



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

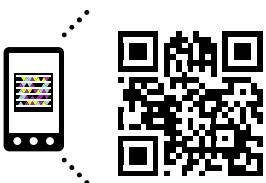
Volume 15, Issue 16 • April 16, 2020

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

Generous donor makes Easter extra special



Volunteers at the Fairhaven Senior Center don their gloves on Sunday, 4/12/20, to help package up the bags with the Easter dinner that will be delivered to Fairhaven seniors, because the usual sit-down meal had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. See story on page 2. Photo by Beth David.



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First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

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

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.

Well, we're still here. How are YOU doing?

I know this whole stay-at-home thing is getting kind of old, but, really, it's only just beginning. The peak hasn't hit us here in Massachusetts, it's due any day now. Yet, we still have two deaths in Fairhaven.

Our state has been pretty good about trying to get ahead of this thing. But, if the models are accurate, then the hospital system could be overwhelmed in a day. The way to beat the model? STAY HOME.

Yes, it's okay to go to the pharmacy and the grocery store. But, don't linger; try not to touch too much stuff; use a bacteria-killing wipe of some kind when you get back to your car. Wipe everything.

Couldn't find hand sanitizer or wipes? Make your own.

If you have Clorox around (only Clorox), you can mix a nice little batch of bacteria-killing liquid in a jiffy.

Depending on the product, you use 1/3 cup to a 1/2 cup to a gallon of water. You can use it to wipe down any surface. Just make sure you make a new batch every day. Visit <https://www.clorox.com/> for details on which product requires which amount, or call 800-227-1860.

Lots of people have found ways to make hand sanitizer using alcohol and lotion.

Meanwhile, we are still publishing and trying to deliver to as many places as we can. About half our regular stops are closed, but that still leaves about 100 that are open and taking papers. Some of the restaurants are even putting the papers in the take-out bags for us.

Our advertising is way down, of course, but I'm happy to say that many of our advertisers are still with us. Please let them know you saw their ads in the Neighb News.

And, please consider a donation if you can, so we can weather this crazy storm. Any amount is appreciated.

Until next week then...

See ya (from a distance),



Beth David, Publisher

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Support local journalism

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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COVID-19 (Coronavirus) update: 36 Fairhaven cases

By Beth David
Editor

As of press time, Fairhaven had a total of 36 COVID-19 cases, with 11 active cases being followed by the public health nurse; and two COVID-19 related deaths. Acushnet had 16 confirmed cases.

In a briefing on Tuesday, 4/14, Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker outlined the state's efforts to increase hospital beds by establishing five regional field facilities.

The state set up a 94-bed Field Medical Station at Joint Base Cape Cod in Buzzards Bay that will be managed by Cape Cod Healthcare.

The state will also be setting up a facility at UMassDartmouth, with Southcoast Hospitals Group (St. Luke's, Charlton, Tobey) as manager.

The state has also ramped up its reporting. By 4 p.m. each day, daily test reporting, including the number of positive cases, hospital bed occupancy and availability, and PPE distribution reports will be available. Find the links at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information>

As of April 14, the state had 28,163 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Bristol County had 1,435 cases; Plymouth County had 2,207; Barnstable 514; Dukes 11; Nantucket 9. There were 957 deaths attributed to the virus in Massachusetts; 444 were in long term care facilities.

Total beds in the state suitable for COVID was 17,600, with 6,900 in Boston; eight percent of ICU beds were occupied statewide.

The surge is expected to hit its peak between now and April 20. The number of COVID cases could range from 47,000 to 172,000.

School Department Update

In an email sent over the weekend, Fairhaven superintendent of schools Robert Baldwin expressed concern for the well-being of students, families and staff.

"As I reach out to you this afternoon, my message will attempt to integrate both hope and reality," wrote Dr. Baldwin.

Schools are closed by the state until at least May 4.

In his letter, Dr. Baldwin states

4/20-4/24 will still be April vacation. The end of the school year is still set for 6/22. If schools re-open on 5/4, the end of school activities will stick to their original schedule.

"Since March 13, 2020, the only information that has remained certain is uncertainty itself. As a result, we are proactively working on alternative potential dates for end of the year activities pushing as far back into June and corresponding with our last day on June 22, 2020," wrote Dr. Baldwin. "With that in mind, it is my sincere hope that the Fairhaven High School Class of 2020 can graduate on Sunday June 21, 2020 and that Fairhaven High School can have Junior Day on Friday June 19, 2020."

"Nothing can replace the 'brick and mortar,' teacher-led classes," reads the letter. "Learning has its foundation in the relationships developed between learners and teachers, whether adults or children. There is no way to replicate this environment in a digital format in the middle of a pandemic."

The letter was is on the Fairhaven School Department's Facebook page.



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**

Selectboard: Town Hall closed, but town is open for business

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Selectboard, department heads, and the Town Administrator had a message to the public at the Selectboard meeting on Monday, 4/13/20: Town Hall may be closed, but the town is open for business.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, town boards and committees have been meeting and conducting business, using remote technology like Zoom and conference calling.

The board used the powers of the Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities, the board voted to extend the real estate tax deadline to June 1 (from May 1); extended the deadline for tax exemptions and deferral applications to June 1 (from April 1); waived the penalties and interest on late payment of bills until June 30.

The board also met, remotely, with "frontline departments," including the health department, police and fire.

Town Administrator Mark Rees said he asked them to update the board on the town's response to the pandemic. Mr. Rees thanked the employees "out there saving lives," and thanked the residents for keeping to the guidelines set by the state for social distancing, and staying at home except for essential trips.

He thanked town hall employees for conducting the town's business under the circumstances.

The building is closed to the public, and not all employees are working at the same time. But the public is still able to conduct most regular business. Residents should call the departments they need to find out how to get what they need.

Selectboard Chairperson Charles K. Murphy, Sr., began by introducing Health Agent and incident commander Mary Freire-Kellogg, who joined the meeting via Zoom.

"She's having a busy time," said Mr. Murphy.

"It's been a rough time," said Ms. Freire-Kellogg, adding that she could not even tell everybody how appreciative she has been for all the help from different town departments.

"It's been amazing to watch," she said.

She said that her department and the Fire Department have made sure that the town departments have gloves, sanitizers, and other personal protective equipment (PPE).

"We're coming up on the worst part of this," said Ms. Freire-Kellogg.

She encouraged everyone in the public to wear a mask, and said people can get instructions on making their own on the Board of Health website (<https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/board-health>); she encouraged hand washing and social distancing (staying at least six feet away from each other).

She also cautioned that people are under the impression that it is only older people and people with compromised health who are at risk from COVID-19, but anyone can get the virus and die from it.

The BOH page has a special section for COVID-19 (<https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/board-health/news/coronavirus>) that now includes mental health resources, information on food insecurity, such as a food bank list.

"Most of our population is out of work," said Ms. Freire-Kellogg. "Money is running short."

The BOH page has a special section for COVID-19 (<https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/board-health/news/coronavirus>) that now includes mental health resources, information on food insecurity, such as a food bank list.

She said her department received two grants of \$7,500 from the state to combat COVID-19. She said she and the BOH discussed using the second grant for a mailer to all residents.

The town has had 35 cases total, she said, but by press time it had increased to 36 cases, 11 of them active cases being followed by the public health nurse. Fairhaven has had two confirmed COVID-19 deaths.

"We are all in this together," said Ms. Freire-Kellogg. "And I really appreciate everyone's help on this."

She said it has been a long road, but it will be longer.

"We just have to stay on the path," she said.

Board member Bob Espindola said there have been some problems with crowding on the bike path. Ms. Freire-Kellogg said she has signs about social distancing and is happy to get more out there.

Board member Dan Freitas said his advice is for everyone to stay home. He said he had a medical incident recently and he was on a ventilator for 24 hours,

although he did not test positive for COVID-19.

"Stay home, stay safe," said Mr. Freitas. "Only go out if you really need to."

Fire Chief Timothy Francis said his department was "holding its own."

He had one Firefighter out, who was quarantined, but he has returned to work.

The department received a supply of masks and gowns, he said, and he feels comfortable that they have enough.

They have received an increase of calls for flu-like symptoms, and he is making sure paramedics are protected.

"We're doing fine," said Chief Francis.

Mr. Espindola noted that there has been a national outpouring of support for first responders, but that it was "good to recognize them right here at home."

He said they are living the danger every day, and people appreciate everything they do.

Mr. Freitas also chimed in, saying they run an "A-1 operation."

"I can't be prouder of the guys there," said Mr. Freitas, admitting that he did not remember much about Fairhaven paramedics "scooping" him up. But he heard about it and own them some dinner, he said.

He also added that seeing it from inside the hospital was "scary just to be around it."

"I can't thank you guys enough," said Mr. Freitas. "God bless you guys. I don't have the words."

Chief Francis also told the board that the public has been good, taking stuff to the station, such as home made masks.

"I think the people in the town of Fairhaven get it," said Chief Francis. "The public deserves a little praise too."

He said he believed the message was getting out about the things people need to do to stay safe.

Mr. Murphy said the fire department had a full plate, but they have "proven yourself to be the strong crew that you are."

Fairhaven police chief Michael Myers said his officers were out there "working really hard," and he wanted to thank them for their cooperation in uncertain times.

It is a different kind of policing, said the chief, with the majority of the calls being about social distancing. But the public has "been good," he said.

People have been out enjoying themselves, and that is okay, but people need to observe social distancing.

"For the most part, the public is cooperating very well," said Chief Myers.

SELECT: cont'd on page 6

AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

CANCELLATIONS

Editor's note: All non-essential businesses in Massachusetts have been closed until May 4, and all gatherings are also canceled. People are allowed to shop for necessities, such as groceries or medications, can get take-out at restaurants, and go to the bank and other essential services.

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.

FHS Yearbooks Online

The FHS Alumni Association is excited to announce that 104 yearbooks going back to 1923 are now available online thanks to the dedication and diligence of the Millicent Library Director Carolyn Longworth and Archivist Debbie Charpentier. The Millicent Library received a grant to be able to complete this huge project. These yearbooks can be accessed through our FHS Alumni website on the "Yearbooks" tab of the menu bar. For years we have been asked by alums and relatives of graduates for various yearbooks, and now we are thrilled to be able to allow all of our alums across the country to be able to access them.

The direct link is: <https://archive.org/details/millicentlibrary/>

Classmates sought

The Class of 1970 of Fairhaven High School is having their 50th Reunion on Saturday, September 12th at Century House in Acushnet. The following members are still missing: Selma Blair, Marc Blum, Gary Cournoyer, Claire Ford, William Faulkner, Beverly Luz, Lynn Davies Roderick, Debra Chausse Silvia, Donna Sowa-Ashworth, Diane Mayo Zosiak and Diane Perrault Hurley.

If you know an address would you please email to: sdbkg2554@yahoo.com or call 774-202-4558. Thank you and hope to see you there!

Teddy Bear Hunt

Residents of Fairhaven have started to participate in the Teddy

Bear hunt. They have placed Teddy Bears in their windows and strategic places in their yards. Parents trying to find ways to get the kids out of the house, but still maintain social distancing, will especially enjoy this fun and harmless pastime. Local home owners are encouraged to join the fun by displaying a Teddy Bear in the window. See page 7 for some streets.

Community Garden

Have you ever wanted to try gardening but didn't know where to start? Perhaps you're interested in saving money by growing your own organic vegetables? Maybe your yard is too small or too shady for a garden? Or maybe, you just want to be part of a "growing green" community?

If you've answered yes to any of these questions, you're in luck. The Fairhaven Community Garden has garden beds available at three locations in town: East Fairhaven Elementary School, Hastings Middle School and Wood Elementary School. The annual fee is \$10 per 4x8 foot bed. All gardeners agree to use organic practices only.

If you are interested or have a question, visit our website at fairhavencommunitygarden.org where you'll find more information and the gardening application, or you can email the site coordinator at sitecoordinator@fairhavencommunitygarden.org.

Amazon Kids Free

Amazon is offering lots of free content suitable for children during the COVID-19 pandemic. Visit https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/storefront/ref=atv_hm_hom_1_c_ZWYNDQ_fmHI51_1_1?contentId=freeforall&mechld=freeforall

Renew LTC by mail

In light of recent times, the Fairhaven Police Department is requesting that any license to carry applications and renewals be sent via mail. We typically take drop ins but we are limiting walk-ins at this time.

If you are a renewal, please send your renewal application and check or money order written to the Town of Fairhaven to: Attention LTC, 1 Bryant Lane Fairhaven MA, 02719. If you are a new applicant please also include your safety course certificate.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience!

Fishing is OPEN

The Mass. Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) has become aware of rumors and a fabricated Facebook post, appearing to come from DMF, that state commercial and recreational fishing have been closed due to the Covid-19 public emergency. This is not true! Commercial and recreational fishing remain open in Massachusetts.

Visit DMF's verified Facebook page or website at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/dmf> for accurate information.

Please maintain a safe distance from other people fishing and maintain other guidelines of the pandemic.

Schools grab n go

With schools closed, many students will lose out on the meals they get. Fairhaven students who qualify, many 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>

Pet Food Delivered

Any Fairhaven senior residents that are in need of pet food may contact the Animal Control Officer, at aco@fairhaven-ma.gov or 508-979-4028. Please tell us what you are in need of, if it is for a cat or a dog and your address please. We will deliver it to you, drop it outside your door, knock on the door and leave. No contact needed, we want to make sure our Fairhaven Senior Citizens remain at home and safe. There is no need for you to go out to the stores to get your pet's food. Please email us if you can, if not please give us a call.

Think Summer

Registration is open for the Buzzards Bay Swim, an exciting outdoor experience that welcomes swimmers of all abilities. 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.

SELECT: cont'd from page 4

He also said the department changed to two shifts, not three, to minimize the number of officers working at one time. The same group is on all the time, he said.

At the station they have been taking temperatures, doing a lot of disinfecting of both the building and the cruisers, and trying to isolate as much as possible inside the station.

All officers have masks, gloves, glasses, "and are supposed to be using them," said the chief.

"For now, things are going pretty good," he said.

The board also heard from Council on Aging Director Anne Silvia, and Board of Public Works superintendent Vinnie Furtado.

Ms. Silvia told the board that she saw an increase in her Meals on Wheels sign-ups. She has received donations that she is using to put together "essential bags" for seniors; and has gift cards to Stop & Shop that she will also be giving out.

Volunteers have already delivered food to 50 seniors, she said, because people are not able to go to the senior center, so she has taken the food to them.

She said she had to take the vans off the road, because her drivers are in the high-risk group due to their ages. She is looking at a way to use Lyft rides to get people to their essential appointments.

Ms. Silvia got emotional as she related a story of one of the volunteers who delivered Easter meals and came across a man who asked where his was. He was a Meals on Wheels patron and he did not understand. The volunteer went home and packaged up a meal and took it to the man.

"And I'm just so grateful to him for that," said Ms. Silvia. It was such a nice thing to do."

She said if seniors need anything from the pharmacy or grocery store, she will try to get it for them, just call the center, 508-979-4029.

"Anne is the heart and soul of our Council on Aging," said Mr. Freitas.

"You're the best director we've had," said Mr. Murphy, adding that he has gotten calls from seniors she has helped.

Mr. Furtado told the board that the various public works superintendents are working every day, and crews are out working.

They have, however, instituted a half on and half on-call protocol, week to week. That way, if one crew gets quarantined, they have the other crew to take over.

He said they are getting a lot of recycle center renewals by mail.

"We're closed to the public, but still open for business," said Mr. Furtado,

noting that Mr. Rees said it first.

Derek Frates also got a shout-out. The Director of Cable Access TV, he has been responsible for getting the town's remote capability working.

"I want to thank Derek for his efforts," said Mr. Espindola, noting that he sets up tests in advance to make sure it all works. "I know he's there a lot."

Resident Karen Vilandry joined the meeting, and noted that a recent study found that COVID-19 can travel 15 feet, so maybe the six feet recommended for social distancing was not adequate. The study also noted that the virus can travel on shoes.

"I thought it was a bit alarming to say the least," said Ms. Vilandry.

She also asked if they could get the health agent to post the number of deaths on the website.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg said she was going by the state guidelines, which do not require it. She said if they change the guidelines, she will do it.

Deputy Fire Chief Todd Correia also outlined the new RAVE Communications System that allows alerts to the public via email, text, and phone. Residents can sign up on the fire departments website at <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/fire-department-ems-ema>

Millicent Library increases its online offerings

Carolyn Longworth

Library Director,

The Millicent Library

Although the building is closed, the Millicent Library provides lots of online resources to use during the Coronavirus lockdown. If you need something to read, watch, or listen to, or if you're nervous about the present and the future and want to escape to the past, we have you covered.

We have increased our *Overdrive & Hoopla* budgets so that more items (movie, tv, audiobooks, ebooks) are available to more people. You can also get a Boston Public Library ecard for additional online resources by virtue of being a Mass. resident. Our newest offering, *Acorn TV*, is available to patrons with a Fairhaven library card.

In case you've already Googled everyone you know, we also have local resources to look up people, check out how many epidemics disrupted the town in the past, as well as to look at the old ads.

Our collection of *Fairhaven High*

School Yearbooks 1923-2019 has just been digitized by the Boston Public Library as part of a project funded by a Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) grant. This grant also funded putting the *Fairhaven Town Reports* online (beginning 1847). Our library school staff member, Sam Correia, scanned all the *Barnacle* newspapers covering the waterfront from 1990 to 1993.

Archivist Deb Charpentier and her volunteers maintain *The Lost Fishermen Database* and the *Fairhaven Cemetery Database*, both of which are constantly being updated. They also input the *Fairhaven Vital Records 1844-1899*, listing births, deaths and marriages. Several years ago we got a grant from the Community Preservation Act and digitized the run of the *Fairhaven Star* newspaper for 1879-1967.

State databases, including the *Boston Globe* are for everyone in Mass. There are network databases like Novelist (find book titles similar

to your favorites). Subscriptions to *Consumer Reports*, *Birds of the World online*, *19th Century Newspapers*, *America's Historical Newspapers 1690-1922* are also worth a look, but you will need a Fairhaven library card for these.

Please check our website www.millicentlibrary.org to see what the library has to offer including links to the above items and more. We also are gathering suggestions of links (a.k.a. *Various and Sundry*), some serious, some not, to help get you through this.

The Library is also looking to collect experiences of local people during this time of the Coronavirus. On our site is a link to a form with some ideas of what to include. Think of how interesting this will all be in 100 years when Facebook and social media are long gone. We would like notes, journals, photos, drawings, poems or any other format.

Thanks...we miss all of our patrons!

National Guard delivers PPE to Fairhaven

By Beth David
Editor

The Massachusetts National Guard came to the rescue last week, delivering much needed PPE (personal protective equipment) to the Town of Fairhaven Health Department and Our Lady's Haven. The shipment of hand sanitizer and spray was on back order from a delivery last month that included masks, gloves and isolation gowns.

Fairhaven Health Agent Mary Freire-Kellogg, and OLH Administrator Jo-Ann Melcher, said they ordered the supplies through various channels, including the Health and Medical Coordinating Coalition, the Federal Emergency Management Agency

(FEMA) and the Mass. Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

Certain items go to different agencies, said Ms. Melcher.

You spend quite a bit of time these days hunting down the PPE," said Ms. Melcher. "But it's worth it."

She said she is not sure which stockpile it all came from but was thankful the first shipment got there.

"It helps to supplement our supplies," she said, adding they were in good shape now. "It's for everybody's protection."

But they are "burning through" the supplies.

She said all staff members are wearing masks. Direct care employees are using lots of gloves,

masks, and sanitizer. And they are constantly cleaning and sanitizing.

"So we're very thankful to them that they got the National Guard to come out," she said. "You don't get it right way, but you do get it, and that's what counts."

The facility has had no cases of COVID-19. No visitors have been allowed inside for about four weeks.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg said that she almost missed the last shipment because town hall is closed, with staggered shifts in each department and the doors locked. So the shipment went to her house, and she made sure it got to the departments that needed it. She also sent some to

PPE: cont'd on page 21



LEFT: A Massachusetts National Guard truck is parked at the back entrance to Our Lady's Haven on 4/8/20, for a delivery of hand sanitizer and spray, which was on back order from a shipment of PPE (personal protective equipment) last month, that included gowns, face masks and gloves. RIGHT: Because town hall is closed, part of the same shipment is unloaded at the home of Fairhaven health agent Mary Freire-Kellogg. Photos courtesy of James Mahaney.



Fairhaven Visitors Center & Historical Society Museum

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

508-979-4085

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

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DISCOVER/MC/VISA

CANCELLATIONS

Editor's note: All non-essential businesses in Massachusetts have been closed (see page 3), and all gatherings are also canceled. People are allowed to shop for necessities, such as groceries or at the pharmacy, can get take-out at restaurants, and go to the bank and other essential services.

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.

NBPS free lunches

Ne 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.

Whaling Museum From Home

The New Bedford Whaling Museum has released an expanded website to give people a way to "Museum from Home." The new section on the Museum's website is complete with trivia activities, virtual tours, and behind-the-scenes talks with expert staff. The content includes something for everyone, including parents looking for fun and educational activities to do with their children, teachers in search of content for their virtual classrooms, and aficionados looking to quench their art and history thirst. The Museum has also released exclusive activities on its social media channels to complement the online content. Go to www.whalingmuseum.org/Museum-from-home.

[whalingmuseum.org/Museum-from-home](http://www.whalingmuseum.org/Museum-from-home).

"We know now, more than ever, that a Museum is not limited to or defined by its physical campus," said Amanda McMullen, President and CEO. "We have metaphorically broken down our walls to bring you content and activities you can explore from the home that will inspire learning, creativity, and contemplation."

For the safety of visitors, volunteers, and staff, the New Bedford Whaling Museum closed to the public on March 13, 2020 amid the public health concerns related to the coronavirus. The museum will reopen as soon as it is safe to do so and under the guidance of Federal and State agencies. Essential staff, including the security and facilities team, continues to be on site daily to ensure the safety of the campus and Collection.

WHALE Virtual Tours

WHALE (Waterfront Historic Area League) is excited to launch a new live virtual tour series on our Instagram throughout the month of April. We hope these weekly tours help us stay connected to our historic past and exciting future. The schedule for virtual tours is:

- **NEW DATE Friday, April 24 at 10:00: 305-307 Pleasant St.** Join us in celebrating success in the South Central neighborhood with the restoration of an historic two-family house.

Now is a really tough time for the entire world including the non-profit community, but a great time for you to connect with WHALE and become a Member, Partner in Preservation, or Soiree Host.

For a how-to on watching a WHALE live Instagram video, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpL5ErgPhKw&feature=youtu.be>

Find us on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/waterfrontleague/b>

Voc-Tech Give Chromebooks

Greater New Bedford Voc Tech distributed several chromebooks to

students in an effort to give all students accessibility to technology throughout the extended school closure. Members of the IT department, maintenance staff, and Officer Fisher facilitated the no contact, curbside pickup for families. This technology is essential for student success in distance learning during the school closure. Although this type of teaching and learning is a transition for everyone involved, we can be sure that students at Greater New Bedford Voc Tech with persevere through these times

Voc-Tech Virtual Learning

Sophomore students in the Early Childhood Education and Teaching program at Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech are making every effort to stay in contact with their preschool students during the school closure.

The sophomore students are assigned specific Preschool to Kindergarten standards to teach to the children at home through the use of YouTube videos.

Students are incorporating lessons focused on concepts like reading stories, modeling questions, answers and key vocabulary terms, math and science lessons that the children can watch and do at home with their parents, social emotional skills and health and safety.

The sophomore students send their videos to their teacher, Mrs. Costa and she posts them on her YouTube channel. Parents of the preschool students are notified that lessons have been posted via email. They are very excited and the children love watching the videos. It is a great opportunity for the sophomore students to stay connected.

Distance learning has become the norm across the Commonwealth as a result of COVID-19, but this has provided students with a unique opportunity to adapt and explore a variety of learning opportunities.

This exercise is teaching our future teachers how to stay connected virtually, which is just one of many ways our students live up to Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech's core values: preparation, passion, and perseverance.

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

CANCELLATIONS

Editor's note: All non-essential businesses in Massachusetts have been closed to at least May 4), and all gatherings are also canceled. People are allowed to shop for necessities, such as groceries or at the pharmacy, can get take-out at restaurants, and go to the bank and other essential services.

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.

Food Pantry is Open

The Shepherd's Pantry is still open to help those who need to get food. We want to assure our regular families, and new families alike, that we are taking every precaution to make sure our handling of the food is safe and sanitary. The safety of our volunteers and for all who depend on the pantry is paramount.

Every volunteer wears a mask and gloves; we make sure are clients stand no less than six feet apart in the parking lot and only two clients are permitted in the building at any one time. We are also organized to make your trip quick and efficient.

If you have any questions, please call the pantry from Wednesday to Friday, 508-863-9389 to confirm hours of operation. The pantry is open from 9-11 a.m. on Saturdays, at Long Plain United Methodist Church, 1215 Main St., Acushnet.

Virtual Walk

Boston Area Rape Crisis Center Virtual Walk for Change, Sun., 4/26, 10:00 AM. Registration: \$40. Visit <https://barccwalk.org> The virtual Walk for Change will combine elements of online livestreaming, prerecorded messages, and fun online activities, including the announcement of the #Bark4BARCC dog contest winner. Registered participants will have access to exclusive online Walk for Change content in the week leading up to the Virtual Walk as well as on the day of the Virtual Walk.

The annual Walk for Change is the largest event in New England raising awareness of sexual assault, harassment, and abuse and offering visible community support for survivors.

The event raises hundreds of thousands of dollars, supporting the confidential services that survivors rely on — including the hotline, counseling, medical advocacy, legal advocacy, and assistance with health, housing, financial, and safety needs. Funds raised at this year's virtual Walk for Change will also help meet the immediate evolving needs of survivors during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, such as food and housing insecurities.

By keeping the Walk for Change on April 26, but holding it in a different way, BARCC will create a space where survivors and their loved ones can still gather and feel supported, and community members throughout Greater Boston and beyond can come together to show their support, take action, and raise vital funds for BARCC's services.

In addition to exclusive online Walk for Change content, registered participants will receive a commemorative T-shirt.

Founded in 1973, BARCC is the only comprehensive rape crisis center in the Greater Boston area and the oldest and largest center of its kind in New England.

Workout With a Trooper

The Massachusetts State Police and the State Police Association of Massachusetts ("SPAM") jointly announced a new program aimed at increasing the physical activity of Massachusetts schoolchildren amid the COVID-19 pandemic. "Workout With a Trooper" offers virtual, physical training to school-age children who are missing gym classes, organized sports and other athletic activities.

The workouts, which will be streamed on the Massachusetts State Police Facebook page, will range from 8-20 minutes. They will be designed for participation by children at all fitness levels.

The video workouts will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays starting at 11:30 a.m. They will be posted on Facebook afterwards for those unable to make the scheduled workout time. Students can then click and work out at the time that is best for them.

The pilot program is scheduled to run through June 26, 2020 which was

the last scheduled day of school for many municipalities in the state.

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/MassStatePolice>

COVID Diary

Can you describe how your personal situation has changed since the Covid-19 crisis hit our world? Do you remember the day when you realized everything was different?

What is happening in Westport that is giving you hope for our future? What is making you feel positive?

The Covid-19 pandemic must be chronicled from a local and personal perspective. Today we launch our *Westport Covid-19 Community Diary* in an effort to create a primary source for the future. This is a momentous time as we witness history in the making. Our goal is to capture the many details from a local and personal perspective. We ask that some of you volunteer to document your own experiences through journal keeping, photography, art, poetry, or by saving newspaper clippings or any local coronavirus-related literature.

Visit <http://wpthistory.org/westport-covid-19-community-diary/> to complete short survey.

Join our facebook group: "Westport Covid-19 Community Diary."

NOAA Art Contest

Contest for Kids K-12: Virtual Entries Due Friday, April 24

Although our offices are closed, to keep the contest going and to encourage students to learn about marine endangered species while they are home, we will gladly accept any electronic pictures or scans of the students' artwork for this year's contest!

All students have to do is take a picture or scan their artwork and email it to edith.carson-supino@noaa.gov **no later than April 24**. The revised art contest rules are located on our 2020 Marine Endangered Species Art Contest webpage (https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/event/2020-marine-endangered-species-art-contest?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

Artwork should highlight one or more marine endangered or threatened species from the New England/Mid-Atlantic region..

Recipe of the Week

Portuguese Sweet Rice Pudding Recipe

2 cups of water
1 cup of short grain (arborio) rice
2 c hot milk (whole works best)
1 cup of sugar
1 fresh lemon rind (use big pieces for easier removal)
Cinnamon
2 egg yolks (optional)

Bring water to a boil in medium saucepan. Add rice and cover, simmering for 20 minutes.

Add milk, sugar and lemon rind, stirring constantly until thickened to oatmeal consistency, about 15-20 minutes. It will also thicken some while cooling. Add egg yolks slowly while mixing (optional).

Pour into one large serving plate and remove lemon rind.

Spread flat and allow to cool on wire rack.

You can be decorative with cinnamon by pinching a bit between your fingers and place while your hand is no more than an inch away from the rice (criss cross patterns are traditional), or you can just dust the entire top with the cinnamon.

Serve at room temp, but refrigerate uneaten portion.

From portugueserecipes.ca

Debt Collectors: Hands off stimulus \$

Press Release

Mass. Attorney General Maura Healey issued guidance to protect consumers who will receive a payment as a result of the federal government's Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act from unfair debt collection practices and called on the Trump Administration to take immediate action to ensure these payments go to American families and not debt collectors.

According to the guidance, the AG's Office has determined that emergency funds that will be issued to consumers starting this week through the CARES Act are exempt from seizure or garnishment by creditors under Massachusetts law. The AG's Office also signed onto a multistate letter to the U.S. Department of the Treasury asking the agency to protect CARES Act payments like other government relief programs and ensure the funds go to individuals and families, where they were originally intended.

"These payments are supposed to help individuals and families put food on the table during this crisis, not

enrich debt collectors," AG Healey said. "With this guidance and letter, my office is putting the debt collection industry on notice that these payments are off limits."

Visit the AG's website (www.mass.gov/ago) for more information about the AG's Debt Collection Regulations and the AG's Emergency Debt Collection Regulations. The AG's Consumer Protection Division encourages members of the public to call 617-727-8400 or file a complaint online if you witness or experience aggressive debt collection or predatory lending during this public health emergency.

The AG Healey's COVID-19 resources page has more information about how the office can assist the public during this crisis.

The CARES Act was signed into law on March 27 and provides emergency assistance for individuals, families, and businesses affected by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic. Under the Act, eligible individuals and families can receive cash assistance including a one-time cash payment in the form of a refundable tax credit of up to \$1,200 for each individual.

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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.

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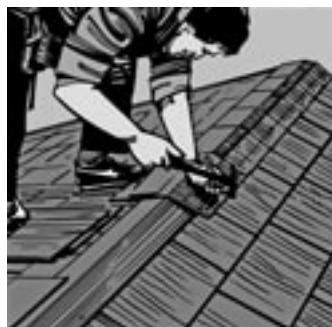
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Easter meals help on a variety of levels

By Beth David
Editor

It was supposed to be a big secret, the name of the anonymous donor who bought 100 Easter dinners from Mac's Soda Bar to be delivered to seniors by the Council On Aging in Fairhaven on Sunday. But, then, COA Director Anne Silvia told the Selectboard that she got permission to spill the beans: Joe and Nancy Tremblay are the culprits.

It was the first time that Mac's offered Easter dinner. They regularly offer Thanksgiving and Christmas, so they decided to add Easter this year. The COVID-19 pandemic, with its accompanying forced closures of restaurant dining areas, is making it increasingly difficult for restaurants to keep operating. It's take-out only, and that is simply not enough.

So, the 100 meals was a great help, said Jevon Malcom, who owns Mac's.

He cooked up and packaged 300 Easter meals.

"We're still down 90 percent across the board," said Mr. Malcom, but the Easter meals were a great help, and he is hoping he can keep it going.

He said he has owned the business for more than 30 years, so he can weather a little bit of the storm if it does not go on too long. If it had happened when he first started out, though...

Meanwhile, he would not give up the name of the donor, only saying he knew who it was, that he was a good

friend, and also friends with Ms. Silvia, who usually cooks all the Easter meals herself at the Senior Center.

"I'm too proud to take money," said Mr. Malcom. "So he found a way to help both people."

It turned out, though, that Ms. Silvia got some additional requests after the deadline, and could not refuse them. So she made 20 meals on Sunday morning anyway.

But, that was a piece of cake compared to the usual job of 100+.

Oh, did we mention there was cake, too.

The meal had ham and rolls, carrots, ginger ale, and dessert.

Usually, she holds a sit-down dinner at the center. But because of the pandemic, she decided to deliver instead of cancelling.

The odd thing is that Ms. Silvia did not have as many orders as she had expected. So she put a call out on Facebook, and the number jumped over the limit. They had 120 meals ordered.



ABOVE: A volunteer double checks the contents of a bag containing an Easter Dinner at the Fairhaven Senior Center on Sunday, 4/12/20, for delivery to Fairhaven seniors, because the usual sit-down meal had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. Photo by Beth David.

People from all over the country called to get meals for their Fairhaven relatives.

She got her volunteers together, they bagged the meals, loaded up their cars and were off. Ms. Silvia instructed them to ring the door bell or knock, and leave the bag in front of the door, then back up and wait to be sure that the bag got picked up. No contact with the people in the house. No food should be left unattended, either. If no one came to the door, the volunteers called Ms. Silvia, who then called the person receiving the meal.

She reminded them that the seniors often do not hear so well.

"They've all been waiting for this," she said, so it would be "huge for them." She knew they would not want to miss out just because they missed the knock on the door.

The Council on Aging also delivers Meals on Wheels to Fairhaven seniors. Call the senior center at 508-979-4029. There are some eligibility requirements.



ABOVE: Fairhaven Council on Aging Director Anne Silvia packages up an Easter dinner on Sunday, 4/12/20, to be delivered to a Fairhaven senior, because the usual sit-down meal had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. RIGHT: Volunteer driver Cameron Durant heads out the door of the Fairhaven Senior Center carrying bags containing Easter Dinners. Photos by Beth David.



Getting lobsters right off the boat

By Beth David
Editor

The restaurants closed up, so they did not need as much seafood, so the wholesalers did not need as much seafood, so the boat captains had lobster traps filled with product they could not sell; scallopers floated at the docks, instead of chugging out to sea. The ripple effects of the COVID-19 pandemic closures.

But Troy Durr had an idea: What if we could sell directly to the public?

Anyone who grew up around here, and is of a certain age, probably remembers a time or two going down to the docks with mom or dad to buy seafood “right off the boat.”

Regulations, strictly enforced over the years, put a stop to that, mostly. It was not easy to get a license to sell

both wholesale and retail.

But all that changed with the pandemic chaos.

The state eased up regulations on the boat owners, at least for lobsterers, allowing them to legally sell their catch directly to the public. All they had to do was fill out the proper paperwork, according to Fairhaven Harbormaster Timothy Cox.

SouthCoast Direct Source Seafood was born. Started as a Facebook Group, SCDSS started taking orders just a couple of weeks ago. They have grown astronomically since then. At first, orders were taken via Facebook and Mr. Durr organized it.

Now, the group has a website, and people can order both lobsters and scallops (a new addition). Then get in show up at the appointed time and get in line at Union Wharf in Fairhaven.

On Easter Sunday, 4/12/20, Union Street and all the streets around were jam packed with cars waiting to get their fresh-off-the-boat lobsters. Four boats sold more than 2,000 lobsters in four hours.

Word had spread quickly and widely, with people coming from miles away to take advantage of the \$6/pound deal and to help out the captains who otherwise would have no income at all. People who were waiting in line told the *Neighb News* they were from Taunton, Rehobeth, and Worcester.

“WOW, what a day! Happy Easter to



everyone who came out today and bought lobsters. At one point there were well over 100 cars in line,” wrote Mr. Durr on Facebook. “Thank you to everyone who had patience in the process! I think I can speak for the Captains and say they appreciate the support for the local community.”

He also said that people followed directions, making it a smooth process.

All in all, people were upbeat and happy to connect with real fishermen on their boats, knowing the lobsters were as fresh as they could ever get.

To learn more find the group on Facebook or visit <https://seafood-direct.com>.



TOP RIGHT: Captain Jason Drake of the Voyager sports a big smile as he holds up one of the approximately 670 lobsters from his 800-pound catch on Easter Sunday, 4/12/20, at Union Wharf in Fairhaven after the state eased restrictions for boat captains to sell directly to the public to help them weather the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. TOP LEFT: Troy Durr loads up a cooler with a dozen lobsters. ABOVE LEFT: Cars line up on Union Wharf in Fairhaven. ABOVE RIGHT: Properly attired in their protective masks, David and Lee Thomas from Dartmouth give a thumbs up as they wait in line to get their eight lobsters. *Photos by Glenn C. Silva for the Neighb News.*

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Fairhaven Council on Aging Closure

The Fairhaven Council on Aging
Senior Center is closed until
further notice. The Supportive
Social Day Program, all trip and
activities have been cancelled.

The COA has staff at the senior
center available to take your
phone calls.

Limited transportation is
available from 8:30-10:30 for
shopping, banking and pharmacy.
Transportation is also available

for morning appointments to
South Coast on Mill Rd.

Meals on Wheels deliveries will
continue as usual. If you are in
need of a meal, please call the
senior center, 508-979-4029.

Senior Shopping Hours

Walmart: Tuesdays 6 a.m.-7 a.m.

Market Basket: Tues., Wed.,

Thurs., 5:30 a.m.-7 a.m.

Stop and Shop: Every Day
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Acushnet Selectboard changes election, TM dates

By Pattie Pacella

Neighb News Correspondent

The Acushnet Selectboard held its first virtual meeting on Tuesday, 4/7, since the COVID-19 crisis began and the state allowed for meetings to be held remotely. Because there were no public hearings, the public was only allowed to watch on Comcast channel 18. The meeting is also available on the town's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQLn-V7X9rp0JdWXh445neQ>

Chairperson Roger Cabral welcomed the viewers to the "Hollywood Squares" meeting of the Selectboard.

"I'm just trying to find some humor in our current situation," he said.

Humorous, it was not. Selectboard member Kevin Gaspar was not present, leaving a discussion between Mr. Cabral and board member David Desroches in a stalemate, pushing the topic out to another meeting.

The two members disagreed on a Department of Public Works Union Memorandum of Understanding. Town Administrator Julie Hebert reviewed the MOU that was written with the assistance of Mr. Gaspar and stated the DPW during this pandemic would be split into two different groups, "A" and "B," with each group working one week on, one week off.

Ms. Hebert explained that the two different groups would be isolated from each other, a team of nine individuals, hopefully to prevent a Coronavirus outbreak among the DPW workers as they are considered essential employees.

Mr. Cabral stated he was con-

cerned about the two different teams and essentially paying them to be off one week to stay home. He said he would like to see a better plan. Mr. Cabral said he could logically understand the concept but felt that there was a way to isolate the two groups from each other, by doing perhaps other work around town that was not necessarily their job before this situation.

He suggested they could do more outside work, tree trimming, cleaning up the streets of Acushnet, parks, etc.

"I don't endorse this concept," said [Chairperson Roger Cabral], adding that he would like to see the vote tabled to their next meeting, as he was not going to budge on his decision, and the two could not agree.

He said he did not understand the work week on/off concept.

Mr. Desroches stated it might not be the best solution during this time, but it is a solution. He said there were some parts he did not agree with one hundred percent, however he was in favor of the MOU. He said that the current situation makes the decision necessary. He said they needed to take a stand on it, because the DPW had already begun the schedule as of this week.

"I don't endorse this concept," said

Mr. Cabral, adding that he would like to see the vote tabled to their next meeting, as he was not going to budge on his decision, and the two could not agree.

Ms. Hebert stated it was definitely a tough situation they were in and they were just trying to find a resolution.

Mr. Cabral stated he did not agree with how it was done and he was not going to vote in favor of it. Mr. Desroches and Mr. Cabral decided to table it to the next meeting.

"If I have to be the one against two, then that's what I'll be," Mr. Cabral said.

In other business, Town Clerk, Pamela Labonte reviewed the Town Meeting and Town Election dates with the board. She stated that currently the Town Meeting has been scheduled for May 11, and the Town Election for May 16.

Ms. Labonte asked the Selectboard to consider moving both to dates in June. Her concern, she said, was mainly having the staff to run an election.

The Selectboard agreed to change the Town Meeting date to June 22, 2020 and the Town Election to June 27, 2020.

Ms. Labonte said she would also like them to consider, as there are no contested races in Acushnet, to perhaps have a smaller window for voting in the election. Ms. Labonte suggested a 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. window. She said there will be every opportunity for anyone who wanted to vote in the election; there will be early voting and absentee voting as

ACUSH: cont'd on page 21

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Acushnet: Meet David Bernard

*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 David Bernard.

Some people are just born to work in public service. David Bernard is one such person. He started his service to Acushnet in 1997 as a part-time EMT Basic before being hired full-time shortly after. He went to paramedic school when it became clear that St. Luke's Hospital was no longer going to provide paramedic level services to the communities of greater New Bedford. In 1999, Dave Bernard became Acushnet's first full-time Paramedic. He attended the Call Firefighter Training Academy in 2003 and received certification as a Firefighter Level I/II.

In 2005, Dave left Acushnet to become a full-time Firefighter/

Paramedic for the town of Fairhaven and was sent to the full-time Firefighter Recruit Program operated by the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy in Stow. He left Fairhaven in 2007 for the Berkley Police Department where he currently holds the rank of Sergeant. Last year we brought Dave on as a part-time Paramedic.

He's back where it all began!

An Acushnet resident, Dave Bernard also served in the Massachusetts National Guard from 1994-2014.

Public service runs deep!

Acushnet, this is David Bernard.



David Bernard became Acushnet's first full time paramedic in 1999. Photo from the Acushnet Fire & EMS Facebook page.

Acushnet Fire & EMS receives intubating box

*From the Acushnet Fire & EMS
Facebook page.*

We love it when people think outside the box to make a box that may save our lives,

A group of Boston construction companies got together to design and build boxes out of plexiglass that our Paramedics can use when intubating a patient with COVID-19.

Intubation is the placing of a tube into the airway and can release mist from the infected individual.

The box is placed over the patient and the Paramedic performs the skills through two holes. Ingenuity at its best!

Fifteen boxes and associated supplies were donated to local EMS departments in our area.

Please visit their website at www.maybewecanhelp.org and look closely at the members of the group.

They thought of us, we will remember them.



LEFT: Members of the Acushnet Fire & EMS Department demonstrate using the intubating box that was donated to them to keep paramedics protected from the mist that is released when a patient is intubated. Photo from the Acushnet Fire & EMS Department Facebook page.

Public Hearings/Legal Notices

NOTE: All legal notices are available on the Neighb News website, www.NeighbNews.com, under the "Legal Notices" tab on the top of the main page. Legal ads are also available at <http://masspublicnotices.org>, search under "Fairhaven Neighborhood News"

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Monday, April 27, 2020 at 6:30pm
Town Hall, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

To Access Meeting Remotely: <https://zoom.us/j/518666689?pwd=VVRQS3JONjcwUmhrelFpWjRrZGVndz09>
or CALL 1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 518 666 689
Password: 089774

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold the following Public Hearing pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, s. 40) and the Code of the Town of Fairhaven Chapter 192, Wetlands:

1. CON 023-135: 2 Alcobia Drive Request for Determination of Applicability filed by John S. Santos for the construction of an 8' x 12' wood shed set on six (6) sonotubes in the rear of the house at the property located at 2 Alcobia Drive, Assessors Map 42, Lots 69-70. Work to take place in buffer zone to Salt Marsh and Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage.

Public participation will be via virtual means only: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Fairhaven Conservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. The public may participate in this meeting via remote participation. Information regarding remote meeting access, listed above, will

also be provided on the Conservation Agenda posted on the Town's website at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Copies of the applications listed in this hearing notice may be viewed electronically at: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/conservation-commission/pages/current-filings>

Jay Simmons, Chair
Fairhaven Conservation Commission
Fairhaven Neighborhood News, 4/16/20

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PROJECT: Solar Array Project (Phase 2)

LOCATION: 0 & 88 Wing Lane - Acushnet, MA

PROPOSER: Sunrise on Wing Lane LLC

The undersigned is submitting an Environmental Notification Form ("ENF") to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs on or before April 15, 2020.

This will initiate review of the above project pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act ("MEPA", M.G.L. c. 30, s.s. 61-62I). Copies of the ENF may be obtained from: Dan Wells, Goddard Consulting, LLC, 291 Main Street, Suite 8, Northborough, MA 01532, 508-393-3784; dan@goddardconsultingllc.com

Copies of the ENF are also being sent to the Conservation Commission and Planning Board of Acushnet, MA where they may be inspected.

The Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs will publish notice of the ENF in the Environmental Monitor, will receive public comments on the project for 20 days, and will then decide, within ten days, if an environmental Impact Report is needed. A site visit and consultation session on the project may also be

scheduled. All persons wishing to comment on the project, or to be notified of a site visit or consultation session, should write to the Secretary of Energy & Environmental Affairs, 100 Cambridge St., Suite 900, Boston, Massachusetts 02114, Attention: MEPA Office, referencing the above project.

FNN, 4/16/20

Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

Tuesday, May 5, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall Banquet Room, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

To access the meeting remotely: Join Zoom
Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/261078330?pwd=VVDydwFyVVB3eG0vV0xMY0wrBct1UT09>
or call 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 261 078 330
Password: 067421

1. Administrative Appeal by Fairhaven Shipyard, re: 7 Union Street. Seeking reversal of zoning determination by the Town of Fairhaven Building Commissioner dated February 20, 2020. (Application attached) – Continued from April 7, 2020.
2. 5 Vincent Street, 198-16: Special Permit request for an in-law apartment in a RA District
3. 5 Vincent Street, 198-18: Variance request for a 3.6' variance from a previously approved building setback of 22' vs. the 30'; specifically, requesting a variance to allow the setback of the deck to be 18.4' from the rear lot line.
4. 43 Shaw Road, 198-16: Special Permit for 6 chickens in a RA District.

Peter DeTerra, Chairman
FNN: 4/16/20, 4/30/20

New Bedford endorses Help United fund

Press Release

In Greater New Bedford, residents are already feeling the impact of COVID-19. Many local businesses have closed or moved to reduced hours, workers are either out of work or struggling to find childcare, and schools have been closed until May. It's an uncertain time and many are finding themselves in financial situations where they have to choose between food, rent and/or medication.

United Way of Greater New Bedford is stepping in to help, and the City of New Bedford is actively supporting the effort. United Way has established the Help United-Greater New Bedford COVID-19 Response Fund to assist residents effected by the Coronavirus. The fund will provide cash assistance to out of work service workers and retired or out of work seniors over 65 in the Greater New Bedford area.

"United Way is no stranger to helping those in most need in our community. We have been working around the clock to ensure people have what they need during this difficult and uncertain time," said Michelle N. Hantman, President & CEO. "We've set up the Help United Fund to assist residents financially and our Hunger Commission is

making sure local food pantries are well stocked."

The Help United Fund is the only local fund endorsed by the City of New Bedford and Mayor Jon Mitchell.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has abruptly turned upside down the lives of many of our fellow residents of Greater New Bedford, some of whom will not be eligible for federal relief. It is with them in mind that United Way launched this fund," said Mayor Jon Mitchell. "I encourage everyone in our region to step forward with whatever you can afford in support of our friends and neighbors."

Mayor Mitchell has appointed Christian Farland as Chairman of the Help United Response Fund. Mr. Farland is a professional civil engineer and the founder and President of Farland Corporation, Inc., a site contracting company specializing in residential and commercial site development, and the President of Thompson Farland, Inc., a civil engineering land surveying company.

"The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on our community is unprecedented," said Farland. "As a business owner with deep ties to New Bedford, I am increasingly concerned for the service workers in our cities and towns, laid off or working reduced

hours that compromise their ability to provide for their families. I am confident in United Way of Greater New Bedford's ability to effectively raise and designate resources to those in need, and proud to support this effort."

You can make a donation to the Help United Fund by texting HELPUNITED to 313131 or visiting unitedwayofgnb.org.

Those looking for assistance can review the guidelines and apply at unitedwayofgnb.org/help-united.

In addition to the financial assistance to residents, United Way's Hunger Commission continues to deliver food to pantries in Greater New Bedford. Restaurants with food they are unable to use are encouraged to donate it to the Hunger Commission by calling 508-994-9625. Those looking for food assistance should visit unitedwayofgnb.org to see an up-to-date list of open pantries.

Anyone with questions regarding COVID-19 should dial 2-1-1 to get information a 24/7, free, confidential hotline that provides information on local resources. 211 has been designated by the Department of Public Health to answer your questions. Mass 211 is funded by local United Ways.

Fairhaven BPW discusses closing beach parking lots

By Mary Macedo

Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Monday, 4/6 the Fairhaven Board of Public Works discussed hours for the recycling center, the Pasta House grease trap, and closing town beach parking.

Due to the COVID-19 state mandated restrictions the meeting was held at town hall so it could be livestreamed and broadcast on Channel 18. The public could call in by phone or video to participate.

The board first opened the discussion with the approval of the minutes for the previous meeting. But before that vote, board member Frank Coelho voiced his concerns about their previous discussion regarding the Pasta House external grease trap.

Mr. Coelho addressed BPW Superintendent Vinnie Furtado stating that he never received the Pasta House external grease trap plan.

Mr. Coelho explained that he asked for the plans for over a month and that Mr. Furtado asked the engineer for more detailed plans of the grease trap but Mr. Coelho said he never received those plans.

Mr. Furtado said he attached the copies of the plan to the packet he gave the board members at the last meeting. He explained that the plan was not as detailed as he would like, but the plan had the stamped approval of the plumbing inspector.

Mr. Coelho said he asked for the revised plan.

Mr. Furtado said that the plan he gave was the only one he received.

Mr. Coelho addressed Mr. Furtado stating that Mr. Furtado let the Pasta House start the grease trap project without the proper detailed plan.

"It doesn't make a difference what we (the board) say," Mr. Coelho said addressing Mr. Furtado. "Because you are going to do what you want."

Mr. Furtado explained the board has no more jurisdiction to ask for another plan because the plan has already been approved by the inspector.

He said the board's job is to make sure the grease trap is the right size and that the bathroom waste is separate from the kitchen waste.

Mr. Furtado said that he did wish that the plan was more detailed, but

there was nothing he could do about it because the plan was approved by the plumbing inspector.

Mr. Furtado also said that the Pasta House has been "dodging the bullet" of getting the external grease trap installed for a long time. He said he did not want to hold up the project any longer especially with the COVID-19 situation.

Board member Keith Silvia said that the whole grease trap situation with the Pasta House was not fair to the board and was not fair to other restaurants that have had to put external grease traps in.

He said Mr. Furtado told the Pasta House they needed an engineer and then the board gave them a three month extension, and now the engineer plans they have are a joke.

Mr. Furtado said there is an engineering stamp on the plans, but it

Don't worry, you call Mommy every other week anyways. It doesn't matter and, guess what, I have never violated anything, so please call them again.

[Brian Wotton]

is a total joke.

Mr. Silvia said it is not fair to other restaurants that spent the money the right way to install their grease traps. He said he was glad the grease trap was getting done, but it took ten years and now it is being rushed to get done in one week.

Mr. Silvia said he doesn't know if this is some political favor for someone, but there is definitely something up.

"It's just not right," Mr. Silvia said.

BPW Chairperson Brian Wotton suggested that the board come up with a grease trap bylaw with everything that is required within the process of installing an external grease trap. He said that they can write up a policy with the details on what is needed for approval prior to starting the project. He asked Mr.

Furtado to put it on next agenda.

In another matter Mr. Coelho brought up last week's discussion regarding keeping the recycling center open on Wednesdays and Saturdays until further notice.

He addressed Mr. Wotton stating that he should recuse himself from discussions regarding the recycling center because of the landscaping business he owns.

Mr. Wotton explained to Mr. Coelho that his business does not currently have a 2020 sticker permit for the recycling center, so he is just a resident and not a customer.

Mr. Wotton also explained that the board only discussed the hours of the recycling center last week due to worries about essential and non-essential personnel. He said there was no vote on anything that his business has currently paid for or is involved in.

Mr. Coelho said he is just asking if BPW Administrative Assistant Becky Vento could check with the state ethics commission to make sure it is not a conflict of interest.

"Don't worry, you call Mommy every other week anyways," Mr. Wotton said. "It doesn't matter and, guess what, I have never violated anything, so please call them again."

"Have Eric call me," Mr. Wotton added. "He knows my cell phone number."

Mr. Coelho said he just wanted to see if it was legal for Mr. Wotton to vote and make motions about the recycling center.

Mr. Wotton said that the recycling center does not pay his business any money. He said that he has not received any money or bribery that would cause him to recuse himself. He reiterated that his business does not have a recycle center permit.

"You're stating false information sir," Mr. Wotton said "Get your information straight then come back at me."

"I motion to move on because I don't think you have the grounds to stand on this," Mr. Wotton said.

Mr. Coelho repeated that he just wanted Ms. Vento to check with ethics.

Mr. Wotton said that moving forward the board will take everything to the ethics commission that

BPW: cont'd on page 22

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PPE: cont'd from page 7
the town of Marion and the city of New Bedford.

The town's supply is in "good shape," she said. The fire department and the police department have their own supply lines, although she will share with them if they need it.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg said she is still waiting for thermometers and N95 masks.

"I asked for masks, they gave me shields," she said.

She will continue to get shipments, she said, because the various departments are using the supplies.

"It's important that they keep it up," she said.

As of press time, Fairhaven had a total of 36 COVID-19 cases, with 11 active cases being followed by the public health nurse; and two COVID-19 related deaths.

Check out our new blog for the latest updates: <https://www.fairhavenneighborhoodnews.com/category/blog/>

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ACUSH: cont'd from page 16

well. The board took the suggestion under advisement and will decide at a later date.

The board also discussed the FY21 budget with Ms. Hebert, who told the board that potential revenues from the state may be short. With the assumption there may be a decrease of 5% from the state, which is \$410,000 for Acushnet; her plan was to cut all capital expenses. She stated they have \$1 million in free cash, and she would like not to touch it so, if they have a revenue shortfall, they have that money.

Ms. Hebert said she had spoken to department heads and have asked them to create another budget with a 10% reduction of expenses only and a 1% level funded budget. Once compiled she stated she would have them for the Selectboard to review.

Ms. Labonte advertised a Public Service Agreement asking that all Acushnet residents fill out the Federal Census paperwork that has been sent out. She stated it was very important that all residents fill out the federal census as it results in money that the town receives for every resident that lives in Acushnet.

In other business, the board voted to approve up to \$12,000 for the Cable Committee to purchase new equipment. The money comes from the fees from Comcast subscribers.

The Selectboard also voted to allow the date change for the half Marathon to September 5, 2020.

The Selectboard announced there were seven identified Coronavirus cases in Acushnet at this time.

ALL IN PERSON MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CANCELED

No in-person attendance is allowed by the public during the COVID-19 crisis.

The public is invited to attend/participate remotely. The information on how to join is listed on the agenda. Most meetings are also run live on the government access channel, and Fairhaven meetings are also livestreamed at FairhavenTV.com

Fairhaven Meetings

Board of Appeals

Tues., 5/5, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Assessors

Wed., 4/22, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

Board of Health

Thurs., 4/23, Town Hall, 3 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Wed., 4/22, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 4/27, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

ELECTION

The town election has been postponed from 4/6 to 5/18

Selectboard

Mon., 4/27, Town Hall, 4:30 p.m.
[Time is tentative]

Town Meeting

Town Meeting has been postponed to June 20.

Acushnet Meetings

Planning Board

Thurs., 4/30, Parting Ways, 6:30 p.m.s

Selectboard

Tues., 4/21, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	April 2020	HIGH a.m. p.m.	LOW a.m. p.m.	
Thursday	16	0339 1615	1127 2349	
Friday	17	0443 1719	---- 1219	
Saturday	18	0544 1811	0040 1301	
Sunday	19	0630 1852	0123 1337	
Monday	20	0709 1928	0203 1357	
Tuesday	21	0746 2003	0236 1320	
Wednesday	22	0822 2039	0157 1340	
Thursday	23	0900 2117	0218 1411	
Friday	24	0940 2156	0251 1448	
Saturday	25	1020 2236	0329 1528	
Sunday	26	1101 2319	0406 1608	
Monday	27	1147 ----	0444 1648	

*= Predicted minus tides from -0.1 ft. to -1.0 ft

**Predicted minus tides from -1.1 ft to -2.0 ft or more

BPW: cont'd from page 20

Mr. Coelho has a problem with.

Mr. Coelho said that one way or the other these issues need to be checked out and that the board cannot keep going on like that.

Board member Robert "Hoppy" Hobson asked if he could say something.

"Absolutely, why not," Mr. Wotton said. "What the hell."

He said take all the time you want and if anyone else wants to run the meeting feel free to.

Mr. Hobson said that he thought the two were talking about two different issues. He said that if Mr. Coelho thinks that Mr. Wotton should not be voting on an issue then Mr. Coelho needs to bring it up at the time of the vote, not after the fact.

Mr. Wotton said there was no vote so he is not sure what he was talking about.

Mr. Coelho countered that there was indeed a 4-1 vote on recycling center hours. Mr. Furtado confirmed it, stating that the board voted to keep the recycling center open on the Wednesday and Saturday schedule through the month of April.

Mr. Wotton said that either way he is not a sticker holder for the recycling center, and asked Ms. Vento to verify that he does not currently have a sticker.

Ms. Vento confirmed that Mr. Wotton did not currently have a 2020 sticker for the recycling center.

Mr. Wotton explained that he has a landscaping business but he currently does not have a sticker for the recycling center. He told Mr. Coelho to get his information straight.

Mr. Coelho said that from his understanding he had heard that Mr. Wotton uses the recycling center for his business, and if that is wrong he apologizes. Mr. Coelho repeated that he would just like to check with the ethics commission because he does not think he is wrong.

In another matter the board discussed a payment of \$1,680 for GCG Associates for inspectional services for the Pasta House's grease trap project. Mr. Furtado said the BPW is just in the middle. The Pasta House already paid the bill.

The board voted to accept the payment 4-1 with Mr. Silvia voting against it.

In another matter the board discussed a contract with GCG

Associates for bidding and construction oversight for sidewalk improvements at the Millicent Library. Mr. Furtado said the cost for GCG would be \$24,090, but they currently do not have the money for it. He said they would be trying to use Chapter 90 funds. He also said that the Town Administrator has \$180,000 earmarked for the construction, but they do not know how much engineering will cost, so they do not know if they have enough to cover the whole project.

The board voted to approve the contract 3-2, with Mr. Wotton and Mr. Silvia voting against it. They both said that they agree with the project, but the cost seemed outrageous. Mr. Wotton asked if they could look at other companies to lower the cost.

Mr. Hobson said that he wanted the project to get done, but he did not like the cost either.

[Mr. Wotton] said that
he has not received
any money or bribery
that would cause him
to recuse himself.

The board also met with Health Agent Mary Freire-Kellogg via Zoom to discuss Governor Baker's recommendations to close parking lots at beaches and parks.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg said she did not think that the Town of Fairhaven was at the point that closing parking would be necessary. She did, however, agree that closing playgrounds, basketball hoops, and other group sport areas would be a good thing to do.

Mr. Hobson said that a lot of senior citizens like to grab a coffee in the morning and go park by the water and watch the waves. He said that he goes to Union Wharf, Hoppy's Landing, Fort Phoenix, Seaview Avenue, and the Town Beach and there are cars parked far away from each other. People just sit, he said, most people stay in their cars.

He asked what people are supposed to do. They need to get fresh air, exercise or walk their dogs.

Mr. Wotton agreed with Mr. Hobson, saying he did not understand what closing the parking lots would do. It would not stop people from going, it would force people to park on the streets and park in front of residents' houses, which would cause problems. Mr. Silvia and Mr. Coelho agreed.

Board member Cameron Durant said that he did not want to stop car access, but people need to maintain the social distancing guidelines.

He asked Ms. Freire-Kellogg what neighboring towns, such as Dartmouth and New Bedford were doing.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg said that it is not a state ban, but the governor is recommending all communities close the lots. She said that eventually the governor might make it an order.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg said she received a complaint from a woman at Livesey Park that there was child playing on the playground. Ms. Freire-Kellogg said she thinks the playgrounds need to be closed because they cannot be sanitized.

Mr. Wotton said that they closed all town playgrounds at the last BPW meeting and they should have caution tape around them.

Mr. Durant suggested they go around and make sure all the playgrounds are closed. Mr. Wotton said the BPW already told the public the playgrounds are closed, and it is a police issue to monitor them.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg said that the police are 100% on board already and have been going out and breaking up groups of kids playing sports. She said the police have been staying in contact with the Board of Health.

She also said the bike path and Fort Phoenix have been a problem with a lot of people walking around.

The board agreed to have all the playgrounds monitored and to leave the parking lots open.

In another matter Mr. Furtado said that due to the pandemic he has requested that the water and sewer payments be given an extra 60 days with no penalties. The board voted to make the change. The bills will be due June 9 instead of May 10.

Mr. Furtado also asked the board to approve \$7,900 for Brown and Caldwell to assess the potential of putting the recycling center on Bridge Street. The board voted to table the issue until they have the funds.



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