



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 48 • December 15, 2016

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

Old-Time Holiday brings holiday cheer to center



Santa Claus arrives on an antique fire truck to visit with children at Fairhaven Town Hall on Saturday, 12/10, during the Town Hall Sing-along, which was part of the annual Old-Time Holiday event. Children are warned to try really hard not to mess up so close to Christmas, as Santa Claus is still roaming around Fairhaven, Acushnet and the rest of our area to make sure children are being good. See pages 12 & 13 for story. *Photo by Beth David.*



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First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.



Beth David, Publisher

This is it, our last issue of the year. Our next issue will be on January 5. So...read slowly.

You can also visit my blog if you just can't resist reading my brilliant prose (www.bethdavid.net/blog)

So...where to begin? A couple of good rants this week.

First, one that has had me laughing like crazy.

I got several calls from people who are just mortified, horrified, and gobsmacked that the Stratford Group is looking for \$325,000 from the Community Preservation Committee (see page 6) for its project at the Oxford School. Of course, they agreed to "pay" \$325,000 for the building.

As I recall, they said in various meetings that they would be trying to get "local" grants. So, that's a local grant, right?

Can't wait for that one to get to Town Meeting.

Seems like we should've gone with the nonprofit guy, after all.

We'll be doing a more thorough story on this in our next issue. There's some scuttlebutt that they might have trouble getting their grants without it. But...don't have time or room for that in this issue.

We'll get to it soon enough.

The bigger issue, though, is that the town does not have its 10% of housing at the affordable level. That leaves us at the mercy of any project that can call itself "affordable housing." It's the Chapter 40B law, designed to encourage housing that people can actually afford. It's a horrible law, of course. Uses a meat cleaver when a scalpel would be better. But, that's politics.

The thing is, if 40B projects are so scary to us, why don't we start working towards our 10%? Ten percent is not a lot to ask for a town our size. We should have that anyway. Then, they (yes, the big unknown "they") can stop using the threat of 40B developments to bully us.

On another note...

I was trying to come up with a good Christmas Magic message. With this embarrassing election and the grim specter of so many hard-fought rights getting decimated by the new administration (and I use the term loosely), I figured I needed to come up with something good.

Then this came in.

You remember Jean, right? She used to write for the *Neighb News*; she made FinCom fun (see letter, page 17).

She's got a neighbor complaining about her son. So who is this killjoy who called the police on a young boy who delights in waving to cars on Route 6 so they will wave to him? Really, people? Really? It's Route 6, for heaven's sake, a crazy busy highway with lots of beeping anyway.

Pray tell...what message exactly are you trying to

LETTER: cont'd next page

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send this little boy about his friendly neighbors? And at Christmastime, no less?

Shame on you. You should be smiling every single time you hear one of those honks. Every single time I think of it, or think of that boy on the sidewalk waving away I smile. It is such an innocent act, such a common, simple, and beautiful way for a child to connect with the world around him. And you send the police? The POLICE? What is wrong with you?

You need a chill-pill, big time.

Someone....drop some Xanax or Valium or something in that person's coffee.

And leave our little boy alone. He will only be little for so long.

You also called when he made train sounds as he ran around? Heaven help us all: How loud could THAT have been? One child's voice making train sounds is not hurting your ear drums.

What happened to the days of sitting on the porch or in the window watching the children play?

Maybe, if you did that, you'd notice how nice most kids really are.

Hey, I have an idea, why don't you move to a retirement home, the kind that doesn't allow kids?

You shouldn't be around them.

And, for those of my readers who agree with me and think this person needs a good pop in the ear, just drive by the high school on Route 6, eastbound side between around 3:15 and 3:30, and around 3:45 to 4 p.m. on

school days (yes, it's only for about a half hour a day), and wave to our friendly neighbor, and....if you dare... honk your horn like crazy.

Now, this is the fun part.

I wrote all that, and didn't want to change it because I mean it all, before I got the letter from Jean. Between the time I heard about the situation and wrote that, an amazing thing was happening on Facebook. A whole bunch of people offered to drive by and honk for Diego. A whole bunch of other people offered to go by and stand with him and wave to cars.

What started out as an angry rant by Jean, turned into an outpouring of caring and compassion towards a little boy who just wants to feel connected to the world around him.

The last thing I saw was a post from Jean saying she stood out there with him for a few minutes and she was surprised at how much fun it was.

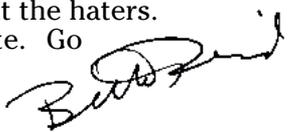
Yeah, I remember that. I remember pulling my hand up and down when trucks went by and how excited I felt when they responded with a honk.

So, here's my Christmas message: That we can all rally around a 13-year-old boy who still exudes the innocence of a baby.

And in the process, drown out the haters.

Love really does beat hate. Go figure.

Until next time then...Happy Holidays to all!



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BPW hires for Highway Department

By Mary Macedo

Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Monday, 12/5, the Fairhaven Board of Public Works interviewed and hired two employees for the Highway Department.

Before the meeting, the Highway Department had two Heavy Motor Equipment Operator (HMEO) positions open. BPW Chairperson Michael Ristuccia met with both candidates prior to the BPW meeting. He said that both men were highly qualified for the positions.

The first person the board interviewed was Marco Machado, who explained to the board that he lives in Fairhaven and has been driving tractor trailers for years.

"Working for Fairhaven would be a great opportunity for me and my family," Mr. Machado said.

Board member Robert "Hoppy" Hobson explained to Mr. Machado that 75%-80% of the job was running chainsaws and landscaping, not just driving truck. Mr. Hobson said he wanted to make sure both candidates understood that driving trucks was only a small part of the job.

Public works Superintendent Vincent Furtado said he explained to both candidates the duties of the job, and also gave them copies of their pay, and benefits information.

Board member Kathy Sturtevant* asked Mr. Machado why he chose to pursue a job in Fairhaven with a slightly lower pay than he is currently receiving at his present job.

Mr. Machado said he wanted to work for Fairhaven because of the job security, as well as it being closer to his home.

The board then met with the second candidate Tom Perry.

Mr. Perry explained that he has

been driving trucks since 2004. He said that he has been a laborer his whole life, working in construction, and asphalt. He also has driven for Fairhaven Lumber.

"Hard work is in my blood," Mr. Perry said. "I'm not afraid of work."

Mr. Hobson told to Mr. Perry and Mr. Machado that working in the Highway Department means they must work when it snows because they are considered emergency personnel.

Both Mr. Perry and Mr. Machado nodded.

"These two are the most qualified candidates we have had in a long time," board member Brian Wotton said.

Mr. Wotton made a motion to hire both Mr. Machado and Mr. Perry for the two open HMEO job positions in the Highway Department, and the board approved the hires.

In another matter the board discussed signing an agreement with Stantec Inc. to fix the sewer line underneath the Fairhaven Bike Path between Shaw Road and Weeden Road.

Mr. Furtado explained that the structural integrity of the sewer line is gone. He also explained that Mattapoisett would be paying for 30% of the repair costs.

The board agreed that the repair was necessary and voted to approve.

In other business, Mr. Hobson mentioned that Sippican Street has a lot bumps and pot holes that should be filled, especially with winter approaching. He said that there are residents who live there year round who are concerned about the conditions of the street.

Mr. Hobson also mentioned that he has been looking into the snow parking bans in other cities and towns in the area. Both New Bedford

and Acushnet only have snow parking bans when a snow storm is in the forecast. Fairhaven has a parking ban for the span of the winter months from December to March.

Mr. Furtado explained that the parking ban has been discussed among the Police Chief and the Highway Superintendent, but no decision has been made to change anything.

Administrative Assistant Kathy Tripp said that it has to go to town meeting to be changed.

Ms. Sturtevant mentioned that Eaton Road and Waybridge Road have pools of water that gather in the ruts and holes when it rains. The pools of water stay for almost three days.

Mr. Furtado said he believed there have been issues there before, but he would contact someone to take a look at it again.

Board member Jarrod Lussier mentioned that on Alden Road, at the left turn onto Howland Road he has noticed that some cars do not pay enough attention to the bike lane. He said as cars are turning left, cars behind them try to pass on the right, cutting into the bike lane, which is dangerous for cyclists.

Mr. Lussier suggested putting up a sign to remind drivers that there is a bike lane there.

Before the meeting concluded to go into executive session Mr. Wotton took a minute to thank Ms. Sturtevant for her years of service in Fairhaven.

Two weeks ago Ms. Sturtevant sent a letter resigning from the BPW, naming 12/5 as her last meeting.

"I just want to thank Kathy for her many years of work," Mr. Wotton said, adding that she would be missed on the board and that he and the town of Fairhaven were grateful for her years of service. ●●●



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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Lights & Santa

The Robillard family invites you to join them for their annual lighting at **35 Gellette Road in Fairhaven.** Lights will go on beginning on 12/10.

Visit with Santa on Fri. & Sat., 12/16 & 17 and Fri., 12/23 from 5:30 to approximately 8:30 p.m. (weather permitting). Hot chocolate, popcorn, cookies and candy canes. FREE. Feel free to donate a non-perishable food item for the local food pantry.

The creation of the display won an award for Fairhaven High School student Bethany Fernandes. To view the video, visit www.vimeo.com/bethanyfernandes

A Christmas Carol

By One Theater Group

ONE Theater Group, Inc. is proud to announce its upcoming production of *A Christmas Carol*, on **Thurs., Fri., & Sat., 12/15-17, at 7 p.m.; and on Sun., 12/18, at 2 p.m. in the Fairhaven Town Hall Auditorium, 40 Center St., Fairhaven.**

ONE Theater Group, Inc.'s production of *A Christmas Carol* is a truly magical yet faithful rendition of the Dickens classic. As with all of ONE Theater Group's productions, patrons can expect bright colors, over the top décor, beautiful scenery, and a top notch cast. *A Christmas Carol* is family friendly, and a show that all ages can enjoy!

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children. Seating is general admission. Purchase tickets online at www.onetheatergroup.com or any time during normal business hours at the Millicent Library in Fairhaven. Tickets may also be reserved in advance by emailing onetheatergroup@gmail.com or by calling 508-525-9972. If seating is still available, tickets will be sold at the door. Doors open 30 min. before each show.

Proceeds benefit Family Reach, an organization that helps families with a child battling cancer.

Founded in September 2014, ONE Theater Group, Inc.'s mission is to combine the performing arts with philanthropy. Visit www.onetheatergroup.com

Christmas Trees

Troop and Pack 55 are holding their annual Christmas tree and

wreath sale at Mike and Wayne's, 163 Huttleston Ave. (Rt.e 6) Fairhaven.

We have 200 Balsam and Frasier Fir Trees and 30 wreathes for Sale. Come early and pick your tree. The height of the trees range from 5-8 Ft, **prices from \$35-70** depending on the height and fullness.

Hours are M-F from 5-8 p.m. and Sat. & Sun. from 9:30 AM to 6:00 PM. Scouts and parent volunteers, do most of the selling. Employees of Mike & Wayne's are gracious enough to collect money for the Scouts during the early hours on weekdays when the scouts are not there. All Proceeds Benefit Boy Scout Pack & Troop 55, Boy Scouts of America.

Polar plunge

Come start off the new year with a dash into the ocean! Challenge your family and friends to come out and plunge in remembrance of the victims of domestic violence. A donation of \$25 buys a long sleeve T-shirt. Shirts will be available on a first come, first served basis. You can choose whether or not you jump in. Registration and t-shirts can be purchased at the Plunge from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Checks can be made payable to: Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars. Please note on check: Ft. Phoenix Polar Plunge.

The Plunge is a free event. For your safety, we are requiring that you register. You can register the day of the Plunge from 9-9:45 a.m.

Sun., 1/1/17 at 10 a.m. SHARP, at DCR's Ft. Phoenix State Beach Reservation. Net proceeds benefit scholarships in memory of Fairhaven's domestic violence victims. Part of the Dollars for Scholars/Scholarship America Program (charity navigator 4-star charity rating).

Be sure to bring towels, blankets and warm clothes to change into after the plunge. **We highly recommend water shoes or old sneakers to protect your feet from rocks and cold.** There are some unavoidable rocks in the area so be careful!

We will provide changing tents, Port-a-Johns, warming fire, and refreshments. Email Kathy at lopeska@aol.com for more info.

Rogers School Mtg

The Town of Fairhaven will hold a **Public Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on**

Thurs., 1/5, at Town Hall, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA. The purpose of the meeting will be for the Town's consultant, Kirk & Company, to hold the second of three public meetings to present an initial draft report with their preliminary findings about the potential future reuses of the Rogers School.

If you are interested in the future of the Rogers School, you are urged to attend the meeting. The Draft Report will be available on the Town web site www.fairhaven-ma.gov on December 21, 2016. The Town will make reasonable accommodations for the disabled with prior notice to the Planning & Economic Development at 508-979-4082, Ext. 9.

Comments available

The comments that were submitted after the last meeting are available online at http://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/pages/fairhavenma_documents/Docs%20and%20Contracts/Rogers%20School%20Documents/Public%20Comments%20Rogers%20School.pdf

Visit the town's website at <http://fairhaven-ma.gov/Pages/index> and click on "Documents and Contracts," then "Rogers School Documents."

Longest Night Serv.

The First Congregational Church of Fairhaven, 34 Center St., invites everyone to participate in our 2016 holiday services. All are Welcome. Fully accessible.

- **12/18: Longest Night Service, 7:00 p.m.** This service is designed to acknowledge mixed feelings that can surface at this time of year. With comforting music, prayer, and quiet reflection we will seek God's presence in the midst of any turmoil we might be experiencing. One may light a candle of remembrance or hope and receive anointing with oil.
- **12/24: Christmas Eve Service for Families with Young Children, 4:30-5:00 p.m.** This will be an interactive telling of the Christmas Story with carols, prayers, and glow sticks around the nativity, perfect for smaller children, but all are welcome.
- **12/24: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 7:00 p.m.** Enjoy carols,

HAPPS: cont'd to page 20

Region is dressed up for the holidays



ABOVE: These two houses are probably Fairhaven's most elaborately decorated for Christmas. ABOVE: Route 6 near Welcome Street. RIGHT: Gellette Road. There are many other houses in Fairhaven and neighboring towns that are decorated with Christmas lights. It's one of life's little pleasures to drive around at this time of year looking for decorated houses. Please be respectful of the owners, who are so graciously spreading the Christmas spirit for all of us to enjoy. RIGHT: The Clasky Common Park in New Bedford includes a display of Santas around the world in its Christmas lights displays. They are also lit up every night through the new year. And, don't forget our own Benoit Square in Fairhaven, which we featured in last week's issue. *Neighb News file photos by Beth David.*



CPC Apps include \$325,000 for Oxford Sch; Oxford 40B submitted

CPC Applications available

The Fairhaven Community Preservation Committee has received 12 applications for the FY18 funding round. The applications can be found on the Town Website on the CPC's page at the below link (FY18 Projects): http://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/pages/FairhavenMA_CPC/index

Click on "FY18 Projects" for 11 of the proposals; click on "Oxford School Application — Stratford Group" for the Oxford School proposal.

The projects are: \$45,000 for handicap door replacement at Oxford Terrace; \$15,000 for wall and stair repairs at Anthony Haven; \$17,500 requested by the Fairhaven Tennis Association, as a match to the FTA's \$7,500; \$10,000 for an outdoor fitness center near the bike path and Recreation/Senior center, requested by the town's Wellness Committee; \$12,000 for a Town Hall Restoration Study; \$185,000 for the next phase of the brick sidewalk repair project

around the Millicent Library; \$75,827 for wood window restoration at the high school; \$160,000 for phase IV of the Millicent Library Exterior Re-painting Project; \$118,000 for a second exit and wheelchair access for the Academy Building, where the Fairhaven Visitors Center is located.

The Board of Public Works is asking for \$20,000 for a Branch Brook Land Protection Project to protect the town's drinking water wells. The town would be a co-holder of a Conservation Restriction on the the 164-acre parcel with the town of Mattapoisett and the Buzzards Bay Coalition.

The Coalition for Buzzards Bay is requesting \$200,000 for the Indian Rock Farms Land Protection Project. The BBC would own the 62 acres with the Fairhaven Conservation Commission holding a Conservation Restriction on it. The total price of the project is \$760,000 with the BBC using a variety of grants and private fundraising to reach the total. The

parcel would be open to the public for passive recreation.

The largest request is from the Stratford Group, which is asking for \$325,000 under the Community Housing and Historic Preservation purposes of the CP Act, to redevelop the Oxford School into 63 apartments for seniors 62+. (Click on "Oxford School Application" at previous link.)

The Stratford

Group has entered into a purchase and sale agreement with the town to buy the building for \$325,000.

Oxford School 40B submitted

The Town has received an application from the Stratford Group for a 40B (affordable housing project) at the former Oxford School.

The hearing will be January 3, 2017.

The application submittal can be found on the Town Website under the Board of Appeals page at: http://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/pages/fairhavenma_bcomm/appeals

Local DAV chapter holds annual Christmas luncheon

By Beth David
Editor

The Dr. CE Bert Chapter 7 of the Disabled American Veterans in New Bedford, held its annual Christmas luncheon on Sunday, taking the opportunity to praise volunteers and thank sponsors for the various gifts throughout the year. The DAV's main focus is to help veterans get the benefits they deserve.

"That's what this chapter is all about," Commander Rodney Hunt told the crowd at the Century House. "Helping veterans."

He pointed out several board members, and other members of the community, including Anne Silvia of the Fairhaven Council on Aging, and David Pinto, who makes it a point to be in the office almost every morning, bright and early, usually around 7.

"David loves helping people," said Mr. Hunt.

He said that when he first became commander, board member Bill Comeau was his go-to guy for, well, everything.

"Bill Comeau does whatever you want him to do," said Mr. Hunt.

The chapter also recognized three



World War II veterans: Carlos Ramos, 91, who also served in Korea; Ollie Moreau, 92; and Tony Oliveira, 94.

Mr. Ramos, of New Bedford, said that he lied about his age to get into the navy. His Cape Verdean mother did not speak much English, but he convinced her to say that he was 17 so that he could join. He was only 16.

Mr. Ramos said he had five younger brothers and sisters and their father had just died. As the

oldest, he felt he needed to take care of them, but he could not find a job that would support them all.

He showed his mother how much money she would have sent to her if he joined the navy.

"That was mu way of supporting the family," said Mr. Ramos. "With a tear in her eye, she made her 'x' and looked at me with that tear in her eye and said, 'God will bring you home safely.'"

And He did.

"I was in the South Pacific fighting the Japanese and came home without a scratch," said Mr. Ramos, who still cuts a pretty sharp figure of a man, prompting Mr. Hunt to remark that Mr. Ramos could probably still fit in his old uniform. "I'm 91 years old. My



Carlos and Vivian Ramos pose for a picture while Carlos shows off his Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer tie at the annual Christmas luncheon of the Dr. CE Bert Chapter 7 of the Disabled American Veterans at the Century House in Acushnet on Sunday, 12/11. BELOW: Chapter Commander Rodney Hunt addresses the crowd. Photos by Beth David.

mother lives inside of me and I feel it."

His mother died on Christmas Day in 1975 after greeting a long stream of visitors. Mr. Ramos was sitting on her bed when she died, and it still moves him nearly to tears.

"She looked up at me and died," said Mr. Ramos. "That is the story of my life."

"He still cries about it," said his wife Vivian.

The chapter also handed out gift cards to all those who attended the dinner, and raffled off several items. DJ Jonny Angel donated his time. John Pires gave the invocation before the meal.

The chapter meets the first Saturday of the month at 9:45 a.m. at its headquarters, 19 Willis St., New Bedford. For information call 508-992-3766.



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By Beth David

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HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Toy/Food Drive Bike Run

Join the Fairhaven Chapter of the **Iron Order Motorcycle Club, 30 Coffin Ave., New Bedford, on Sun., 12/18, starting at 9 a.m.** for a toy and food drive motorcycle run. Registration fee: An unwrapped toy and a can of food (no stuffed animals, please). **Kickstands up at noon**, and will head to the Salvation Army in downtown New Bedford. Toys will be donated to the Neediest Families Fund. All are welcome to join in the fun, even if you're not riding. Visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/IOMCSilenFew/?fref=ts>

Holiday Events

- **Harrington Park Tree Lighting: Fri., 12/16, at 6:30 p.m. Harrington Park**, at Court St. and Tremont St. (across from Hathaway School)
- **Bullard Street Neighborhood Association Tree Lighting: Sat., 12/17, at 6:30 p.m.** Riverside Park on the corner of Belleville Avenue and Tallman Street
- **Custom House Square Shop: Sat., 12/17, 12 Noon-5 p.m. Custom House Square** (Intersection of William Street and Acushnet Avenue in the Historic Downtown) Downtown will be full of holiday spirit, with an array of festive activities in and around Custom House Square including: **Free horse drawn carriage rides, pictures with Mr. & Mrs. Claus on the big red sled**, a complimentary gift wrapping station, The Trustees of Reservations Greens (swags/wreaths) sale, The Whaling City Knots will demonstrate and sell their decorative rope creations, plus Mass in Motion Winter Farmer's Market! www.destinationnewbedford.org/events

Cookies, Paws & Santa

Cookies, Paws, and Santa Claus! Sat., 12/17, and , Sun., 12/18, 10am - 11:30 am at the Buttonwod Zoo.

Join us this holiday season for Cookies, Paws, and Santa Claus! This unique experience will not only put you up close with Santa, but also with some of our favorite animal friends! The event will run from 10:00 am to

11:30 am and will include cookies and milk with Santa, animal encounters, and children will be able to create their own keepsake ornament! Admission to this event also includes the train and carousel (weather permitting), and admittance to the zoo! **Pre-registration is required so sign up today to reserve your spot at this one of a kind holiday Zoo event!**

All members in your party must register. Please note that children under 1 year of age are free. Contact the North Woods Gift Store at 508-991-4556 x 114; visit www.bpzoo.org/

Park lights on

The Christmas lights in New Bedford's Clasky Common Park will be lit every night until January. The dazzling display is sure to delight children of all ages.

Concert Fund-raiser

Infinity Productions is hosting the **"Not Your Average Christmas Concert" on Sun., 12/18 from 4-8 p.m. at The Wamsutta Club, 427 County St. New Bedford. Tickets: \$25.** Call 508-509-2670

Enjoy more than 25 musicians who are all donating their time and talents to benefit **The Southcoast Center for Cancer Care in Fairhaven.**

Musicians include Jordan Paiva, Dori Rubicco, Eddie Dillon, The Harper & The Minstrel, Matt Borello, Grace Morrison, Johann Gundersen, Joanne Doherty, Seamus Galligan, Shananagans, The Zukes!, Tom Allen. Surprise guests, raffles, good cheer!

Christmas Pageant

You're invited to come and celebrate the Birth of Jesus in song and tableau. **Sun., 12/18, at 3PM St. Lawrence Church, 110 Summer St, New Bedford**

Free will donation and a canned good for the needy will be taken at the door. Come and bring your family, friends, and neighbors! Let's celebrate the true meaning of the SEASON!

Christmas Blessings to all our families and friends throughout this Holy Season! May you have a happy, healthy, and peaceful New Year!

New Year's Eve

City Celebrates! New year's Eve: December 31, starting at 5 p.m. in

Downtown New Bedford, Purchase St & William St, New Bedford, MA 02740,. Free. Contact the City of New Bedford, 508-979-1745

Enjoy an evening full of free family-friendly programming on New Year's Eve in Downtown New Bedford's Seaport Cultural District to bid farewell to 2016 and ring in the New Year! Program highlights throughout the evening include fire eaters, stilt walkers, an ice sculpture, live music, delicious food, and many more festive activities in and around Custom House square from 5PM-8PM. The evening will culminate with a spectacular **fireworks display from State Pier on the working waterfront at 8:30PM.**

NOTE: A cargo ship will be at state pier, fireworks viewing will NOT be allowed on the east face of State pier New Year's Eve. Instead, fireworks viewers will be encouraged to watch from lower Union Street which we have blocked off at RT18 & Union, Union Street to N. Water Street.

City Celebrates New Year's Eve is presented by the City of New Bedford, Mayor Jon Mitchell, in collaboration with the Port of New Bedford, Destination New Bedford, and the New Bedford Area Chamber Foundation. Events sponsored by Bristol County Savings Bank and Blue Cross Blue Shield. Barge provided by Tucker Roy Marine Towing and Salvage, Inc. Fireworks partner AGM Marine Contractors.

New Year's Bash

Revelers of all ages are invited to the New Year's Eve Bash at the **New Bedford Whaling Museum, presented by the Whaling Museum and Zeiterion Performing Arts Center on Sat., 12/31, 7-10 p.m.** Guests can bid goodbye to 2016 with an exciting evening of live music by the Becky Chace Band, delicious food and children's entertainment. This family-friendly event includes hors d'oeuvres, fun activities for kids, cash bar, an epic view of the City's fireworks from the Museum's Harbor View Gallery, and a complimentary champagne toast for adults at "make-believe-midnight." Tickets cost \$50 for adults and \$15 for children and can be purchased online at zeiterion.org, by calling 508-994-2900,

HAPP_OT: cont'd on page 17

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

Free Concert

Join us for a free concert and cookies! The Community Outreach Committee of the Acushnet Wesley Methodist Church is joyfully hosting the beautiful and talented youngsters of the famous children's vocal group "Voices in Time," on Sun., 12/17, at 6:30 p.m. at Acushnet Wesley, 67 Main St., Acushnet. Accessible. We just know children will have a blast and love to attend this wonderful holiday treat that will also feature special (and we mean SPECIAL) hot chocolate and delicious cookies. For all ages.

Free will offering will benefit the Outreach Committee which visits shutins and provides material support to those in need.

For more information, call the church at 508-005-7197, or Bob at 508-863-0416.

Wrapping for Cause

Support The Women's Center and get your gifts wrapped, too. At the Dartmouth Mall through 12/23. See details on page 19.

White Christmas

Ocean State Theatre Company (OSTC), currently celebrating its fifth season in its comfortable stadium-style theatre in Warwick, is proud to present the family-friendly, holiday musical, Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, which will run through Dec. 24.

Based on the beloved, timeless film, this heartwarming musical adaptation features seventeen Irving Berlin songs including the perennial favorite, "White Christmas."

Visit www.OceanStateTheatre.org or call 401-921-6800 for dates, times and ticket prices.

Acushnet Library

Celebrate the library's first anniversary at its new home. See details on page 16

Ski Train

The MBTA is pleased to announce that again this year a weekend ski train will operate from **North Station in Boston to take skiers to Wachusett Mountain Ski Area**. The special train began running on 12/10, and customers may board at North Station, disembark at the new

Wachusett Station on the Fitchburg Line, and travel on a free shuttle to Wachusett Mountain.

The fully accessible Wachusett Station opened in September 2016. **Ski trains are specially equipped with ski and snowboard racks**, making the commute to the slopes easy and comfortable. **Roundtrip fare for the service is \$23**; children under the age of twelve ride for free. Schedules for the Ski Train are:

The train departs North Station at 8:35 a.m. and arrives at Wachusett at 10:11 a.m. It leaves Wachusett at 6:10 p.m. and arrives at North Station at 7:40 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays only.

For more information on the Ski Train, visit http://www.mbta.com/riding_the_t/whats_new/?id=14107

Christmas by Candlelight

Thousands of visitors welcomed the return of Christmas by Candlelight at Old Sturbridge Village earlier this month. This 14th annual celebration of New England's past has become a New England holiday tradition for many. Guests enjoyed seeing "Christmas through the Decades" with ornately decorated rooms in the Salem Towne House depicting Christmas celebrations in the 1830s, 1850s, and 1870s. Many also returned to the delightful and heartwarming "O Little Town of Bethlehem" scene in the Friends Meetinghouse, with more than 500 miniature creche characters and buildings on display.

New for 2016: North Pole Village

The loudest praise from visitors this year has come in response to the all-new North Pole Village, a new feature that invites families to experience a magical celebration of Christmas. North Pole Village is brightly decorated with green and red lights, and includes these spectacular stops:

- Stroll through a giant *The Night Before Christmas* storybook, illustrated by Charles Santore, as you make your way to meet Santa and his elves
- Meet Tinsel, Old Sturbridge Village's all-new talking Christmas tree
- Visit our hands-on Youth Holiday Craft Workshop

- View the expanded G-scale model train display constructed by the Worcester Model Railroaders
- Warm up and indulge your sweet tooth at Mrs. Claus' Bake Shop. Purchase Christmas cookies, and hot chocolate and cider
- For an additional \$2/person fee, kids can ride through North Pole Village on a trackless holiday train, and for an additional \$4/person, dip a Christmas candle

Christmas by Candlelight admission is **\$22 for adults; \$14 for ages 4-12; and FREE for children 3 and under**. **Online ticketing is encouraged at www.osvchristmas.org.**

The Bullard Tavern, Oliver Wight Tavern, Museum Store, and the Old Sturbridge Inn & Reeder Family Lodges will be open for holiday dining, shopping and lodging during Christmas by Candlelight.

Festive Dining at

Christmas by Candlelight

Families attending Christmas by Candlelight can savor a sumptuous family-style Holiday Bounty and a special performance from Victorian carolers in the Bullard Tavern (located inside the historical Village, thus requiring admission to Christmas by Candlelight) for an additional fee. Nightly seatings at 4:15 pm, 6:00 pm, and 8:00 pm on the evenings of Christmas by Candlelight, and advanced reservations are strongly recommended by calling 508-347-0362.

A Holiday Buffet will also be offered at the Oliver Wight Tavern (located outside the historical Village, no additional admission fee is required) at 3:30 pm, 6:00 pm, and 8:15 pm during Christmas by Candlelight. No reservations required.

For more information on Christmas by Candlelight or to purchase tickets, visit osvchristmas.org or call 1-800-SEE-1830.

First Night Boston

The city of Boston will be alive with a wide array of events all around the city, across the river in Cambridge, and throughout the area for New Year's Eve., 12/31.

Visit www.firstnightboston.org to learn more.

The majority of the First Night First Day's activities will be held in Boston's Copley Square. Partner

HAPPS_OL: cont'd on page 18

Recipe of the Week

Chunky Jam Squares

- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 1/2 cups old fashioned oats
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 2 sticks butter, softened
- 3/4 cup strawberry preserves
- 11.5 oz. pkg. semi sweet chocolate chips (1 3/4 cups)
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans or walnuts

Preheat oven to 375°. Grease a 9-inch square pan.

Combine flour, oats, both sugars, baking powder and salt in a large bowl; cut in butter with two knives until crumbly; reserve 3/4 cup mixture for topping.

Press remaining oat mixture into pan. Spread the preserves over crust; sprinkle with chocolate chips.

Combine reserved oats mixture and nuts, sprinkle over chips and pat down lightly. Bake for 30–35 minutes or until golden brown.

Cool completely in pan until chocolate is firm. Cut into squares.

To share a recipe with your neighbors

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

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Planning board votes again on project

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Planning Board took the unusual move of voting again to approve a project, allowing for the Zoning Board of Appeals to re-hear the Charity Stevens Lane project before the two-year required minimum.

Generally, after a project is denied by the ZBA, the petitioners are not allowed to resubmit the project for two years, except for certain reasons. At its meeting in November, the ZBA rejected the project, but not on its merits. They rejected the project because they believed that they were required by law to make a decision within 65 days and they had reached the end of the time period. And, no one from the project attended the meeting to speak on it.

At the Planning Board meeting on 12/6, Steve Gioiosa of Sitec told the board that he believed there were significant aspects of the project that the ZBA did not know about that would have affected the vote, making it legally possible for the ZBA to re-hear the petition. But in order for that to happen, the PB needed to vote on it first.

He also said that the new plans present a “material difference” from the last plans. In addition to several changes in the site plan, Mr. Gioiosa noted that the ZBA did not have the information that the Planning Board and the Board of Health had signed off on the project; and the Conservation Commission had not voted yet.

He said three things counted to allow the ZBA to re-hear the petition: A change in the roof runoff system and landscaping changes, the approval of the Conservation Commission Order of Conditions, and the information on

the Title V septic system.

Town Planner and Economic Development Director Bill Roth added another reason that he believed the ZBA should re-hear the petition: The 65-day rule is wrong.

Mr. Roth said that the ZBA misunderstood that law. It requires that the matter be heard within 65 days of being submitted, not that it be decided. The ZBA then has 90 days after the initial hearing to vote.

The project is in the Nasketucket River Basin, so it requires a special permit from the ZBA.

Mr. Roth was adamant that the ZBA got it wrong, and he also questioned whether the proper notifications were made, saying he found nothing in the file to indicate that all proper procedures were followed.

Board members went back and forth trying to decide if there was a “material difference,” or if that even mattered, considering the missing information and the misunderstanding of the 65-day rule.

Abutter Mark Monteiro took the opportunity to again speak against the project, saying it would have an adverse effect on his property and cause a lot of flooding and drainage issues.

“I don’t see any major difference of what was presented all along the line here,” said Mr. Monteiro. “I don’t see it. A couple a trees. A couple of shrubs.”

In the end, the Planning Board decided that the ZBA did not have critical information when it did not have the ConCom vote, and that the changes were a “material difference,” so they voted to approve the repetitive petition. The petitioner now is free to resubmit the proposal to the ZBA at any time.

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Old-Time Holiday fills up center with holiday cheer

By Beth David
Editor

Fairhaven's 19th Old-Time Holiday event livened up the center of town this weekend with hundreds of people visiting the Town Hall Shops, craft and vendor fairs at the First Congregational Church and the Unitarian Memorial Church, a book fair at the Millicent Library, and a visit from Santa at the Town Hall Sing-along.

Clarisa Franklin, who was visiting from North Carolina, took the time to pose with the Ghost of Christmas Present, aka, Office of Tourism Director Christopher Richard.

Ms. Franklin said she was enjoying the event, but...it was "really, really cold."

And that was before the cold snap. Eight-year-old Edyn bought Floyd and the Irresistible Cookie from author Kristine Daniels, who personalized it.

Organized by the Friends of the



The Ghost of Christmas Present (aka Christopher Richard) visited Fairhaven's Old-Time Holiday on Saturday.

Millicent Library, the event was considered a success by organizers and authors.

"It was fun," said Ms. Daniels. "It's nice for the community and authors."

She said there was a variety of titles and a lot of people attended the readings and bought books.

"This was fun," said Donna Lee Tufts, who was selling copies of her book, *From My Kayak*. "I met other authors. I never get this opportunity."

"The talks went splendidly," said Maggi Peirce who was selling copies of *A Belfast Girl*. "People showed up...and asked good questions."

The Old-Time Holiday event is sponsored by the Fairhaven Office of Tourism, www.fairhaventours.com, 508-979-4085.



ABOVE LEFT: The Boy Scouts set up shop selling hot chocolate and sweets outside of Town Hall in Fairhaven for the Old-Time Holiday event on Saturday, 12/10. ABOVE RIGHT: The town hall shops featured only non-profit organizations selling all manner of fun stuff in the auditorium upstairs. BELOW LEFT: The Friends of the Millicent Library organized a Book Fair featuring local authors. BELOW RIGHT: The Unitarian Memorial Church's Holiday Marketplace featured this table with Holiday Greens. *All photos this page by Beth David.*



Folks turn out for Town Hall Sing-along and Santa visit



More than 50 people showed up to sing along to Christmas Carols and welcome Santa Claus to Fairhaven Town Hall on Saturday evening, 12/10. Sponsored by the Fairhaven Improvement Association, with singing led by members of Voices in Time, the free event featured free hot chocolate and cookies in the auditorium of the Town Hall after Santa's arrival. The Big Guy made more than an appearance this year. He sat inside the foyer of town hall, posed for pictures with the children (and their adults), and handed out free crayons and coloring books. The annual Sing-along is a reminder to all children everywhere that Santa is close to finalizing his list. They should know it's very important not to goof up so close to the finish line. This weekend is the last weekend before Christmas and all the light displays are on, so people are encouraged to drive around town and check it all out. *Photos this page by Beth David. See page 19 for more photos of this event.*



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**Fairhaven Recreation will
be closed Dec 24 & Dec 31
all day**

**No open basketball until
3 p.m. Dec 27-30th**

Kool Kids Christmas Vacation

This four-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. Grades: K-5 Dates: Dec 27th-30th

Time: Drop off 8am, pick up by 3PM Cost: \$100. Member \$125.. Non Member

Volleyball!!!!

At 8 p.m. until 10 p.m. every Tuesday Night. Members are free!!

Non-members: \$5. You do not need to be from Fairhaven for this drop-in program. Come hang out and brush up on your skills Ages 14 and up

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Mall Trips

12/21: Hyannis Mall, Xmas Tree Shop and Trader Joe's
12/28: South Shore Plaza
1/4: Plainridge Park Casino
1/11: Lunch @ Blount Soup Market and shopping at Burlington Coat Outlet (only 14 seats)

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

12/21 Music w/Ray J • 12/22 Music w/D&D • 12/28 Music w/D&D
12/29 Music w/ Silver Fox

Special Activities

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

The Senior Center will be open half a day December 23rd and December 30th, Lunch will be served. The Center will be closed on December 26th and January 2nd. If you need to go shopping or banking, make sure you call a head on Christmas week and New Year's week.

Weather Cancellations

If we have any amount of snow accumulation, there will be no shopping that day and activities may be cancelled. Call the Senior Center, 508-979-4029, to confirm. So please, stock up on non-perishable food items. If the Town Hall is closed because of bad weather, the Fairhaven Senior Center will also be closed.

PACE Assistance & Recertification Form/Fuel

The fuel assistance program starts in November for the 2016-2017 season. If you received fuel assistance last year you should have already received a 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 508-979-4029 for an

Sewing Group

Come join the sewing Group. The group meets Monday afternoons: Jan. 9th and 23rd from 1-3:00 p.m. and Jan. 12th 19th 26th from 5:45 to 7:45p.m. at The Fairhaven Senior Center.

Project Bread

Get the food you need to stay healthy. Apply for SNAP/Food Stamps, Project Bread's Food Source Hotline offers free confidential screenings for SNAP/Food Stamps eligibility as well as assistance completing the application over the phone. Counselors are also available to help current recipients ensure you are receiving the maximum benefits. Call Today! 1-800-645-8333. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. & Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Special Hours for Seniors: Monday & Wednesdays 2 p.m.- 7 p.m.

Senior Single Supper Club

Will start up in January 2017 The first supper club will meet Jan. 3th at 4:00 p.m. Going forward the club will met the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. Hope to see you all back.

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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Acushnet Library celebrates anniversary with special events

Press Release

The Acushnet Public Library is celebrating ONE YEAR on Middle Road...come join us! We are located at 232 Middle Road, Acushnet. Call 508-998-0270 or visit www.acupl.org

• **Decorate Your Own Cookie: Wed., 12/21 from 3-5 p.m.** All ages are welcome to stop by and celebrate by decorating a special cookie!

- **Early Release Day Movie: Thurs., 12/22 at 2 p.m.** Title TBD, so please call for more information.
- **The Awesome Robb Magic Show: Tues., 12/27 at 2 p.m.** A magic show that's FUN for the family! Recommended for ages 4+. Registration is required.
- **Tall Tales with Big Ryan: Wed., 12/28 at 2 p.m.** Featuring stories,

puppets, music and movement! Recommended for ages 3+. Registration is required.

- **Mad Science Presents Fire and Ice: Thurs., 12/29 at 2 p.m.** Be dazzled and entertained by science! Featuring a dry ice storm, giant beach balls and more. Recommended for ages 5+. Registration is required.

GoFundMe page for carbon deaths reaches goal quickly

A GoFundMe.com page to raise funds for the Lopes family reached its goal quickly and has been closed. The page was set up to help pay for funeral costs for Joseph "JP" Lopes, 41, and his son Collin, 9. The two died from carbon monoxide poisoning at their home on 3 Buttonwood Lane in Acushnet.

The two were found last Wednesday morning, 12/7, when police performed a well-being check. No foul play is suspected.

Arrangements were by Aubertine-Lopes Funeral Home, 129 Allen Street, New Bedford, for both. Funerals were both set for Friday,

12/16, at the funeral home. Visit www.aubertine-lobes.com for details.

Collin has three brothers: Louie Adao of New Bedford, Tyler J. Lopes and Hunter J. Lopes of Acushnet. He is also survived by his mother, Piper A. (Babineau) Silva, and his stepfather, Sean Silva.



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Complaints about a boy's play prompts outpouring of support

Dear neighbors who have called the police complaining about my autistic son,

After the initial second my heart feels like it's been stabbed when the police visit my home or call me on the phone, my next automatic response to anonymous noise complaints about my son is an angry, "Shame on you."

I think, what kind of a jerk goes and calls the police on a 13-year-old autistic boy having fun outside, riding his scooter, pretending he's a train and making "train" sounds as he scooters with glee? What kind of a miserable meany calls the cops to complain about the cars that beep as they go by him on the front lawn, waving to the cars as they drive by, making enthusiastic "air horn" signals with his arms in unabashed joy and delight when a driver honks their horn?

I admit that on Tuesday afternoon after the latest attempt to silence my son's fun, I took to social media and used more than a couple swearwords to express my anger, a personal policy in posting that I broke this one time because any other word that didn't begin with an 'f' just didn't feel appropriate enough.

But then something wonderful happened.

The outpouring of support from the community who knows my sweet son, who stated that they always beep for him as they drive by, who understand that he comes home from school every day to play alone because he doesn't have friends calling to invite him to come hang out or go out anywhere... well, it just overwhelmed me.

From our readers

Those hardened, bitter feelings towards you evaporated and an extraordinary sense of solidarity and love filled the hollowness in my chest.

Crowds of people have offered to come by and stand with him in front of our Route 6 house and join him in soliciting beeps, each one of them that brings a smile of sunshine to his face, for he has been seen, acknowledged, and validated by a world that rushes by him, a world that often misunderstands him, undervalues him, and excludes him.

Thank you for providing
the exact amount of
manure this garden of
kindness and humanity
needed in order
to thrive and grow.

Over the next few days, I suspect there will be a crescendo of beeps as people express their appreciation for my son and, well, their disdain for you for having tried to stifle his joy during the cumulative 15 minutes or so a day he sporadically takes to the sidewalk; in between scooter rides, snacks, and breaks I call him in for to give the beeping a rest for a little while out of consideration for, yes, you and the rest of the neighbors (who do not seem to exasperate themselves over the minor impingement of the "peace and quiet" of living every day on a major roadway, an interstate highway, the busiest street in Fairhaven).

It seems your attempt to get the world to revolve around your delicate ears has backfired, and in the most positive way possible for the rest of us.

I considered asking the police who it was who called to complain, but I decided that I do not really want to know. I do not want my child to catch a glimpse of my despondent facial expression when we interact, if we even ever do at all.

Instead of cursing you, I want to take this opportunity to thank you. Thank you for prompting the positive outflow of support and love from the sphere in which we dwell in this friendly town.

Thank you for providing the exact amount of manure this garden of kindness and humanity needed in order to thrive and grow.

Eventually he will grow out of this phase and move onto something else and the beeping that brings so much joy to him and so much vexation to you will vanish. But until that day, we wish you a Merry beeping Christmas, and a Happy honking New Year.

*In gratitude,
Jean Perry, Fairhaven*

Support the Neighb News

Thank you for your *Fairhaven Neighborhood News!* We hope that your readers will support you by advertising and contributing money to keep the paper alive and well.

We look forward to each week's edition for things to do, town notices of public meetings and your continuing willingness to abide by our Constitution's First Amendment in reporting and printing letters to the Editor.

Thank you.
Chris and Jane Brayton, Fairhaven

HAPP_OT: cont'd from page 8

or in person at the Zeiterion's box office at 684 Purchase St., NB.

Admission is: Free for Museum members and children aged three and under; adults \$16, seniors (65+) \$14, students (19+) \$9, child and youth \$6. For more information, visit www.whalingmuseum.org.

Blood Drive

This holiday season, the American Red Cross is reminding the public

that the need for blood doesn't pause. While many are celebrating the holidays with family and friends, patients in hospitals are still relying on blood products.

A blood drive will be held in New Bedford on **Wed. 12/28, from 2-7 p.m., Southcoast Health, St. Luke's/White Home, 101 Page St.**

Call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information.

Grief Group

Southcoast Visiting Nurse Association, offers free bereavement programs for grieving adults and children. Registration is preferred for all groups. Please contact Bereavement Manager, Lindsay Coe, LCSW, at 508-973-3227 for more information. **Tues., 12/20, from 5:30 -7 p.m., St. Luke's Hospital, 101 Page St., New Bedford. Library Conference Room. Use main entrance, Page St.**

programming will occur during similar hours at the Prudential Center, Boston Public Library and Old South Church. Additional New Years activities can also be found on the Boston Common.

No buttons necessary: Thanks to our generous sponsors, all First Night First Day activities are free and "unbuttoned"!

Boston's Family Fireworks sponsored by The Mugar Foundation will take place on the Boston Common at 7:00 PM on December 31st. You may also ring in the New Year with the Countdown on Copley featuring an amazing pyrotechnics show launched from the roof of the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel.

We encourage folks to join the People's Procession starting at 6:00 PM on the 31st to the Common, dancing along both sides of Boylston. The main stage at Copley Square will feature a variety of evening entertainment fun for the whole family from 7:30 PM to 12:30 AM.

Visit the schedule page www.firstnightboston.org/schedule/ for details on what is happening where, where to park, etc.

OSTC Piano Bar

Ocean State Theatre Company (OSTC), currently celebrating its fifth season in its comfortable stadium-style theatre in Warwick, is proud to announce the continuation of their post-performance Piano Bar Series. 'Tis the Season will be held following select Friday and Saturday evening performances of the company's current production, Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*.

Following select Friday and Saturday evening performances, the theatre's lobby will be transformed into an intimate performance space, at which patrons will be entertained by cast members, OSTC alumni, and staff members, while enjoying beverages and late night appetizers, which will be available for purchase from the theatre's lobby bar.

The Post Show Piano Bar Series will be hosted by OSTC's Managing Director, Robert Miller Jr., who spent six years performing at Walt Disney World. A member of Actors' Equity Association since 2001, Mr. Miller has stage managed numerous OSTC productions, including last season's production of *Anything Goes*. Musical accompaniment will be provided by

the musical director for Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, John Jay Espino.

'Tis the Season will be presented following Friday and Saturday evening performances of Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* on December 9, 10, 16, 17 and 23. Attendance at the performance preceding the piano bar is not required. The lobby doors will open for the piano bar at 9:45 pm. The theatre is located at 1245 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI. Admission is free, but seating is limited, so reservations are strongly recommended and can be made by calling (401) 921-6800.

Tickets for Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, as well as all productions being presented as part of Ocean State Theatre Company's 2016-17 Season are on sale at the box office Monday through Friday from 12 noon - 6:00 pm, Saturdays from 12 noon - 4:00 pm, and up until curtain on performance days. Tickets are also available online 24 hours a day at www.OceanStateTheatre.org and via telephone during normal box office hours by calling (401) 921-6800.



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ATRIA FAIRHAVEN

Our residents are looking forward to an exciting, eventful December here at Atria Fairhaven. We'd love for you to join us.

(RSVP: 508-994-9238)

Join us for:

Candida Rose Mon., 12/19, 2:00 p.m. We are always excited when our friend Candida Rose performs for us. She sure does get us dancing in our seats. Join us for this hour of music and fun.

The Keynotes Wed., 12/21, 2:30 p.m. The Keynotes return to Atria Fairhaven. Gather with us for a fun afternoon and sing along to your favorite tunes.

Chris Waters Mon., 12/26, 2:30 p.m. Enjoy many of Chris's classics during a delightful afternoon with our residents. We look forward to seeing you.

Joe Foster Thurs., 12/29, 2:30 p.m. Joe Foster is back at Atria Fairhaven. Sing along to your favorites during this fun afternoon.



391 Alden Road • Fairhaven, Massachusetts
508.994.9238 • www.atriafairhaven.net



Fairhaven Visitors Center & Historical Society Museum

Academy Building, 141 Main St.
next door to Fairhaven High School

508-979-4085
M, T, Th, F: 8:00-noon & 12:30-4:30
Sat: 8:00-noon & 12:30-4:30

<http://FairhavenTours.com>

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twitter <http://twitter.com/FairhavenTours>

Wrapping for cause seeks volunteers

Press Release

The Women's Center (TWC) is seeking Gift Wrapping Volunteers to help brighten the holidays for women and children who are victims of domestic or sexual violence.

Volunteers are needed now and continuing through December 23 from 10 a.m.–9 p.m. in shifts (10 a.m.–12 noon; 12 noon–3 p.m.; 3–6 p.m. or 6–9 p.m.). A special crew of our veteran wrappers will also be working on Christmas Eve from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. for those last-minute shoppers. The online sign-up schedule link is posted on the TWC website at www.thewomenscentersc.com.

This is the 15th year for the gift wrapping project at the Dartmouth Mall, which has raised over \$124,000 since 2002.

All funds raised benefit programs and services at The Women's Center thanks to the space donated by the Dartmouth Mall Management and major event sponsor Baarsvik Souza Orthodontics of Dartmouth, who pays for the gift wrap and other supplies for the project, and whose staff are some of our most ardent volunteers!

Customers are also welcome.

People can bring purchases to be wrapped from the Dartmouth Mall or gifts that have been bought at other stores.

"Last year, several people went home and brought back all their gifts to be wrapped," said Rebecca McCullough, Development Director for TWC who runs the project, "It's wonderful to see how many people look for us every year and pay a modest fee to get their gifts wrapped."

Prices vary from \$2–\$8 depending on the size of the package and whether or not you need a box.

All proceeds benefit TWC programs and direct services for women, children and families who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault or child trauma. In addition, 100% of donations placed in the donation box at the TWC Gift Wrapping station at the Dartmouth Mall are deposited into the

TWC Family Fund for Holiday gift cards for our clients and emergency food, clothing and other expenses not covered in program budgets throughout the year.

For more information about TWC, call 508-996-3343 or visit www.thewomenscentersc.com.

For questions about Gift Wrap, contact Rebecca at 508-996-3343, Ext. 25 or click on the "contact us" button on our website. If you need help or know someone who does, call the 24-hour Hotline at 508-999-6636.



Baarsvik Souza Staff and friends support The Women's Center's 15th annual Wrapping for a Cause fund-raiser at the Dartmouth Mall last week. *Submitted photo.*

More photos from the Sing-along



These photos were taken at the Town Hall Sing-Along on Saturday, 12/10. See page 13 for more. *Photos by Beth David.*

choir music, reading of the sacred story, shared prayers, and candlelight as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

Harry Potter Party

At the Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven; 508-992-5342, jmurphy@sailsinc.org. Accessible

The Millicent Library will be offering a **very special holiday vacation program on Wednesday, 12/28 from 2:30-4:30 p.m.**

We will be hosting a **Harry Potter/Fantastic Beasts party for ages 8+**. Come in costume! Sign up with Ms. Jane. Creative Refreshments are welcome!

Snow Parking Ban

RESIDENTS OF FAIRHAVEN ONE SIDE SNOW PARK BAN

No vehicles shall be permitted to remain on the hydrant side of all streets in Fairhaven from December 1 to March 31 from midnight to 8:00 am and also during the time of any snowfall or snow removal operations. On streets with no hydrants, NO

HAPPS: from page 5

vehicles shall be permitted to remain either on the east side of streets running north and south or on the north side of streets running east and west.

The BPW is authorized to remove, or cause to be removed, to some convenient place, including a public garage, any vehicle interfering with the work of removing or plowing snow or ice from any way, and the cost of such removal with all storage charges resulting there from shall be paid by the owner of such vehicle.

The Fairhaven Police Department will strictly enforce this Parking Ban. Violators will be towed and/or ticketed.

By Order of: Fairhaven Board of Public Works

Nomination papers

Nomination papers are available for candidates interested in running for office in Fairhaven. The annual town election will be held on Monday, April 3, 2017. The last day for requesting nomination papers is Thurs., 2/9, at 5 p.m. The last day for Town Meeting incumbents to file

written requests for re-election is Mon., 2/6, at 5 p.m. The last day to file all nomination papers with the Town Clerk's Office is Mon., 2/13, at 5 p.m.

The last day for residents to register to vote in the town election is Tues., 3/14.

Papers for town-wide office require 50 certified signatures. Papers for Town Meeting Members require 10 certified signatures.

You may register to vote any day from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM – Monday through Friday Mail-in Voter Registration Forms are available at the Town Clerk's Office, 40 Center St., Fairhaven, 508-979-4023, Ext. 3.

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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 copy of the Neighb News in a PDF.

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ENTERTAINMENT:

- Fri., 12/16, Shipyard Wreck, 8 p.m.–Mid.
- Sat., 12/17, Johnny's Basement, 8 p.m.–Mid.
- Fri., 12/23, DJ Pat Long, 8 p.m.–Mid.
- Sat., 12/31, Dave Charnley Band, 8 p.m.–Mid.

HARPOON ROOM OPENING SOON

MONDAY NIGHT PIZZA SPECIAL: Two for one (eat-in only) • 6 p.m.–Midnight

Hours: Mon.–Sat., 11:30–2 a.m. • Sun., Noon–2 a.m.
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HELP WANTED

GUTTER INSTALLER Experience necessary. Driver's license required. Must be comfortable on ladder and working with required tools. New Bedford area. Call Graham, 401-639-7527.

BOOKKEEPER/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
The Fairhaven Housing Authority is seeking a qualified/experienced candidate to fill a 37.5 hour per week Bookkeeper/Admin Assistant position. Familiarity with State public housing/regulations a plus. Must have demonstrated computer knowledge/skills including Quickbooks, Microsoft Word and Excel. Must have demonstrated experience as a bookkeeper. Must have a high school diploma, prefer some higher education/certificate. Candidate should possess initiative, be detail oriented, a team player, able to multi task, exemplary customer service skills working with tenants/applicants of varying socioeconomic backgrounds, and perform a wide range of moderately complex support tasks. Must be able to pass a CORI, a physical exam/drug screening and possess a valid MA driver's license. We offer a very competitive salary & excellent benefits. Send a resume and cover letter to Fairhaven Housing Authority, 275 Main St. Fairhaven, MA 02719. Position is open until filled. **NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.** The Fairhaven Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS Heavy Motor Equipment Operator (Laborer/Truck Driver)

Position requires a Massachusetts Commercial Drivers License Class A or B with air brake endorsement. Applications and job description are available at the BPW Office, 5 Arsene Street, Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or send resume to bpw@fairhaven-ma.gov. Deadline for applying is December 16, 2016. The Town of Fairhaven is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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FOR RENT: Fhvn. Spacious 1 bedrm. apt. on 2nd fl. No smoking. No pets. References required. 1st, last & sec. dep. \$875./mo. plus utilities. 774-644-0258

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FOR SALE: \$160 Almost new, exc. condition PSRE323 Yamaha portable keyboard. Carrying case, stand, pedal & power supply. 508-971-3742

CAR FOR SALE: 2002 Chevy Cavalier, 2 door, auto & air. Runs excellent. 90,000 miles. \$1,250. Call Pete, 508-994-1967.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Dec. 2016	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	15	0831	2100	0144*	1442*
Friday	16	0922	2152	0239*	1524*
Saturday	17	1012	2244	0326*	1602*
Sunday	18	1105	2339	0409*	1641*
Monday	19	----	1200	0455	1729
Tuesday	20	0036	1255	0603	1849
Wednesday	21	0129	1348	0855	2053
Thursday	22	0220	1441	1005	2205
Friday	23	0315	1540	1102	2258
Saturday	24	0414	1639	1149	2332
Sunday	25	0505	1727	----	1232

	Jan. 2017	HIGH		LOW			
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.		
Sunday	1	0948	2217	0243*	1517*	1049	2313
Monday	2	1034	2306	0327*	1556*	1128	2357
Tuesday	3	1125	----	0412*	1640*	----	1214
Wednesday	4	0000	1221	0504*	1732*	0048	1306
Thursday	5	0056	1317	0609	1835*	0142	1400
Friday	6	0151	1413	0722	1939*	0237	1458
Saturday	7	0248	1515	0829	2039*	0341	1608
Sunday	8	0352	1622	0942*	2144*	0455	1721
Monday	9	0454	1721	1100*	2249*	0558	1820
Tuesday	10	0547	1812	----	2346*	0651	1913
		----	----	----	1257*		
Wednesday	11	0636	1901	----	1358*	0743	2005
Thursday	12	0724	1951	0040*	1444*	0835	2058
Friday	13	0814	2042	0138*	1515*	0927	2149

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

Fairhaven Meetings

Bell Committee

Thurs., 12/15, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Appeals

Tues., 1/3, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 12/19, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Community Preserv. Com.

Thurs., 1/19, Town Hall, 6:30p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 1/30, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Council on Aging

Mon., 12/12, Senior Center, 9 a.m.

Marine Resources Comm.

Thurs., 12/15, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Open Space Committee

Thurs., 12/15, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Oxford School Meeting

The Board of Appeals hearing
Tues., 1/3, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board

Tues., 1/10, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Rogers School Meeting

Thurs., 1/5, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 1/11, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 12/19, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet Meetings

Selectboard

Fri., 12/16, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

New Year's Resolution:
To tolerate fools more
gladly, provided this
does not encourage them
to take up more
of my time.

James Agate

Visit editor
Beth David's blog,
"Musings from a
Small Island," at
www.BethDavid.net/blog



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Deadline for Town Meeting Articles

The deadline for the Articles of the
May 6, 2017 Town Meeting,
including Street Acceptance Articles,
is January 12, 2017, at 4 p.m.

Fairhaven Board of Selectmen

Public Hearings/Legal Notices

Board of Appeals

Notice is hereby given that the Fairhaven Board of Appeals will conduct Public Hearings at **6:30 P.M. on January 3, 2017**, in the Town Hall, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA. The purpose of the hearings will be to receive information and public comment on the following applications.

- 1) Petitioner Wayne & Linda Gallant 357 Bridge Street Plot 30, Lot 19H; book 175 and Page 011. 198-28 H Special permit required for construction within the Nasketucket River Basin in an RR District.
- 2) Petitioner Paul & Elaina Letendre 80 Fir Street Plot 43C Lots 349, 358, 361, 362 Certificate #23967. 198-18 9.1 ft. short of required side yard setback in an RR District
- 3) **Comprehensive Permit.** The applicant, Stratford Capital Group, is requesting Comprehensive Permit approval, per Town Code Chapter 493, to construct 63 senior affordable housing units at the former Oxford School. The proposal is to renovate the 1896 historic portion of the school, demolish the 1951 addition and construct an approximate 110,000 +/- SF new 3 story addition including parking and landscaping. The exemptions to the Zoning Bylaw Chapter 198 being requested are to allow multifamily residences in a Single Family (RA) zoning district, Intensity Use Schedule Section 198-18 for setbacks, building height, building & lot coverage requirements; parking setback & landscaping requirements Section 198-27; Use MA-DEP Stormwater requirements and not Section 198-31.1 Stormwater Management. The location of the property is 347 Main Street, Plot 22A, and Lots 192 & 193.

Copies of the applications are on file for public review at the Building Department, Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule appointments to review the applications call the Building Department at (508) 979-4023, Ext. 116.

Peter DeTerra, Chairman

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

Snow Parking Ban RESIDENTS OF FAIRHAVEN ONE SIDE SNOW PARK BAN

No vehicles shall be permitted to remain on the hydrant side of all streets in Fairhaven from December 1 to March 31 from midnight to 8:00 am and also during the time of any snowfall or snow removal operations. On streets with no hydrants, NO vehicles shall be permitted to remain either on the east side of streets running north and south or on the north side of streets running east and west.

The BPW is authorized to remove, or cause to be removed, to some convenient place, including a public garage, any vehicle interfering with the work of removing or plowing snow or ice from any way, and the cost of such removal with all storage charges resulting there from shall be paid by the owner of such vehicle.

The Fairhaven Police Department will strictly enforce this Parking Ban. Violators will be towed and/or ticketed.

By Order of: Fairhaven Board of Public Works

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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Call Beth at 508-979-5593
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Support the Neighb News

It's no secret that newspapers are having a tough time these days. Here at the *Neighb News*, we know you want us to continue publishing. Your support is needed to keep us fiscally sound and healthy. Any small amount will help us stay afloat.

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

Ask for a bumper sticker that says "I Support the *Neighb News*."

And thank you for reading *the little paper with a big voice*.

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Town Crier

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Merry Christmas!



Join us for our Christmas Party, this
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Free Buffet • Free Prizes & Raffles

Sunday Afternoons: Watch your favorite football team.
We've got The NFL Ticket!

Entertainment

FREE Jukebox every
Wed., 6-9.

Thurs. & Sat.:

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Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, closing at 2 p.m. (Sat.)

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

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With the holiday season upon us, we would like to compete for
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FRI DEC 23 OPEN SESSION 2-4:30PM OPEN SESSION 7-10PM	SAT DEC 24 SKATING CLASS 9-10AM CHRISTMAS EVE SKATE 2-4:30PM NO EVENING SESSION	SUN DEC 25 CHRISTMAS DAY CLOSED	MON DEC 26 OPEN SESSION 2-4:30PM
TUE DEC 27 CAROUSEL KIDS 10-11:30AM OPEN SESSION 2-4:30PM	WED DEC 28 OPEN SESSION 2-4:30PM FAMILY JACKPOT NIGHT 6-8PM	THU DEC 29 OPEN SESSION 2-4:30PM	FRI DEC 30 OPEN SESSION 2-4:30PM OPEN SESSION 7-10PM
SAT DEC 31 SKATING CLASS 9-10AM NEW YEARS EVE SKATE 2-4:30PM NO EVENING SESSION	SUN JAN 1 NEW YEARS DAY SKATE 2-4:30PM	MON JAN 2 OPEN SESSION 2-4:30PM	

COUPON \$2 OFF ADMISSION
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