



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

A **FREE!** publication of all things Fairhaven



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 13, Issue 6 • February 8, 2018

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

Fairhaven holds forum on marijuana regs



Residents begin to arrive to the Fairhaven Town Hall auditorium for the public forum on marijuana regulations at the Fairhaven Selectboard meeting on 2/5/18. About 30 people showed up to comment in person. Residents also have the option of filling out an online survey available through the town's website at <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/> See page 4 for story. Photo by Beth David

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.

Judge Murray Gurfein, Pentagon Papers case, June 17, 1971:

"The security of the Nation is not at the ramparts alone. Security also lies in the value of our free institutions. A cantankerous press, an obstinate press, a ubiquitous press must be suffered by those in authority in order to preserve the even greater values of freedom of expression and the right of the people to know."



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From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.



Beth David, Publisher

I don't know about you, but I'm getting pretty tired of being told I didn't know what I voted for.

Sure, sometimes the ballot questions are kind of convoluted and it takes a little focus to vote right, but, anyone who doesn't know yes from no or no from yes, should just leave it blank.

This time, I am talking about the marijuana law. Massachusetts, and the town of Fairhaven, voted to legalize the use of recreational marijuana in 2016. The legislature in its wisdom, or lack thereof, has managed to delay implementation, but it's coming soon.

The Fairhaven Selectboard held a public forum on Monday (see page 4) to find out if people want a pot shop in town. Forget that we voted 56% in favor of the ballot question that legalized it.

I'm so tired of being told that I don't know what I voted for. I KNOW what I voted for: For people to be able to go into a retail establishment and buy marijuana. The argument that we can all grow our own is flawed on so many levels. Not everyone has a big house with space to do that, the know-how, the time, and a whole bunch of other stuff. I can make my own butter, too, but I don't. I go to the store and buy it.

I am so tired of people assuming that their situation is the same as everyone else's. We voted on this already. Let's just get it done.

It's bad enough the state hijacked the law and is making it nearly impossible to get a shop in town, let's NOT finish the job for them.

Now, onto the BPW (See page 22). They tabled the minutes from the really fun meeting on 1/25. Generally, when minutes get tabled it's because someone objects to the accuracy of something. But, open meeting minutes should be discussed in open session. If a board member has a problem with the minutes, he or she should say what the problem is and the rest of the board members and the recording secretary should get to weigh in. The point is, you're not supposed to change the minutes because you suddenly don't like how your words look on paper. You're not supposed to table minutes to sanitize them. The minutes should be an accurate reflection of what happened at the meeting, and, according to the NEW records law, there's no more of this "discussion ensued" garbage. You're supposed to put some detail in there.

Fairhaven BPW: The board that just keeps on giving.

I'd also like to take a little space to note the deaths of Al Benac and Earl Faunce (see page 19). I didn't know Earl very well, but I did run across him a few times as I covered various events and issues over the years. He was vocal at Town Meeting, and was involved in a lot of other community organizations. He was also a firefighter for 38 years. It's people like him who make a town what it is. He will be missed.

Now, Al Benac, I can say I knew a little better. Before

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our election story last week, made two mistakes reporting on Town Meeting members. There was only one new TM member who had taken out papers (not incumbents); and one third of town meeting members are up for election every year.

Also, in our story about the rollover in Acushnet in our 1/18 issue, we misspelled the name of the curve. It is Diggle's Curve.

We apologize for any confusion our errors may have caused.

LETTER: cont'd from previous page

I even started my own paper, when I was just a freelancer at the conglomerate across the river at the paper-that-shall-not-be-named, Al started calling me about various issues in town, trying to get me to write about them.

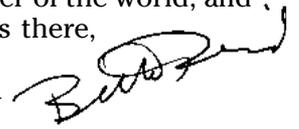
Sometimes I did, sometimes I didn't. Sometimes I did and he was not too happy with how I wrote the articles. But he was always trying to do what he thought was

best for his precious Fairhaven.

I'm going to miss that guy, honestly, I will.

Fare well to both of you on your journeys. You both left your mark in our little corner of the world, and for the better, too. What else is there, really?

Until next week then...see ya



40th anniversary of the Great Blizzard of 1978

Send in your photos and stories

Where were you during the infamous Great Blizzard of 1978, the storm to which all other storms since have been compared?

We want your stories, photos, letters, and recollections.

The blizzard hit on February 6, 1978, and businesses started sending people home early, but it was still too late. Snow fell at more than an inch per hour and thousands of people got stranded on the highways. More than 3,000 cars and 500 trucks got stuck on Route 128 alone. Snow drifts

completely covered cars. Fourteen people died from carbon monoxide poisoning as they sat in their cars trying to stay warm.

Huge waves and high tides devastated shoreside communities all over Massachusetts.

If you have a story and/or a photo (or a few) to share, please email NeighbNews@comcast.net, or call 508-979-5593, to arrange scanning and pick-up.

DEADLINE: 2/9/18. We are hoping to run this special feature in our 2/15/18 issue.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We have not received any stories or photos, so,

PLEASE, don't be shy. I know you have pictures. I know you have stories. Honestly, if you don't send anything in, then the whole article is just going to be about my family and what I remember. That will be really, really boring. So...SEND 'EM IN!

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

The Fairhaven Historical Society
Mourns the passing of our Vice President

Albert F. Benac

1927-2018

"Si praesentia requiris circumspile"
"If you seek his presence, look around you"

Indeed, his presence will continue to be profoundly felt in Fairhaven.

His legacy will live on in all that he did to preserve Fairhaven's artistic history, architectural heritage, and appreciation of the people rooted in our past.

Fairhaven residents weigh in on recreational marijuana

By Beth David
Editor

About 30 people showed up to a public forum to give their input on regulating recreational retail sales of marijuana, or possibly instituting an outright ban, held by the Fairhaven Selectboard on Monday, 2/5, in the Town Hall auditorium. Mostly residents, but a few non-residents who otherwise have a stake in the outcome, voiced a mixed bag, with those against citing addiction and the scourge of drugs on youth; and those in favor citing the pro-marijuana vote from 2016 and the medical benefits of the drug.

There was also a contention by some that voters who approved legalizing marijuana at the ballot box did not realize what they voted for, i.e., retail sales in their own community.

Town Counsel Thomas Crotty explained that the Marijuana Advisory Committee wanted input from the community on what residents would like to see in town. He said he did not want to get "into the weeds," or the details of procedures, but it was unavoidable.

Because the town voted to approve recreational marijuana in the election in 2016, the town must hold a town-wide vote if it wants to ban all recreational sales in Fairhaven. If it passes at the ballot box, then Town Meeting will also have to vote for it.

The town can, however, put regulations in place, such as where retail shops can be located, if the town wants to allow on-site consumption, such as in restaurants, bars, or pot cafes, etc.

As of now, the town has a moratorium in place until December 31, to allow the town to adopt regulations. According to the state's formula, the town can have up to four shops in town, according to Mr. Crotty.

Mark Riley, who owns Fairhaven Wine and Spirits, did not give an opinion on if the town should allow retail sales. He did, however, ask that a single entity be responsible for enforcement of regulations, instead of

the mix of enforcement authorities that Mr. Crotty outlined involving the building department, health department and selectboard.

Resident John Pond told the board that his family had personal experience with the dangers of marijuana. He said the board should put the question on the ballot. He said he believed people would vote "no" to retail shops in Fairhaven if they realized how dangerous the drug is and how addictive it is. He said it is 20-30% stronger now than 40 years ago.

"It's poisonous stuff," said Mr. Pond, adding that if people were really concerned about their neighbors they would, "Keep this poison out of our town."

Mr. Crotty said that if the residents wanted to ban shops in Fairhaven they can. But they cannot ban personal use.

Residents also asked about the revenue generating aspects of the law. If a retail shop is located in town, then the town can institute a 3% local tax on sales that would go to the town. Added to a host community agreement, that could raise to 6%.

Karen Vilandry told the board that she personally had been exposed to toxic chemicals that affected her in a number of ways. She said young people do not understand, long term, what happens to the human body when exposed to chemicals. She said she had no problem with medical marijuana because distribution is under the care of a medical doctor.

She also said that marijuana is produced with pesticides and fungicides and other toxic chemicals, a contention that was later disputed by those in the industry who also spoke at the forum.

Ms. Vilandry said even household garbage is toxic when it is burned.

"That's how I'm looking at it as a community," she said, and made a plea to ban all recreational sales in town.

Mr. Crotty noted that wherever cigarette smoking is prohibited,

marijuana smoking would also be prohibited.

Hans Doherty of Growing in Health, a company that helps patients get medical marijuana, including getting the required state ID card, said most people do not want to smoke cannabis. He said most people want edibles, or a liquid, or even to rub it on the skin. He said the growers he knows do not use chemicals to grow cannabis.

Mr. Doherty said he sees the benefits of medical marijuana every day, and hoped to "dispel fear." He also said there is a lot of tax revenue to be had from both medical and recreational marijuana sales.

Ms. Vilandry countered that the FDA was not regulating cannabis and said teachers will not be able to teach students who are high, and asked if the town can afford to hire a lot more police officers to "babysit" retailers. She also brought up the use of human waste as fertilizer in China, although it was unclear if she meant to grow cannabis or another product.

"These things are real," said Ms. Vilandry. "You can't control how these things are grown. You can't."

Another woman addressed the contention that people can simply grow their own so a retail shop is not necessary.

"I can grow lettuce, or I can go to the store," she said, adding that if the town prohibits retail sales it is missing an opportunity for taxes. She called for people to get the state of Massachusetts out of the dark.

Bernard "Bernie" Roderick, a former Fairhaven superintendent of schools, spoke against retail sales. He said that people who voted for legalization did not realize the ramifications.

He also said cannabis is "far more powerful" than in the 60s and 70s, when he ran anti-drug programs in the schools, and noted that the government still spends millions on anti-drug programs.

"Don't feed the beast on the other

FORUM: cont'd on page 12



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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Marijuana Survey

The town of Fairhaven is seeking input from residents on how to proceed with licensing or prohibiting retail recreational cannabis shops in town. Visit <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/> and click on the red bar to complete the survey online; or call the Selectboard, 508-979-4023, Ext. 2, to get a paper copy. All surveys must be submitted by noon on Mon., 2/12,

Democratic Comm

Registered Democrats in Fairhaven, will hold a caucus on **Sat., 2/10, at the Millicent Public Library, 45 Center Street in Fairhaven**, to elect delegates and alternates to the 2018 Mass. Democratic State Convention.

This year's state convention will be held June 1-2 at the DCU Center in Worcester, where thousands of Democrats from across the state will come together to endorse Democratic candidates for statewide office, including Constitutional Officers and gubernatorial candidates.

The caucus is open to all registered and pre-registered Democrats in Fairhaven. Pre-registered Democrats who will be 18 by September 18, 2018 will be allowed to participate and run as a delegate or alternate. Fairhaven can elect 8 delegates and 4 alternates to the Convention.

Youth, minorities, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ individuals who are not elected as a delegate or alternate may apply to be an add-on delegate at the caucus or at www.massdems.org.

Those interested in getting involved with the Fairhaven Democratic Town Committee should contact Diana Painter at dianamarie13@gmail.com or visit our facebook page at [Facebook.com/FHVNdems](https://www.facebook.com/FHVNdems).

SMEC Open House

The Southeastern Mass Educational Collaborative located at **56 Bridge Street in Fairhaven** invites friends, family, and the community to an Open House on **Thurs., 2/15, 4-7 PM**. The program provides services to Special Needs students at upper grade levels for day classes as well as extended day programming. Light refreshments. The staff and students look forward to meeting our neighbors. Come on in and see what they have been up to!

Volleyball at Rec Ctr

Join town employees for volleyball at the Fairhaven Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Ave. (near Stop & Shop), on **Sundays, starting 2/11, from 6:30-8 p.m.** Sponsored by YOUR Fairhaven Wellness Committee. For more info, call Phil at 508-993-6978.

Ash Wed. Services

At First Congregational Church of Fairhaven, **34 Center St., Ash Wednesday Services on Wed., 2/14, a brief service and imposition of ashes at 12:00 noon in sanctuary. Soup Supper & Communion Service at 6:30 pm in Schiller Vestry**

At NOON we will have a brief 10 minute service in our sanctuary followed by imposition of ashes until 12:30. At 6:30 we will gather for a light supper of soup and bread followed by a 45 minute Communion Service in our vestry (use William St. entrance). During that service the imposition of ashes will also be offered. All are welcome. The service will be Taize style: characterized by repetitive singing of simple harmonized tunes, interspersed with readings, prayers, and periods of silence. Please plan to join us as a helpful way to begin the Lenten season.

Wrestling

House Of Bricks Pro Wrestling, based out of New Bedford, MA starts the 2018 at HoB Open Fight Night 2/10/2018. The first #Fundraising and #ProWrestling event sanctioned by #HouseOfBricks will take place on **Sat., 2/10, at VFW Post 2892 Fairhaven 109 Middle St. Fairhaven**, with proceeds going to benefit the family of Nicole Edwards who tragically passed away. Doors open at 6pm Bell time of 7pm. **All tickets for this event are just \$10** and ALL HoB events are family friendly. The VFW Post 2892 Fairhaven has both drinks AND food available during the event as well and is accessible.

For more information visit www.HoBWrestling.com

Scholarship Dinner

Enjoy an evening of dancing, cocktails, and delicious food while raising money for scholarships for local high school students at the **Azorean Maritime Heritage Society's**

annual Scholarship Dinner on **Sat., 2/17, at 6:30 p.m. at the Seaport Inn (110 Middle St., Fairhaven).**

Last year, the AMHS) awarded \$4,500 in scholarships to four local graduating high school students. The annual fundraiser dinner is a fun way to support these scholarships, meet new people, and enjoy a night out with friends. For 2018, we are offering a fifth scholarship of \$1,000 to be awarded to a student planning to attend Northeast Maritime Institute (NMI) in Fairhaven.

Tickets cost \$35 and include salad, dinner and dessert. There will also be raffle tickets on sale that evening for a variety of prizes.

To purchase tickets or make a donation visit www.azoreanmaritime.org. Tickets also available at Luzo Auto Center, 19 County St., New Bedford. **All tickets must be purchased in advance by Feb 14.** Contact Barbara Traban at (508) 992-0678.

AMHS promotes Azorean culture and shared whaling heritage by raising awareness and pride within New England's Azorean-American community. The Society celebrated its 20th anniversary last year.

Cooking With Community

Our Lady's Haven and Community Nurse Home Care presents: Cooking with Community: Heart Healthy Food with Barbara Canuel, Registered Dietitian with Community Nurse Home Care

Tuesday, February 13th at 1:30 at Our Lady's Haven, 71 Center Street, Fairhaven

Celebrate early Valentine's Day by enjoying a fun interactive cooking demonstration and some delicious heart healthy friendly food and recipes, too!!

Please R.S.V.P. to 508-717-0717 by February 9th; Seating is limited

SAVE THE DATE Public Forum

The Fairhaven Town Clerk Study Committee will hold a public forum on **Mon., 2/26, 7 pm, at Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Center St.** to discuss the role of the Town Clerk and whether Town residents would like to keep it elected or change it to an appointed position.

AAA announces safety poster contest for students

Press Release

Calling all student artists and videographers: AAA Northeast's annual Traffic Safety Poster & Video Contest is now underway!

To compete, students from Kindergarten through Grade 12 must create a traffic safety message in the form of a video or posters, which will ultimately be judged by AAA members and the public.

Traffic safety topics must focus on one of 13 themes: Pedestrian Safety, Night Visibility for Pedestrians and/or Cyclists, Bicycle Helmet Safety, School Bus Safety, Play Away from Traffic, Speeding/Aggressive Driving, Distracted Driving, Impaired Driving, Booster Seats or Car Seats, Seat Belts, Teen Driver Safety, Don't Distract the Driver (Passengers

For complete rules and judging criteria are listed on www.AAA.com/trafficsafetymatters.

More than \$9,000 in cash prizes will be awarded over four states in AAA Northeast territory. A First (\$300), Second (\$200) and Third (\$100) place winning poster will be chosen in each grade category (K-4,

5-8, and 9-12) from Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New York. Students in grades 9-12 have the option of entering a video in lieu of the poster.

One Grand Prize poster winner (\$1,000) and one Grand Prize video winner (\$1,000) also will be selected from all first place winners in each state.

Entries must be received online or by mail on or before April 2. Online submissions should be submitted via www.aaa.com/trafficsafetymatters. Mail entries to AAA Northeast Public Affairs, 110 Royal Little Drive, Providence, RI 02904. State winners will be announced April 16.



pedestrian, bike and school bus safety; correct seat belt, car seat and booster seat use; and safe driving practices.

This contest is open to Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island students in grades K-12.

Students are asked to create a poster or Public Service Announcement (PSA) video illustrating a powerful, creative message directed to their peers.

Traffic and automobile crashes are the leading cause of death for children 5-18 years.

Your art could save a life!

AAA Northeast is a not-for-profit auto club with 62 offices in Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York, providing more than 5.2 million local AAA members with travel, insurance, finance, and auto-related services.

For more than 75 years, AAA has been committed to educating young people about safety in and around traffic.

This annual contest gives students the opportunity to demonstrate proper skills and behavior in regard to



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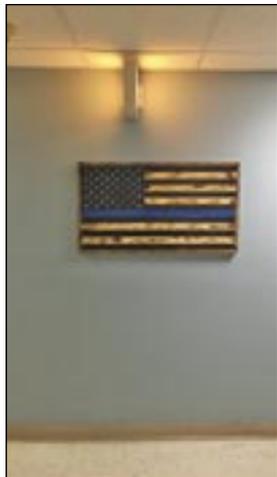
Hand made wooden flag donated to Fairhaven Police

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Police Department got a pleasant surprise and show of support recently when Michael Ouimette donated a hand-made wooden flag for the station.

According to Sgt. Kevin Kobza, Mr. Ouimette came up with the idea and donated the flag on his own.

The flag is on the wall where both officers and residents will see it when they walk into the station from the lobby.



“We wanted it to be the first thing people saw when they enter the station,” said Sgt. Kobza in an email. “Other areas may become home to it at some point, but that’s where we decided to

initially place it.”

The flag is entirely made of wood, has 13 stripes, stained with three different colors, one being blue for...well, you know; and 50 stars.

Mr. Ouimette said he saw the flags online and how well received they were by people. He graduated from carpentry at NB Voc-Tech “years ago,” he said, and thought he would try making one. He made one other for his workplace.

Mr. Ouimette was a part time police officer in Fairhaven until he got hurt at another job, he said. He built life-long relationships with the people in the Fairhaven PD.

“They always treated me great,” he said, adding that they always had a lot of “mutual respect and great relationships.”

The stripes are all individual strips of wood that are burned to get a certain look and stained.

“You can see

the grain in the wood,” said Mr. Ouimette.

The stars are stenciled in.

“I built it and donated it to show my appreciation, and how much they meant to me over the years,” he said.

“This is a beautiful gift that reflects the pride the Fairhaven Police Department takes in the service we provide to our community,” said Sgt. Kobza. “Mr. Ouimette, who was one of our part time Officers, custom built this piece by hand and generously donated it to us to display to the public we serve. We are very thankful to him for his service to our department.”

...



ABOVE: Mike Ouimette donates a hand-made wooden flag to the Fairhaven Police Department. TOP LEFT: The flag is hanging where anyone entering the station from the lobby will see it. Submitted photos.

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Academy Building, 141 Main St.
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Douglass Read-A-Thon

The New Bedford Historical Society hosts its 18th Annual Frederick Douglass Read-a-thon at the **First Unitarian Church at 71 Eighth Street on Sun., 2/11., from 2-6 p.m.** Douglass, a noted abolitionist who escaped from slavery himself, arrived in New Bedford in 1838 at the age of 20, shortly after his escape, and found a welcoming community in the city. Free and open to the public.

Contact Lee Blake, 508-979-8828.

2018 is the bicentennial of the birth of civil and human rights hero Frederick Douglass. New Bedford, his first free home, celebrates his legacy every year by reading his first autobiography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass An American Slave (1845)*.

Douglass found his way to New Bedford through the Underground Railroad as a 20-year old freedom seeker in the fall of 1838. He earned his first paid wages as a free man gathering and putting away coal for the minister of the First Unitarian Church, Ephraim Peabody. Douglass cast his first vote as a free man in elections in the city.

Douglass and his wife, Anna Murray Douglass were city residents for 5 years, during which time they began their married life and started their family. New Bedford provided the environment and stimulation of ideas that afforded Douglass the opportunity to develop his skills as an abolitionist and civil rights activist for those in bondage.

Public Skate

From Friday, February 9th to Sunday, February 11th, FMC Ice Sports will be hosting a weekend long USA Public Skate event at Hetland Arena in New Bedford, MA. Come celebrate all things USA at this special public skate for a chance to win prizes and giveaways. The times for the themed skates are: **FRIDAY, Feb. 9, 8:00PM – 9:50PM; SUNDAY, Feb. 11, 2:10PM – 4:00PM**

General admission is \$5 per person and rental skates are available for an additional \$5 on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please visit the rink's official website, www.fmcicesports.com or

call 1-888-74-SKATE.

Hetland Arena is located at 310 Hathaway Blvd in New Bedford, MA and is a Commonwealth of Mass. public ice skating facility, overseen by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and managed by FMC Ice Sports.

Spaghetti Supper

Pilgrim United Church of Christ, Annual Valentine Spaghetti Supper and raffle. Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert, beverages. **Sat. 2/10, 6 p.m. Donation: adults, \$10; children \$5. Pilgrim Church Home, 634 Purchase St., N.B** Proceeds benefit Holiday Meals at soup kitchen. Reservations: 508-996-1498

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

Join us on Thurs., 7:00 – 8:30 pm at New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center, 38 Bethel St., NB. Cost: \$8/members \$10/non-members Call, 508-993-8894. Doors open at 6:30.

Join us for a performance of Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by the WatermelonAlligator Theatre Com. Rime is the story of the misfortune the ancient mariner experiences on his last voyage when he does something terrible for unknown reasons and for which others pay the price.

In the poem, Taylor Coleridge explores the ideas of sin, suffering, and salvation. The popular phrases "albatross around the neck" and "water, water everywhere/nor any drop to drink" originate from this poem.

The performance will be accompanied by a slideshow of Gustav Doré's etchings photographed from an original 1876 edition of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* donated to the Center by Virginia Vatele.

Mardi Gras FR

What are your "Fat Tuesday" plans? How does live music, jambalaya, and some dancing sound?

This February, the New Bedford Boys & Girls Club will host its first-ever Mardi Gras "Fat Tuesday" Party! The event will raise critical funds for the club's youth programming, and will support their ability to continue to serve the community for years to

come. The event will offer top notch entertainment, food, and ambience. New Orleans music will be performed all night by the SouthCoast Brass Band alongside a traditional Jambalaya buffet, themed "Hurricane" drinks, dancing, auction items, Mardi Gras masks, beads, and more.

Tues., 2/13, from 7-10:30pm at Greasy Luck Brewpub, 791 Purchase St., NB. Tickets are \$50 in advance or \$60 at the door. Tickets available at the Boys & Girls Club, 166 Jenney St. or online at www.greasyluckbrewpub.ticketfly.com.

Scholarships Avail.

The 2018 application process for 60 scholarships awarded by the Community Foundation of SE Mass.s is open and available online at www.cfsema.org.

This year, the Community Foundation anticipates the award of \$460,000 in financial aid, and area students can apply online for these scholarships by clicking the "Scholarships" page on the Community Foundation website. Scholarships for students from throughout Southeastern Mass. are available for accepted high school seniors, as well as adults pursuing advanced degrees to enhance their professional careers. **The deadline for all applicants to complete submission requirements is April 1.**

Improving educational attainment in the region has been a top priority of Community Foundation grant-making. The Community Foundation's grant making has supported expanding early literacy programs, advocacy programs to increase educational attainment, support of STEM programs and adult education, as well as scholarships for students to pursue higher education.

Since 1995, area residents have been turning to the Community Foundation of Southeastern Mass. to make their philanthropic giving as effective as possible. CFSEMA is a public charity serving thousands of people who share a common concern: improving the quality of life in SE Mass. To date, the Community Foundation has distributed well over \$25 million from 200 funds to humanitarian, educational and cultural organizations in the region. Visit www.cfsema.org.

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

Douglass 200th

Join us for the Frederick Douglass 200th Birthday Celebration on Wed., 2/14, 4–6 pm at UMassDartmouth, Frederick Douglass Unity House, Modular 4, 285 Old Westport Rd, Dartmouth. FREE. Contact: Donna Moore, 508-999-9222

The Frederick Douglass Unity House is an intercultural center that empowers and transforms the student experience through activities and initiatives designed to challenge, foster and enrich the cultural life of the UMassD community.

Unity House places a particular emphasis on providing a supportive environment for the academic, cultural, recreational, and social pursuits of UMassD's ALANA students—African/Black, Latin@/Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Native American/Indigenous—and social justice allies.

Contact Donna for more information regarding the 200th Birthday Celebration

Bird Club

The Paskamansett Bird Club's February meeting will take place at **7:30 p.m. Wed., 2/14, at the Community Hall of Friends Meeting, 739 Horseneck Road, Dartmouth.**

Dan Logan will show his images of birds in flight, taken during the past three years in Bristol County. Logan, a freelance writer and photographer from Fairhaven, will share the stories behind the photographs. He will pay special attention to the challenges of photographing birds as they fly. "I especially like it when the bird makes eye contact with me," Logan says. "For a moment our worlds overlap." He will also demonstrate the equipment he uses for bird photography. Free, open to the public, and accessible.

Owl Prowl

Are you fascinated by owls? Do you enjoy a good old fashioned New England winter morning, especially before sunrise? If so, join Lloyd Center Research Associate Jamie Bogart on this outing scheduled during hours of peak owl activity! Owls are mysterious and fascinating creatures that become more vocal as they establish nesting territories across an otherwise quiet winter

landscape. Screech, great horned, and barred owls are all resident species possibly encountered in the woods of Dartmouth.

Using the Lloyd Center property and other local stops, participants will venture onto woodland trails in an attempt to attract, hear, and see owls. At sunrise, you'll enjoy an invigorating walk along a pristine coastal beach in search of other winter birds such as waterfowl, raptors, and with luck, a wandering snowy owl.

Back at the Lloyd Center, warm up with some coffee, and enjoy an encounter with Koko, the Lloyd Center's resident screech owl. Since seeing a wild owl is never a guarantee, this is an added bonus!

Participants should bring binoculars, camera, and flashlight, and wear footwear for light walking on forest trails, and possibly snow. (Note: stormy weather or excessively windy conditions will cause postponement).

Lead by Jamie Bogart, the Mid-Winter Owl Prowl will take place on **Sun., 2/11 from 3:30–8 a.m.** (willingness to carpool if needed much appreciated). Inclement weather date is 2/18. **Meet in the lower parking lot of the Lloyd Center for the Environment's Hardscrabble Nature Preserve, 430 Potomska Road, Dartmouth. Cost: \$15 for Lloyd Center members, \$19/non-members.**

Pre-registration for the Mid-Winter Owl Prowl is required by Friday, 2/9, 4pm. Space is limited to 20 participants. This event is suitable for ages 15 and older. If you have any questions about the event please contact Jamie Bogart at 508-990-0505 x 23 or jbogart@lloydcenter.org.

Fish Board

The New England Fishery Management Council is soliciting applicants to serve on a working group that will explore the use of fishery dependent data to inform stock abundance.

The working group will have four primary tasks, which are to: Explain how fishery dependent and independent data are used in stock assessments; Summarize the theoretical utility and limitations of catch per unit effort (CPUE) or landings per unit effort (LPUE) as an index of abundance for Northeast multispecies (groundfish) stocks;

Identify the fishery factors and fishery dependent data needs to create a reliable CPUE; and Perform a gap analysis that compares existing conditions to the desired factors.

While the group is expected to focus on CPUE/LPUE, other approaches may be identified as well.

Working group members should expect to assist in documenting the group's activities and drafting the subsequent report. A preliminary report will be prepared by June 2018.

The Fishery Dependent Data Working Group will consist of the following 10 members: Two industry members; Six scientists; One New England Council staff member; and One National Marine Fisheries Service Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office staff member.

Applicants should advise Council Executive Director Tom Nies no later than February 12, 2018 of their interest in serving on the working group. Please include a short statement of qualifications and send the message to tnies@nefmc.org.

At La Salette

The following events are at National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette, 947 Park St., Attleboro.

La Salette Film Fest

The La Salette Film Festival is back. The theme for our upcoming season is "Glimpses of Radical Inner Landscapes." Once a month, starting from February and until November 2018, the La Salette 2018 Film Festival will present award winning films that pose the realities of our life journeys via artistic and visual portrayals, enhancing, and even exceeding what words alone can express.

The Film Festival promises cinematic experiences that will not leave us unmoved as we ponder and reflect together on their enduring themes and lasting impressions.

Our first screening in this series will be the award-winning film "**Gran Torino**" on **Fri., 2/9, at 7:15 PM in the Welcome Center.**

Youth Mass

Join La Salette for our Youth Mass on, **Feb. 11 at 12:10 PM.** Featuring the Revive Ministry Band

Come celebrate Mass with your teen sons and daughters with music they enjoy.

Recipe of the Week

Cinnamon Popcorn Crunch

- 12 cups unsalted, unbuttered popped popcorn
- 1/3 cup unsalted almonds, coarsely chopped
- 1/3 cup unsalted cashews, coarsely chopped
- 1/3 cup unstalted pecans, coarsely chopped
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup coconut sugar
- 1/2 cup maple syrup
- 1/4 cup brown rice syrup
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon

In a large mixing bowl, combine popcorn, almonds, cashews and pecans.

In saucepan, combine butter, sugar, maple syrup, brown rice syrup, 1/4 cup water, salt and cinnamon; bring to boil over med. heat, stirring occasionally. cook until mixture reaches hard crack stage (295° F).

Slowly pour syrup in thin stream over popcorn mixture. Toss gently to coat evenly. Let cool; break into large chunks.

Tip: Add dried fruit, such as cranberries or mangoes.

From the National Popcorn Board

Selectboard approves 2018 CDBG app

The Fairhaven Selectboard held a public hearing on the 2018 Community Development Block Grant Application at its meeting on Monday, 2/5. The application will seek \$750,000 from the state, and use approximately \$22,000 in program funds that the town already has for Phase 1 of the project.

The plan is to reconstruct Hedge Street from the Acushnet River up through the intersection of Cherry Street.

Town Planner and Economic Development Director Bill Roth, in his last CDBG hearing before leaving his job on 2/9, told the board that fixing all of Hedge Street would far exceed the \$800,000 maximum the town can ask for. He suggested fixing the road in sections, starting with the headwall on the river and working up.

Mr. Roth said there were no public works department funds in the application this year because the bonus points from the state were no longer available. He said the DPW has agreed, however to do about \$8,000 worth of work on the project.

Ann Richard, who lives on Hedge Street, told the board she supported the project. She said Mr. Roth held a meeting in the neighborhood that it was "great," and she hoped the town would be able to get more funds in the future, so that more than half the street would be done.

The board approved the application.

The board also approved the use of \$18,342 in funds from the Hoppy's Landing revolving account for a new parking meter. The new meter will allow for credit card payment of parking fees, replacing the envelop system in place now.

In other business, the board approved a one-day alcohol license for the Buzzards Bay Coalition on June 30, 2018, the day of the Swim for the Bay, when swimmers dive into New Bedford Harbor on the New Bedford side and swim to Fort Phoenix.

"Anyone who swims across the harbor deserves a beer," said Selectboard Chairperson Bob Espindola.

To share a recipe with your neighbors

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- Filet Mignon, Potato and Asparagus \$16
- Baked Stuffed Shrimp, Rice Vegetable \$13
- Seafood Newburg, on Puff Pastry \$13
- Tenderloin Tips, Mushrooms, glaze \$13
- Chicken Broccoli Alfredo, on Pasta \$10

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FORUM: cont'd from page 4

end," said Mr. Roderick. "Do we know what the hell we're doing?"

He called drugs a "terrible scourge," said police have no sobriety test for cannabis, and that although the town cannot control what other places do, they can control what happens in Fairhaven.

"Don't let Fairhaven lose its moral compass," said Mr. Roderick, causing some people to clap.

Later in the evening he said: "Do we want to sell the future of this town and the children of this town for a few pieces of silver?"

Tim Keogh, who runs BASK, the company that is about to open a medical marijuana dispensary in Fairhaven, tried to assure people with some facts about regulations in Mass. He said the state has one of the highest standards for testing and that no pesticides or chemicals are allowed. The product is also tested for many other factors, such as mold, yeast and heavy metals.

Mr. Keogh also said it was not easy to get licensed to sell either medical or recreational cannabis in Mass., so there would not be hundreds of applicants popping up overnight.

According to state regulations, he would have priority in Fairhaven for recreational retail sales because he already operates a medical marijuana dispensary in town.

"It's a slow, deliberate process. And I'm proud to be part of it," said Mr. Keogh, who also drew applause for his comment.

Shane Sher said the fear talk was "ridiculous" and made marijuana "the most radioactive bogeyman I've ever seen."

He said all the anecdotal talk was not science and had nothing to do with the facts. He said use of cannabis helps with opioid addiction.

Mr. Sher also said that getting a medical marijuana card costs hundreds of dollars and requires a person to be registered with the state. He said not everyone who could benefit medically from cannabis wants to be registered.

Outlawing cannabis, "drives it underground to a place we do not want," he said.

"We want to regulate it, and we want to control the product," said Mr. Sher.

In the end the board voted to hold

an extra meeting on Monday, 2/12, to decide if they want to put the issue on the ballot. The deadline is tight to submit a question to the state.

Residents are encouraged to fill out a survey available on the town's website at <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/>. Click on the red bar to complete the survey online, or call the Selectboard at 508-979-4023, ext. 2, to get a paper copy. Surveys must be completed by noon on 2/12.

In another matter, the board held the line against Fairhaven Getty, denying a request by the owner for a waiver to keep more cars at the property than he is licensed for.

Hateem "Tim" El Rifai told the board he needed 30 days to remove more than 20 cars to get down to the 31 cars he is licensed for.

Town Administrator Mark Rees told the board that Mr. Rifai said he needed the extra time because he is

Shane Sher said the fear talk was "ridiculous" and made marijuana "the most radioactive bogeyman I've ever seen."

working on getting an additional property outside Fairhaven to store cars, but the deal had not gone through yet. Mr. Rees also told the board that in addition to having 55 cars on the lot, Mr. El Rifai had several other violations, such as blocking fire lanes and parking cars on Grinnell Street.

Selectboard member Daniel Freitas said he looked at the property and the lot was "packed tight" with cars, especially along the building. He said if there was a fire, the fire truck would have to work from Route 6 because 10 cars would have to be removed from the fire lane before it could get close. He suggested a seven-day order for the cars to be removed.

"I'm prone to say 'no' at this point," said Mr. Freitas, adding that it was a dangerous situation on Grinnell Street because emergency vehicles cannot make it down the road with the extra cars.

Selectboard member Charles Murphy, Sr., said he was more

inclined to give Mr. El Rifai seven days to clear out the safety zone, but to give him the 30 days he needs to remove all the cars.

Selectboard Chairperson Bob Espindola said he could understand if the business had a few extra cars, but 24 was 77% over. He noted that Mr. El Rifai had been notified that he was out of compliance before.

Mr. Espindola said it was "troubling," to hear that the business was out of compliance again and said 77% was a "blatant disregard" of the licensing requirements.

Mr. Espindola said he was not in favor of granting the 30 day request, but instead wanted to require the business to immediately fix the safety issues, and remove all the extra cars in seven days.

Mr. El Rifai said it was not really that many cars, that many of the cars were his customers and he did not want to turn customers away.

Mr. Espindola countered that it was Mr. El Rifai's responsibility to factor in the number of cars that would be in and out daily.

"I never refuse business," said Mr. El Rifai, and again asked for the 30 days.

"The problem is, there are a lot of cars there," said Mr. Freitas. "You put cars on Grinnell Street."

He added that if they allow for 30 days and there is an emergency during that time the fire department would "have to stage on Route 6."

He said he would vote for seven days. Mr. Murphy tried for a compromise, suggesting two weeks.

In the end the board voted to make Mr. El Rifai immediately remove the cars in the safety zones, and gave him seven days to remove the others. The vote passed 2-1, with Mr. Murphy opposed.

In a separate agenda item, Mr. Keogh sent a letter to the board saying that "Coastal Compassion," the name of his company operating the Registered Marijuana Dispensary (RMD) in Fairhaven, had changed its name to BASK.

He told the board that his RMD was ready to start selling medical marijuana in just a matter of days. He said he was opting for soft opening, instead of a grand splash, to be able to work out any logistical issues at the site, which is in the former Lottery building on Pequod Road. ●●●

Last chance to get nomination papers

By Beth David
Editor

The last day to get nomination papers to run for town offices is Thursday, 2/8 for both Fairhaven and Acushnet. Both Fairhaven and Acushnet will hold elections on Monday, 4/2/18 for town offices. Candidates are required to gather the proper number of signatures and return papers by end of business on Monday, 2/12.

In Fairhaven, papers for town-wide seats require 50 certified signatures; papers for town meeting members require 10 certified signatures from your precinct.

Fairhaven has a representative TM, meaning that only those elected as representatives of their precincts may vote. Each of the 6 precincts have approximately 60 seats, with one third up for election every year.

Town Meeting (TM) incumbents do not have to gather signatures, but they must file a written request for re-election with the town clerk's office.

New TM members must take out nomination papers and get 10 certified signatures by 2/12. According to Fairhaven Town Clerk, Eileen Lowney, very few new TM members have pulled papers. She said all precincts have vacancies.

Other options, for those who do not pull papers in time, include running a write-in campaign, or trying to get a special precinct meeting the morning of Town Meeting, which is Saturday, 5/5, this year.

Acushnet has an open TM, so any

registered voter can go and vote.

In Fairhaven seats up for re-election are: Bob Espindola on Selectboard; Donna McKenna and Colin Veitch on School Committee; Lindsay Gordon on Board of Health; Colleen Sylvia, Commissioner of Trust Funds; Robert Hobson and Keith Silvia for Board of Public Works; John Farrell and Peter Nopper on Planning Board; Gregory Tutcik on Housing Authority; a vacant, unexpired term on HA; Mark Sylvia for Moderator; Brian Bowcock for Tree Warden.

Mr. Espindola had already returned his papers by press time, and did not have a challenger yet.

Michael Silvia, a former Selectboard member, took out papers for Board of Health, with Ms. Gordon reportedly not running because she has moved out of town. Mr. Silvia returned his papers.

Mr. Tutcik returned his papers for HA; Mr. Farrell returned papers for both his HA seat and his Planning Board seat; moderator Mark Sylvia returned papers for his seat; Ms. Sylvia returned her papers for the Commissioner of Trust Funds seat.

For the BPW, Mr. Hobson, an incumbent, and Mr. Martin, a newcomer, both returned papers; but Mr. Sylvia, an incumbent, did not. There are two seats up for election on that board.

Tree Warden Brian Bowcock took out papers, but still had not returned them in time for this story. G. Bourne Knowles also took out papers for Tree Warden, and did return them.

Both School Committee incumbents, Ms. McKenna and Mr. Veitch, took out papers, but had not returned them.

For information on how to run for office, contact the Fairhaven Town Clerk at 508-979-4022, Ext. 3. Town hall address is 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719.

Tuesday, March 13, 2018, is the last day for town residents to register to vote in the town election. The clerk's office will be open until 8 p.m. that day.

In Acushnet, candidates must collect 31 certified signatures by Monday, 2/12.

Expiring terms and incumbents are: Kevin Gaspar, Selectboard member; Mathew Lopes, Assessor; David Davignon, Board of Health; Ivo Almeida, Commissioner of Trust Funds; Bryan Deschamps, Planning Commissioner; Paul Fortin, Cemetery Board; Jean Stripinis and Diane Ferreira, Library Trustees; Chad Leclair, Park Commissioner; Nicholas Gomes, Town Moderator, for an unexpired term ending 4/6/20.

Voters will also be asked to pick a second Park Commissioner to fill an unexpired term ending on 4/6/20.

The School Committee also will have two seats on the ballot. One expires this year, and one is the remainder of an unexpired term that ends on 4/1/19.

Contact the Acushnet Town Clerk's office at 508-998-0200 for more information.

Fairhaven woman charged with robbery of acquaintance

Press Release

Fairhaven Police responded to the emergency room at St. Luke's Hospital Monday night to take a report of a robbery that occurred in Fairhaven earlier that evening. Officer Marcy Haaland met with the victim who reported being picked up on Hedge Street in Fairhaven by a known acquaintance.

The victim informed Officer Haaland a female party identified as 23-year-old Destinee Rego, with a last known address of 50 Bridge Street, Fairhaven, took her for a ride in her vehicle.

The victim reported that Rego allegedly took several of her belongings, including a cellphone and

a pair of headphones. Rego then allegedly struck the victim several times about the face and head. The victim eventually managed to escape from the vehicle in the area of Kings Highway in New Bedford and summon help.

Rego was arrested the following night at a residence located at 20 Hedge Street, where she has an active no-trespass notice banning her from the property. She was apprehended without incident after jumping out of a second floor window. Rego was charged with trespass after notice, assault and battery and unarmed robbery. She was arraigned in New Bedford District Court Wednesday morning.



Destinee Rego, of 50 Bridge Street, Fairhaven has been charged with assault and battery and unarmed robbery of an acquaintance. *Fairhaven Police photo.*

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Kool Kids February Vacation

This 4 day program is a great opportunity to make new friends while participating in fun group activities 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 3 days of the program. The last day is a pizza lunch. Come ready to have fun! Sneakers and active clothes must be worn each day. Kids will be grouped according to their current grade in school. Grades: K-5 Dates: 2/20/16-2/23/16 Time: Drop off between 8-8:15, pick up by 3 PM Instructors: Staff Cost: Member \$100 Non Member \$125

15th annual Flashlight Egg Hunt

Join us for the 15th annual Flashlight Egg Hunt! Children will search for their eggs on the Recreation Center grounds, take pictures with the Easter Bunny and receive a special treat. Don't forget to bring your flashlight! NO LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. NO WALK-INS NIGHT OF THE EVENT. Friday, March 23rd, Time 7:30pm Cost \$5 per child Ages 10 and under Deadline to register is Tuesday, March 20th Rain or Shine

Home Alone Safety Class

This course is designed to encourage children to be more independent. Topics covered will be basic first aid, door and telephone protocol, accident prevention, and first aid for choking and safety measures. Pizza will also be provided. Space is limited... sign up soon!! Ages: 9-11

Date: February 12th Instructor: Beth Oleson Time: 6:00PM-8PM Cost: \$50 members \$55 non-members

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Mall Trips

2/14: Prov. Place Mall & Whole Foods 2/28: Hyannis Mall, Xmas shop, Trader Joes
2/21: South Shore Plaza

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

2/8 Entertainment by Cassandra • 2/14 D&D • 2/15 Ray J • 2/22 Ray J

Special Activities

Free Food

Do You Qualify For Free Food From The Greater Boston Food Banks?

Fairhaven seniors, 60 and older and qualify financially, may be able to receive free non perishable groceries once a month. To see if you qualify and for more information, call the Fairhaven Senior Center at 508-979-4029 and ask for Anne Silvia.

Transportation Available

Door to door, handicapped service is available Monday through Friday for lunch at the senior center, in-town trips, personal appointments and shopping. Monday & Wednesday 8:45-1:00 p.m. Tuesday 9:15-1:00 p.m. Thursday and Friday 7:45-1:00 p.m. Medical transportation to and from appointments is also available with a one week notice.

Bereavement Educational Support Group

Pathways through Grief will be held on Mondays for 6 weeks beginning March 19th through April 23th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Fairhaven Senior Center. This educational Program will help adult participants to gain skills to cope with challenges of grieving.

If interested in attending, please

contact Bereavement Coordinator John Rider at 508-324-1900 extension 104. This program will be offered at no cost and will be limited to no more than 12 participants.

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

General Loss and Grief Support Group

Third Tuesday of the month, 5:00-6:30 pm at The Fairhaven Senior Center, The Grief Support Group is facilitated by trained grief professionals from Southcoast VNA and is offered to provide the opportunity to gather with others who are grieving the death of a loved one. To register, please call Southcoast VNA Bereavement Services at 508-973-3227.

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Acushnet Selectboard supports AYSA effort

By Pattie Pacella

Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Tuesday, 2/6, The Acushnet Selectboard heard from Paul Macaroco, the President of the Acushnet Youth Soccer Association. Mr. Macaroco asked for the Selectboard's support as the AYSA is speaking to the Acushnet School system to better the soccer fields that are located behind the schools. Mr. Macaroco stated they have applied for CPC funds and have received a commitment of \$50,000 toward the new fields. He also stated that the AYSA has over 700 children in their association and it was time they look at building new soccer fields.

"This will benefit both the school and the kids, as we continue to draw in more kids," Mr. Macaroco said.

Chairperson Kevin Gaspar stated it was a "phenomenal" thing that the AYSA was doing and he was happy to hear that the CPC granted the \$50,000. Mr. Gaspar said he fully endorsed their idea.

Mr. Macaroco said that once they have a plan in place they would come back to the Selectboard for future

backing of the project. All three Selectboard members agreed they would fully back the plan and that the schools need good soccer playing fields.

Melanson Heath auditors were also at the meeting where they gave a presentation on the final audit for 2017. CPA Managing Principal, Frank Biron, gave an overview of the audit. He stated that the Town of Acushnet does a great job collecting real estate taxes either through liened or current payments.

Mr. Biron also stated that the Town of Acushnet has a favorable bond rating of 15.5%, which is a "very strong financial position" according to bond rating agencies.

There were a few management recommendations made from the company that included improving controls over payroll, having formal reconciliations in the general ledger monthly, having a post-employment Trust fund and monitoring departmental receipts.

Town Administrator Brian Noble stated that many of the recommendations have already been

addressed.

In other business, the Board voted on the betterment fee for the Sewer expansion program of Main and Wamsutta Streets. The total project cost was \$153,750, and that would be divided by 15 houses; therefore the betterment fee would be \$10,250 per household.

The Board also accepted a letter from the Mattapoissett Land Trust requesting a sign-off for the Tour de Crème Charity Bike Event to take place on May 20, 2018.

Selectboard member, Roger Cabral stated it might be time to take up bike riding.

The board also approved \$7,700 requested by the Board of Health and Soil Board for consulting services from Woodward & Curran, for the PJ Keating property. The firm will study regulations around particle matter control, dust control, runoff and nuisance conditions.

The board did not meet with the Fire Chief as planned, but will go over the Fire Department budget at its next meeting.

...

Acushnet Fire Department receives SAFE grant

The Acushnet Fire Department has received a grant to increase awareness of fire danger among students.

The Student Awareness of Fire Education program (SAFE) is a state initiative to provide resources to local fire departments to conduct fire and life safety education programs in grades K-12. The mission is to enable students to recognize the dangers of fire and more specifically the fire hazards tobacco products pose.

"We are very pleased to announce

that the Acushnet Fire & EMS Department has received \$6,123 in



grant funding from the Commonwealth's SAFE program," wrote the

department on its Facebook page. "These funds have allowed us, for over 20 years, to place a firefighter into the elementary school to teach a specific fire safety curriculum to hundreds of Acushnet students. Program activity begins at the end of the month and continues until the end of the school year."

To learn more about the program visit <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/dfs/osfm/pubed/s-a-f-e/safe-program.html>



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Fairhaven Cultural Council announces 2018 awardees

Press Release

The Fairhaven Cultural Council is pleased to announce the Fairhaven Local Cultural Council Grant award winners for 2018. In addition to demonstrating compliance with Massachusetts Cultural Council and local grant project guidelines, winning projects demonstrated the most benefit to our community and specifically for residents of Fairhaven, providing opportunities for all ages to participate in a variety of arts and humanities areas.

Projects funded this year include NBAM/ArtWorks! Teen Internship Program, New Bedford Symphony's Learning in Concert program for East and Wood Elementary Schools, South Coast Children's Theater's "Mary Poppins," New Bedford Ballet in-school programs for East and Wood Elementary Schools, New Bedford Festival Theater's production of "West Side Story," "Combating Hate" Program at Hastings Middle School, transportation funding for Whaling Museum field trips for Fairhaven schools, New Bedford Folk Festival,

Fishing Heritage Center's "Exploring Fishing Heritage" lecture series, Seaglass Theater Company's "Bernstein's 100th Birthday!" Concert, Shakespeare in Buttonwood Park, and the Greater New Bedford Choral Society's 2018 concert season.

Support for the Local Cultural Council (LCC) grant program is provided annually by the Massachusetts Cultural Council as well as from the town of Fairhaven.

Funding allotted by the town of Fairhaven is earmarked to support events that promote tourism and attract visitors to our local businesses. In 2018, town funds will be supporting the South Coast Children's Chorus, the Millicent Library's "Rock the Library" Summer Reading Kick-Off, John Dalton's "Spheres of Influence" Concert, "No Irish Need Apply" Presentation at the Council on Aging, North Fairhaven Improvement Association's "Music at the Gazebo" Community Concert, and Tri-County Symphonic Band.

Events and programs are offered at affordable or free ticket prices; many

offer senior citizen discounts as well. Visit the Fairhaven Cultural Council's blog at <http://fairhavenculturalcouncil.blogspot.com/> or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FairhavenCulturalCouncil> throughout the year for updates on when these projects will be taking place and links to more information.

The council is always interested in new members. If you are a resident of Fairhaven and would like more information about joining the council, contact chairperson Abigail Hevey at abigail.hevey@gmail.com.

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Lemonade Day expands

Press Release

Lemonade Day has been part of the Greater Fall River area for the past three years. Thanks to our Main Squeeze, BayCoast Bank and support from ProGroup Contracting our 4th year will be the biggest and best yet! This year, Lemonade Day will cover Somerset, Fall River, Westport, Dartmouth, New Bedford, Fairhaven, Acushnet and Mattapoisett all under the Lemonade Day Southcoast name. Child owned and operated lemonade stands will be set up town-wide on Saturday, May 5th, as part of the National Lemonade Day weekend.

Lemonade Day is a fun program that teaches youth not only how to start their own business by operating

a lemonade stand, but fundamental lessons about life, success and themselves.

The mission of Lemonade Day is help today's youth become the business leaders, social advocates, community volunteers and forward-thinking citizens of tomorrow. We want to build self-esteem and new mindsets that can propel youth to success they likely would not have pursued otherwise.

To become a sponsor of Lemonade Day Southcoast or to get your school or youth group involved, please contact Kristen Pacheco at

Fun107/WBSM offices at 508-999-6690 or by emailing Kristen.Pacheco@Townsquaremedia.com



Snow parking ban in Fairhaven

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.

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From our readers

HARC challenges accuracy of article

I'm hoping to provide you with some clarification on the article you wrote about Cooke Park in your issue on January 18, 2018.

1. Hands Across the River Coalition, Inc. initiated and organized the GPR project at Cooke Memorial Park.

There were a number of Fairhaven residents that contributed to this project in addition to Al Benac so it was not privately paid for by just the two of us as stated in your article.

2. In the discussion, some of us didn't approve of the Dr. Hinohara bench and peace pole being put in between the John Cooke memorial and the Joshua Slocum memorial. That is what was expressed to Mark Rees. The landscaping that was placed there tied in all three individuals as one unit and created a disservice to all of them being united together. They are three distinct individuals that should not have been joined that way. We didn't have a problem with the bench being in the park, it just needed to be separate from the other two monuments. That was the complaint and I agreed with it.

3. The first time I heard of any

complaints about the bench and peace pole in Cooke Park was at a Beautification [Committee] meeting. I didn't realize it was a problem for anyone at the time. I later spoke with the director of the Whitfield Manjiro Friendship Society and suggested that maybe the bench could be placed halfway down the park closer to the stone wall and I was willing to plant a Japanese tree peony on either side which would have been an attractive addition to the bench when they bloomed. No one approved it so it wasn't done.

4. When the ground penetrating radar (GPR) was done at the park last May, we were surprised that 60 potential burial shafts were discovered. There could be more since some burials were on top of others and they also extended under the stone wall on the north side.

At that point, we did find it necessary to report it to the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Fairhaven Board of Public Works who were responsible for the upkeep of the park.

The letter we received on June 22, 2017, from Brona Simon, Executive Director of MHC and also the State Archaeologist and State Historic

Preservation Officer, stated that systematic archaeological testing needed to be done to confirm the burials. Mind you, the Research Scientist that did the GPR work, Tom Urban, has done over 300 GPR projects including work for the FBI and on the tribunal for Saddam Hussein. Certainly if the FBI hired him for a project, they had to have faith and trust in this type of work. Since archaeology is a different modality which requires research on artifacts in hand, the archaeological testing is required by the MHC. Please note too, that the Town of Fairhaven used GPR at the Woodside Cemetery to determine if a certain location at the cemetery had any burials.

Also in the MHC letter was their statement that, "Graves are protected by multiple state laws that are intended to protect historical graves (see M.G.L. Chapter 114, section 17 and Chapter 272, sections 71-73)." More laws were listed pertaining to unmarked graves.

I hope you now have a better understanding of this project and the roles that we played in it along with our intentions.

Karen A. Vilandry, Fairhaven

Fairhaven loses two well-known officials

By Beth David
Editor

Fairhaven saw the passing of two well-known officials this week.

Al Benac, the town curator, outspoken Town Meeting member, and former member of a variety of committees died at St. Luke's Hospital on February 1.

As town curator, Mr. Benac was responsible for taking care of countless articles owned by the town, including paintings, photographs and furniture. In many cases, Mr. Benac used his own money to acquire artifacts and donated them to the town.

He oversaw the acquisition and careful restoration, or reframing of a number of old paintings from famous town residents, such as Elizabeth Delano, Lemuel Eldrid, and Charles Henry Gifford.

He was recently honored by the Selectboard for his contributions to the town and was named Fairhaven Man of the Year by the Standard-

Times.

Mr. Benac is remembered as being passionate about all things Fairhaven, but especially its history. He always advocated for saving and preserving what he called the town's treasures.

Arrangements are by the Fairhaven Funeral Home on Main Street.

Mr. Faunce was a Fairhaven Fire lieutenant, and served in the department for 38 years.

A well known figure in town, Mr.



Faunce was a long time and outspoken Town Meeting member, a member of the Retirement Board, and a member of many civic associations.

Mr. Faunce is remembered as a "Mr. Fix It," who loved teaching "anything firefighting," and telling stories.

Most of all, he cherished time with his family.

Arrangements are by the Fairhaven Funeral Home on Main Street.



LEFT: Al Benac addresses Fairhaven Town Meeting on Saturday, 5/6/17. RIGHT: Earl Faunce addresses Fairhaven Town Meeting on 12/9/14. *Neighb News file photos by Beth David.*

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FAIRHAVEN PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Fairhaven Planning Board will conduct a Public Hearing at 6:30 P.M. on February 27, 2018, 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) **Rezoning** — The applicant, *Scott Snow*, is seeking to rezone two parcels of property located on Huttleston Avenue approximately 100 feet West of Gellette Road, Map 31, Lot 115A, containing 19,050 square feet, from Single Residence Districts (RA) to Apartment/Multifamily Districts (RC) and Map 31, Lot 117C, containing 2.06 acres from Business District (B) to Apartment/Multifamily Districts (RC). The total area of the two lots is 108,800-square feet. 2) **Special Permit**, The applicant, *Clean Energy Collective, LLC*, is requesting approval to construct an approximate 3 megawatt solar farm consisting of approximately 11,000 ground mounted solar panels on two lease areas for a total lease area of approximately 15 acres. The location is 20 Yankee Lane, Map 39, Lots 16, 23 & 30.

Copies of the applications are on file for public review at the Planning Board Office, Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment to review the application call the Planning Department at (508) 979-4082, Ext. 9.

Wayne Hayward, Chairman of the Planning Board
2/8/18 & 2/15/18

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Director of Planning and Economic Development Town of Fairhaven The Town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts (pop. 16,074), is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Director of Planning and Economic Development. Candidate must possess a thorough knowledge of the principles and practices of planning, economic development, land use regulations, strategic planning, grant administration and community relations. Candidate must have a Bachelor's degree in Planning, Public Administration, or related field and five to seven years of relevant municipal experience; or a Master's Degree in Planning, Public Administration, or related field and a minimum of three years of relevant municipal experience; or any equivalent combination of education, training and experience that enables performance of all aspects of the position. AICP certification is desirable. The salary range is \$71,744 to 84,752. Please submit cover letter, resume, and three references to Anne O'Brien, Human Resources Director, Town of Fairhaven, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719. A full job description can be found at www.Fairhaven-MA.gov. Application deadline is February 26, 2018. EOE

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Fairhaven Meetings

Board of Appeals

Tues., 3/6/18, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board Of Public Works

Mon., 2/26, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Conservation Commission

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

Council on Aging

Wed., 2/14, Senior Ctr., 9 a.m.

Planning Board

Tues., 2/27 Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Roger School Study Comm

Thurs., 2/8, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 2/28, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 2/12, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

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

Town Clerk Study Comm.

Tues., 2/12, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Acushnet Meetings

Agricultural Commission

Thurs., 2/22, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Historical Commission

Tues., 2/13, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Park Commission

Wed., 2/21, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Planning Commission

Thurs., 2/15, Parting Ways, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Date, place, time

Selectboard

Tues., 2/20, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Feb. 2018	HIGH a.m.	LOW p.m.	LOW a.m.	LOW p.m.
Thursday	8	0154	1416	0937	1953
Friday	9	0248	1515	1044	2240
Saturday	10	0349	1619	1137	2331
Sunday	11	0448	1714	----	1222
Monday	12	0535	1757	0006	1305
Tuesday	13	0615	1836	----	1343
		----	----	----	2354
Wednesday	14	0653	1914	----	1247
Thursday	15	0731	1954	0028	1308
Friday	16	0811	2034	0108	1342*
Saturday	17	0851	2114	0152*	1419*
Sunday	18	0932	2156	0235*	1456*
Monday	19	1014	2240	0316*	1534*

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

BPW increases sewer rates, decides road work streets

By Mary Macedo

Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Monday, 2/5, the Fairhaven Board of Public Works met with town residents to discuss their recommendations for road work in the fiscal year 2019, finalized the new sewer rates and officially signed the contract for new Water Superintendent, Jeffery Furtado.

The board first approved the minutes for the last few BPW meetings. BPW Chairperson Michael Ristuccia made a motion to table the minutes from the 1/25 BPW meeting. The motion passed with board members Robert "Hoppy" Hobson and Cameron Durant against. Mr. Ristuccia did not give a reason for his objection to the minutes.

The 1/25 meeting was the special meeting the board held to hire Jeff Furtado, that resulted in some rather heated exchanges between board members and Selectboard member Daniel Freitas, and Mr. Freitas and some community members (see *Neighb News* 2/1/18 issue)

The tabled 1/25 meeting minutes discussion was not brought up again during the meeting, but the board did have an executive session regarding personnel matters, a water department grievance, and the water superintendent contract when the tabled matter may have been discussed.

The BPW also opened a discussion about their final recommendations for FY19 road work to a few residents who attended the meeting. Residents from Ebony Street, Billy's Way, and Fir Street were all in attendance.

Fairhaven resident, Bruce Haslehurst of Ebony Street said that the road is very rough and the residents would like it to be paved. He said the section from Littleneck to Fisherman's is the worst and the rain and snow make the road a mess.

Many residents complained of puddles that never go away, deep pot-holes and endless amounts of mud.

A few residents also mentioned that when it rains the silt from the

roads pours into the ocean, which is terrible for the environment specifically at Blue Point.

"I feel sorry for these people," Mr. Hobson said. "Every street mentioned has problems."

Mr. Hobson said that he thinks a section of Ebony Street should be done. Because Ebony Street is almost a \$300,000 job the board will only be able to do the street in pieces.

The BPW has \$350,000 for road work, but Superintendent Vinnie Furtado said he hopes to be able to use \$100,000 of Chapter 90 money to do Blue Point due to environmental reasons.

BPW Chairperson Michael Ristuccia made a motion to table the minutes from the 1/25 BPW meeting.

Mr. Durant said that the environmental issue is a huge factor. He asked Mr. Furtado if they will be able to get money to fix Blue Point due to environmental reasons rather than use the road work money.

Mr. Ristuccia and Mr. Furtado said they have plans to meet with the Buzzards Bay Coalition to possibly get some funding to fix Blue Point.

BPW board member Brian Wotton suggested they do the number one street on the list, which is Hope Avenue. He also suggested they do Fir Street, Billy's Way, and a section of Ebony Street, which would put the total cost at about \$350,000, which is the budget the BPW has.

"I agree with Brian," Mr. Hobson said.

"I live on West Island and I understand the road conditions," Mr. Ristuccia said. "I wish we could do them all."

Mr. Ristuccia said that they had to be "realistic"...that not all the roads can be paved. They need to formulate

a plan to have the all the roads paved in the future, he said.

Mr. Furtado said that he would like to get Hope Avenue Billy's Way, Blue Point, and one third of Ebony Street done, which would put them over their road work budget. Mr. Furtado seemed pretty confident that he would be able to get \$100,000 out of Chapter 90 funds to add to their \$350,000 budget to complete all four roads.

The board voted unanimously to recommend all four roads.

In another matter the BPW revisited their discussion on increasing the sewer rates due to \$25 million in upgrades that will need to be done to the Wastewater Treatment Plan in the coming years.

Mr. Furtado said that if the board raises the rates 35 cents, increasing the rates from \$6.65 to an even \$7.00, that would give them \$150,000 more a year to put towards the \$25 million needed for the upgrades.

Mr. Wotton said that would make the total increase of \$14 per year for a resident.

The board voted unanimously to increase the sewer rates by 35 cents. The increase is effective as of April 1.

In other business, the board voted to have Mr. Durant and Mr. Ristuccia conduct interviews for Highway Department Truck Drivers.

The board also held a brief moment of silence for longtime resident and active town volunteer, Al Benac who just recently passed away.

"He always came in with great ideas," Mr. Wotton said.

Mr. Hobson expressed how much Mr. Benac loved the town and all the things he did for Fairhaven.

The board convened in executive session to have Jeff Furtado officially sign his Water Department Superintendent contract, then reconvened in open session.

"I hope it lasts a long time," Mr. Hobson said, "because I don't want to go through this again," he laughed.

"It's a wonderful day for the town of Fairhaven," said Mr. Ristuccia. ●●●



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