



# Fairhaven

# Neighborhood News

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



The little paper  
with a big voice!

Volume 15, Issue 8 • February 20, 2020

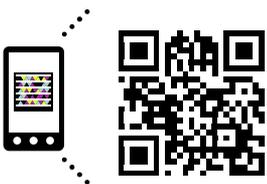
Teeming with information you need.  
(And some you don't need, but will be glad you have anyway.)

## “Kool Kids” do cool stuff on vacation week



Children in the “Kool Kids” vacation program at the Fairhaven Recreation Center flex their muscles by waving and tossing up a parachute on Tuesday, 2/18/20. The program is for children in grades K-5. See page 12 for story

Photo by Glenn C. Silva for the Neighb News.



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*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.”*

# From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —  
A day late and many dollars short.



Beth David, Publisher

Ohhh...suddenly it's winter again. Why are we so surprised when it gets cold in February in Massachusetts? All this warm weather has us spoiled. Going to positively thin our blood if it keeps up.

But there's still some fun stuff going on these days.

First, our cover showcases some of the fun stuff the kids do during school vacation in the Kool Kids program at the Fairhaven Recreation Center (see page 12). We try to go there every year at this time. It's a fun middle-of-winter gig.

And, coming up, there are some free films being shown around the area (pages 8, 9). And, for you hardy souls, there are still some outdoor activities going on. Brrr...

Acushnet had a pretty lively public hearing about the PJ Keating changes (see page 13). Residents in Acushnet, Fairhaven and New Bedford are all affected by what happens at such a big operation. The future of the asphalt plant is unclear, so stay tuned. More meetings are schedule.

The Fairhaven Selectboard (page 4) and the Board of Public Works (page 20), also had some lively exchanges.

All, just as election season is heating up, too.

We also have some tough news this week. Longtime beloved coach Glenn Gardner has been diagnosed with ALS. He and his family are not only facing the challenges of that difficult disease, but they are also facing some financial hardships that go with it. The community is rallying around to help them, and a fund-raiser has been organized. See page 6 for how you can help support him and his family.

There's plenty of other good stuff in here, of course. So make sure you go through each page carefully to read it all. And while you're at it, be sure to notice who our advertisers are so you can tell them you saw their ads in the Neighb News and thank them for supporting local journalism.

Until next week the...stay warm. See ya,

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# Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Volume 15, Issue 8

Thursday, February 20, 2020

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Photographers/Correspondents:

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Published weekly on Thursday by

Fairhaven Neighborhood News, LLC, at

166 Dogwood Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

NeighbNews@comcast.net

www.NeighbNews.com

508-979-5593 • Fax: 508-991-5580

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## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

# Cultural Council announces awards

*Press Release*

The Fairhaven Cultural Council is pleased to announce the Fairhaven Local Cultural Council Grant award winners for 2020. 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 Orchestra's Learning in Concert program for Fairhaven Elementary School students, New Bedford Ballet's in-school programs for Fairhaven Elementary School students, New Bedford Festival Theater's Summer Academy, Tri-County Symphonic Band, the New Bedford JazzFest, the New Bedford Folk Festival, Fishing Heritage Center's "We Came to Work" multimedia exhibit, Shakespeare in NB's "Caesar", the South Coast Children's Chorus, Tracy Barboza's "House of Glass" project at Haskell Gardens, "The Wonderful World" Magician Show at the Millicent Library, the Greater New Bedford Choral Society, and Seaglass Theater Company's "Whaling Wives".

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 local businesses.

In 2020, town funds will be supporting John R. Nelson's "Birds of New England" lecture at the Millicent Library, Sally Ride Intergenerational Presentation at the Fairhaven Council on Aging, Music by Denya LeVine at Our Lady's Haven, John Root's "Birds of New England" presentation at Alden Court, the Cooke Memorial Park Basin Garden, and "Discover Buzzards Bay" Outdoor Education Program.

Events and programs are offered at affordable or free ticket prices; many offer senior citizen discounts as well.

Visit the Fairhaven council's blog at <http://fairhavenculturalcouncil.blogspot.com/> or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FairhavenCulturalCouncil> throughout for 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 William Levasseur at [wjlevasseur85@gmail.com](mailto:wjlevasseur85@gmail.com).

# Free Political PR

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

Please contact the *Neighb News* as soon as possible so we can plan for space allocation in the issues leading up to the election.

**DEADLINE: Friday, 3/6 for Fairhaven (4/6 election); Friday, 4/17 for Acushnet (5/16 election)**

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# Selectboard discusses mileage/car use policy by employees

By Beth David  
Editor

At its meeting on 2/10/20, the Fairhaven Selectboard continued its discussion to create a policy for mileage and town vehicle use.

Town Administrator Mark Rees said he put together additional information, as requested, on which town employees had vehicles assigned to them, and which town employees were receiving mileage reimbursement for use of their personal vehicles.

Selectboard member Daniel Freitas had questioned why some town employees were being paid mileage when they had a town car assigned to them, and why at least one town employee had a travel/mileage allowance that seemed to paying him to commute to work.

He said the town is scheduled to get two electric vehicles next year, but he wants to make sure that they are needed and will be used. He said he already heard that one employee said he/she would not want to take an electric vehicle home because it would have to be charged up at night at the employee's house.

Mr. Freitas said he discovered that a car assigned to the health agent sat unused at the senior center for so long that the tires when flat and the battery died.

He said he did not understand why the health agent was getting paid mileage when a car was available to her.

"I don't know why this happened," said Mr. Freitas.

"I don't think the taxpayers should be paying for a car to sit there when we pay for miles," said Mr. Freitas. "I'd

like to get an answer to that. We have to get a handle on this."

Mr. Rees tried to clarify if Mr. Freitas meant that employees should either have a car or get paid mileage, not both. But Mr. Freitas said he did not want to pay mileage because the town could be liable for accidents an employee had. He has not gotten any clarification on that.

The board discussed the specific wording of the policy, trying to nail down who would sign off on what.

Mr. Freitas said he wanted the Selectboard to have some say in who gets a car.

"I don't know how the building inspector is given a car to drive home every day," said Mr. Freitas, adding that the former inspector used to park his car at the fire station and pick it up if he got called in for an emergency.

Board member Bob Espindola said that the board is not involved in the day-to-day activities of employees. He said the Town Administrator should be able to take care of issues, and they should not have to wait for a Selectboard meeting.

"This happened under our administration," said Mr. Freitas, adding that when they talked about the building inspector job, it should have been something they knew about.

Mr. Espindola said it was something they knew about, it was in the contract.

"Yes," said Mr. Rees. "We offered the use of a vehicle."

He said it was a public safety vehicle, that the building inspector needs to respond when there is an emergency, such as a fire, to make

sure that buildings are safe.

Mr. Espindola noted that it was difficult to fill the position of building inspector, so they had to increase the salary and offered a car. He said if the vehicle is not being used, it was something that "fell through the cracks." He said he had no problem with the Selectboard getting involved with a policy change.

Mr. Freitas said if they authorize a vehicle for someone to take home it should be "broadcast."

Mr. Espindola said they just need the language in the policy. He said the phrasing was too broad a change, and there needed to be a way to do it without waiting for a Selectboard meeting.

Mr. Rees tried to clarify the difference between 24-hour use and commuting use. The fire and police chiefs would still have their vehicles with them at all times, for commuting and personal use, so they can respond 24 hours a day. Some public works employees would still have access to the vehicles 24 hours a day.

Mr. Espindola said they could have list and if there is a change suggested, then the board would be notified.

Mr. Rees said he would put together a procedure that will allow for the board to sign off on the policy annually, or if there are changes.

Selectboard Chairperson Charles K. Murphy, Sr., said they needed to add a category.

Mr. Freitas said he just did not want to be paying for "commuter vehicles."

Mr. Espindola asked if Mr. Rees understood what was being asked of him about adding daily trip tickets, as

SELECT: cont'd on page 16

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# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## Ash Wednesday Svc

The First Congregational Church of Fairhaven, 34 Center Street, is offering two services on Ash Wednesday, February 26th. There will be a brief service at 12:00 noon in the sanctuary and imposition of ashes until 12:30. There will also be a Soup Supper at 6:15 in Schiller Vestry (lower level), use William Street entrance, and a Communion Service at 7:00 in Schiller Vestry also.

## Broadband Meeting

**Alternative Cable and Internet Provider to Comcast.** The Broadband Study Committee will be hosting a Kickoff Meeting with EntryPoint, LLC on **Tues., 2/25, at 7pm at Town Hall, 40 Center St., Fairhaven, East Room (2nd Floor).** EntryPoint, LLC was awarded the contract for the Broadband Feasibility Study to be conducted in town. Anyone interested in learning about alternative options to Comcast is encouraged to attend.

## Student Concert FR

Join us for an evening of live music and finger foods on Sat. 2/22, from 7-9 p.m. at Northeast Maritime Institute's Brigantine Hall, 15 Center St., Fairhaven. Tickets: \$10, under 15 free. Proceeds to benefit student government at NMI. Tickets at the door. Please join us for a fun time.

## Realistic Resilience for Caregivers

Are you a caregiver for a person whose life is shaped by medical or mental illness? Dementia or Alzheimer's disease? Hospice care? Or, do you give of yourself in challenging volunteer relationships? Janet Cromer, RN, LMHC will offer an interactive presentation for new and long-term caregivers to focus on recognizing and relieving depression, traumatic stress, and compassion fatigue. Join us to craft a personalized Realistic Resilience plan, which includes mindfulness, creativity, honesty, and wraparound support.

**This FREE presentation will be held on Wed., 2/26, at 6:30 PM at Unitarian Memorial Church, 102 Green Street, Fairhaven, MA.** All are welcome

Janet Cromer, RN, MA, LMHC is a

licensed psychotherapist and a national speaker on family caregiver and healthcare professional mental health. For more information, contact [janetcromer2@gmail.com](mailto:janetcromer2@gmail.com).

## Candidates Night

Fairhaven's government access TV will hold a candidates night on **Wed., 3/11, at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall auditorium, 40 Center St., Fairhaven.**

Candidates have been invited to attend and will be asked questions by a panel including members of the media. The event will be moderated by Town Moderator Mark Sylvia. Members of the public are encouraged to attend. The event will run on Channel 18 and will be available online at [www.fairhaventv.com](http://www.fairhaventv.com)

Send suggestions for questions directly to panelist Beth David, editor of the *Neighb News*, at [neighbnews@comcast.net](mailto:neighbnews@comcast.net)

## Calling All Seniors

Calling All SENIORS... the Fairhaven Rotary is hosting their 5th year Senior Talent Showcase on Sunday, May, 3, 2020 (NOTE DATE CHANGE) from 2pm to 4pm at the Fairhaven Town Hall. This is a free event open to the public. If any senior would like to be in the talent showcase, please call MK at 508.330.4837 for an application. We are asking for donations/and or advertisers to get into our Program Book; please email [pmederios67@comcast.net](mailto:pmederios67@comcast.net) to inquire. It's going to be a great show!

## Scholarships

The Mariner Youth Soccer Association, which has provided soccer instruction, skills clinics and both recreational and competitive soccer opportunities to children 4-18 in the communities of Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester and Acushnet for over 25 years, is pleased offer a scholarship opportunity to Mariner Youth Soccer Alumni this Spring. Criteria are at a minimum: must be a high school senior living in one of the above listed communities and must have played for Mariner Youth Soccer for a minimum of 4 years. **Scholarship deadline is April 11, 2020.**

Applications can be requested by emailing: [marinerscholarship@gmail.com](mailto:marinerscholarship@gmail.com) or on our website: [www.marinyouthsoccer.com](http://www.marinyouthsoccer.com)

## 2020 Election Dates

This is a presidential election year, so we go to the polls for primaries, in addition to local and presidential elections.

**The presidential primary will be held on Tuesday, 3/3/20.** Polls will be open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. One week early voting will be Mon.-Fri., 2/24-2/28, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Fairhaven local election is Mon., 4/6/20. Polls open 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Acushnet local election is Sat., 5/15/20. Polls open 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

The state primary will be on Tues., 9/1/20. Polls open 7 a.m.-8 p.m.

The presidential election will be on Tues., 11/3/20. Polls open 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Two weeks early voting: Mon.-Fri., 10/19-23, from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; and Mon.-Fri., 10/26-30, from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

## SAVE THE DATES

### Registration Open for WI 5K

West Island 5k Run/Walk, Sun., 4/26, 11:00 a.m., 41 Causeway Rd., West Island, Fairhaven

The Fairhaven High School Cross Country program benefits from this event, run on a US Track and Field certified course. Entry fees range from \$15 to \$25. There is also a Kids Mile Run with an entry fee of \$5. Race shirt or beach towel to first 400 5k registrants. Cash prizes. For more information visit <http://westisland5k.org>, or email [westisland5k@yahoo.com](mailto:westisland5k@yahoo.com).

### Think Summer

Registration is open for the the Buzzards Bay Swim, an exciting outdoor experience that welcomes swimmers of all abilities and fitness levels ages 11 and up. Four hundred or more swimmers will complete a scenic 1.2-mile point-to-point open water course from New Bedford's South End, past the iconic Butler Flats Lighthouse and New Bedford Hurricane Barrier with a crowd of hundreds watching and cheering. At the finish line at Fort Phoenix State Reservation in Fairhaven, swimmers and their guests are welcomed with a beach party.

Have a great time for a good cause at the 27th anniversary Buzzards Bay Swim on Saturday, June 27! Sign up at [www.savebuzzardsbay.org/swim](http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/swim).

## Chopping it off for a good cause

*From Press Release Materials*

St. Joseph School of Fairhaven raised \$11,000 with its Live, Live, Laugh Boosterthon Day Glow run.

The fundraiser was launched in early February by the PTO and encouraged students to collect pledges ahead of 33-lap run on Valentine's Day.

Early on, a key motivator became the school's volunteer lunchroom monitor Rob Gray promising to cut off his curly locks if the students reached their goal of \$10,000. They raised almost \$15,000 in a crazy short, time, about a week.

After the run, the entire school rallied in the gym to watch and cheer

as Gray's granddaughter Avery Rusin, started off the sheering!

Classrooms rallied together to create team names, decorate their t-shirts and flags, and set classroom incentives for pledges. Some of the incentives were a dance party, extra recess and switching seats in class.

All funds raised ultimately go back to our school, classrooms and students. Saint Joseph school is a private school that has no state funding and relies solely on tuition and fundraisers.

"While the fundraising is important. It was a amazing to see the camaraderie and boost morale," said Kerri Gomes, president of the PTO.



The "before" picture: Rob Gray, volunteer lunch monitor at St. Joseph School in Fairhaven, poses for a shot before his curly locks are shorn on 2/14/20 as a prize to students who exceeded their goal of raising \$10,000. Photo by Glenn C. Silva.



LEFT: A cheering student body watches on 2/14/20 as St. Joseph preschool teacher Deborah Cronin shaves off the curly locks of Rob Gray, the school's volunteer lunch monitor, who agreed to have his hair cut if the students reached their goal of raising \$10,000. The students raised nearly \$15,000. MIDDLE: Mr Gray looks positively mortified as Ms. Cronin cuts and his granddaughter Avery Rusin watches. The "after" picture: Mr. Gray shows his new hairdo while getting a hug from his granddaughter. Photos by Glenn C. Silva for the Neighb News.

## "We're praying for a miracle" for coach Glenn Gardner with ALS

By Beth David  
Editor

Student athletes and their parents are showing support for long time basketball and softball coach Glenn Gardner, who has been diagnosed with ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, aka, Lou Gehrig's disease). The disease affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord and causes loss of muscle control. It is a progressive disease with no cure. Treatments are also not reliable, and are extremely expensive.

Mr. Gardner's wife Paula, who served on the Fairhaven School Committee, said the first time he went to pick up his prescription at CVS, he had to leave it there. It was \$1600 for

a one month supply.

Ms. Gardner said that Glenn is getting weaker, but he is determined to finish out the basketball season with his teams at Old Rochester Regional, that still have some tournament play ahead.

"Just to talk he has to stop and take a breath," said Ms. Gardner. "It's gotten worse over the last couple of months."

She said he is probably two years into the disease, but was not diagnosed until November.

Long time friends Susan Loo and Cathy Silva have organized a fundraiser to help the family pay for some of the medical costs.

"There are a lot of expenses to this

disease, unfortunately," said Ms. Gardner.

She said Glenn is being treated at Mass. General Hospital, and is trying to get them and his insurance to help with some of the medication costs.

"The process is very slow," she said.

Meanwhile, the disease progresses. And, once the muscle loss happens, it does not come back.

All they can hope for is to slow the disease's progression, and alleviate some of the symptoms.

"It only slows things down," she said about the drug he is trying to get. "Everybody is different. He has to try it and see if it works."

**GARDNER: cont'd on page 10**

*“Change is in your hands”*



Ever since I announced my intention of running for selectman, people have asked me why I would want to take on such a demanding responsibility. The answer has many avenues. First, I am a tax payer in Fairhaven and I am concerned for the financial future of this Town related to unnecessary spending the Town Administrator and Officials have permitted to take place.

Why is a town employee allowed to use their own vehicle during working hours and charge the town for mileage totaling hundreds of dollars each month when there WAS a perfectly good vehicle designated for their department use. For over six months their town vehicle was parked in the COA parking lot, never moved and last filled with gas in August of 2019. This vehicle is now at the town garage with a dead battery and flat tires related to non-use. If a town employee has a vehicle designated for their use, there is no reason that they should be using their own vehicle and charging for mileage.

Why is a town employee being allowed to take their designated town vehicle back and forth to work at close to 30 miles each way and is allowed to use gas from the town gas pumps to do so? Tax payers' money was actually built into their department budget allowing for gas. The answer that was made known to me is that this employee is “on call,”

therefore they have to have a vehicle at their disposal to travel to work during off hours. So why then doesn't this town employee leave the town vehicle in town and use his own vehicle to travel to and from work and charge for mileage in the event that he gets called in? This employee was called in 3 times last year. Yet the tax payers are footing the bill for gasoline used on a daily bases.

These issues were discussed at the Selectmen's meeting on 2/10/2020 which is broadcast on Fairhaven Cable Channel 18.

Why are departments at the Town Hall closed during working hours? As a builder, I have been asked by other builders, why it is that when they have gone to the building department to do business pertinent to their livelihood, the door is closed and locked, the lights are off with nobody answering. A contractor went three times in one day and no one was available to help him. When the previous building inspector and administrative assistant had days off, they certainly didn't take them on the same day. They never even took lunch at the same time so that people coming in to do business had someone to assist them. The Board of Health Department has the same issues. There have been several times when people have called other departments complaining that they can't get anyone by phone at the health department. This should never happen. This is not how a town should do business. People pay ever increasing taxes and should be able to have their needs met by the town employees who are being paid with our taxes.

My intention as selectman is to contribute in making the changes necessary to stop this unnecessary spending. That is why I am asking you to vote for me for selectman on April 6th.

The change is in your hands.

*Respectively Submitted,  
Keith Silvia*



Join us for a Breakfast Fund-raiser and meet

**Keith Silvia**

Candidate for Fairhaven Selectman

Sunday, March 1st • 10:30–12:30

Town Crier • 5 Maitland St. • Fairhaven

Donation: \$10



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## Free Kids Movie

Movies at the Museum, Fri., 2/21, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., *Spider-Man Into the Spider-Verse*, at New Bedford Art Museum, 608 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, [www.newbedfordart.org](http://www.newbedfordart.org)

Free with pre-registration, at <https://71785.blackbaudhosting.com/71785/Movies-at-the-Museum>

Join us for an exclusive meet and greet with Spider-Man! That's right Spidey will be at the Museum before the movie to talk comics with the kids (and adults).

**The movie will start at noon and runs 117 minutes.** The New Bedford Free Public Library's Mobile Library will be at the event with a special selection of comics and graphic novels to borrow, and free popcorn!

## Dock-U-Mentary

**Mark Sweitzer: Lobstering on the Erica Knight, Fri., 2/21, 7 p.m., National Park Theater, 33 William St., New Bedford. Free.**

Mark's first job in the fisheries – unloading the day's catch from vessels returning to Point Judith, Rhode Island – was just a temporary way to earn some money while visiting friends after college. He simply never intended to become a commercial fisherman, and yet some 40 years later he is still at it, fishing his own boat, the *Erica Knight*. In this film, Mark discusses his daily life as a lobsterman and some of the challenges he faces on a daily basis. This film is part of a larger series documenting the commercial fishery in Point Judith for the Library of Congress. Filmmaker Markham Starr will speak briefly about the film and answer any audience questions.

## Whales, Tails, Sails

This free, hour-long program is designed to help inspire your child's imagination and curiosity. Children ages 0-5, can interact with the stories and activities, and their parents or caregivers participate in the program with the children. **Every Friday morning at 10:00 a.m.** from September to June in the park's Corson MakerSpace, at the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, 33 William St., New Bedford. The program is hosted by professional storyteller Jackson Gillman who

provides experiences for children to listen to stories, sing songs and enjoy hands-on crafts.

Coming up: 2/21, Pets; 2/28, Seahorses; 3/6, Jellyfish; 3/3, St. Patrick's Day/Green; 3/20, Maple/Sugaring; 3/27, Spring/Birds; 4/3, Fools/Showers; 4/10, ColorsEggs; 4/17, Boats/Bodies; 4/24, Arbor Day/Trees; 5/1, May Day/Flowers; 5/8, Mother's Day; 5/15, Frogs/Bugs; 5/22, Ocean/Beach; 6/5, Whales/Wind; 6/12, Space/Rockets; 6/19, Father's Day/Requests.

Learn more at <https://www.nps.gov/nebe/learn/kidsyouth/whales-tales-sails.htm>

## LGBTQ Film Series

The winter film series continues with *Boy Erased*, on **Sun., 2/23, at 1 p.m., at the Whaling Museum, 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford. This film contains adult themes.**

Jared Eamons, the son of a small-town Baptist pastor, must overcome the fallout after being outed as gay to his parents. His father and mother struggle to reconcile their love for their son with their beliefs. Fearing a loss of family, friends and community, Jared is pressured into attending a conversion therapy program. While there, Jared comes into conflict with its leader and begins his journey to finding his own voice and accepting his true self. This series is funded in part by MassHumanities.

For more information, visit <https://www.sclgbtqnetwork.org>

## Call for Young Artists

The New Bedford Whaling Museum and the YWCA of Southeastern Mass. are inviting young artists between the ages of 12 and 22 to explore the impact of women in the region through original works of art created for *IGNITE: A Youth Showcase of Art Inspired by Historic Women of the SouthCoast*. Artworks in any medium will be considered for the showcase as long as they celebrate one or more of the women profiled by the history project *Lighting the Way: Historic Women of the SouthCoast*. Art selected to be a part of the Ignite showcase will be exhibited or performed at the Whaling Museum on March 12, 2020, 6-8 p.m. **The submission deadline is**

**February 23, 2020.** IGNITE is supported in part by Mass Humanities, through a grant that was made possible by Mass Cultural Council. Details and submission guidelines: [www.historicwomensouthcoast.org](http://www.historicwomensouthcoast.org).

Visit [www.whalingmuseum.org](http://www.whalingmuseum.org).

## Grant Workshop

United Way of Greater New Bedford's Innovation Challenge is seeking projects that experiment, pilot, or test new ideas and approaches that can lead to breakthroughs in the areas of health, education, financial stability, and basic needs. United Way defines an "innovative" approach as a novel solution that is more effective, efficient, collaborative, and/or sustainable than current solutions.

Non-profits are eligible to apply for up to \$100,000 to be used over a three year period. Organizations interested in applying are encouraged to attend an **informational session on Wed., 2/26, from 10-11 am at the Fort Taber Community Center located at 1000 Rodney French Blvd Please RSVP to 508-994-9625 ext. 219 or [liveunited@unitedwayofgnb.org](mailto:liveunited@unitedwayofgnb.org).**

Letters of intent (LOI) to apply will be accepted beginning February 26th and must be submitted by noon on March 11th. Visit [unitedwayofgnb.org/innovation-challenge](http://unitedwayofgnb.org/innovation-challenge) or Contact Anne Nichelson at [anichelson@unitedwayofgnb.org](mailto:anichelson@unitedwayofgnb.org)

## Free Bus. Workshop

The New Bedford Economic Development Council (NBEDC) would invites entrepreneurs and small business owners to join them for the second of a series of six small business development workshops. This FREE "Are your small business policies and practices in compliance? What every business owner should know!" workshop will be held on Wed., 2/26, from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. at The Quest Center, 1213 Purchase Street, 2nd Floor Conference Room, New Bedford, MA 02740.

To reserve your seat, please register on-line at <https://www.msbdc.org/semass/training.html>, as soon as possible. Please call the MSBDC office at 508-673-9783 with questions.

# HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

## Free Movie

The Acushnet Public Library, 232 Middle St., Acushnet, is pleased to announce the screening of *Stephano: The True Story of Shakespeare's Shipwreck* with Hit and Run History on **Wed., 2/26, at 6:30 p.m.**

This one-hour film follows the story of the only Mayflower passenger who had been to North America previously. A decade earlier, Stephen Hopkins had been aboard a Jamestown-bound ship that wrecked on Bermuda, inspiring Shakespeare's final play, "The Tempest." Shot on location, the intrepid Hit and Run History crew retraces Hopkins' life crisscrossing the Atlantic.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Acushnet Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

## Movie & Pizza

Join us for a movie and pizza at the Mattapoissett COA, 17 Barstow St., 508-758-4110; [coadirector@mattapoissett.net](mailto:coadirector@mattapoissett.net)

Screening *Judy*, The story of Judy Garland., on **Tues., 2/25, at noon.** **Cost: vFree movie. Pizza: \$1 per slice. Call 508-758-4110.**

## Library Fund-raiser

The Friends of the Acushnet Public Library is having a calendar raffle fundraiser, with all proceeds going towards library programs and services. In a calendar raffle, participants get a month's worth of chances to win gift cards or certificates to a variety of local and area businesses. On each weekday in March, a winner will be drawn. Winning tickets will be re-entered for subsequent prizes.

Calendars are \$10 each, and can be purchased at the Acushnet Public Library (232 Middle Road), from Friends members, and at the Acushnet Town Clerk's office (130 Main Street in the Acushnet Parting Ways Building). Purchase a calendar by the end of February for entry into all 20+ drawings. Drawings will be on weekdays in March, and winners will be notified by phone.

The Friends of the Acushnet Public Library, a non-profit 501(c)3 group, sincerely thank the businesses and individuals who have generously donated prizes for this fundraiser,

now in its third year!

Visit [acupl.org](http://acupl.org) for hours when the Acushnet Public Library is open, or call 508-998-0270. Visit [acupl.org/friends-of-the-acupl.html](http://acupl.org/friends-of-the-acupl.html), or [facebook.com/AcushnetPublicLibFriends](https://www.facebook.com/AcushnetPublicLibFriends), for more information.

## Mardis Gras F-R

The community is invited to celebrate Mardi Gras in true New Orleans style – all for a great cause! This year marks the 3rd annual "Fat Tuesday" Party, an event that has been a hit since it's inception, offering live New Orleans music performed by the SouthCoast Brass Band, a traditional Jambalaya buffet, themed "Hurricane" drinks, Mardi Gras masks and beads, dancing and more! Proceeds from the event will benefit the New Bedford Boys & Girls Club. These funds help support the club's youth programming, and help sustain their ability to serve the community for years to come.

**The event will take place on Tues., 2/25, from 6:00pm – 9:00pm at Greasy Luck Brewpub, 791 Purchase Street, New Bedford, MA 02740. Tickets are \$35 and may be purchased in advance online at [www.greasyluckbrewpub.com](http://www.greasyluckbrewpub.com) > Concert Tickets. You may also reserve them by emailing [wcrowley@bgcnewbedford.org](mailto:wcrowley@bgcnewbedford.org).**

## Bird Club Mtg

The Nasketucket Bird Club will be meet on Thurs., 2/27, at 7 p.m., at 7PM at the Mattapoissett Public Library, 7 Barstow St., Mattapoissett.

Several of our own club members will be showing pictures and/or sharing stories about various avian adventures. Open to the public and handicapped accessible. Please us south door entrance.

Check our website at: <http://massbird.org/Nasketucket/> or email our President Justin Barrett at [jmbarrett426@gmail.com](mailto:jmbarrett426@gmail.com)

## Free Concert/MLK

Join us for a powerful concert, **Let Justice Roll, on Sun., 2/23, a 3 p.m., First Baptist Church in America, 75 No. Main St., Providence, RI.** An original cantata celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., by Mark Miller. With featured soloists and the combined choirs of the First Baptist

Church in America and Newman Congregational UCC. For more information, visit <https://www.stagesoffreedom.org/let-justice-roll>

## Nature Walk

What is there to see on a cold winter's day on the Lloyd Center property? Perhaps a wandering owl, a flock of winter feeder birds, winter waterfowl in the estuary, or a small herd of white-tailed deer searching for vegetation. On this walk, participants will take advantage of winter conditions to locate what wildlife awaits, and observe the landscape through a "winter lens". At the outing's conclusion enjoy an encounter with the Center's resident screech owl "Koko". Participants should bring (if available) binoculars, camera, and be dressed warmly and in preparation for walking in snow.

Lead by Lloyd Center Research Associate Jamie Bogart, this program will take place on Sat. 2/22, from 9–11 a.m. Inclement weather date is Sun., 2/23. Meet at the Lloyd Center for the Environment's lower parking lot, 430 Potomska Road in Dartmouth. **Cost: \$10 for Lloyd Center members and \$13 for non-members.** Appropriate for ages 15+ space is limited to 20.

To pre-register, visit [www.lloydcenter.org](http://www.lloydcenter.org) and register online, call the Lloyd Center at 508-990-0505 x 23 or email Jamie at [jbogart@lloydcenter.org](mailto:jbogart@lloydcenter.org). **Pre-registration for is required by Fri., 2/21, 3:00pm.**

## Calendar Girls

Rhode Island's The Community Players, is proud to present Tim Firth's *Calendar Girls*. This humorous and heartwarming play, which is based on a true story, will make you laugh and cry and feel better about life than when you entered the theatre. Produced at Jenks Auditorium located on Division Street in Pawtucket, across from McCoy Stadium, **performances are scheduled for Feb. 21, 22, 23, 28, 29 and Mar. 1**, with Friday and Saturday curtain times at 7:30 pm and Sunday matinees at 2:00 pm. **Tickets are \$18 for adults and \$12 for students (with a valid ID).**

Get tickets online at [www.thecommunityplayers.org](http://www.thecommunityplayers.org) or reserve at (401) 726-6860.

## Recipe of the Week

### Grandma's Butterscotch Pie

1 cup packed light brown sugar  
 4 tablespoons cornstarch  
 1/2 teaspoon salt  
 2 cups milk  
 2 egg yolks, beaten  
 1 tablespoon butter  
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
 1 (9 inch) pie crust, baked

In top of double boiler, combine brown sugar, cornstarch, salt and milk. Cook, stirring constantly, until mixture starts to thicken, about 20 minutes.

Whisk in egg yolks; continue to cook and stir until filling is thickened.

While pudding mixture is cooking, preheat the oven to 400°

Remove filling from heat, and stir in butter and vanilla.

Pour filling into prepared pie crust. Bake in preheated oven until top begins to brown, about 5 minutes.

*From allrecipes.com*

## GARDNER: cont'd from page 6

Glenn is also trying to get on a new drug as part of a trial at Mass. General.

He has been going to practices, and plans on doing it as long as he can. He is the head coach for junior varsity at ORR, and the assistant coach for varsity.

"He comes home at night exhausted," said Ms. Gardner. "But I think it's good for him to stay involved as long as he can."

It's important for him to eat, she said, and keep up his weight. He already lost 25 pounds of muscle.

"I'm always giving him ice cream, things that go down easy and keep the calories up," she said.

They are hoping the new drug, in combination with the other drug, when they can afford it, will slow the progression of the disease long enough for the medical profession to "come up with something."

At the moment, though, he is not on either drug. They are waiting for Mass. General to get back to them about the trial, and the other drug is financially out of reach.

They both know there is no recovery, though. Once the muscle is lost, it's lost.

"But we're hoping the symptoms will be relieved a little and his breathing will be better, and it won't progress," said Ms. Gardner. "We're trying to hold it at bay for awhile. We're praying for a miracle."

She said they are thankful for the support they have received so far.

"People are just coming out of the woodwork," said Ms. Gardner, including co-workers from his first job, out of state jobs, parents, students, athletes.

The athletes at ORR made bracelets that they are selling.

The fund-raiser is a comedy show on Monday, 3/13, at the Century House, 107 South Main Street, Acushnet, with hors d'oeuvres from 6:30-8:30 p.m., and comedy show and auction following. For tickets (\$50 each), contact Susan Loo, 774-510-0246. Donations for raffles are also welcome, such as gift certificates to restaurants, gift baskets, tickets to athletic events, etc.

### To share a recipe with your neighbors

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

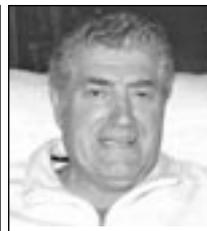


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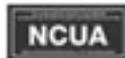
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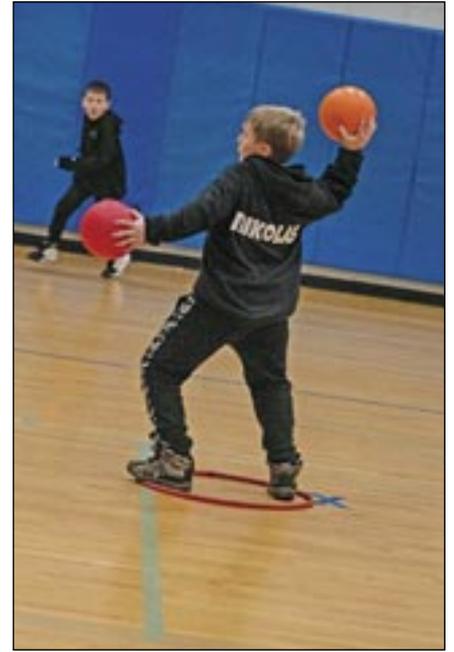
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# “Kool Kids” participate in variety of fun stuff on vacation week



Children in the Kool Kids February vacation program participated in a variety of events this week, including ball games like dodgeball, soccer, tag, arts and crafts, and other games meant to encourage a lot of movement and exercise. The program, run by the Fairhaven Recreation Center, is for children in grades K–5, and includes a pizza party on Friday. *Neighb News* photographer Glenn C. Silva visited the program on Tuesday, and although 1/3 of the 18 registered participants were out sick, the remaining 12 had lots of fun. Summer Camp Registration will be on April 25th and May 2nd. To learn more call the Rec Center at 508-993-9269, and see their listings on page 14. ABOVE LEFT: Children in the “Kool Kids” vacation program at the Fairhaven Recreation Center are all smiles during snack time on Tuesday, 2/18/20. ABOVE RIGHT: Nikolas Panasenکو shows his form before throwing a ball during “Rabbit Hole,” a game similar to dodgeball that involves “hunters” that stand within a ring and throw balls at the “rabbits” who are running around. BELOW LEFT & RIGHT: Teams of children compete at “Lava,” a game that teaches teamwork as all members of each team have to cross the gym using mats and other equipment without touching the floor. *Photos by Glenn C. Silva for the Neighb News.*



# Acushnet residents sound off about PJ Keating noise, dust, plans

By Beth David

Editor

The Acushnet Selectboard faced about 100 residents at a public hearing at Ford Middle School to talk about PJ Keating's plan to move its asphalt plant to the front of the property on South Main Street. The site operates as a quarry and an asphalt plant. The plant itself has already been relocated. The hearing was to discuss a permit for relocating the tanks, which will hold 70,000 gallons of liquid asphalt. Two tanks hold 20,000 gallons and one tank holds 30,000 gallons.

After a bylaw change in 2016 that allowed for the structures to be moved closer to the road, the company proceeded with plans to move the asphalt plant.

The company said all along that it wanted to move the asphalt plant and the tanks so it could dig where the asphalt plant was.

The town believed it had no authority to stop or regulate the change, until recently.

Selectboard chairperson Roger Cabral explained to residents that the company had already begun moving the plant to the front. But to complete the process, they need a "land use license" and approval by the town and the Fire Department, both of which can put restrictions on the license.

Fire Chief Kevin Gallagher explained that any permit for more than 10,000 gallons needs approval of the state fire marshall. But, the fire marshall will not even open the packet, he said, until the land use license is approved by the town.

In order to make asphalt, which is the paving material used on roads, the company needs to mix liquid asphalt with sand and gravel from the quarry.

The liquid asphalt is trucked in and stored in the tanks. That substance is

mixed and heated with sand and gravel from the quarry which has been stored in silos that have already been constructed closer to the road. The final product is the asphalt that is used to pave roads.

The company has two separate operations at the site, which require different permits: the quarry, and the asphalt plant.

The asphalt plant has been in operation for decades, but has been "tucked away in the woods," said Chief Gallagher. The old facility was 1450 feet away from the closest residence. The new one will be 374 feet from a house.

Chief Gallagher also explained how the town has tried to improve its handling of complaints about the company's operation. He said they set up a web portal so people would



not have to use 911 to complain about noise or dust or other issues.

He also noted that the land use license is good for only one year, so they can make adjustments based on complaints. The original license was issued in 1995 and had no conditions in it, he said.

"So we've learned from the mistakes of the past," said Chief Gallagher.

He said there will now be quarterly reports that will posted online.

Chief Gallagher also noted that the state only inspects the plant every three to five years. He said the conditions issued by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are ten years old. He said that is on the state, not the town.

Chief Gallagher also told the crowd that the town would be asking for funds to hire a part time health agent at the next town meeting. He said that person's job would be to monitor the



Neighbors of PJ Keating in Acushnet address town officials at a public hearing on 2/11/20 to discuss the company's plans to move its asphalt holding tanks closer to residences. ABOVE: Kevin Smith. MIDDLE: Cathy Santos. BELOW: Deborah Polchlepek. Photos by Beth David.

PJ Keating site. The job will be an agent of the Soil Conservation Board, and will be "your boots on the ground."

He said the permit will cost PJ Keating \$16,000, so it will, in effect, pay for half the salary of that person.

Kevin Smith, who said he was head of the neighborhood PJ Keating group, said all the things that the chief was talking about were supposed to be put into place months ago.

"Now we're hearing that none of that was done," said Mr. Smith, noting that there has also been a "mass exodus" of PJ Keating personnel. "What did we spend the last six months doing?"

"Follow through with it, or don't give them the permit," said Mr. Smith to some big applause.

"What behooves you to sign that," said Cathy Santos. "Why did you sign that?"

Mr. Cabral said it was town meeting and the planning board that allowed the bylaws change. He said the company has the right, but now "all of a sudden," we have some authority."

Ms. Santos said she understood why the company would want to do it, but she did not know why the town would want to. She also said that people may argue that the quarry has been there for decades, "but the quarry is not what it was."

"I just don't know why you'd want to do this," said Ms. Santos. "How does it benefit the town?"

Mr. Cabral acknowledged that it does not benefit the town.

"Nobody wants it except PJ Keat-

**PJK: cont'd to page 19**



# Fairhaven Recreation Center

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ma.gov/recreation-department](https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/recreation-department)**

## Yankee Stadium Game Day Trip

April 18, 2020 Package includes level 400 seat, choice of 1 hot dog/fries or chicken fingers/fries a new Era hat and 1 drink (water, soda or beer). We leave the rec center at 7 a.m. for Yankee Stadium for the 1:05 p.m. game Yankees vs Cincinnati Reds. After the game we will travel back to the Fairhaven rec. \$95. pp **Non-refundable \$40 Deposit must be made by 2/21/2020**

## VOLLEYBALL CLINICS

Coach Jacob Girard has designed the next level volleyball clinic for young athletes who want to take their volleyball game to the next level. Coach Girard has volleyball coaching experience in New England's professional Women's Volleyball team, division three NCAA Collegiate volleyball, and Junior Olympic club volleyball. The clinics are drill and workout based to focus on improving the skills used to play volleyball. Game play will be used in varying levels throughout the session.

### CO-ED 10-14 years old

Wednesdays, 5:15-6:15 p.m.; \$60  
Members \$75 Non-Members. Starts:  
April 15th Ends June 10th

### 15-18 years old

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.; \$75  
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## Mall Trips

2/26 Emerald Square Mall  
3/4 Tiverton Casinos

3/11 Patriots Place  
3/18 Providence Place Mall, Whole Foods

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

2/20 Ray J • 2/26 Richie B • 2/27 Joe Mac • 3/4 Richie B.

## Special Activities

### Presidential Primary Elections

Early voting for the March 3, 2020 Presidential Primaries will be available to all Fairhaven voters February 24,28 at Fairhaven Fire Station 146 Washington St. 8:30-4:30 p.m. Seniors that need transportation to Early Voting, call 508-979-4029 at least one day in advance.

### Fuel Assistance and recertifications

The Fuel Assistance program started in November for the 2019-2020 season. If you need help filling out the recertification form or a new application, Call Phyllis at the Senior Center 508-979-4029 for an appointment.

### Foster Grandparents Program

#### Classroom Grandmas and Grandpas Wanted

Help children who need it the most. The program is open to individuals age 55 and over who can serve between 15-40 hours a week and who meet eligibility requirements. For more information on

volunteering, contact Jacqueline Medeiros at 508-742-9198.

### Computer Technology for Seniors

9-10:00 a.m. Space is limited to 15. Please call the Fairhaven Senior Center to sign up at 508-979-4029

• **February 24, 26, 28:** How to keep your internet browser safe and secure

### Sewing Circle

The sewing Circle meets on TUESDAYS from 1-3:00 p.m.: March 10, 17; and THURSDAYS, Feb. 20, 27, March 5, 12, 19, from 5:45-8:00 p.m. Call 508-979-4029 for more dates.

### Precision Sculpting

On Mondays, from 9-10:00 a.m. Walk in Welcome. \$6.00 per class for more information please call 508-979-4029.

### Food Program

If you are a fairhaven Resident 60 or older you may qualify to receive FREE groceries from the Greater Boston Food Program commodity supplemental Food Program . Call the Fairhaven Senior Center to find out if you qualify.

## Ongoing Programs

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## SELECT: cont'd from page 4

suggested by Mr. Freitas, and Mr. Rees agreed that employees were using a public asset so there should be "internal controls," to make sure it is not being abused.

Mr. Murphy agreed it was important, especially for taxpayers to see.

Mr. Freitas questioned Mr. Espindola, asking if he did not believe they should add daily trip tickets.

"No, I want to make sure he understands exactly what you're asking we put in there so that we don't come back and it's not what you think it is," said Mr. Espindola.

"I'd be glad to explain," said Mr. Freitas. "I already did explain it. It's very simple."

"I understand," said Mr. Espindola, as the two men talked over each other for a bit.

"I think if he has a problem he can say something to me," Mr. Freitas said to Mr. Espindola. "And I don't think you need to stick up for Mark. The problem is Mark has allowed this to go. And this is getting rampant now. And I want to find out why. And I have that right to ask. And I'm sorry Bob if

you don't like it."

"No, Dan, I just asked if he understood it," said Mr. Espindola. "I apologize if that offended you somehow. I did not mean that. So I think I'm ready to move on."

"I'll tell you what, Bob, Mark's a big boy," said Mr. Freitas.

"Yes, you already said that," said Mr. Espindola.

"And he can say it," said Mr. Freitas. "If he...I'm sure he'll ask me."

"So, we're going to add to this vehicle us policy?" asked Mr. Murphy.

"Yes," answered Mr. Rees.

"I want to make sure this is perfect so we don't ever have to revisit this again," said Mr. Freitas.

As they spoke over each other again, Mr. Freitas said, "Hold on, I would ask that you guys add to this too."

"I've added my two cents, you add your two cents," he said. "And we move on from there. Y'know, that's the best I can tell you."

Mr. Murphy said he would like to have a conversation with Mr. Rees about the commuting category, because he believed that was where

the additional language needed to go.

Mr. Rees also verified that the policy had come from another community, although he could not remember which one. He said they looked at policies from several different communities.

Mr. Freitas also asked for clarification on which departments are bound by the policy.

The board will discuss the policy at a future meeting.

The board also discussed a travel policy, which would affect employees attending professional development conferences, workshops, panels, etc.

Mr. Rees told the board that if a department is governed by an elected board, such as the Board of Health overseeing the health agent, then that board would be the authority to sign off on travel and reimbursement. The TA would be the authority for all departments reporting to him.

Mr. Freitas said he wanted to make sure that employees were not traveling out of state for trainings that they could attend in Massachusetts or take online

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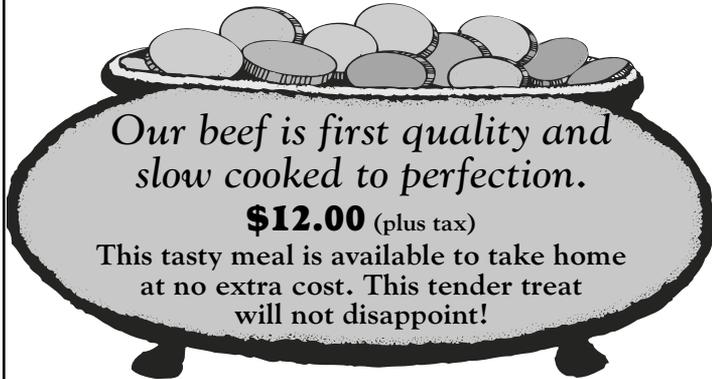
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## Acushnet: Meet Nathan Correia

*From Acushnet Fire & EMS  
Department Facebook Page*  
**THIS IS US**

On February 3, the Acushnet Fire Department started a new feature on its Facebook page to introduce each of their members to the public. This week we meet Nathan Correia.

From the Acushnet Fire & EMS Facebook Page: "THIS IS US: We started our introductions with the most senior member of the department, now we introduce one of the most junior.

"Nathan Correia joined the department as a Call Firefighter in July, 2019. As a recruit, Nathan and a few others attended the Call Firefighter Recruit Training Program (240 hours over 15 weeks, not including homework, 2 nights per week and Saturdays) held in Fall River and conducted by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy.

"Nathan performed admirably during his training (February–June, classroom and practical). He left the academy with certification as a Massachusetts Firefighter Level I/II.

"Nathan did not let up with his

training. Not only does he have a record of strong attendance at our monthly drills but he has, on his own time, participated in several courses offered by the Fire Academy. We like to tell the 'new guys' that in a job like this you never stop learning. Nathan has taken those words to heart. We look forward to his continued active participation.

"Acushnet, this is Nathan Correia."



One of the newest members of the Acushnet Fire Department, Nathan Correia is the second member to be featured in "This is Us," on the department's Facebook page. *Photo from the Acushnet Fire & EMS Facebook Page.*

## Acushnet FD: Fire spreads quickly



On Sunday, 2/9/20, the Acushnet Fire Department responded to a report of a fire in a residence. A pan of grease caught fire on the stove top and very quickly grew, causing flame and smoke damage. The resident had extinguished the fire prior to the arrival of the FD. There were no injuries. There were no working smoke detectors. "We are sharing this photo to emphasize the speed with which fire spreads and the very quick damage that can be done," wrote the Acushnet FD on its Facebook page.

*Photo from the Acushnet  
Fire & EMS Facebook page.*

## PJK: cont'd from page 13

ing,” said Ms. Santos. “Do not sign it.” She said let them continue doing what they have been doing, and they have “gotten away with a ton for a long time.”

Cheryl Hall said she has been attending Board of Health meetings to no avail for two years. She said she gets “grit” in her eyes when she runs along South Main Street.

“There’s so much filth and dust coming off that property right now,” said Ms. Hall, asking how it is possible that elected officials had no idea.

She said as a group, the neighbors have tried to work with PJK and the town.

“I can’t go outside my door now,” she said. “It stinks. The smell is horrendous.”

She said loud noises start at 5 a.m. and it is “unacceptable.”

“When is enough enough?” asked Ms. Hall.

“They have gotten too big,” said Mary Lebeau. “I grew up here. It was not like that when I was a kid.”

She also said the street sweeper “does nothing,” eliciting loud laughter from many in attendance.

One man who lives on South Main Street said officials were talking about what PJK wants to do.

“We want PJ Keating out of the neighborhood, that’s the bottom line,” he said. “This is about the quality of life. This is something we don’t hear from you guys.”

He said there are carcinogens in the air that they are breathing in and eating when they cook on the grill. They suffer from sleep deprivation because of the tailgates slamming at all hours.

“We want action,” he said.

Gilbert Martins also mentioned the street sweeper, to another raucous round of laughter, saying it went down his street for the first time since Christmas.

“Because of the meeting tonight, it came yesterday,” said Mr. Martins. “It happens every time.”

Elizabeth Perry said her deck has to be realigned every year because the blasting from the quarry causes it to slide off the base.

“Every day I come home from work I have to fix every picture in my house,” she said.

“What can we do to stop you from signing it,” asked another woman. “What can we do to convince you

people to not vote on that permit?”

“You don’t need to do anything to convince me,” said Selectboard member Kevin Gaspar.

He said he was “appalled” that nothing was done about the dust. He said he was independent and: “I assure you nobody from PJ Keating is going to make me vote otherwise.”

He said, however, that he did not see the board shutting down the company. He noted that the bylaw change in 2016 is what made the change possible.

“There was only one man who knew it was going to be a problem and he’s speaking to you now,” said Mr. Gaspar.

David Desroches, the newest member of the board who was not on



Mary Lebeau addresses Acushnet officials at a public hearing on 2/11/20 to discuss PJ Keating’s plans to move its asphalt holding tanks closer to residences. *Photo by Beth David.*

the board in 2016, said he needed more information before he could vote.

“I think it’s unrealistic to think the board of selectmen is going to shut down the quarry,” said Mr. Desroches. “We’re here tonight to talk about the asphalt operation.”

Mr. Martins told the board that he and his family have nothing but medical problems since PJK increased operations.

“Keating, you’re terrorists,” said Mr. Martins. “You’re keeping all these people inside with the windows closed. You’re keeping us from enjoying spring,” their pools, their yards.

“I think it’s time you started putting all these property owners, their children and their grandchildren before [PJK],” said Mr. Martin. “We want our homes back.”

Residents also discussed a variety

of actions that the company was supposed to undertake to mitigate the effects of dust and noise, but were not ever done.

Rob Robinson of PJ Keating said the company does conduct dust inspections, and even has monitors on their workers.

“I don’t want to be discharging dust around the area,” said Mr. Robinson, but he got laughed at when he said some people in the neighborhood told him it had gotten better.

“I hear a lot of people laughing,” he said, adding that their livelihoods and employees’ work depends on the company. “I’ll also point out, we pay taxes as well.”

“We’d rather pay higher taxes,” shouted several people from the floor.

Deborah Polchlepek said she had thousands of pictures of her property with windows, decks, air conditioner “packed with rock dust.”

“We want accountability. We haven’t gotten it in the past,” said Ms. Polchlepek. “Do you really think we’re going to get it in the future?”

Eric Chew said he supported putting restrictions on the company, but that they should be careful because “they pay a big tax in this town.”

Mr. Gaspar chimed in: “It’s \$150,000. that’s it.”

He said if that amount is distributed among all 3700 households, it comes to \$5 each. (Although his math was flawed, it is actually about \$40 each.)

“We’ll take it,” said a voice from the crowd above loud applause.

The board continued the public hearing until March 24.

After the hearing, Mass. State Rep. Christopher Hendricks, whose district includes Acushnet, stayed to speak with residents. He said the selectboard had the power to stop the project.

“Obviously, there is a tax incentive,” he said to keeping any operation running in a city or town. “But if they’re saying that’s not the issue, I think these folks in this neighborhood have suffered for far too long.”

He also said he would be willing to work with the town to get a better response from the DEP and EPA.

The entire public hearing is available online at [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqCubIGY\\_Sw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qqCubIGY_Sw)

# BPW discusses dog park

By Mary Macedo

## Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Monday, 1/27 the Fairhaven Board of Public Works discussed the new dog park, and revisited the discussion about vehicular traffic at Cushman Park.

The board first met with the Town Planner Paul Foley about the potential locations for a dog park in Fairhaven.

Mr. Foley explained that the dog park can be grant funded and that there are two grant options, but the location must be on town owned property to receive the grants.

He showed the board a PowerPoint presentation of all the locations and how each location was ranked through a set of criteria that would be best suitable location for the dog park. Mr. Foley said that they have looked at many locations and gave each location a score.

The top two ranked locations were south of the former Rogers School, and North Street east of Main Street where the Old Stone School House is.

Mr. Foley explained that the northeast corner of Livesey Park was also ranked very high, but they felt that Livesey Park has too much going on and adding a dog park would take away from already existing activities.

Board member Robert "Hoppy" Hobson asked Mr. Foley why Fort Phoenix was not an option for the dog park.

Mr. Foley explained that Fort Phoenix is a state owned property, not a town owned, and therefore they would not be eligible for the grants if that location was used.

Mr. Foley agreed that Fort Phoenix would have been a great location.

Mr. Hobson suggested that maybe there is some way that Mr. Foley could make a deal with the grant people.

Mr. Foley said the town would have to buy the property from the state.

Mr. Hobson also suggested that Mr. Foley looked at Macomber Park.

Mr. Foley said that he did not originally look there because of the new BMX track, but it is definitely a good location to look at.

Mr. Foley explained that the North Street location was a nice spot for the dog park because it is an underused area that could be utilized and it also has access to water and electricity. He also said although there are

neighbors, there is a spot away from the majority of the neighbors.

Chairperson Brian Wotton suggested putting out a poll to residents on whether they want to see a dog park in town and then possibly poll residents about locations in town.

Mr. Hobson, as well as other board members, had concerns about who would be allowed to go into the dog park as far as only residents from Fairhaven or neighboring towns as well.

Mr. Foley explained that the New Bedford dog park is only for New Bedford residents and you have to pay for a \$10 key fob to get in. He said that they could do something similar in Fairhaven.

Mr. Wotton suggested that the dog park be put in a location where other activities are going on. He explained that he felt like a dog park would be

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Board member Cameron Durant said that Cushman Park is underutilized and is a big waste of green space.

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more utilized in areas where there are other things to do and is more of a place to bring the whole family.

Mr. Wotton suggested Cushman Park, Macomber Park, and even Livesey Park if there is enough space.

Mr. Foley said he liked the idea of Cushman Park, but he thought it would be too crowded.

Board member Cameron Durant said that Cushman Park is underutilized and is a big waste of green space. Mr. Wotton said he agreed and that Cushman Park is not too crowded.

Mr. Durant also said he thinks Macomber Park is a great option too.

Mr. Foley said he would go back and look at Cushman Park and Macomber Park and then come back in front the board.

In another matter board member Keith Silvia asked Mr. Foley about an issue regarding road work grant money.

Mr. Silvia said that Mr. Foley was

supposed to apply for \$600,000 grant to fix roads, but Mr. Foley never applied for the grant. Mr. Silvia said he wanted to know why.

Mr. Foley explained that they were informed by two different people that the town was not eligible this year for the grant and that they could try again next year.

In another matter the board met with Mario Ribeiro's engineer for the Pasta House's new external grease trap.

The board was informed that the Pasta House was in the process of designing the engineering of a 1500 gallon external grease trap to be located in the parking lot.

Mr. Durant expressed his frustration that Mr. Ribeiro had three months to come up with a plan for a grease trap and has only just hired the engineer last week to begin the planning.

BPW Superintendent Vincent Furtado said they need to know how long these plans are going to take and how long until the grease trap is finished.

In another matter the board discussed the budget for road work. Mr. Wotton said the board is just voting on the amount of money that should be asked for at town meeting to fix roads. He explained that the board would vote on the actual roads to be fixed at a later date after they speak with residents about the road concerns.

The board made a motion to ask for \$375,000 for road work at town meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

In another matter the board met with Adam Jankauskas of City Compost, who explained that his company picks up curbside compost mostly in the North Shore area of Massachusetts, but he has started broadening to Western Massachusetts and now the Southcoast.

Mr. Jankauskas said his company services around 2000 homes and businesses across Massachusetts.

Mr. Hobson said he worried about the smell of the compost sitting on the curb on a hot day.

Mr. Jankauskas said it is no different than trash sitting on the curb on a hot day. He said the company also provides snap-on lids for the bins and the bins are replaced

BPW: cont'd on page 22

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### Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

Wednesday, March 4, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.  
Town Hall Banquet Room, 40 Center Street  
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

1. Stratford Group, Oxford School asking for an extension to their Comprehensive Special Permit to December 31, 2021.
- 2.1 Smuggler's Road - Kevin & Kimberly Decker. Variance request for 236' sq feet over 700 sq feet for an accessory structure in a RR District for a garage.

*Peter DeTerra, Chairman  
FNN: 2/13/20, 2/20/20*

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## Fairhaven Meetings

### Board of Public Works

Mon., 2/24, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

### Broadband Study Comm

Tues., 2/25, Town Hall, 7 p.m.  
Meeting with feasibility study co.

### Conservation Commission

Mon., 2/24, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### DEP Casey Boat Hearing

Mon., 2/24, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Finance Committee

Thurs., 2/20, Arsene St., 7 p.m.  
Thurs., 2/27, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

### Housing Authority

Mon., 2/24, Oxford Terr., 11:30 a.m.

### Planning Board

Tues., 2/25, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### School Committee

Wed., 3/4, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

### Selectboard

Mon., 3/9, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

## Acushnet Meetings

### Board of Assessors

Tues., 2/25, Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.

### Planning Board

Thurs., 2/27, Parting Ways, 6:30 p.m.

### School Committee

Thurs., 2/27, Ford Middle Sch., 4 p.m.

### Selectboard

Tues., 2/25, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

## TIDE TABLE

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

	Feb. 2020	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	20	0537	1800	0010	1300*
Friday	21	0620	1842	0100	1348*
Saturday	22	0700	1922	0147	1428*
Sunday	23	0739	2001	0219	1450
Monday	24	0819	2041	0152	1419
Tuesday	25	0858	2120	0214	1433*
Wednesday	26	0936	2158	0245	1459*
Thursday	27	1015	2238	0317*	1530*
Friday	28	1058	2324	0352*	1603*
Saturday	29	1146	---	0430	1640*
	Mar. 2020	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Sunday	1	0014	1238	0515	1726
Monday	2	0106	1330	0615	1827
Tuesday	3	0159	1425	0723	1931
Wednesday	4	0257	1529	0826	2033
Thursday	5	0403	1635	0932	2139

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

with clean ones each time.

Board member Frank Coelho asked if any neighboring towns used his company.

Mr. Jankauskas said right now his company just go to homes and businesses that ask for the service. He said they do not have any entire town or city contracts currently, they just go to individual residents that opt to have the service. The company currently services a handful of homes in Plymouth, Mattapoisett, and New Bedford.

Mr. Hobson asked which day would the compost be curbside.

Mr. Jankauskas said the town can decide what day would be best for their residents.

Mr. Durant said it would be nice to give residents the option to dispose of their compost with this company. He suggested doing it as a pilot program and let residents opt in if they want to in the future.

The board also discussed a curbside bylaw. Mr. Furtado explained that they get a lot of complaints about residents leaving the garbage bins out on the curb for days.

Mr. Furtado said New Bedford fines residents for leaving their bins out past a certain time. He said he thought they should just come up with rules about keeping the bins from 7 a.m.- 7 p.m. or something along those lines and if the town wants to fine residents then we can think about that in the future.

Mr. Wotton said that he agrees with the idea, but might have to adjust the times for residents who work later at night. Mr. Wotton made a motion to discuss the issue in more detail at the next meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

In another matter the board met

with Ray Gardner about a previous BPW meeting discussion regarding vehicular traffic at Cushman Park.

The members of the BPW went by to take a look at the park. Mr. Gardner and the board noticed that people can easily drive into the park from Main Street.

Mr. Wotton said they need to look into erecting a pole, jersey barrier or a rope to block cars.

Mr. Wotton said there should be no vehicular traffic in the park and if it is from BPW trucks shame on us.

Mr. Furtado said he will be talking to the school department and any other departments that use the park to let them know about the vehicular traffic issues.

The board also discussed meeting dates for next few months. At the last BPW meeting Mr. Coelho asked if they could alternate their meetings with the Selectboard because he sometimes likes to attend the Selectboard meetings and sometimes the BPW members are needed at Selectboard meetings.

Mr. Furtado explained that he looked into all the Selectboard dates from now through June and there were only two dates that conflicted with BPW meetings.

Mr. Furtado suggested they could skip a week and wait three weeks for a BPW meeting or do two meetings in a row.

Mr. Wotton said that if they try to fix those two dates it is going mess up the rest after that. He suggested they just leave those two dates alone because all the other dates align all the way through June. He said if someone needs to make either of those two Selectboard meetings they can adjust to accommodate them.

"Why we got to go to the Selectboard meetings," Mr. Hobson asked.

Mr. Furtado said that we don't need to go but Frank asked to have them alternated in case one of us needs to wants to go.

"I don't think it's a big deal," Mr. Hobson said. "If he wants to go to the Selectboard's meeting."

"Well just leave it the way it is," Mr. Coelho said standing up and putting all his papers in front of him into a pile.

"That's what I say," Mr. Hobson said. "I don't want to change the date."

"You're the one that was bitching about it before....now all of a sudden," Mr. Coelho said pointing his finger at Mr. Hobson and slamming his fold of papers.

"Make up your mind one way or the other," Mr. Coelho said putting on his jacket. "You're all over the place Hoppy."

Mr. Coelho proceeded to grab his things and left the BPW meeting before it was over.

"He's the one that wanted to change the meeting not me," Mr. Hobson said.

"Did Frank not realize there was a whole other section of the agenda," Mr. Wotton asked. "I mean we're just discussing, I don't think there was any reason to get up and storm out of here."

"He's not mad at you guys he's mad at me," Mr. Hobson said.

"As long as it's you and not me," Mr. Wotton said. "I was just trying to appease him."

"Hey I'm his friend and he's mad at me," said Mr. Hobson laughing.

Given that the BPW meetings and Selectboard meetings only conflict twice between now and June the board chose to leave the dates as is.

The board will post the BPW dates online through June and adjust as needed.



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