"I have no intention of trying to side-step taxes," said Mr. Stylos.

The day care would be added in the third phase because he would need to add an elevator to the old portion of the building and that would take time, and \$610,000.

Mr. Aguiar said trips to and from the site were estimated at 552 per day, but would be spread out at different times.

He also said the building would not be used at all on the weekends to avoid conflicts and added congestion when games are played at Livesey Park.

He estimated that 90% of the project would be complete within two years.

Mr. Aguiar said that Mr. Stylos had a proven track record of turning old schools into community based uses.

"It becomes difficult sometimes to have faith in a developer that has different ideas," said Mr. Aguiar.

For his part, Mr. Stylos promised that there would not be housing at the site. He said he was open to negotiation on most other aspects of the building's use.

Mr. Haworth asked again how the town would explain to the state that it was okay to accept an offer so far below the assessed \$285,000 value of the building.

Mr. Stylos assured the board that the community benefit would be sufficient to satisfy the state and the neighbors.

"It's a community based building," said Mr. Stylos, adding that with that, you don't get \$16.2 million in tax credits from the federal government.

Stephen Parr, a commercial lender at St. Anne's Credit Union, said he has worked with Mr. Stylos on past projects.

"He's a class act," said Mr. Parr. "He delivered on everything he said and he's good as gold. He's a class act. If he says he's [going to] do something, you can count on it."

Selectboard member Charles Murphy, a North Fairhaven resident who has made it clear from the start that he does not want more housing in North Fairhaven, said he liked the idea of a nonprofit community center and "not destroying the property."

Board member Bob Espindola said he had heard from many people who did not want housing at the site and they gave specific reasons. Although he has seen a petition and heard from some residents who support the 62+

housing facility, they did not give any specific reasons. He again asked for people in the room to articulate a specific reason for the housing as opposed to simply not wanting the community center.

Some residents noted the difference in the purchase price and a skepticism that Mr. Stylos's model could actually work.

Dan Freitas expressed concern that the nonprofits would bring certain clients to the neighborhood, noting that Mr. Stylos used the term "behavioral issues" to describe some potential clients of a yet-to-be-identified nonprofit.

It got a rise out of some people attending, who clearly were not happy with the characterization.

Mr. Murphy, who runs a nonprofit that assists disable adults, noted that maybe "behavioral" was the wrong word to use.

"I just want to know more about," said Mr. Freitas standing his ground.

Mr. Murphy pointed out that the town rents to the Nemasket Group at the old Tripp School and "that has worked out very well."

He noted again that his opposition to housing at the site is no secret.

"My vote is clearly not with Stratford. I'm going with Sherwood," said Mr. Murphy, whether they voted then or at a later meeting.

Since the decision has to be approved by Town Meeting, and probably not until May, the board decided to hold the vote.

TA: cont'd from page 19

faire" either.

He, too, said that the website would be critical to getting information out to residents. He would also utilize Facebook.

Mr. Enos said he had ideas for getting new businesses into the vacant buildings and had experience getting grant money for various projects.

He said he understands that the big picture and the small things are both important.

"Everything in moderation is key," he said. "So you have to do both."

He said tried to keep a "work life balance," and that he has "two young children who are pretty good stress relievers."

Mr. Enos said he believes in transparency for the budget and

would introduce a program called "open checkbook" that puts the whole town's budget online.

Mr. Enos told the board that his lack of experience as a Town Administrator could be an asset. He said he will not have a "preconceived notion" about how to do the job. He also said he had good mentors he could rely on for advice.

"Experience is a double edged sword," said Mr. Enos.

He said it was more important that the job be a good "fit" with his personality and the place.

He said he would work collaboratively with the board to "clean up the jewel that is the town of Fairhaven. Maybe dust it off, make it shine a little."

After the interviews, the board convened in executive session to talk about the TA contract. The board said it would make a decision at its 12/8 meeting, but then decided they needed to do more research and scheduled a special meeting for 12/14 to announce the decision. Although board members would not say what the research was about, an Internet search showed that Mr. Rees had been offered an interim TA position in Amherst between the time of the interviews and the meeting on Tuesday.

The interviews were cablecast live and the meeting is running on channel 18, and is available on demand through a link on the town's website: www.fairhaven-ma.gov

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

Millicent Library Chairs & Crafts

Celebrate the new chairs and tables while the kids make crafts

Millicent Library auditorium, 45 Center St. (use Walnut St. entrance), 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Town Hall Shops

*Booths by non-profit groups, face painting, kids crafts
Drop-off for Toys and Food donations for the needy*

Town Hall, 40 Center St., 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Brick Church Fair

Craft booths, baked goods, thrift shop & more
Congregational Church, 34 Center St., 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Holiday Marketplace

Craft booths, holiday greens & more
Unitarian Church, 102 Green St., 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Cookies & Cocoa at Our Lady's Haven

Cookies & hot chocolate, Santa & Mrs. Claus (1 p.m.)
Our Lady's Haven, 71 Center St., 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Unitarian Church Tours

Unitarian Church, 102 Green St. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Ornament Crafting & Art Sale

Design and make holiday ornaments
Art on Center, 15 Center St., 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Holiday Soup & Sandwich Luncheon

Harrop Center, Center St., 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Lobster Roll Luncheon

Congregational Church, 34 Center St., 11 a.m. - ?

Town Hall Sing-along

Town Hall, 40 Center St., 6:00 p.m.
Sponsored by Fairhaven Improvement Association.

The Old-Time Holiday is sponsored by Fairhaven non-profit and church groups and is coordinated and promoted by the Fairhaven Office of Tourism. Complete program listings are available from <http://Fairhaventours.com>. For more information, contact the Fairhaven Office of Tourism, 141 Main Street, Fairhaven, telephone 508-979-4085, email FairhavenTours@aol.com. The Fairhaven Visitors Center hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to Noon and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The Visitors Center will not be open on Saturday, December 12.