



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 15, Issue 12 • March 19, 2020

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

Candidates make their cases to the public



Six of the 11 candidates running for office in Fairhaven showed up at town hall auditorium on Wednesday, 3/11/20, for a Meet the Candidates night sponsored by the Fairhaven Government Access Channel. Shown here are L-R: Selectboard incumbent Charles K. Murphy, Sr.; challenger Keith Silvia; moderator Maria Carvalho; Fairhaven TV Director Derek Frates, who posed the questions to the candidates. About 50 people also attended to hear first-hand what the candidates had to say. This will be the only candidates night this election season, as the West Island Improvement Association's annual candidates night has been canceled due to the Covid-19 threat. Photo by Glenn C. Silva for the Neighb News.

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

So, we're trying to keep up, but things change hourly.

Pretty much everything is closed and people are being asked to stay home and stay away from each other.

This virus is no joke, and we all need to do our part to stem its rise.

At the *Neighb News*, we are still publishing and will deliver where we can. Many of our 200 drops will be closed. You can pick up a copy at Stop & Shop in Fairhaven, they allow a nice big bunch to be stacked up in the rack that is at the east entrance, near the lottery machine. And the entire paper is available as a PDF on our website, and you can also be added to our email list.

The restaurants and bars will also have them. They are closed for on-site consumption, but you can get take-out, so feel free to take out a *Neighb News*.

We have also added a blog to our website so we can update our readers in between our weekly publications.

Visit www.neighbnews.com and go to "Latest News" in the main menu bar at the top, then to "Latest Updates" or use this link: <https://www.fairhavenneighborhoodnews.com/category/blog/>

And for those of you who are still not believing this thing is real, for those of you peddling conspiracy theories, please stay away from everyone else, okay?

You might be a strapping young thing who can easily fight off this virus, so you don't care about anything else except the inconvenience of your favorite bar being closed. Well, look at it this way: if the ICU is all filled up with people who were infected by irresponsible self-centered people like you, then there will be no room for aforementioned strapping young things when they fall off the roof, crash on the ski slopes, or have a car accident. So, it really could affect you, too. Quite possibly, that's the only thing you understand, how it affects YOU. So....

And to the rest of us who understand how important we all are to making up this place we call home, please support your local small businesses any way you can. Get take-out from the restaurants. We want them all to be here when this all blows over. We want those who work there to have a place to go back to. We will want our beloved community back.

So, be kind, think of others.

And...STAND BACK!

Until next week then, see ya..

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No one does local like a local newspaper. And it does not get more local than the *Neighb News*. Any small amount will help. Just clip the coupon and send check or money order to *Fairhaven Neighborhood News*, 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719. Ask for a bumper sticker that says "I Support the *Neighb News*." And thank you for reading *the little paper with a big voice*.

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Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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Thursday, March 19, 2020

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Widespread closures ordered due to Covid-19 (Coronavirus)

By Beth David
Editor

Massachusetts Governor Charles Baker has tightened restrictions on businesses in the Commonwealth, due to COVID-19, the coronavirus. On the national level, restrictions have also been tightened.

Gov. Baker has ordered all schools closed until April 7; prohibiting gatherings of 25 people or more; restricted bars and restaurants from serving food inside their establishments, allowing take-out only.

At this point, nearly everything is shut down, except retail stores. Shutdowns include all schools, public libraries, entertainment venues.

Even government buildings have closed their doors to the public, but employees are at their posts, and most business can get done. Residents are asked to call the department they need (see page 4 for Fairhaven and page 16 for Acushnet).

The federal government has also tightened its recommendations, asking people not to go to gatherings of more than 10 people, but not making anything mandatory, rather leaving that to the states.

The situation is changing almost hourly, so residents need to stay up to date by watching newscasts, and visiting reputable news sites on the internet.

The *Neighb News* has added a "Latest Updates" blog so that we can

add information to our website more between our weekly publications.

Visit NeighbNews.com, then go to "Latest News" in the top menu bar, then click on "Latest Updates."

Or use this link: <https://www.fairhavenneighborhoodnews.com/category/blog/>

As of press time there are five confirmed cases in Bristol County, two in Barnstable County, five in Plymouth County; there are 256 confirmed case in Massachusetts.

If you believe you should be tested, call your health care provider, do NOT walk in or go to the emergency room.

There were reports of a Fairhaven person testing positive for the virus, but it turned out to be a mistake. Officials caution, however, that this does not mean there are no cases in Fairhaven. Most likely, every community in Massachusetts has some cases, they just have not been identified and confirmed.

Many people will get the virus and will be able to fight it off on their own, so they will not necessarily be counted. However, it is a highly contagious disease, much more contagious than the seasonal flu.

It is also about ten times more deadly according to federal officials.

Older people and people with underlying health conditions will very likely need hospitalization and aggressive treatment, many in

Intensive Care Units (ICU). This is why the drastic measures of "social distancing," closing down businesses, and encouraging people to stay at home are being so aggressively pushed by officials.

The very contagious nature of the disease, and its severity, mean the hospital systems could get overwhelmed very quickly.

The federal government and state governments are working to address this possibility. They are freeing up hospital beds by discouraging all elective surgeries, calling in retired medical personnel (nurses and doctors), and setting up extra capacity where possible.

The federal government may also use the military to set up temporary hospitals if necessary.

The idea of the social distancing, closing restaurants and bars and any place that people congregate, is to slow the spread of the disease so the "curve" that arches up as the disease spreads, will not be too high too fast. This is called "flattening the curve," and if the measures are successful, the hospital system will be able to handle the influx of cases so that everyone will be treated.

Fairhaven Health Agent Mary Freire-Kellogg said that the town is part of the Bristol County Emergency Preparedness Team. She said they meet on a monthly basis to be ready

COVID19: cont'd on page 10

Support local businesses during this crisis

You can help local businesses get through this crisis: Get take-out or delivery from your favorite restaurant or bar; leave a tip as you would if you were eating in the dining room. Ask if there's anything you can do. We are all in this together. We want our favorite spots to be there when this is all over, for them, for their employees, for our community, for ourselves.



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Fairhaven Selectboard declares state of emergency

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Selectboard held two meetings in the last week in response to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) threat. The board met with all department heads on Friday, 3/13/20, to discuss preparedness and plans to deal with the outbreak, and a possible large influx of cases.

The board also met briefly on Monday, 3/16, to declare a state of emergency in Fairhaven, although there have, as yet, been no confirmed or presumptive cases in Fairhaven. The declaration allows the town to tap into a variety of state and federal resources, should they become necessary.

Governor Charlie Baker declared a state of emergency in the state and ordered all schools closed until April 7, banned food consumption the premises of any business; and banned gatherings of 25 or more (see page 3).

Town Administrator Mark Rees said the town is working to enact policy changes for employee sick time. The town will allow employees to go into negative overtime to encourage them

to stay home if sick. The payout for not using sick time has been suspended.

All town offices are closed to the public. Employees are working, though, so that town business is still being conducted.

Residents who need town hall services are asked to call the department they need to find out how they can conduct the business they need. Call 508-979-4023, and you will hear a list of extensions.

All bills can still be paid at town hall, but not inside the collector's office. Residents are asked to use the drop box that is to the left of the front doors of town hall. Many bills can also be paid online now, so residents are also encouraged to use that service (<https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/town-clerk/pages/online-bill-pay-options>)

Mr. Rees said that all meetings have been canceled, but he is hoping that will change soon. The town is looking at ways to hold meetings remotely, and to invite the public to participate by dialing in.

All regular public services, such as trash removal, water and sewer work,

road work, etc. are being conducted as usual. The public works building is also closed to the public. Call them at 508-979-4030.

Fairhaven Health Agent Mary Freire-Kellogg said the health department is working with its partners regionally and at the state level to be prepared.

She said, though, that people need to be aware of how the situation is affecting children. Parents need to talk to their children to reassure them. If they are hearing news reports, or people speaking, they could very well be afraid that everyone is going to die.

"We as adults have to be attentive and pay attention to what's going on and keep up to date with information," said Ms. Freire-Kellogg. "But we have to be confident that kids are listening to us. We don't need to inundate our kids with this information. So pay attention, but reassure your children."

The Fairhaven emergency preparedness meeting is available on demand at <https://www.fairhaventv.com>, or use this direct link: <https://livestream.com/fairhavenlive/events/7191980/videos/202878374>

National Harbor Bus Trip

3 days, 2 nights – Fri. 8/28/20 to 8/30/20

Sponsored By: Bethel AME Church
532 County St., New Bedford, MA
Pastor Charles Cloy, Sr. Pastor

Trip Includes:

- Round trip motor coach bus from New Bedford to Lancaster, PA; National Harbor, MD and Washington DC
- Tickets to Sight & Sound Theatre to see amazing production of "Esther"
- Deluxe suite accommodations at a national hotel chain at the National Harbor
- Rooms complete with one King bed, full sleeper sofa and full kitchen.
- Full hot/cold breakfast on both Sat & Sunday
- Dinner on Friday
- Choice of spending Saturday touring the many attractions & museums in Washington DC or enjoying all there is to offer at the renowned National Harbor.
- Sunday morning worship at Ebenezer AME Church, Ft. Washington, MD before heading home.

Price: \$450.00 Adults

\$275.00 Children 12 and younger

(Assumes double occupancy in hotel. Cost is greater for single occupancy)

\$125 non-refundable deposit is due by 3/20/20

For more information or to reserve your seat, please contact Toni Pires at 508-961-9798 or the church, 508-997-2410

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Buy a dozen, get 6 free
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& Lunch**
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*For meal of equal or lesser value

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2 Sconticut Neck Road • Fairhaven

AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

CANCELLATIONS

Editor's note: All events and gatherings of more than 25 people have been canceled through March due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) threat, and more may be canceled into April.

We will use our Happenings pages to give people ways to pass the time while they are hunkered down at home, and to inform you of events that are scheduled for later in the spring and in the summer.

Jackson's FR Update

The fund-raiser for the Jackson family, which suffered a great loss after fire destroyed Jackson's Variety and the family home, has been POSTPONED for 3/21. Organizers still hope to hold the event at a later date.

Meanwhile, they are still selling tickets so they can give the money to the Jackson family. The event will still be held at the **Fairhaven VFW, 109 Middle St., Fairhaven, 508-997-1707**, and will include buffet dinner, music and dancing. **Tickets: \$20 per person.** Get tickets from bartender at VFW, American Legion in Fairhaven, Bayside Lounge, Haircutters, Mac's Soda Bar.

A devastating fire ripped through Jackson's Variety on Sconticut Neck Road in Fairhaven on 2/3/20, destroying the building that housed the business and was also the home of owner Colin "Jack" Jackson and his wife Peggy. A GoFundMe page has also been set up to help the family, who had no insurance on the business or the building: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/jackson039s-variety-fire-fund>

Vendors Invited

The 44th Annual Fairhaven Homecoming Day Fair Sponsored by the Fairhaven Improvement Association 40 Center St., Fairhaven, MA Saturday, June 27, 2020 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More than 175 booths featuring artists & crafters from all over New England. Art exhibit, food, kids' games, fire engine rides, music & live entertainment for the entire family.

Free admission. Handicap parking available.

Booth spaces and Art Exhibit spaces are available. For information please email fairhavenhomecoming@

gmail.com or visit: <http://www.fairhavenimprovement.org>
<https://www.facebook.com/FairhavenImprovementAssociation>

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 or on our website: www.marineryouthsoccer.com

Learn at Home

Here are some fun and FREE ways to learn from home.

- **Math:** Prodigy at play.prodigygame.com; Khan Academy at www.khanacademy.org
- **Reading:** Squiggle Park at www.squigglepark.com; Storyline at www.storylineonline.net/
- **Science:** Mystery Doug at mysterydoug.com; National Geographic at kids.nationalgeographic.com
- **Writing:** Typing Club at www.typingclub.com
- **Social Studies:** History for kids at www.historyforkids.net

Use 211 for COVID-19 info

With a lot of uncertainties in the upcoming days and weeks, we wanted to remind all service providers about Mass 211, which is the 24/7 statewide information and referral line available in 140+ languages that connects callers with critical social service programs and organizations in their local community year-round.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) has announced that Massachusetts 211 will now provide real-time COVID-19 informa-

tion, resources, and referrals. Mass 211 is made possible by local United Ways and the state of Massachusetts.

Through this partnership with Mass 211, DPH subject matter experts are expanding access to information 24/7, and empowering call operators to provide the latest information about the status of COVID-19 response efforts in Massachusetts. At peak call times, DPH staff will augment the call team to ensure residents' questions are answered without delay. This new service is in addition to a dedicated site mass.gov/covid19, which is updated daily with information and resources.

Residents across the state can call 2-1-1 to learn more about:

- COVID-19 prevention, symptoms, and treatment
- Information about testing
- Guidance for people planning or returning from travel

Mass 211 also operates the Call2Talk hotline for mental health, emotional support, and suicide prevention. Call2Talk also operates 24/7 and provides confidential, compassionate listening to assist people during stressful times.

Mass 211 can be reached by dialing 2-1-1 from any landline or cell phone in the state.

In addition to the services provided by Mass 211, United Way of Greater New Bedford has launched the Help United Fund to assist those locally affected by Coronavirus. We are currently exploring ways to get financial support to those who need it. Donations can be made by texting HELPUNITED to 313131 or visiting unitedwayofgnb.org.

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 to inquire. It's going to be a great show!



RE-ELECT CHARLES K. MURPHY, SR., SELECTMAN PROVEN LEADERSHIP, BRIGHT FUTURE

Fairhaven Citizens:

I am writing you today to provide THE REST OF THE STORY on charges leveled by my opponent. Below are some inaccuracies being promoted about my votes and views.

Claims of Overspending: My opponent claims that the Town is overspending and seems to confuse what Selectmen have authority over versus the elected Boards of Health and Public Works. He claims that the Board of Selectmen has enabled its administration to expand beyond its means. This simply is not true. We have a balanced budget every year, one that considers the level of services that are needed and expected. The FY21 budget that I support will reflect level-funded services that maintain a free cash figure of over \$2 million, or 3.9 percent of the FY21 proposed budget, in line with our financial policies. We use one-time funds for capital expenses, just as a fiscally-sound municipality should. Because of our prudent decision-making over the years, we have a Standard & Poor's bond rating of AA+. Would you call that financial ruin? I sure don't.

Claims of Making the Town Unaffordable: My opponent wants you to believe that we are pricing young families and elderly residents out of Fairhaven. That just isn't true. Our school enrollment continues to increase as young families discover what a wonderful community Fairhaven is, and how excellent our school system is. That excellent reputation is the result of hard work, positive relationships between departments, and sound management practices. Our elderly residents (65+) make up 34% of our population, and they are choosing to live in our beautiful community. Real estate values have increased, and new businesses are coming into town. Even though my opponent doesn't want you to believe it, the future is bright for Fairhaven.

Claims of Weak Sanctions: My opponent claims that I took a weak approach in a June 3 issue with a bar. He implies that I don't take the safety of first responders seriously. This is false. First, I have family and close friends in law enforcement. Secondly, at the initial hearing, I worked to force the establishment into strengthening its security and was the first to suggest a sanction of closing one hour earlier per day and to keep the hearing open to ensure the conditions were met. At the final hearing, it was motioned for a 6-day suspension by another Selectman. That motion

did not get seconded, and in fact, it was withdrawn. I seconded a motion for a more stringent 8-day suspension, which was the final vote. You can review these meetings on May 6, June 3, June 17, and July 22, 2019 and see the truth for yourself at: FairhavenTV.com.

My message is a positive one: Fairhaven is a wonderful community with sound fiscal practices and a bright future. We have talented employees who work hard to pull in grants to supplement our annual budget. The Conservation Agent/Sustainability Coordinator recently enacted changes as a part of our Green Communities designation that will result in almost \$90,000 in savings each year via improved electricity rates and solar installation for municipal use. She also procured a grant in the amount of \$254,535 that will be used for municipal energy improvements, electric vehicles, and vulnerability preparedness. When people throw around salary figures, they forget to include the payback that comes along with a position. *Does he propose eliminating that position and not obtaining these savings and grants?*

As your Selectman, I've worked to modernize our governmental structure and operations, have a strong partnership with our excellent school system, and create government transparency. Let's keep the momentum going. We are making tremendous progress, and it's never been a better time to be a Fairhaven resident. If you would like to watch the Candidates' Night and hear more about my stance on issues facing the Town, visit: fairhaventv.com/governmentmeetingvideos and click on "Meet the Candidates 3/11/20". I ask for your vote on Monday, April 6th, so we can continue this excellent work together.

Finally, but most importantly — the Board of Selectmen convened an emergency meeting on Friday, March 13, to discuss the coronavirus pandemic. I urge you to watch this informative meeting, which is currently on FairhavenTV.com. Our department heads provided valuable information on how to keep your family safe throughout this crisis. Please know that your leaders will do everything we can to continue to keep you safe, and we have communication plans in place to make sure that the community is updated regularly to the status of the coronavirus outbreak. You can get the latest information updated daily by visiting: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>

Yours in Service, Charlie

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Charles K. Murphy, Sr.

Change is in Your Hands



My name is Keith Silvia and I am running to be your representative on the Board of Selectmen. I want to answer some of the questions that have recently been asked of me.

Q. Can you run for this seat if your family member is a town employee?

A. I called the State Ethics Commission and they explained that I could absolutely run for this position. I would have to abstain from voting on my family member's (wife) salary. I would also abstain from voting on any issue that has to do with the Council on Aging unless it was necessary. This is clearly explained in the Ethics Training each town employee and board member have to take every year. I can, however, vote under the "Necessity Rule" which is if the selectmen vote 1-1 on an issue I could break the tie by voting.

Q. Have you or any one of your supporters harassed your opponent's family?

A. It was said at the last candidates night by my opponent that his family is being harassed by someone. I can assure you that no one from my team has harassed anyone. If I was to find out that someone from my team was doing this I would immediately ask them to leave. I have zero tolerance for this type of behavior!

Q. Do you consider yourself to be an independent thinker?

A. I do. I am currently serving the community as a member of the Board of Public Works. I get my packet for the upcoming meeting on Friday. I spend the weekend doing my homework on the issues that we will be dealing with on the following Monday. I then vote on what I think is best for the Town and its ratepayers. I have no problem voicing my opinion on an issue even if it goes against what other board members say. I can agree to disagree. I will do the same as your selectmen. I will do what is best for the taxpayer!

Q. What caused you to finally jump into the race.

A. After following the politics of the town for several years and frequently finding myself in

disagreement with most of the decisions my opponent has made, the poor decision he made during the selectmen's meeting on 6/3/2019 regarding issue's related to ongoing complaints from the neighbors of Rasputin's Bar coupled with the concerns the police expressed at that same meeting made me realize that a change needed to be made on that board. These were serious concerns of guns, property damage, gang affiliation, drugs and topless dancing. When the other two selectmen motioned, and seconded the motion, for the bar to close one hour earlier (1:00 a.m.) with a pending 8 day suspension if any other disturbances occurred, my opponent opposed the motion. In an article in the *Fairhaven Neighborhood News* following this meeting, my opponent stated that he opposed because he felt the consequences were not harsh enough. Well if this is so, why didn't he motion for what he felt would be a harsher punitive action. He had the chance right then and there to do so. My opponent's action, or should I say lack of action, led me to believe there were other reasons. This meeting can still be viewed on the government access channel. It was after this meeting that I shook his hand and I politely told him that I would be running against him.

Q. What are your thoughts on the new public safety building?

A. As I mentioned at Candidates Night, I am not in favor of taxing the Fairhaven residents for the construction of a 40-50 million dollar Fire Station. My experience in construction for the past 40 years provides me the insight for what the existing Fire Station could become for a price tag less than 50 million.

Q. Do you think we need an assistant to the Town Administrator?

A. I do not believe that a position of an assistant to the Town Administrator should be created. By creating this position and adding it to the Human Resource Director's position, it appears the Town Administrator has just chosen his successor without seeking the best candidate for this position. The cost to the taxpayer will be \$253,000.00 for these top positions. This is ridiculous to me!

These are just a few questions I have been asked. I believe the time has come for change. The change is in your hands.

I respectfully ask for your vote on Monday, April 6th!

If you are concerned about going to the polls to vote, call the Town Clerk, 508-979-4023, Ext. 3, to inquire about how to apply for an absentee ballot, or visit <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleabsentee/absidx.htm>

PAID FOR BY KEITH SILVIA

CANCELED

Editor's note: All events and gatherings of more than 25 people have been canceled through March due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) threat, and more may be canceled into April.

We will use our Happenings pages to give people ways to pass the time while they are hunkered down at home, and to inform you of events that are scheduled for later in the spring and in the summer.

New Bedford Info

Mayor Mitchell has declared that a state of emergency now exists in New Bedford. This allows for the suspension of certain rules to expedite the procurement of goods and services, as well as allowing the Mayor to take reasonable steps to ensure public safety.

Visit <https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/health-department/coronavirus/> for information on how to do business with the city during the crisis.

City of New Bedford – Department Phone Numbers

- Assessor: 508-979-1440
- Cemetery: 508-979-1550
- City Clerk: 508-979-1450
- Council on Aging: 508-991-6250
- Election Commission: 508-979-1420
- Fire (non-emergency): 508-991-6124
- Health: 508-991-6199
- Inspectional Services: 508-979-1540
- Police (non-emergency): 508-991-6300
- Traffic: 508-979-1766
- Trash: 508-979-1520
- Treasurer: 508-979-1430

Fiddle Time

Fri., 3/20, 7 p.m. Join us for a FREE livestream concert online

New Bedford Symphony musicians Peter Zay (cello) and EmmaLee Holmes-Hicks (violin) bring to you an evening of fiddle music to help brighten your spirits during this tough and uncertain time. Peter will even bring his guitar for the occasion, accompanying EmmaLee on a set of traditional Irish Tunes in case you missed your traditional St. Patrick's Day celebration. Also on the program will be a five-movement suite by Andy Stein, fiddler on "A Prairie Home Companion," a special arrangement of Londonderry Air by Peter himself,

and a collection of cello/fiddle duets by well-known folk musicians Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas. Tune in for a cozy evening of upbeat music live streamed from a living room in Yarmouth, Maine.

To watch live, simply go to our Facebook Event "Live Stream: Fiddle Time" <https://www.facebook.com/events/2551246465196675/> at 7pm, Friday evening. You will be able to view the concert even if you do not have a Facebook account. And don't worry if you miss it! The concert will remain available for viewing on our page.

If you do have a Facebook account, be sure to "Like" our page, find the event and click on "Going" so that you will receive notifications about the concert.

NBPS free lunches

New Bedford Public Schools Food Services is providing "Grab and Go" meals during district closure and until further notice. Pre-packed school breakfasts and lunches will be available FREE to all students K12 in the city of New Bedford.

Students 18 years and younger may take one (1) lunch and one (1) breakfast for the next day. Meals will be available 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday at the following serving locations:

Alfred J. Gomes Elementary School, Campbell Elementary School, Carney Academy Elementary School, Hayden-McFadden Elementary School, Keith Middle School, Lincoln Elementary School, Roosevelt Middle School.

All meals must be taken and consumed offsite. Acushnet students may also use this service.

Summer Programs

The New Bedford Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches (DPRB) has applications for its 2020 Kennedy Summer Day program for children, as well as for summer jobs, now available.

Applications are available for parents to register their children to participate in the Kennedy Summer Day Program. This summer program is an opportunity for children to engage in a variety of sports, games, crafts, environmental education, and

outdoor fun while making new friends. Activities include beach and swim time, special visitor programs from the Art Mobile, Buzzards Bay Coalition, and many more.

The Kennedy Summer Day Program operates out of beautiful Fort Taber Park and includes breakfast, lunch and transportation. The program is open to children who are eligible for kindergarten in September of 2020 through the age of 14.

For New Bedford residents, each two-week session is \$240. Scholarships are available for those who qualify. If space allows, non-residents may register for \$275 per session. This summer, the program will also offer a one-week option for \$150 for residents and \$175 for non-residents.

Available Sessions: 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. daily

- Session 1 July 6—July 17
- Session 2 July 20—July 31
- Session 3 August 3—August 14
- Session 4 August 17—August 21 (one week only)

Space is limited, so parents are encouraged to complete and submit an application as soon as possible. Registration packets are available at the DPRB, 181 Hillman St., Building 3; at the Andrea McCoy Recreation Center, and at www.newbedford-ma.gov/parks-recreation-beaches, or contact by phone at 508-961-3015.

Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches has applications for seasonal summer jobs available. The department offers positions for New Bedford residents for 8 to 10 weeks during the summer working in a variety of programs. Many positions are entry level for youth ages 16 to 24 while others require professional experience. There are more than 70 positions being offered for this summer for city residents seeking a summer opportunity or job-related experience. Applicants must be 16 years of age by the effective date of the program.

Applications are available at the DPRB, 181 Hillman St. Building 3 or under job opportunities at www.newbedford-ma.gov.

All applications must be returned to the DPRB. **Applications will be accepted until 3/27/20.**

For more information contact the DPRB at 508-961-3015.

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

CANCELED

Editor's note: All events and gatherings of more than 25 people have been canceled through March due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) threat, and more may be canceled into April.

We will use our Happenings pages to give people ways to pass the time while they are hunkered down at home, and to inform you of events that are scheduled for later in the spring and in the summer.

Acush Rabies Shots

Due to the Coronavirus Public Health Emergency the Acushnet Rabies Clinic scheduled for Sunday, **is canceled.**

Dr. Gaumont from Acushnet Animal Hospital, 265 Main St., will offer rabies vaccinations for Acushnet Residents, by appointment only, beginning on Thursday, March 19th & Monday – Thursday until April 16th from 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Vaccinations cost: \$10.00 (cash only) per pet with NO office visit fees

Appointments can be made by contacting Acushnet Animal Hospital at (508) 998-3004

One (1) & three (3*) year rabies vaccines available. If your pet is currently vaccinated, bring the current vaccination documentation and a 3 year rabies vaccination will be issued.

In addition, the Town of Acushnet Annual Dog Licensing Deadline is extended until June 1, 2020. Dog Licenses can be obtained by mail by sending a check payable to the Town of Acushnet, for the appropriate fee: \$10, Altered; \$15.00 Unaltered; \$20.00, 3-4 Dog Kennel; \$50.00, 5-15 Dog Kennel; \$100.00, 15+ Dog Kennel

Please call the Town Clerk's Office at (508) 998-0215 or the Animal Control Officer, Rebekah Tomlinson at (508) 998-9040.

Grants for Artists

The Westport Cultural Council encourages all artists, writers, scientists, musicians, historians, creative people and organizations to apply for a Helen E Ellis Charitable Trust grant. This year the Council has an astonishing \$35,000 to distribute, and we are hoping for a record number of applicants. **You do not need to be a Westport resident to apply.**

Applications and further

information can be found at <https://westport-ma.com/westport-cultural-council-wcc>. Or email westportcc02790@gmail.com

Nine printed copies of the application are required. Applications can be left at the Council's mailbox on the 2d floor of Town Hall, 816 Main Road, or mailed to the Westport Cultural Council, P.O. Box 4089, Westport, MA 02790. **Deadline HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO APRIL 3.**

The Westport Cultural Council strives to continue Miss Ellis's mission by awarding grants that support arts, music, crafts, conservation, wildlife, and history preservation projects and programs for children and adults.

Fish Council Goes Remote

Due to public health concerns regarding COVID-19, and the growing number of travel restrictions being imposed the New England Fishery Management Council is taking steps to convert several upcoming meetings to webinars.

Details about logistics are still in the works, but in an effort to help participants plan ahead, the Council is announcing the list of meetings that will be immediately impacted.

SKATES: The Council's Skate Advisory Panel (AP) and Skate Committee are scheduled to meet jointly on Thursday, March 26, 2020. This joint meeting now will be held by webinar. Related documents are available on the skate meeting webpage, and webinar registration information will be posted as soon as it's available.

SCALLOPS: The Scallop AP also will meet on Thursday, March 26, 2020 via webinar. Documents and webinar registration information will be posted on the Scallop AP meeting webpage shortly. The Scallop Committee will meet the following day, Friday, March 27, 2020, also by webinar. Stay tuned to the Scallop Committee meeting webpage for details.

EBFM: The Council's Ecosystem-Based Fishery Management (EBFM) Committee will meet jointly with the EBFM Plan Development Team (PDT) on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 by webinar. Updates will be posted on the EBFM/PDT meeting webpage.

GROUND FISH: The Groundfish AP will meet via webinar on Thursday, April 2, 2020. The Groundfish Committee will meet on Friday, April 3, 2020, again by webinar. Keep tabs on the AP and Committee meeting webpages for webinar registration information and related meeting documents.

SSC: The Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) already was scheduled to meet via webinar on

Tuesday, March 31, 2020 and will proceed accordingly. **APRIL 14-16, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING:** The Council is moving ahead with plans for a full, in-person meeting in Mystic, CT, although this, too, may be converted to a webinar meeting as the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve.

Visit <https://www.nefmc.org>.

RMV Opening 7 Locations

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) has reopened seven of its 30 customer service center locations, while asking that customers who do not have immediate needs for required in-person services delay their visits. The RMV facilities that are being reopened prioritize regional availability, accessibility and facility size and capacity. To assist with "social-distancing" and reducing facility volume, customers are asked to not bring multiple individuals with them. Meanwhile, AAA locations will continue to offer select RMV services to AAA members and road tests will be suspended indefinitely.

Only the following seven RMV centers have been reopened until further notice: Boston/Haymarket, Brockton, Fall River, Lawrence, Pittsfield, Plymouth, and Worcester. Hearings will be conducted at Boston/Haymarket, Brockton, Fall River, Lawrence, and Worcester. Hearings at the Pittsfield RMV occur weekly on Wednesdays and are scheduled to resume on March 25th. No hearings will be conducted in Plymouth.

Road tests for permit holders are postponed at all locations through at least Friday, March 20th.

Certain extensions have also been applied. Visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/rmv-covid-19-information>

Recipe of the Week

Shrimp Noodle Bowls

- 1 (3 ounce) package ramen noodles (flavor packet discarded)
- 8 ounces frozen cooked shrimp, thawed
- 1/2 cup julienned red bell pepper
- 1/2 cup shredded carrot
- 1/2 cup thinly bias-sliced celery
- 1/3 cup bottled chile-lime vinaigrette
- 2 tablespoons chopped dry-roasted peanuts
- 2 sprigs fresh mint
- 1 pinch cracked black pepper (optional)

Cook ramen according to package directions. Drain in a colander under cold running water until cool; drain again.

Toss together ramen, shrimp, bell pepper, carrot, celery, and vinaigrette in a bowl. Top servings with peanuts, mint, and black pepper. Serve cold.

Cook's Notes:

You can substitute cucumber half-moons for the celery.

Use your favorite Asian salad dressing instead of the vinaigrette if desired.

From allrecipes.com

COVID-19: cont'd from page 3

for these kinds of situations.

"That's part of what we prepare for all the time," said Ms. Freire-Kellogg

So far, there have been no shelter in place orders for the state.

"If people follow these guidelines, then we won't get there," she said. "We don't have to go to a shelter in place."

Ms. Freire-Kellogg also said that people are starting to feel a lot of anxiety. She said there are resources on the website for people who are having a hard time with the situation. Her department is continuing to put together more resources, she said, so people should check back periodically (<https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/board-health/news/coronavirus>)

The state's website is also being updated daily with a wealth of information on the virus, new directives from the governor, and resources. Visit mass.gov and click on the banner right on the top, or use this link: <https://www.mass.gov/resource/information-on-the-outbreak-of-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

Stop & Shop has offered special hours for anyone over 60, who may feel especially vulnerable to the virus. They may shop from 6-7:30 a.m.

People who are feeling isolated may also want to look into the various platforms that allow virtual group meetings, such as Zoom, Go To Meeting, Google Hangouts, FaceTime, Skype, Slack, Doxy.me, Facebook Live, Google Hookup.

With schools closed, many students will lose out on the meals they get. Fairhaven students may go to the front entrance of Elizabeth Hastings Middle School, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. daily. Each "Grab and Go" meal contains one lunch and one breakfast for the next morning.

Use this link for all updates by the Fairhaven School system regarding COVID-19: <https://bit.ly/3d9rNZN>

For information on the federal government on COVID-19, visit the Centers for Disease Control website at <https://www.cdc.gov>

The Fairhaven Selectboard met with department heads and declared a state of emergency in Fairhaven. See story on page 4.

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Fairhaven Government Access holds annual candidates night

By Mary Macedo

Neighb News Correspondent

On Wednesday, 3/11/20, six of the 11 candidates running for office in Fairhaven voiced their messages to the public at the candidates' night held in the Fairhaven Town Hall auditorium. The event was sponsored by the Fairhaven Cable Access Channel (Fairhaven TV) and will be cablecast on channel 18, and is also available on demand at www.fairhaventv.com

Moderator Maria Carvalho introduced herself and welcomed everyone, explaining that due to last minute cancellations there would only be one panelist asking questions to candidates. Ms. Carvalho introduced Fairhaven TV Director Derek Frates as the panelist for the evening.

Each candidate was allowed to make a five minute opening statement, followed by questions from Mr. Frates, and a five minute closing statement.

The first candidates were the two running for one seat on the Selectboard. Incumbent Charles K. Murphy, Sr. faces challenger Keith Silvia in that race.

Mr. Murphy started his opening statement by thanking the audience and Fairhaven TV.

He said he was so thankful to have served on the Selectboard and wanted to continue to be on the board for many more years, which is why he is running for re-election.

Mr. Murphy said that there have been many changes during his time on the Selectboard, and some



misinformation has been put out there.

In 2014 the Selectboard hired a Town Administrator who has helped do a lot of new thing in town, but it has changed the way some people think about the Selectboard, and the changes the board has been making over the past few years.

Mr. Murphy said they have started to make stricter policies and follow them, as well as make sure all town funds are on track.

Mr. Murphy said there has been a lot of talk about the Selectboard overspending. He said that that is untrue and that all the money spent by the Selectboard can be viewed on the FY20 budget. The board has



ABOVE, L-R: L-R: Selectboard incumbent Charles K. Murphy, Sr.; and challenger Keith Silvia; moderator Maria Carvalho at the Meet the Candidates night sponsored by Fairhaven Government Access TV on Wednesday, 3/11/20, in the Town Hall auditorium. TOP: Selectboard incumbent Charles K. Murphy, Sr. BELOW: Selectboard challenger Keith Silvia. Photos by Glenn C. Silva.

brought in six million dollars for the budget and around \$280,000 worth of grants.

Mr. Murphy also said that the town has an amazing, talented staff working in town, and the community is blessed to have them.

He said he does not like the negativity that has been displayed about his wife, daughter, himself and the Fairhaven Commission on Disabilities that he organizes.

He told voters he has a volunteer spirit and helps many organizations in the area, such as the Commission on Disabilities, Our Lady of Angels Catholic Association, the food pantry and many others.



Mr. Murphy said his mother brought him up to respect and assist everyone, adding that his mother had such a love for the town of Fairhaven.

Opposing candidate Mr. Silvia then began his opening statement by thanking the audience for being there.

He stated that he has been a resident of Fairhaven for 40 years and has brought up his three children and one grandchild in the town with his wife.

Mr. Silvia explained that he has been on the Fairhaven Board of Public Works for the last few years and has seen the issues going on in town due to the Selectboard's decisions.

Mr. Silvia explained that the big BPW sewer nitrogen project which has been mandated by the state will be costing the town millions in borrowed money, but there is

no way around it. He said it is something that has to be done, which is why the sewer and water rates have gone up.

Mr. Silvia also explained that the fire and police stations have been waiting years to get a better facility, but he is wondering how necessary it is really is. He said he does not think the town should be spending millions of dollars on a new safety facility.

He also said there are also a lot of issues with the Town Administrator.

Mr. Silvia said he would love to see what the Town Administrator does, because he delegates a lot of his work to other departments.

CANDIDATES: cont'd on next page

CANDIDATES: cont'd from previous page

And now the TA wants to hire an assistant to help him, which will also cost the town a significant amount of money. Mr. Silvia said that between the TA's salary and his assistant's future salary their jobs will cost the town around \$253,000.

Mr. Silvia also explained that the town has a big issue with departments in the town hall being closed during business hours.

He said he has had contractors come to him and say that they went to town hall and all the doors were shut and the lights were off during work hours in the building department. Mr. Silvia said he understands that employees need their lunch time and breaks, but there should always be one employee there to cover others breaks.

The Selectboard also has a problem with excessive spending, said Mr. Silvia, adding that the Selectboard does anything the Town Administrator wants. He said that all the borrowing is going to start catching up with town.

After the closing statements, Mr. Frates had three questions for the candidates.

The first question he asked them both was how they demonstrate that they are independent thinkers in their careers.

Mr. Murphy, who runs a nonprofit that services disabled adults, answered first stating that he has always been an independent thinker. He said at his business he balances money and runs a company. He treats everyone with dignity, respect, and kindness.

Mr. Silvia, an independent contractor, answered the question stating that he has a great reputation for being there for people. He said every time he finishes a building project he gains a friend. He said that everything he says he is going to do he does.

Mr. Silvia said on the BPW a lot of people think that board member Robert "Hoppy" Hobson runs the board, but he does not, we all have our own thoughts and vote on our own.

The second question Mr. Frates asked the candidates was which area of town do they think needs the most improvement and how would they improve it.

Mr. Murphy stated that he believes North Fairhaven needs the most improvement, adding there is a lot to do in the neighborhood.

Mr. Murphy said that every other part of town should be considered to, but North Fairhaven could use some clean up and updates.

Mr. Silvia said he believed town hall needed some attention.

He also said the workforce is not happy here. Mr. Silvia said the doors are always closed and employees

already changed the name and many are changing them, adding that he is fine with idea, he is just concerned about the cost to change signage, logos etc. to the new name.

Mr. Murphy said he has absolutely no problem with it as long as it is not too expensive.

Mr. Silvia had quite different opinion, answering that he feels right now that it should continue to be Board of Selectmen.

"There are three men on the board, so it should be Selectmen," Mr. Silvia said.

He added that if at sometime a woman is elected to the board then the name can be changed to Selectboard.

"Right now, I am a man and I would want to be called Selectman," Mr. Silvia said.

In his closing statement, Mr. Murphy stated the things that he and the Selectboard have accomplished together: the Selectboard made a 25 mph speed limit in town; expanded and made the veterans' office accessible; new businesses opening at the old Benny's; real estate values are up, houses are selling; and adding stop signs to West Island, which had to be approved by the Selectboard.

"I truly feel like we are doing as much as we can," Mr. Murphy said. "And we can always do more and I want to do more."

Mr. Murphy said he wants to do more without overspending and budget efficiently.

"I ask for your vote to continue," Mr. Murphy said.

Mr. Silvia closed stating that the excessive spending needs to stop. He said there are 5200 senior citizens on fixed incomes and cannot afford for taxes to go up.

Mr. Silvia added that it also affects young families buying homes in town.

He said that they need take the town back under control.

Editor's note: The Selectboard race is the only contested race in this year's elections. Other candidates did attend the candidates night, and we will run a story on that portion of the evening in next week's issue.



Six of the 11 candidates running for office in Fairhaven showed up at town hall on Wednesday, 3/11/20, for a Meet the Candidates night sponsored by the Fairhaven Government Access Channel. About 50 people also attended to hear first-hand what the candidates had to say. It will be the only candidates night this election season, as the West island Improvement Association's candidate night was canceled due to the Covid-19 threat. Photo by Glenn C. Silva.

need to be at work from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. except for lunch breaks, but there should be coverage.

Mr. Silvia also said there is a big morale problem with the employees at town hall. He said that they need to get better policies and work those hours.

The final question Mr. Frates asked was what their opinions were on changing the name of the Board of Selectmen to the Selectboard to support gender equality, which was recently discussed at a Selectboard meeting.

Mr. Murphy said that at Town meeting they will be able to vote on whether the name should be changed or not. He said that many towns have

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Mall Trips

All mall trips have been canceled until further notice due to the threat of Covid-19 (coronavirus).

Entertainment: 12:30–2:30 p.m.

CANCELED

Special Activities

CANCELED

Fairhaven Council on Aging Closure

In an effort to keep the Covid-19 virus from spreading:
Beginning March 16, 2020, the Fairhaven Council on Aging
will be closed until further notice.

The Council on Aging staff will be at the senior center and
available by phone: 508-979-4029.

All activities have been canceled,
including the congregate meal and all evening /events.

**In town transportation will remain available
until further notice. Please call the senior center
if you need a ride.**

The Fairhaven Supportive Social Day will be open through
March 20 to give caregivers time to make an alternate plan of
care for their social day client. Please call the
Supportive Social Day staff at 508-993-9455 with any questions.

A week to week evaluation will be implemented whether or not
Social Day will remain open with caregivers being advised.

Please call the Supportive Staff at 508-993-9455
with any questions.

Ongoing Programs

Call 508-979-4029 for days and times

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Elderly/monthly meeting; Grocery Shopping; LGBT Supper Club; Live Band;
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Acushnet Selectboard holds meeting remotely

By Beth David
Editor

The Acushnet Selectboard held its regular meeting on Tuesday 3/17/20, using a remote service, in response to Covid-19 (coronavirus) and the order for people to limit their exposure to each other, also known as “social distancing,” or “physical distancing.”

Everyone had to dial in to listen/participate, including the public. The instructions for how to dial in and participate was included on the agenda that was posted online in its usual place.

Acushnet is no different than other communities in Massachusetts as it has closed government buildings to the public. Most employees are still reporting to work to do the town’s business and the public’s business, but in order to curtail in-person contact, the doors are locked.

If you need to do business with the town, you should call the department you need and they will figure out a way for you to get what you need.

Instead of listing all the things that have been canceled, it is safe to say that everything has been either canceled, or changed in a way to

minimize person-person-contact.

Schools

The schools are closed statewide, and Acushnet has instituted e-learning, Visit <https://www.acushnetschools.us> or call 508-998-0260 for more information on how to access e-learning or to receive packets.

Acushnet students who rely on meals from the schools may access New Bedford’s program during the shut down. They may access any one of the New Bedford Public Schools feeding sites for a free school breakfast and lunch via their grab and go model.

Message from Fire Chief Kevin Gallagher

From the Acushnet Fire & EMS
Department Facebook Page

Posted on 3/14/20

“The next few days and possibly weeks will [be] a time of great uncertainty for everyone. While the Covid-19 virus is unlike blizzards, hurricanes and tornadoes (Acushnet had one several years ago) the lessons learned from those events tell us that impacts can be lessened if we

help each other, look out for each other and go the extra mile.

“We also know that no matter what happens with other town services, we will be on duty every hour of every day. If any Acushnet resident needs assistance please call us. We will do our best to assist in [any way] possible.

“Remember, if you have an emergency call 9-1-1. If you are not feeling well follow the guidance provided by federal and state health officials. If you run low on food, medications or other essentials call us at 508-998-0250. We will help however we can.

“This is the time for our community to stand together. Life will return to normal, but until then, we are all in this together. As usual.”

Kevin A. Gallagher, Fire Chief

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Michel de Montaigne

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My name is **Mike Ristuccia** and I am a candidate for the Board of Health. As a means of introduction for those who do not know me, I am a long time resident in this Town, possess an innate desire to help others through Public Administration and am sincerely concerned about the financial future of this Town. I served the Town as a Board of Public Works Commissioner for a period of six years and was elected as Chairman for more than half of my tenure.

If elected, I plan to use the skills I learned while on the BPW to ensure that our residents are well served by the Board of Health both operationally and fiscally.

PAID FOR BY MIKE RISTUCCIA

BPW discusses a variety of issues, including TM articles

By Mary Macedo

Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Monday, 3/9/20, the Fairhaven Board of Public Works discussed obtaining an electric vehicle for the BPW, as well as the Pasta House grease trap progress.

The board first met with Mike Saunders of MHT Excavating about becoming a new driveway contractor in the town of Fairhaven.

BPW Chairperson Brian Wotton said that Mr. Saunders had all of his papers in perfect order and would like to start doing driveways in town.

Board member Keith Silvia explained that one stipulation is that once Mr. Saunders completes his first driveway in town the Highway Superintendent John Charbonneau must approve it.

The board approved Mr. Saunders to be a contractor in Fairhaven.

In another matter the board discussed an article that will be going in front of town meeting regarding two electric vehicles being leased, one for the BPW and one for the Board of Health.

The board briefly discussed the article at their last meeting and agreed that the BPW needs a new vehicle for trainings and moving parts.

Board member Robert "Hoppy" Hobson asked if the vehicle will affect the BPW budget.

BPW Superintendent Vincent Furtado explained that the board needs to decide if they want to support the article at town meeting.

He said that if the board supports the article more money would be added to their budget for the vehicle, so the money would not come out of the existing BPW budget, instead

more money would be added to the BPW budget.

Mr. Hobson said that Town Administrator Mark Rees is the one that suggested the vehicles.

Mr. Furtado explained that he is worried that the vehicle will not work for what the department needs it for. He said that some of the trainings the employees go to are far away and if it is an electric vehicle the charge only lasts for a certain number of miles.

Mr. Furtado said he is worried that the trainings are too far for the car to stay charged.

Mr. Hobson also asked if the car would be big enough to deliver parts for the BPW.

Mr. Furtado said he expects the car to be similar to a Prius in size because the town is going green on town vehicles, which is why they have opted for an electric car.

Board member Keith Silvia said he was against the article. He said he believed that the town does not need the two cars and that they will cost \$20,000 for the first year and that is money that would come from taxes

Board member Frank Coelho agreed with Mr. Silvia.

Mr. Hobson explained that the car would cost \$10,000 this year, but next year that money could be taken out of the BPW budget instead of being given.

Board member Cameron Durant said if it is not needed then the board should not support the article. He asked if there is a need for a new car.

Mr. Furtado said there is a need for a new car for traveling to trainings etc. He said that they currently use an old Ford Explorer but it does not meet the green requirements for the town like the electric vehicle would.

Mr. Durant suggested that the

Town Administrator attend a BPW meeting and explain all the information that goes along with getting the new vehicle.

Mr. Wotton said that he was torn on the issue.

Mr. Silvia said that the lease only allows 8,000 miles a year and costs by the mile if they go over that amount. Mr. Furtado said that he did not think they would go over that mileage.

Mr. Wotton asked Mr. Furtado if the Ford Explorer would last a while longer.

"The Explorer is a piece of crap, honestly," Mr. Furtado said.

Mr. Wotton suggested that they table their decision on the article until they get more information on cost and mileage, etc.

Mr. Furtado said he would get more information.

In another matter Mr. Furtado gave an update on the Pasta House grease trap. He said the Board of Health informed the engineers that they needed to increase the size of the grease trap due to the amount of seats in the restaurant.

Mr. Furtado said he also informed the engineers that they need to make sure the bathroom waste is separated from the grease waste. He said the engineer owes the board a more detailed drawing of the trap.

When he receives the new drawing, he will share it with the board.

The trap is still on schedule to be finished on April 7.

In another matter, North Fairhaven Improvement Association member John Medeiros complimented the board on doing a great job responding to issues within town.

Mr. Medeiros said that he con-

BPW: cont'd to page 20



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Candidate statements: Fairhaven Selectboard



Charles K. Murphy, Sr.

I am honored to serve this community as an INDEPENDENT leader on the Board of Selectmen and still have many more goals to accomplish. I am eager to continue to listen to the concerns of our citizens and implement an action plan wherever needed to assist the

citizens of Fairhaven.

Professionally speaking, I run an organization which I started from scratch here in the Town of Fairhaven, M.O., L.I.F.E., Inc., in 1995. We now have 88 employees. This 25-year-old organization focuses on the need for teenagers and adults with disabilities to work towards achieving their highest potential in life. Additionally, I founded a Food Pantry in the year 2000 to fulfill the needs of the less fortunate. As a Licensed Therapist and a counselor for Gosnold, I am professionally trained to be a good listener and to assist others with quality results.

This background has prepared me for the numerous issues that I deal with as a Selectman.

I have a strong investment in this town and have worked hard to assist other departments in meeting and exceeding their goals. It is this teamwork that makes our government work. It is an honor to be one of the leaders of this strong Team.

I have worked to keep our taxes in check and the tax rate has decreased over the past years. I have also worked to ensure ACCOUNTABILITY in our government. This is why, for example, we have created Board Policies and Procedures to keep everything transparent. Without proper accountability, expenses can go up too fast.

One of the key functions of local government is establishing safety! Three years ago, we worked to get Stop Signs on West Island, and it was initially denied after a lengthy process. We then worked on it again and just last month, the Select Board approved the Stop Signs, as it can only be approved by our Board. Persistence can address important issues.

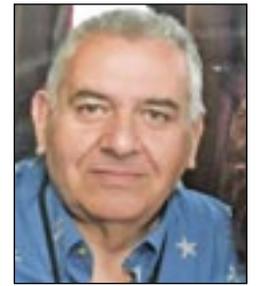
STRUCTURALLY, our budget is always carefully reviewed. This budget planning process initiated several years ago, has led to an improvement in our bond rating, making borrowing costs cheaper and a savings to the TAXPAYERS. These are the types of ideas we need for our future financial stability.

I am committed to this Town and take this position and its impact on people very seriously. My family history in this town has given me this example to live by. I have enormous respect for our quality of life and the concerns to all individuals in our Town and plan to continue to take in the facts and make decisions with COMPASSION and COMMON SENSE. By working together, through all departments, we can accomplish this goal! I have also been fortunate to have a very supportive family, a great campaign team who have worked so hard, and I am truly blessed to have each member in my life and our community.

As your INDEPENDENT voice, I respectfully ask for your vote on Monday April 6th

Thank you!

Keith Silvia



My name is Keith Silvia and I am running for selectman in the upcoming Town election on April 6, 2020. I have called Fairhaven my home for 40 years where I have raised my three children Dan, Meghan and Tom, with my wife, Anne Silvia. I presently hold a seat on the Board of Public Works and have previously held a seat on the Board of Appeals. Volunteerism is a quality that Anne and I have great dedication to and we have instilled this quality in the mindset of our children.

As owner of my own construction business, Keith Silvia Custom Builder, I have had the opportunity, with my son Dan, to volunteer my time, and building skills, to create the Town of Fairhaven's Time Capsule and the display for the Veterans chair, both located at the Fairhaven Town Hall, both of which I take great pride in. My goal in life is to be able to spend my senior years in the town where I have invested so many years.

However, the direction the town has taken financially over the past few years has created realistic concerns generated by some decisions made by the present Town Officials and Administrator:

- Increased real estate taxes
- Action taken at the Town Administrator's level of excessive spending of tax payers dollars:
- Creation of new Town positions
- Unnecessary spending of employee reimbursement mileage and Town vehicle use
- Lack of ability for the public to carry out business during Town Hall hours due to some departments being closed
- PCB dredging cleanup near residential locations
- Questions related to ongoing Union Wharf issues

These are just a few of my concerns. I am certain that without the occurrence of change at the decision making level of our town government, the financial issues this town will be facing will cause future significant financial issues to Fairhaven residents, particularly the senior population.

If you are interested in speaking with me about my concerns, please email me at ksilvia2@yahoo.com and I will forward my phone number. It's time for change and the change is in your hands.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Keith Silvia*

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Fairhaven Neighborhood News

BPW: cont'd from page 18

tacted Mr. Hobson about the light not work on a flag pole near the highway on Main Street in front of the cemetery. Mr. Medeiros said that the BPW got right on the issue and had it fixed and communicated with Mr. Medeiros through the whole process.

He said the BPW did a great job.

In another matter Mr. Hobson mentioned that all board members currently on the BPW are from the same areas in Fairhaven.

Mr. Hobson suggested that in the future they should look into having board members from each precinct.

He explained that some people say certain areas of town get better taken care of, or are favored by the BPW because the board members live in those areas. He said if they had board members from each area no one in town could criticize and say one area

of town is favored over another.

Mr. Furtado also told the board that the BPW will meet with the landfill engineer and the Board of Health next month to discuss the new recycling center.

In other business, Mr. Hobson suggested they get a head start on the weeds growing this year. He suggested a plan to spray the areas where weeds grow before they start to grow out of control like previous years.

Mr. Wotton suggested they discuss the weeds and a plan to maintain them at the next meeting.

Mr. Hobson also asked about a d e v e r t i s i n g

summer jobs for the Park Department, as well as beaches and lifeguards.

Office manager Rebecca Vento said that they will be sending out invitations for re-employment to last year's employees on April 1, and they have already received some new applications for this year.

Ms. Vento said they always are in need of life guards and they will begin hiring for all summer jobs in May.



Robert A. Furtado
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Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

Tuesday, April 7, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall Banquet Room, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

- 166 Dogwood Street:** Elizabeth David. 198-21 (C): Variance request to extend a non conforming structure, not 5' from property line.
- 260 Main Street:** Raymond J. Oliveira. 198-16: Special Permit for an in-law apartment above garage.
- Administrative Appeal by Fairhaven Shipyard, re: 7 Union Street.** Seeking Reversal of Zoning Determination dated February 20, 2020.

*Peter DeTerra, Chairman
FNN: 3/19/20, 3/26/20*

ALL IN PERSON MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELED

We are continuing to list government meetings here because both towns are moving to remote meetings. The public will be invited to dial in to participate. Please check the town's website or call the appropriate office to find out how you can join in. Not all departments are set up yet, so some meetings may still be postponed until everyone has the same capabilities.

Fairhaven Meetings

Board of Public Works

Wed., 2/25, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 3/23, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 3/19, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

CANCELED

Marine Resources Comm

Thurs., 3/5, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board

Tues., 3/24, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 3/18, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 3/23, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet Meetings

Board of Appeals

Tues., 3/24, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Assessors

Tues., 3/24, Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

Thurs., 3/26, CANCELED

Selectboard

Tues., 3/24, Town Hall, 4:30 p.m.

Soil Board/PJ Keating Hrg

NOTE DATE CHANGE

Tues. 4/28, Parting Ways, 6 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Mar. 2020	HIGH a.m. p.m.	LOW a.m. p.m.		
Friday	20	0615 1840	0101 1335		
Saturday	21	0658 1919	0147 1418		
Sunday	22	0737 1956	0231 1455		
Monday	23	0813 2033	0306 1506		
Tuesday	24	0851 2110	0232 1426		
Wednesday	25	0929 2148	0248 1452		
Thursday	26	1008 2226	0319 1524		
Friday	27	1046 2305	0353* 1558*		

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

Digital reading room is perfect when stuck at home

Press Release

Libraries have long embraced the digital age and are continually adding innovations and conveniences to service the members of their communities. As another example, SAILS Library Network has digitized the concept of physical reading rooms by creating a specialized eReading Room of magazines. With a library card, patrons can browse digital books sectioned off from the rest of the catalog with all searches filtered and dedicated to magazines. Top ranked titles available include *OK!*, *Clean Eating* and *HGTV Magazine*. Readers can find this on <https://sails.overdrive.com/library/magazines> and on Libby (<https://www.overdrive.com/apps/libby/>), the award-winning one-tap reading app from OverDrive.

"SAILS has seen so much growth in the use of ebooks and audiobooks from people in our communities," said Kathy Lussier, Executive Director of SAILS Library Network. "We're thrilled we can now offer access to magazines through the OverDrive service that they already know and love."

SAILS Library Network's digital

collection offers thousands of ebooks, audiobooks and magazines in a variety of genres. The eReading Room concept was born from the existence of physical spaces in libraries that are designed specifically for different ages, subjects or themes. Since then, eReading Rooms have expanded to highlight materials with certain themes or formats and for select age levels. Within Libby, eReading Rooms are called "guides" while the library's website refers to them as "collections."

Readers may browse SAILS Library Network's digital collection, instantly borrow titles and start reading or listening for free with a valid library card. This service is compatible with all major computers and devices, iPhone®, iPad®, Android™ phones and tablets and Chromebook™ without waitlists or holds. Through Libby, readers can also "send to Kindle®" [US only]. All titles will automatically expire at the end of the lending period and there are no late fees. Readers can also download titles onto Libby for offline use.

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About SAILS Library Network

The SAILS Library Network is a multi-type resource-sharing library consortium serving public, academic and school libraries from 39 towns/cities in Southeastern Massachusetts.

About Rakuten OverDrive

Rakuten OverDrive is the leading digital reading platform for libraries and schools worldwide. Named one of *PCMag's* Best Free Software of 2019 and one of *Popular Mechanics' 20 Best Apps of the 2010s*, the award-winning Libby is the "one-tap reading app" for libraries. We are dedicated to "a world enlightened by reading" by delivering the industry's largest catalog of ebooks, audiobooks, magazines and other digital media to a growing network of 45,000 libraries and schools in 78 countries.

Founded in 1986, OverDrive is based in Cleveland, Ohio USA and owned by Tokyo-based Rakuten. www.overdrive.com



Free pick-up and drop-off service

Amid ongoing concern about COVID-19 (coronavirus), we want to communicate our business continuity plans to ensure that our employees and customers can conduct business in a safe and effective manner.

A&A Auto will continue to be open throughout the COVID-19 situation until we have announced otherwise. Our staff have guidelines they have to follow, such as using gloves to handle your vehicles in our service department, and sanitizing the vehicles on our lot that are for sale, pre and post test drives. We are monitoring our staff and sanitizing our establishment consistently for your health and safety.

We would also like to offer FREE PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF SERVICE for our local area, for the peace-

of-mind of our loyal customers. This service is for anything and everything you need for your vehicle, including oil changes and inspection stickers. Nothing is too big or too small.

We realize that some customers are in need of auto services, and we also understand that we need to be responsible as a community in order to fight this unfortunate situation that we are facing regarding COVID-19.

So please give Alex a call at 508-509-2292 for any service you need, and we will pick up your vehicle, service it, and return it to you, without you having to leave the safety of your home. It is our privilege to serve you, and we wish the best of health to you and your families.



**HOURS: Mon.–Fri., 8 a.m.–7 p.m. • Sat., 8 a.m.–2 p.m.
196 Huttleston Ave. • Fairhaven, MA • 508-509-2292**



39 Causeway Road | Fairhaven Business | \$344,900



This general store is located on scenic West Island close to the beach, marina and state forest. It is zoned as the only commercial space on the island and is fully equipped with a prep kitchen including 3 bay sink, vegetable sink, mop sink and a stainless steel work area. The store also has a retail liquor license for wine and malt beverages and tobacco license. Parking for 4 cars off street. The store offers everything from beer and wine to beach snacks, ice, propane, lottery, and so much more. Property has an external 220 hookup and area to accommodate a food trailer.

For further information on this property or to schedule a showing, please contact our listing agent, Liz Moses.
Mobile: 508.801.8268 | Email: liz@howeallen.com

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