



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 15, Issue 36 • September 17, 2020

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

School starts in a pandemic world



Kindergarten students with colorful backpacks and facemasks are careful not to get too close as they wait to enter the LL Wood School on Tuesday, 9/15/20, the first day of school in Fairhaven. The district has staggered on-site and remote learning at all schools. Photo by Glenn C. Silva, See page 12. Photo by Glenn C. Silva



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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.

School is back in session... mostly. Not all students are in the building all the time. Really, parents, don't be shy, let us know if you mix up the days, okay? We need a little humor. There are "cohorts" and one group goes on certain days and then stays home learning remotely on the others. They they swap off. I'd be going on all the wrong days.

So...humor the rest of us, because we're all still NOT having parties and NOT going to bars and...well, you get the idea.

We have meeting coverage for you this week. Dad and dad are fighting again at the BPW (page 11). The Board of Health is in the news again...or, er...still?

Anyway, I wrote a waaaay too long article, so pop some popcorn to read it. I just didn't have time to get back to it and cut it down. Deadline is approaching and, well, more info is better than less info, right?

Marine Resources is also in this week's issue. Turns out they have some fun stuff going on, too (page 19).

This week was also the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. There were no real ceremonies, thanks to COVID, but flags all around the area flew at half staff (page 18), and Glenn got some great pictures to commemorate the occasion.

I suppose I could go on and on...and on and on... about the BOH stuff. But, honestly, can't we all just try to get along? Of course, this crazy board went and hired someone to do a job that they already have someone to do. So, what are you supposed to do with that? They should've used one of the many state resources to get an interim health agent in, someone who would know right up front that he/she was just filling in. It's just so hard to believe the board is being honest when they do something like that. Seems like everyone's minds are already made up.

Anyway, please read the story and weigh in with your elected officials.

Meanwhile, be sure to tell our advertisers you saw their ads in the *Neighb News*. See ya..



Beth David, Publisher

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Volume 15, Issue 36

Thursday, September 17, 2020

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Editor: Beth David

Photographers/Correspondents:

Mary Macedo, Pattie Pacella, Jean Perry, Glenn C. Silva

Published weekly on Thursday by

Fairhaven Neighborhood News, LLC, at
166 Dogwood Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

NeighbNews@comcast.net

www.NeighbNews.com

508-979-5593 • Fax: 508-991-5580

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

COVID-19 update

By Beth David
Editor

Acushnet and Fairhaven continue to be shown as unshaded on the state's interactive map showing risk levels for COVID-19 in Massachusetts Communities. New Bedford, however, was in the red. Unshaded means less than five cases, Green means more than four cases, yellow means 4-8 cases per 100K, and red is more than eight cases.

Schools in Fairhaven opened on Tuesday (see page 12) for a combination of in person and remote learning. Acushnet was scheduled to open on Wednesday, 9/16.

Courtesy of State House News Service

SEPT. 14, 2020.....More than 3 million molecular COVID-19 tests have now been administered in Mass., and more than a million were performed on people who had been tested previously.

According to Monday's report from the Department of Public Health, a total of 3,038,625 COVID-19 tests have been administered, and 1,968,234 individuals have been tested for

COVID-19. Those tests have yielded a total of 123,139 confirmed COVID-19 cases.

Monday marked the date once eyed for a rescheduled running of the Boston Marathon, which organizers postponed on March 13, when there were 108 COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts. Eleven weeks later, Boston Mayor Martin Walsh announced that this year, the marathon would not take place in person at all. Instead, the Boston Athletic Association conducted a "virtual marathon" this past week, with runners completing the 26.2 miles on their own. *Katie Lannan*

Hospitalizations Down

Massachusetts public health officials confirmed 235 new cases of COVID-19 on Monday and announced nine recent COVID-19 deaths. The Department of Public Health said the 235 new cases came from tests of 12,201 people, which works out to a single-day positive test rate of 1.9 percent. The agency said the seven-day average of the COVID-19 positive test rate remains at 0.8 percent.

There were 302 people hospitalized in Massachusetts with COVID-19 as of midday Monday, a decrease of 11 from Sunday. Of the 302 hospitalized patients, 63 are being treated in an intensive care unit, including 17 who are on a ventilator.

Safe Ways to Vote

Voting-themed face masks; and a weekly podcast miniseries about the 2020 elections will be among the features of a new "Let People Vote" campaign launched Monday by the American Civil Liberties Union to mark 50 days to Election Day.

The campaign intends to encourage people to make plans to vote and to inform them of ways to vote safely during the pandemic.

The campaign features a website with state-by-state information, and the page for Massachusetts at <https://www.aclu.org/voter/ma/> notes that all voters can cast their ballots by mail this year in light of COVID-19 and that there are 44 days remaining to request a mail-in ballot for the Nov. 3 election. - *Katie Lannan 2:39 PM Mon*

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Fairhaven health agent's fate still unclear

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Board of Health meeting was a quick one on 9/10, focusing mainly on the approval of several marina permits that had not been renewed or inspected prior to the 2020 boating season.

Board of Health member Geoff Haworth during the 8/24 meeting paid attention to a number of marina permitting inspections that had not been completed; however, those permits were extended via Governor Charlie Baker's Act To Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting from COVID-19, which allowed permits in good standing to remain in effect throughout the state of emergency.

The board approved marina permits for Marina at Slocum Cove and the Moby Dick Marina.

"We've almost got them all in compliance," said Mr. Haworth, through 12/31 of this year. "So we were able— Most of that was Miss DuPont working in the office, but we were able to get them all permitted up like they properly should be and

they've all been inspected, correct?" he asked Sarah Dupont, interim health agent.

"I've inspected four; two already had permits before I came in," she replied.

Mr. Haworth noted that none of the public beaches had been issued permits for this year, but two private beaches were issued permits on 6/29 and 6/30.

"So, just another thing that we've failed to follow through on this year and I just want to make sure the board's aware of that," said Haworth.

The board approved the minutes of the 8/24 meeting only, and withheld from approving a slew of meeting minutes dating from 5/28 to 7/30, which Mr. Haworth initially perceived as having been tampered with remotely by an unknown person. Mr. Haworth alleged that Microsoft Word documents were missing and PDF versions of the minutes had been altered.

Since that meeting former Board of Health Administrative Assistant Amanda Blais explained that she had been taking minutes remotely since

she began working from home and stopped creating Word documents when Chairperson Peter DeTerra was appointed as chairperson to prevent him from altering them himself.

"I have seen in a local press release that the secretary admits to have made the Word documents not available to the board and just PDFs, so we're going to have to actually go through and confirm if the minutes are accurate, so there'll be a little bit more time on those," said Mr. Haworth.

In other matters, Ms. Dupont said Fairhaven has had four active COVID-19 cases within the last two week, making it 259 total for the year. She also said that over the Labor Day weekend there were several complaints about COVID-19 non-compliance with public establishments and with individuals in town.

"We are working on addressing these issues and are in communications with different establishments and folks that may have been involved," said Ms. Dupont.

The board also approved a

BOH: cont'd on page 21

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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

UFO in Fairhaven?

A *Neighb News* reader saw something otherworldly in the afternoon sky on Sunday, 9/6, around 2:40 p.m.

The large object flew low over the water along Goulart Memorial Drive before disappearing into the clouds heading north.

If anyone saw anything, please share your story with Mass. Chapter of The Mutual UFO Network, 617-602-9763, or find the mon Facebook.

For information about MUFON, visit <https://www.mufon.com>

Broadband Survey

As Fairhaven's Broadband Study Committee, we have made it a key priority to research the feasibility of establishing local control of this essential infrastructure. The goals of the committee for this project include the following:

1. Lower the cost of internet access by 25%-30% for residents and businesses.
2. Significantly increase the speed and reliability of internet access.
3. Increase competition and give residents multiple options for ISPs on demand in real time.
4. Build a state-of-the-art network that will improve economic development and foster innovation.
5. Leverage the network to improve the services provided in the town including public safety, transportation, healthcare, education, emergency communications, and new services that will become possible with advanced network infrastructure.

The unfortunate reality is that the current dominant internet access model in our country is one where network operators build closed proprietary systems that are designed to maximize profit. Alternatively, construction of a Fairhaven Broadband Network utility seeks to maximize value and lower costs through competition.

We are inviting Fairhaven residents to take the Fairhaven Broadband Survey 8 simple questions, takes less than 3 minutes Please visit www.connectfairhaven.com to learn more and take the survey.

Dementia Webinars

Dementia Friendly in the Age of Social Distancing: Learn how to

interact effectively with customers, colleagues, friends and family who live with memory loss or dementia. Thurs., 9/24, 2:30 p.m.

Trainings made possible by Title III Funding through Coastline Elderly Services and the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

Register online or for more information email mlp@communitynurse.com

Farmers Markets

Fairhaven Farmers Market the Bright Yellow Farm Stand, 151 Alden Road, Fairhaven (next to National Bleach). Sundays through 10/25, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Featuring beef, chicken, produce farms, honey, eggs, herbs, jams, organic soaps and bath salts. Accepts senior and WIC Farmers Market Coupons, SNAP.

Please practice social distancing and wear a mask.

Contact: 508-496-9209; allnaturalbeef@comcast.net

Roxann's Farmers Market: Sundays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., 189 Alden Road, Fairhaven.

Library Pick-up

The Millicent Library continues outdoor pickup for library items. While the library building itself is still closed to the public, we are available for reference, some forms of printing and getting you your books, audios, DVDs and even Internet Hotspots.

Please call the library at 508-992-5342 on Monday 9-8; Tuesday through Friday from 9 to 6 and Saturday 9 to 3 for more information on available services.

You may reserve items online or over the phone... make sure your account has the correct telephone number. We are now able to get items for you from other libraries as well as those we own.

When your requested item comes in, we will notify you via phone, email or text. You can then make arrangements to pick it up in our mini-greenhouses on Walnut Street. The book drop is also open now 24/7 for returns.

We still have a moratorium on book donations for the foreseeable future.

For up-to-date information and changes, please check our website at millicentlibrary.org where you can find out about our ebooks, databases, streaming moves and TV and more.

LAST Huttleston Marketplace

Sat. 9/19, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Fairhaven Visitors Center Lawn/Fairhaven High School Lawn, 141 Main Street, at Route 6, Fairhaven

An outdoor bazaar featuring vendors selling select hand made arts and crafts, quality antiques and vintage collectibles, upcycled items, fresh farm produce, and locally prepared foods. It is a MDAR certified farmers market, allowing certified farm vendors to accept WIC and Senior FMNP coupons. It is held rain or shine. COVID-19 precautions, such as social distancing and mask wearing are required.

Visit <https://fairhaventours.com/huttleston-marketplace-weekly/> for vendor information.

For further information, contact the Fairhaven Office of Tourism at FairhavenTours@fairhaven-ma.gov or by calling 508-979-4085; on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/HuttlestonMkt> and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HuttlestonMarketplace/>.

Fishing Derby

The 2020 Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Derby started January 1st and will run through November 30th. Entries must be caught on rod and reel, meet minimum qualifying weights and lengths, and be caught in state waters and/or first landed in a Massachusetts port. Fish submitted for the weigh-in portion of the derby must be measured and weighed at a *Marine Fisheries certified weigh station*. Anglers participating in the catch and release portion of the derby are required to submit a picture of their fish on a measuring device. Entries may be mailed to our New Bedford office or emailed to john.boardman@mass.gov.

Awards will be given to those anglers catching the heaviest (Weigh-In) or longest (Catch & Release) of each species for each of the three divisions: Men's, Women's, and Junior's (boys and girls aged 15 and younger).

For entry forms and additional information about the Derby visit https://www.mass.gov/saltwater-fishing-derby?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Carreiros grateful for the Christmas cards



Frank and Lisa Carreiro are grateful for the Christmas cards that thoughtful people from around the area have sent to Ms. Carreiro in the last couple of weeks. Mr. Carreiro said that the cards have given them a "pleasant outlook" towards people. Many are hand-written and include stories and prayers, he said. It is "very heartwarming." He sent a few pictures of the cards, and also of the local princesses, Miss New Bedford, among them, who visited the house to comfort Ms. Carreiro. In our 9/3/20 issue we wrote about Ms. Carreiro's diagnosis of terminal cancer. Her co-workers decorated her yard with Christmas decorations, and neighbors also decorated their yards, as Ms. Carreiro said she hopes to be able to celebrate Christmas with her family. If you want to send a card, mail it to 34 Lisa Avenue, Acushnet, MA 02743. LEFT: Ms. Carreiro's hospital room window is filled with Christmas cards. RIGHT: The "princesses," including Miss New Bedford, visit Ms. Carreiro at home. *Photos courtesy of Frank Carreiro.*

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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Health Department employees continue to speak out

By Beth David
Editor

The embattled Fairhaven Health Department employees continue to speak out, trying to get their side of the story aired as the Board of Health meetings are increasingly bereft of chances for them to speak.

Health Agent Mary Freire-Kellogg, who is technically still employed in that role but has been on forced paid administrative leave, said from her first week on the job in 2017, there was turmoil. The Administrative Assistant quit, leaving Ms. Freire-Kellogg alone to do both jobs for a few weeks.

Amanda Blais, who recently resigned from her position as AA in the Health Department, said she asked to be re-assigned to another job when she saw a lateral position open up, but was denied that request. She left her post after she realized that Board of Health Chairperson Peter DeTerra was never going to stop "harassing" her.

Daniel Shea, who was, and may still be, the part time health inspector, responsible for inspecting restaurants and other food establishments, said he was blindsided by a letter accusing him of insubordination that was sent by BOH member Michael Ristuccia.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg's status will probably be discussed at the next BOH meeting, it was continued on 9/10. Ms. Blais has resigned, so she is a "former" employee. Mr. Shea said he is not sure of his status. No one has actually told him anything. He said he was told to stop doing inspections, turned in his iPad, and he has not been given any hours or any inspections to do for several weeks.

In a phone interview, Mr. DeTerra said that the employees simply did not want to be accountable for their actions. He said when he asked normal questions, he was accused of harassment.

In addition to providing documents to back up the many claims the three employees have made over the last few weeks, they also wanted to focus on a couple of conflicts of interest against Mr. DeTerra.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg said her problems with Mr. DeTerra started after just a few months on the job, when Town Administrator Mark Rees told her she had to put out to bid the mowing project for the landfill. Mr. DeTerra had previously mowed the landfill (see Neighb News 9/20/18).

Ms. Freire-Kellogg maintains that she followed proper procedure, and called companies that had bid on the job in the past. She also provided copies of two payments made to Mr. DeTerra in 2017 that showed a much higher amount paid to him for the job than the bid. One company had bid \$4,000, and Mr. DeTerra had bid \$3710. But then he charged \$4695 for weed whacking.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg accused Mr. DeTerra of

overcharging.

Mr. DeTerra said the comparison was flawed because the landfill does not have to be weed whacked every year. The Department of Environmental Protection mandates the weed whacking. He said there are swales and stumps on the property and they have to be done by hand.

"So that's the discrepancy," he said, adding that he did not get the contract every year.

Mr. DeTerra maintains first and foremost that he follows all ethics rules for any work he does in town that has any connection to the BOH.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg also said Mr. DeTerra, who is an excavator by trade, has an out-of-town inspector inspect the septic systems he installs in Fairhaven.

Mr. DeTerra said it would be inappropriate for Ms. Freire-Kellogg to inspect his work.

"I'm her boss. So I pay the Mattapoisett health agent to do my inspections," he said, adding that it was only a handful over the years.

Another complaint was that he trained the

Mr. DeTerra said that the employees simply did not want to be accountable for their actions.

new interim health agent, Sarah Dupont, on a septic inspection. Mr. DeTerra said he went with Ms. Dupont because she is not licensed and he is.

"I'm licensed for everything for the board," said Mr. DeTerra, who has been on the BOH for 17 years.

Ms. Blais complained that she suddenly was not allowed to leave early to go to her college classes, something she said she got permission to do.

Mr. DeTerra said she had been leaving for months, and he never knew about it. He said she was not properly logging in and out of work to go.

"I have no problem with school," said Mr. DeTerra. "But at least ask the board, punch out."

And so it goes, with a litany of accusations and responses from both sides that would fill volumes. Each side makes a claim that seems to be a legitimate.

Mr. Shea said he was shocked when he received a 1 1/2 page letter accusing him of insubordination. The letter was signed by board member Michael Ristuccia, but Mr. DeTerra said he agreed with it.

At the top of the list of complaints was an incident when Mr. Shea trained Ms. Dupont to take beach water samples. She was required to

go into the water up to her waist, or a little higher.

Mr. Shea said that is how he does it and provided documentation that states that the sample needs to be taken in three feet of water, and the bottle needs to go down one foot. I does not specify if a person needs to wade into the water.

Mr. DeTerra laughed and said he was very angry when he learned that Ms. Dupont went into the water.

"There's a pole in the car, you go in with boots," he said. "I'm still upset."

He said a person going into the water is a "contaminant." The bottles are sterile.

"You're supposed to put it on a ten foot pole," he said. "You can't make someone go out in the water."

He said he has taken many samples and has not gone into the water or gotten wet to do it.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg said she went in the water to get samples; and in a written response to the complaints, Mr. Shea said he and all the interns also went into the water to get samples.

The final straw with Mr. Shea seemed to be Scramblers. He was yelled at by the owner who also wrote two letters complaining about Mr. Shea. Mr. DeTerra said that Mr. Shea was not supposed to be conducting the inspections at Scramblers because of the conflict with the owner. Mr. Ristuccia was supposed to be doing them, but Mr. Shea returned twice after being told not to.

Mr. Shea said the COVID-based complaints about Scramblers came from the state, as residents had called them into the state's system.

"There's a clash between the two," said Mr. DeTerra. "To diffuse what's going on, that's why Mike was handling that. You back up until things calm down."

There was also conflict with Mr. Shea's schedule. Ms. Dupont asked him for his week's inspection schedule, but Mr. Shea said he worked sporadically.

In the complaint letter, it states that Ms. Dupont wanted to shadow Mr. Shea and he said they could do that on Friday, but then proceeded to conduct five inspections alone.

Mr. Shea maintains that the board wanted the schedule to warn the restaurants ahead of time, which compromises the integrity of a surprise inspection.

"We never let people know," said Mr. DeTerra. "I do not warn people. And Sarah does not warn people either."

Ms. Freire-Kellogg said she had many ideas for public education when she started the job in 2017. Even amid the turmoil she said that she and her staff did most of it.

They budgeted for organization classes so young people would not grow up to be hoarders; "fix-it clinics" to help people reuse

BOH EMP: cont'd on page 13

Scout Recruiting

For all Boys and Girls Ages 5-20

One of the New Bedford Area's oldest scouting organizations will be hosting an open house recruitment event on **Sat., 9/26, from 10:00AM-2:00PM outside the St. Joseph/St. Teresa's Parish on 51 Duncan Street in New Bedford.** Our sponsored organization represents four scouting units that span all genders and ages from five years old to 20 years old.

- Pack 24 (Boys and Girls 5-10yrs) Meets Thursday nights (64 years running)
- Scouting, BSA Troop 24B (Boys 11-17) Meets Wednesday nights (80 years running)
- Scouting, BSA Troop 24G (Girls 11-17) Meets Tuesday nights (1 year running)
- Venture Crew 24 (Boys and Girls 14-20) Meets Thursday nights (23 years running)

We will have some games and activities. Masks and social distancing will be required for all participants and our scouts and leaders will host this event outdoors and complying with all COVID-19 precautions.

The Boy Scouts of America uses uniquely hands-on learning experience and opportunities toward advancement while promoting budding interests. Youth will unlock the world of discovery around them and forge a path for the future.

Dock-Umentary

Fri. 9/18, 7 p.m. Join us on ZOOM for our September Dock-u-mentary, *A Sigh and A Wish: Helen Creighton's Maritimes*. Visit <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83923159558#success> to join the ZOOM Meeting.

Renowned folklorist Helen Creighton single-handedly compiled North America's largest collection of folklore and music, much of which would have disappeared forever if not for her tenacity, collecting stories and songs from the Gaelic singers of Cape Breton, French Acadians, the Mi'kmaq, and the Black communities of Nova Scotia. Her name became a household word throughout the fishing villages, towns, and farms, Ironically, in collecting legends, Creighton became one herself.

Thank you to BankFive for

supporting our film series.

Call (508) 993-8894 or email us at programs@fishingheritagecenter.org.

Cashless Parking

The City of New Bedford has partnered with Passport, the operating system that provides contactless payment options to cities, for parking payment through its mobile app.

Passport's digital application launching in the City, Passport Parking, is a cashless alternative to paying at a meter or pay station and will be replacing the City's former parking app provider, which had ceased providing services due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

New Bedford selected Passport because of its innovative reputation and the app's ease of use. With this upgrade, residents and visitors can safely and conveniently manage their parking wherever they are in New Bedford. Passport is the top mobile payment provider in Massachusetts, serving over 30 municipalities throughout the state, including Boston and Cambridge. The Passport Parking app is free to download from the App Store and Google Play. Users can also manage their parking online at www.passportparking.com.

Short Plays Marathon

This will come as no surprise, but the 18th Culture*Park Short Plays Marathon originally scheduled for 11/21/20, has been postponed. The (tentative) reschedule date is Saturday, March 20, 2021. (We have little certainty that the new date will work out, but will secure yet another one if necessary!) The Call for Plays has been extended, and **five selected Virtual Plays will be presented this November.**

New Call Deadline, and Call for Virtual Plays:

The CALL FOR PLAYS, including plays written for Zoom, or a Virtual Platform, has been EXTENDED until 9/30/20. Plays written to be presented live, on-stage, will be presented in 2021. Selected plays specifically written for Zoom or a Virtual platform, will be Streamed in late November, 2020.

How many plays have we

presented over the past almost two decades? (Thanks for your trust, all!) Nearly 400 short plays have been presented as staged readings. Many of the plays have traveled elsewhere, and have received further development. Others have had full productions, including at the Samuel French Off Broadway Festival of New Plays. Oh but, back here in New Bedford, the day had ENERGY!

For further information, please email us at culturepark.ed@earthlink.net

Thank you, *Patty & Rebecca*

Seafood Soiree

At Anchor: A Stay-at-Home Soirée A Benefit for New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center Featuring an Online Auction & "Bounty of the SouthCoast" Coupon & Recipe Book

In light of the ongoing pandemic, we are forgoing our annual in-person fundraiser this year. Instead, the Center will host an online auction from October 1st through October 10th and will celebrate the "Bounty of the SouthCoast" with a Coupon & Recipe Book offering discounts to local restaurants and seafood markets and recipes from area chefs and fishing families.

Stop by the Fishing Heritage Center for our **Auction Kickoff Event on Thursday, October 1st from 5:00-7:00 p.m., 35 Bethel St., NB.** Browse auction items in our parking lot and enjoy live music from Hot Club Cheese Roll. Masks will be required for entry to the parking lot and social distancing will be practiced throughout the space. Please stay tuned for links to the Auction.

In addition to the auction, we will be selling a Coupon and Recipe book offering discounts to local restaurants and seafood markets as well as seafood recipes from local chefs. Books will be available for purchase at the Fishing Heritage Center gift shop and online beginning October 1st.

For more information and updates on the Soirée, see the Seafood Soirée page on our website: <https://fishingheritagecenter.org/soiree/>

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsors: Latti & Anderson, LLP, NORPEL, and R.A. Mitchell Co.

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

Flu Shots

The pharmacist from Stop and Shop will be at the Acushnet COA, 59½ South Main Street, **on Tuesday, September 22nd from 8:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.** to administer flu shots. Please bring your completed registration form and all health insurance cards. Appointments strongly recommended. Walk-ins will have a wait time. Call the COA, 508-998-0280. To reserve your time slot.

Oyster Fest

Grab 'n Go Oyster 'n More Fest tickets on sale now! Saturday, September 19, 2020 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Benjamin D. Cushing Community Center, 465 Mill Street, Front Street, Marion!

This year's Grab 'n Go Oyster 'n More Fest will feature oysters, lobster rolls, coleslaw and fries from Oxford Creamery, clam chowder from Harriet's Catering, and cookies from Flour Girls in a Grab 'n Go format.

SLT has added an online auction for this year's fundraiser, visit <https://sippicanlandstrust.org> for tickets and to links for the auction.

Tickets are \$50/each and \$100/each and benefit the mission of the Sippican Lands Trust.

Oyster Fest Special (\$50/ticket) includes the following:

- Half-dozen oysters or shrimp from Snug Harbor Fish Company
- One 10 oz. cup of clam chowder from Harriet's Catering
- One lobster roll with fries and coleslaw or one hamburger, one hot dog and one fries from Oxford Creamery
- One chocolate chip cookie from Flour Girls

Oyster Fest Special for Two (\$100/ticket) includes the following:

- Dozen oysters or shrimp from Snug Harbor Fish Company
- Two 10 oz. cups of clam chowder from Harriet's Catering
- Two lobster rolls with fries and coleslaw or two hamburgers, two hot dogs and two fries from Oxford Creamery
- Two chocolate chip cookies from Flour Girls

Visit <https://sippicanlandstrust.org> to purchase your tickets online or mail your check to Sippican Lands Trust, PO Box 848, Marion, MA 02738 by 9/16 16 to reserve your tickets

CF Cycle for Life

The official virtual CF Cycle for Life Challenge will launch on Sat., 9/19 at 9:00 am with the Cycle Opening Ceremonies, a 15 minute show! Thank you to Paul Piselli the Master of Ceremonies from Cycling for Sullys, RI Cycle Ambassadors Cora and Meg Oliveria, Team Mackenzie and the Cape Cod Chain Gang will send us in the right direction to keep fundraising and Cycle Happy. Stay Tuned!

From September 19 to October 4 we challenge you to ride 65 miles. Whether you split it up between days or knock it out at once, everyone can be All in for 65! Friends, family and colleagues (from anywhere) can join your team.

Register at https://fightcf.cff.org/site/TR/Cycle/74_Massachusetts_RI?fr_id=8199&pg=entry

Visit <https://fightcf.cff.org/>

Artisan Wweekend

People of the early 19th-century were skilled artisans across many different trades and mediums, including pottery, woodworking, blacksmithing, quilting, tailoring and more. Recently, people of today have found inspiration in many of these mediums, using craft as a creative outlet and positive pastime during the COVID-19 pandemic. On Sept. 19 & 20, Old Sturbridge Village (OSV) will host its annual Craft Weekend, showcasing the major industries and crafts of the early 19th-century and their relevance and impact on life today.

Craft Weekend will dive into the more complicated or unique items and trades not normally displayed at the Village. Planned demonstrations in a variety of subjects have been adapted for viewing outdoors, and feature a full schedule of events including:

Village potters will also fire up the 15,000-brick kiln found outside of OSV's Pottery Shop. The 24-foot-tall structure heats up to over 1,900 degrees Fahrenheit and can fit up to 800 pieces stacked 10-feet high within its walls. It is a fan favorite among many visitors who come to the Village.

Craft Weekend will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sept. 19 & 20 and is included with standard

daytime admission into the Village. Visitors and members are required to purchase or reserve their tickets in advance, using OSV's new online reservation system, found at <https://www.osv.org/plan-your-visit/>.

Shaving Cream Prints

This week's STEAM activity combines science and art in a fun and beautiful way. We're making shaving cream prints! Join Alissa and learn how it's done by video at . You can also view the written instructions for this activity here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HG8D86tpVqI>

Visit <https://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org> for details on this and many other activities for children.

Highway Numbering

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) announced a virtual Public Information Meeting for MassDOT's Statewide Exit Renumbering Project on **Thurs., 9/24 from 6:30 p.m., to 7:30 p.m.** This project is converting all existing exit numbers on freeways to a milepost-based numbering system, per Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) requirements.

The public meeting will cover information about the project, the construction schedule, and the project team will be there to answer questions. For meeting link visit <https://www.newmassexits.com>.

Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-October of this year and is anticipated to end in the Summer of 2021. This is a statewide project; however, this public meeting will be focused on the scope and schedule of the following corridors: State Route 3, State Route 24, State Route 25, State Route 128, State Route 140, U.S. Route 3; U.S. Route 6, Interstate 93, Interstate 95, Interstate 195, Interstate 295

Additional virtual public meetings will be scheduled throughout the Fall to cover the rest of the impacted corridors. Project updates and corridor-specific construction schedules will be posted regularly on the project's website. To learn more about the project, sign up for updates, and ask the project team questions, please visit www.newmassexits.com.

Recipe of the Week

Pumpkin Spice Rice Krispies Treats

- 2 tbs pumpkin puree
- 3 tbs unsalted butter
- 3/4 tsp pumpkin pie spice
- 5 cups mini marshmallows
- 6 cups Rice Krispies cereal

Line a 9x9 baking dish with parchment paper, set aside.

Place pumpkin puree on a paper towel to absorb moisture

On medium heat melt butter in a large pan, then add mini marshmallows and stir until melted

Add the pumpkin puree and pumpkin pie spice. Then add the cereal and mix well until combined.

Pour the treats into the baking dish. Let them cool.

To share a recipe with your neighbors

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

From our readers

Fairhaven residents need to be heard at 9/21 meeting

We have lived in Fairhaven for 20 years. I am not a native but love the town as much as anyone who has lived here longer. The people of Fairhaven I have come to know are proud of their town. Only once before have I been disappointed in the way that elected and appointed officials of the town have acted.

Information that has recently become public about the actions of some of the officials has disturbed me and others that I know. Some board chairmen have announced at the beginning of their meetings that there will be no "public comment". Then why is the meeting public? Despite the no public comment, I managed to get my point across at the September 8 [Selectboard] meeting.

Fairhaven residents need to be heard at the September 21 meeting, Here's why.

Selectman Bob Espindola has suggested two items that could help the officials carry out their duties to the town. They have been tabled for several meetings of the Selectmen. Mr. Espindola has requested a joint meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Board of Selectmen on September 21 to bring forth these suggestions. Perhaps these items could relieve some tensions and make for better

governance. They are worthy initiatives and should not be tabled again. They deserve to be on the agenda and be discussed with the public on their merits.

I am asking those who care about their town to encourage the elected and appointed officials to listen to their comments, let their voices be heard and work together for the benefit of the entire Town of Fairhaven. That is not too much to ask.

(This letter was also sent to and town officials.)

Mary Lorenzo, Fairhaven

Thank you to the Fairhaven Selectboard

My name is Willow Berg, and I am a junior at Fairhaven High School. I would like to thank the Fairhaven selectboard for adding the 10% in renewables to our aggregation contract. I am so grateful that the motion was passed, and our town representatives are thinking of the planet and my future. This was such a big step for the town of Fairhaven to take in the prevention of effects of climate change. Climate change is such an important issue, and it is so critical that it is taken seriously in order to make the adjustments needed in order for my generation and future generations to have a future. This motion will be a positive change and push towards a healthier planet, and a lasting community for generations to come. Another thank you to the Fairhaven selectboard and the futures they ensured by passing the motion for increasing our electricity renewables.

Willow Berg, Fairhaven

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BPW discusses financial study; votes on W&S rates

By Mary Macedo

Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Monday 9/8 the Fairhaven Board of Public Works discussed issues with driveway waiver fines, voted on the water and sewer rate, and discussed the possibility of doing an independent study on the finances of the BPW.

At the beginning of the meeting board member Frank Coelho announced that he would be recording the meeting.

BPW Chairperson Brian Wotton asked to approve the minutes of three of the past BPW meetings. Mr. Coelho said that they should not approve the August 25 meeting minutes because the meeting was illegal. Mr. Coelho said that the agenda was not posted long enough, so they should not have had the meeting.

Mr. Wotton agreed that the minutes were not needed because the board was not able to vote on anything at the meeting because the agenda was not posted long enough.

The board voted to remove the minutes from the 8/25 meeting for approval.

In another matter BPW board member Cameron Durant asked when the town would be looking into getting weekly recycling.

Mr. Furtado said that was a topic for next year's town meetings.

Mr. Durant asked if Mr. Furtado could look into the possibility of letting residents purchase an additional recycling bin.

"I would pay \$100 out of pocket just to have an extra bin," Mr. Durant said.

Mr. Furtado said he would look into it.

In another matter the board discussed the water and sewer rates increasing for the upcoming year.

Mr. Coelho suggested that they skip the rate increase for water this year because residents had to use a lot more water because of COVID-19. He said a lot of people are on fixed incomes.

Board members Marcus Ferro agreed and Robert "Hoppy" Hobson said they agreed.

Mr. Wotton also agreed and said that they should not increase the water rates this year due to COVID-19

affecting everyone's finances, but they have to continue to increase the sewer rates.

The board voted unanimously to keep water rates the same and to increase sewer rates by 5%.

Mr. Furtado then asked the board if they would like to keep the recycling center hours as they currently are which is 8 a.m. to noon Monday, Tuesday, Thursday; 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Fridays and Wednesdays; and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. The board agreed to keep those hours until December 31.

In another matter Mr. Coelho brought up the idea of having an independent study done on the BPW, getting a management company to look at all the departments within the BPW and see if they can save money in some areas.

Mr. Coelho said recently the Planning Board just did this study.

He said that Mr. Furtado said that the study might help save some nickels and dimes, but Mr. Coelho said that he wants to help save the taxpayers' nickels and dimes.

BPW: cont'd to page 17

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School starts in a pandemic world



Students started school this week, on Tuesday, 9/15 for Fairhaven and 9/16 for Acushnet. A brisk fall-weather day greeted parents and students at the LL Wood School in Fairhaven. The children seemed happy to go back to school, even with masks on. Faculty members also seemed very excited to get back into the classroom to teach in person. Some parents admitted they did not think they would see the day this year when children were actually back in school. Both districts are offering a combination of in-person and remote learning, with staggered and alternating schedules to reduce the number of students in the building at any one time. Masks and social distancing will also be required. ABOVE LEFT: Parents (and a sibling or two) look on from the behind the fence, the closest they can get to the LL Wood School on Tuesday, 9/15/20, as children head to the building for the first day of school. ABOVE MIDDLE: Lela Doyle, on her first day of Kindergarten, waves to mom who had to stay on the other side of the fence. ABOVE RIGHT: Jonathan, a second grader, carries a bucket full of supplies, while mom says her goodbyes. BELOW LEFT: Dr. Robert N. Baldwin, Superintendent of Schools in Fairhaven, greets students. BOTTOM LEFT: Sarah Arruda offers some words of encouragement to her son, Oliver. BELOW RIGHT: There were plenty of hugs on the first day of school. Photos by Glenn C. Silva. To see more of Glenn's photos of this event, visit <https://photos.app.goo.gl/HZidqGvTrJrUAwge6>



BOH EMP: cont'd from page 7

items; got sunscreen dispensers for the beaches; got a grant for the iPad and software for the food inspection program. She said they "beta tested" it, meaning they used a new version, for a break in the rate. It worked out so well with Mr. Shea using the software that the same company asked if they would beta test a housing code program.

The organization classes got scuttled because of COVID, but there were many other educational programs, including the recycling changes, that were carried out.

"We just continued on our path despite everything," said Ms. Freire-Kellogg. "A huge part of the problem is people don't understand what the Board of Health is."

Paul Revere started the first BOH in Boston in 1799. The autonomy was built in from the start to protect the department from political interference, said Ms. Freire-Kellogg.

"But never in Paul Revere's wildest dreams did he think the public would need to be protected from the Board of Health," she said.

The autonomy of the board does not mean the town and board members can treat employees shabbily and get away with it. She said they are still town employees, bound by the personnel policies of the town, but so is the town.

All three complained that the town did nothing to protect them.

Town Administrator Mark Rees differed in that assessment, saying he did what he could, and brought in both Town Counsel Thomas Crotty and the town's labor attorney Jaime Kenny of Clifford & Kenny.

"It's all in writing," said Ms. Freire-Kellogg. "They failed to protect us."

Mr. Rees said the BOH supervises the health agent, so his authority was limited. But when she filed her complaint, he worked with Mr. Crotty to get the counselor in.

"So we did attempt to address the situation," said Mr. Rees.

He also said when he first got hired as TA he asked if the BOH was interested in signing a memorandum of understanding for him to manage the day-to-day operations of the office, while the BOH would still handle policy, but they "never acted on" it.

"So Mary is wrong when she says I didn't do anything," said Mr. Rees. "She's also wrong when she's saying I could do anything except work in a mediator/facilitator role."

All three employees also complained that many false statements were made in public meetings and they were not allowed to defend themselves. They said the work environment was hostile, with Mr. DeTerra, Mr. Ristuccia, and Ms. Dupont, who graduated with a Masters in Public Health in May, hovering over every move they made.

Ms. Freire-Kellogg and Ms. Blais are both filing complaints with the Mass. Commission

Against Discrimination (MCAD) this week, alleging gender bias. They said that Mr. Shea only recently started feeling the heat and they believe it is in retaliation for supporting the two women. Mr. Shea and Ms. Blais are in a romantic relationship and live together, but that was never a secret.

So what do they all want now?

"I want the town of Fairhaven to start protecting their employees," said Ms. Freire-Kellogg. "They failed miserably."

As for getting her job back, which, technically, she still has.

"I don't even know," she said. "They've ruined my reputation. They've ruined my career. You tell me how a 57-year-old woman looking for a job is going to do?"

She said she needs eight more years before she can retire at full pension.

She said she never threatened a lawsuit, even though board members said so publicly. She hired an attorney because the board refused to tell her the content of meetings.

"I have begged, begged, in writing for the town of Fairhaven to protect us," she said,

They've ruined my reputation.
They've ruined my career.
You tell me how a 57-year-old
woman looking for a job is going
to do? [Mary Freire-Kellogg]

adding that she did not think she could work with Mr. DeTerra unless something changed.

She said all they have to do is "follow the rules" in the personnel/ employee handbook.

"You wrote them, follow your own rules," she said.

"I want my life back. That's what I want," said Ms. Freire-Kellogg. "I want peace of mind. Because this shit is all consuming."

Ms. Blais said she has resigned and is actively looking for a new job.

"Even though I resigned, I want protection for the next person who sits in my chair," said Ms. Blais. "Peter has a bad habit of being nice at first."

She said he accused her of all kinds of things that simply were not true, including inappropriate behavior with Mr. Shea during work hours. She said there are ways to ask about those things, but Mr. DeTerra was rude and inappropriate.

"Speak to someone as a human being," she said.

"I would love to have my job and keep it to retirement," said Mr. Shea. "But, obviously, I can't work under the regime in place."

He said he was "collateral damage" in the feud between Mr. DeTerra and the two women.

"I took the health of the town with great seriousness. I take it to heart," said Mr. Shea. "We're not out to get people, we're out to educate. I'm an educator. My entire life is based around education."

He said all his inspections were based around educating the establishment, not punishment. Mr. Shea has a Master's in Public Health and his specialty is epidemiology. He is an Associate Professor & Program Coordinator at Cape Cod Community College.

"My inspections are 100% educational," said Mr. Shea, so he took it to heart when they said he attacked a business owner.

He said he never closed anyone down, although a few places closed down for a few days to fix issues.

"We have an excellent rapport with the establishments," said Mr. Shea, adding that he gets texts late at night asking for advice on what to do. "Because they are not afraid to address it. They know we will help them through it."

He recounted a story or two of being thanked for his helpfulness, "before all this went south."

"I want my job, but under no circumstances can I work under these three people," he said. "And I can't work under their agenda."

"I'm scared for the people in town," said Ms. Freire-Kellogg, noting the priorities of the board as discussed in meetings.

"You will never find three more dedicated employees," said Ms. Freire-Kellogg. "We were the A team. This town was lucky to have all three of us."

Mr. DeTerra said that the BOH is his career, too, and that he put a lot of time, work, and money into it, gaining an "immense amount" knowledge. He said Ms. Freire-Kellogg is a "very smart person," but that she "didn't like accountability."

He said he believed she was just not used to a three person board, with three different personalities.

He said he went to the counselor as requested. The counselor said Ms. Freire-Kellogg and Ms. Blais also had to go so they could all "move on."

"They never moved on," he said. "They constantly were on me. And I didn't go in that office for a year and a half and they were still on me."

In a written statement he sent to another news outlet, Mr. DeTerra said: "This is an unfortunate situation. Public service is a great opportunity. I have enjoyed working for the people of Fairhaven for almost twenty years... I am hopeful that the Health Department will ultimately become stronger and more effective in its service of our community."

Fairhaven Recreation Center

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We have socially distanced!

All cardio equipment has been moved to the gymnasium. No appointment is required. We are open regular hours. At this time no other activities will be allowed in the gymnasium also no rentals

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http://fairhavenma.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA_COA/index

Fairhaven Council on Aging

The Fairhaven Council on Aging Senior Center remains closed to the public until further notice. The staff is available to take phone calls and to assist you in any way possible.

Flu Shots

Walgreens will be Administering Flu Shots for Fairhaven Seniors 60 years old and older at the Fairhaven Recreation Center on: **October 13th at 2:30 -3:30 p.m. and November 10th at 2:30-3:30 p.m.** Please call Fairhaven Council on Aging for appointment 508-979-4029. Social Distancing will be maintained and masks must be worn. Please bring your health insurance ccards with you.

Medicare Open Enrollment

SHINE appointments for MEDICARE open enrollment will be available from October 15th to December 7th SHINE APPOINTMENTS ARRANGED BY THE FAIRHAVEN COUNCIL ON AGING ARE FOR FAIRHAVEN SENIORS ONLY. Seniors from surrounding communities can call the Council on Aging in their Town for SHINE information.

If you have a Medicare Prescription Plan or a Medicare Advantage Plan

(HMO or PPO), you should receive a notice from your plan by the end of September. This notice outlines changes to be made to your plan for 2021. During this open enrollment period, you will be able to make changes to this plan.

Due to social distancing guidelines set by the state, no appointments for SHINE will be held at the Fairhaven COA, however, SHINE counselors will be working from home in an effort to meet your Medicare informational needs.

All correspondence between the seniors and the SHINE counselor will be done over the phone and email, if possible. Exchange of paperwork can be done through the senior center by calling the senior center from the parking lot. Someone will come out to get, or give, you your paperwork, SHINE feels confident that they will continue to be able to provide their outstanding service to those seeking assistance during this crazy and unprecedented time.

Please call the Fairhaven Council on Aging at 508-979-4029, for an appointment to speak with a SHINE counselor.

School's open, please be careful

AAA Press Release

AAA Northeast is reminding students and drivers to use caution as schools reopen for the 2020-2021 year. An increase in traffic as well as an increase in child pedestrians and cyclists require patience, defensive driving skills, and mindfulness for all roadway users. Motorists must be vigilant, especially in the hours before and after school and follow the tips below:

- **Slow down.** Speed limits in school zones are reduced for a reason. A pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling at 25 mph is nearly two-thirds less likely to be killed compared to a pedestrian struck by a vehicle traveling just 10 mph faster.

- **Come to a complete stop.** More than one-third of drivers roll through stop signs in school zones or neighborhoods. Always come to a complete stop, checking carefully for children on sidewalks and in crosswalks before proceeding.
- **Eliminate distractions.** Research shows that taking your eyes off the road for just two seconds doubles your chances of crashing. Children can be quick, crossing the road unexpectedly or emerging suddenly between two parked cars. Reduce risk by not using your cell phone.
- **Reverse responsibly.** Every vehicle has blind spots. Check for children on the sidewalk, in the driveway and around your vehicle before

slowly backing up. Teach your children to never play in, under or around vehicles.

- **Watch for bicycles.** Children on bikes are often inexperienced, unsteady and unpredictable. Slow down and allow at least three feet of passing distance between your vehicle and a bicyclist. Require your child to wear a properly fitted bicycle helmet on every ride.
- **Talk to your teen.** Car crashes are the leading cause of death for teens in the United States, and nearly one in four fatal crashes involving teen drivers occur during the after-school hours of 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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Acushnet receives \$1.3 million for school roof

By Pattie Pacella

Neighb News Correspondent

The Acushnet Selectboard met on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 in person in the town hall meeting room and discussed the cost on the Acushnet Elementary School Roof Project.

Chairperson Kevin Gaspar stated that Acushnet had been awarded \$1,334,232 from the Mass. School Building Authority; which leaves \$1,236,527 to be funded by the town. The board discussed borrowing the additional money and paying it out of the solar fund.

Mr. Gaspar stated that the Selectboard has continued to work with the Board of Health and the management team at P.J. Keating. He said, "of the ten or so issues, we have multiple resolved."

Mr. Gaspar said the town was doing everything it could to accommodate PJK employees.

Department of Public Works Superintendent, Dan Menard attended the meeting to discuss the sale of loam to Acushnet residents. He said he looked into buying the loam from Roseland Nurseries, then

the town would sell to residents at \$40/yard, \$60 for 3 yards.

Joking, Mr. Desrochers said, "I'll put in my order now, you know where I live."

Mr. Menard also requested a revolving fund to have the sale of the loam and other things put back into the SEMASS fund to help pay for SEMASS in the future.

Mr. Gaspar stated that the money currently goes back into the general fund and a revolving fund needs to be voted on by Town Meeting members. He said they could add it to the next Town Meeting warrant.

The Selectboard also discussed a proposed project by the Buzzards Bay Coalition for new sidewalks along Slocum Street. Mr. Gaspar expressed his concerns that the BBC was looking at a stormwater project there but not giving the town any feedback on what they were proposing.

"Give me an idea of some kind of plan," Mr. Gaspar said. "Give me a piece of freaking paper with a plan on it. I hate being out of the loop. We are the Selectboard and we don't even know what's going on."

Town Administrator Julie Hebert said that Acushnet was one of four Towns that the BBC may do projects with, and the Slocum sidewalks was the intended project. She said if they became a finalist, it would be then that the organization would work with the town for grant funding and would keep everyone in the loop.

In her TA report, Ms. Hebert stated that the town was awarded a \$12,000 Shared Streets Grant along with a Green Community Grant for \$153,358.00. She said the money would be used to upgrade the lighting at the school. She told the board that the Police and Fire also received a little less than \$32,000 for PFE.

Ms. Hebert also sang the praises of the Council on Aging, saying they a wonderful job with their "USDA Farm to families pickup food program," that served 637 families, 575 of them Acushnet residents.

Under the Selectboard announcements, Mr. Gaspar encouraged residents to buy produce and fruit locally from Acushnet farmers, especially since the Apple-Peach Festival had been canceled.



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BPW: cont'd from page 11

Mr. Coelho said he could talk about various departments within the BPW, such as the sewer department that has had a digester not working since 2016, and a few gas tanks that need repairs.

"Who's telling you all these things," Mr. Hobson asked. "How come they're not telling Vinnie all these things?"

Mr. Durant said that Mr. Furtado has mentioned those issues many times.

"What difference does it make who's telling me all this," Mr. Coelho asked.

"Because if you know all this how come he [Mr. Furtado] doesn't," Mr. Hobson said.

"Why don't you take a tour like I did," Mr. Coelho said. "I asked to take a tour."

"I've taken tours and nobody told me that stuff," Mr. Hobson said. "Evidently you're in tight with some of these people."

"I don't know what questions you asked, that's got nothing to do with me," Mr. Coelho said "I'm just telling you the research I've done. If you don't want to hear it don't hear it."

"Ok, I'm done hearing," Mr. Hobson said putting his fingers in his ears.

Mr. Hobson said that Mr. Coelho is saying all the things that Mr. Furtado should already know about.

Mr. Furtado said he already does know about all the issues with the sewer department equipment.

"I can't understand what is wrong with the board," Mr. Coelho said. "You have the same privileges I do."

He explained that the board members all have a right to take tours of the facilities so they can know what they're talking about. Mr. Coelho said he knows what he is talking about because he took tours.

"Why you picking on me because I'm doing my job...you know what I'm saying," Mr. Coelho said.

"You're the Chairman," said to Mr. Wotton. "You should be running the committee. He [indicating Mr. Hobson] has no right asking me why I'm doing that."

Mr. Wotton said he did not think anyone was picking on anybody. He said he thought that Mr. Hobson was just trying to make sure Mr. Furtado knew all this information.

Mr. Wotton said he knew about all those issues as well.

Mr. Durant said they have talked about all this six times in the last six months.

"Ok, I'm done hearing,"
Mr. Hobson
said putting his
fingers in his ears.

Mr. Wotton said he would love to cut costs and bring in a cost management company to help cut printing costs, etc. He said he was well aware of the repairs that are needed, but the town does not have the money for them right now.

Mr. Coelho said he wanted the study to see what needs to get done.

Mr. Furtado said that if the study can help lower operational expense, the town can save money towards the sewer department upgrades and maybe not have to raise the water and sewer rates every year.

Mr. Hobson said he was against

"study on study on study."

Mr. Furtado said he could look into how much the study would cost and they can discuss it at the next meeting. The board voted to table the issue until next meeting, with Mr. Hobson voting against.

In another matter Mr. Coelho asked to discuss the fines for contractors/homeowners not taking permits out to put in driveways.

He said at the August 3 meeting the board charged the homeowner a \$300 fine and at their August 17 meeting they charged the homeowner a \$150 fine and the contractor a \$150 fine.

Mr. Coelho said that the fine needs to be consistent for every person.

Mr. Ferro said he agreed.

Mr. Hobson said he thinks the fine for the contractor should be more because they should know better than not to take out a permit.

Administrative Assistant Becky Vento said the Highway Secretary told her it was a \$100 fine for the homeowner and a \$300 fine for the contractor if they are not approved within the town.

She said that the bylaw states that the fine is \$300 each.

Mr. Hobson said the contractor should pay a \$500 fine. He said that most homeowners do not even know that the contractor is not approved by the town.

Mr. Wotton suggested that they put the issue on the agenda for the next meeting and discuss increasing the fine for the contractors.

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Flags fly at half staff in honor of 9/11 victims



Flags around the country flew at half staff on Friday, 9/11/20, to commemorate the 9-11-01 terrorist attack on the twin towers in New York City, the Pentagon, and a fourth site, probably the White House or the capitol. Terrorists flew hijacked planes into the twin towers and the Pentagon building. A fourth plane Flight 93, crashed in a field in Shanksville, PA, after a group of passengers thwarted the attempt. The exact target of Flight 93 is unknown. ABOVE: The American flag in front of Fairhaven High School flies at half staff on Friday, 9/11/20, out of respect for the 2,977 people who were killed when terrorists used four planes to attack targets in the United States on September 11, 2001. BELOW LEFT: The American flag in front of the Fairhaven Fire Department is flanked by the "thin blue line flag" (left) and the "thin red line" flag (right) representing police officers and firefighters respectively. BELOW RIGHT: The American flag and US Marine Corps. flag fly at half staff on 9/11/20 out of respect for the 2,977 people who were killed when terrorists used four planes to attack targets in the United States on September 11, 2001. *Photo by Glenn C. Silva*



Marine Resources Committee continues updating rules & regs

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Marine Resources Committee has been busy updating its waterways rules and regulations and on 9/3 made further progress with the acceptance of various new fee proposals. The committee sees the fee increases as a way to boost the waterways revolving fund to allow for additional staff. But what does it mean for the waterways fund if Town Meeting approves a fee increase that is never then collected?

When the subject of aquaculture and shellfishing came up, former MRC member Frank Coelho pointed out that aquaculture farmers in Fairhaven have accidentally been enjoying a virtual BOGO on the acreage of their annual aquaculture fee.

Mr. Coelho noticed how the draft of fees under discussion listed the current annual aquaculture fee as \$100 per acre; however, he said, that fee is supposed to be \$200.

As Mr. Coelho recalled to the committee, Town Meeting in 2014 voted to increase the aquaculture fee from \$25 to \$200 per acre, which was approved by the Selectboard and subsequently by the state legislature in December 2014.

"You're talking about renting an acre of water for \$100 an acre," said Mr. Coelho. "That doesn't make sense. I mean, there's something wrong with that."

Mr. Coelho said MRC and Selectboard member Bob Espindola should recall the fee increase, having been on the board, and claimed that Town Administrator Mark Rees drew up the order for the \$200 fee justifying the increase for Harbormaster Timothy Cox.

"I'm almost positive it's only been \$100," responded Mr. Cox, "but [the harbormaster principal office assistant] will look that up because I did not lower that down from \$200 to \$100; it was \$25 an acre and then the fee went up to \$100 an acre and that's what we've been charging all along. We never were charging \$200."

"Timmy, so you're telling me that we charged \$100 last year?" asked Mr. Coelho. He said he recalled Selectboard member Daniel Freitas expressing concern over the increase hurting businesses during a meeting when the matter was featured on the agenda, a meeting Mr. Coelho said Mr.

Cox and the MRC were invited to attend but did not.

"So I can't understand why you — you mean to tell me since 2014 you've been charging \$100 an acre?" said Mr. Coelho.

"I'm only charging what I'm allowed to charge. But, like I said, Mr. Coelho, we will look into that and I will get back to the committee on that," said Mr. Cox.

"My God," said Mr. Coelho, "I'll tell you one thing: we're losing a lot of money. Forty-four acres and you've been charging \$100 an acre — so, actually, it went for half price...."

Also during the meeting, the majority ruled when it came to fee increases, but Chairperson Michael McNamara and MRC member Robert "Hoppy" Hobson were consistent in their preference for keeping fees low, or non-existent when it came to Mr. Hobson.

"So what you're doing is you're just

The fact of the matter is,
this community has
always sold itself short.

instituting another fee for the people," said Mr. Hobson as the MRC discussed introducing a new mooring fee. "...The whole town's just trying to tax you to death here and there; they get \$50 here, \$20 there..."

"I've said it before," said Mr. McNamara in agreement. "This is still very much a blue-collar town and boating is in our blood for many of us."

"And this ain't Mattapoisett or Westport," said Mr. Hobson.

"It's just as nice as Mattapoisett and Westport," said Mr. Cox.

"I think it's better," said Mr. Hobson. MRC member Eric Dawicki said the discussion bothered him.

"I'm trying to be as kind and respectful as possible," Mr. Dawicki started, "but the Libertarian idea that we shouldn't have to pay taxes, in my view, it doesn't measure up. The fact of the matter is, this community has always sold itself short. And the blue-collar guys are making more money than white-collar guys. My blue-collar graduates make more than lawyers."

"The whole idea that we seem to be afraid to take care of ourselves and

to really build an as-good-a-system as Mattapoisett, as Marion, as Dartmouth, as Nantucket — this town has always seemed to sell itself short," said Mr. Dawicki. "And this isn't about overtaxing. I think the fees that are proposed are fair and reasonable.... My feeling is that we have not kept up with other communities and ... when I look at what [Mr. Cox] does with so little staff, it is unbelievable. And there are a lot of shenanigans, frankly, that have gone on in this community. Hoppy, you know more than I do, you're neck deep in it," Mr. Dawicki continued.

"So the bottom line is we need to have more people, more assistant harbormasters, ... we need a second pump-out boat, ... and we need to start building towards that and we need to start being a more responsible community in measuring the same distance as Mattapoisett and Marion. And, no, we're not a snobby community; that's why I raised my kids here. But we are a community that deserves to keep our waterways clean. We're a community that spends a lot of money on shellfish and shellfish plantings.... We get grants, but those grants aren't going to always be there. We've got to think about really making sure we provide the service that we're providing today, and I don't think those fees are that expensive...."

Clearly, Mr. Hobson could not argue with all of that, saying, "This gentleman (Mr. Cox) actually needs an assistant. Fairhaven and New Bedford is the biggest water commercial place in the country."

Mr. Hobson added that Mr. Cox used to have a full-time assistant for eight months of the year, but that "they took that away from him."

"I don't mind paying a mooring fee or a waterways fee if he's gonna get some help for what he's doing," said Mr. Hobson.

"Bravo," said Mr. Dawicki. "I love it." The MRC decided on a \$30 mooring fee, \$15 annual mooring application fee, \$10 annual mooring waiting list fee, and a \$100 commercial mooring/commercial vessel fee.

MRC member Andrew Jones said the committee should be prepared to defend the fee increases to Town Meeting, saying, "Anything to do with waterways or fees generally generates conversation, and I think we should be prepared to back that up."

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"

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Fairhaven Board of Selectmen, located at 40 Center Street in Fairhaven MA, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from General Contractors for the Entry Door Restoration, Entry, Parking Area and Walkway at the Fairhaven Visitor's Center Building at 141 Main Street, Fairhaven MA in accordance with the documents prepared by Clearwater Architects. The work is estimated to cost \$113,000.

Bidding procedures shall be in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.) c.30 §39M and M.G.L. c.149 §§44A through 44J. Bids are subject to prevailing wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive. All requirements and conditions of employment pertaining to publicly funded projects in the Commonwealth shall be observed.

General Bids will be received at Projectdog, Inc. until 2 PM Thursday, September 24, 2020 at which time they will be publicly opened and read. Bid security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the bid amount (including all alternates) must accompany each General Bid.

This project is being Electronically Bid (E-Bid). All bids shall be submitted online at www.Projectdog.com. Hard copy bids will not be accepted by the Awarding Authority. Bid forms and contract documents will be available beginning Wednesday, September 9, 2020 after 2:00 p.m. at www.Projectdog.com or for pick-up at: Projectdog, Inc, 18 Graf Road, Suite 8 Newburyport, MA (978) 499-9014, M-F 8:30 AM-5 PM. Go to www.Projectdog.com and login with an existing account or click Sign Up to register for free. Enter Project Code 840007 in the project locator box. Select "Acquire Documents" to download documents, review a hard copy at Projectdog's physical location, or request a free project CD. All Addenda must be acquired electronically at www.Projectdog.com. Each individual or firm recorded as having requested a set of Contract Documents will be electronically notified via email when addenda are issued. It is the sole responsibility of the bidder to review all ADDENDA prior to bid opening at www.Projectdog.com or at Projectdog's physical location. Bidders may obtain one full paper bid set from Projectdog for a refundable deposit of \$100.00 made payable to Projectdog in the form of certified check or money order. The full amount of the deposit will be refunded to all responsive bidders returning the Contract Documents in good condition within ten (10) days after date of general bid opening. Otherwise, the deposit will become the property of Projectdog, Inc. Bidders requesting their refundable paper set to be mailed must supply a non-refundable shipping and handling fee of \$50.00 payable to Projectdog.

The successful General Bidder will be required to furnish a Performance Bond and a Labor and Materials Payment Bond, each in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the Contract Price.

SITE VISIT BY APPOINTMENT: During Bidding, the jobsite will be available for inspection by appointment only. Contact the Fairhaven Town Administrator to schedule an appointment. For an appointment call Mark Rees at (508) 979-4023.

*Town of Fairhaven Board of Selectmen
FNN: 9/10/20*

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Fairhaven Board of Selectmen, located at 40 Center Street in Fairhaven MA, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from General Contractors for the New ADA door and Ramp at the Fairhaven Visitor's Center Building at 141 Main Street, Fairhaven MA in accordance with the documents prepared by Clearwater Architects. The work is estimated to cost \$76,000.

Bidding procedures shall be in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L.) c.30 §39M and M.G.L. c.149 §§44A through 44J. Bids are subject to prevailing wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive. All requirements and conditions of employment pertaining to publicly funded projects in the Commonwealth shall be observed.

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*Town of Fairhaven Board of Selectmen
FNN: 9/10/20*

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Monday, September 28, 2020 at 6:30pm
Town Hall, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

To Access Meeting Remotely:
<https://zoom.us/j/94401723061?pwd=TXNreGRHWkJKL1BTQ29VZGR45VNzZ09>
or CALL 1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 944 0172 3061
Passcode: 407001

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold the following Public Hearings 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. SE 023-1314, CON 023-117: **15 Grinnell Street** Request for Amended Order of Conditions filed by David R. Tomasia, Jr., for changes to the approved plan resulting in a reduction in the scope of work at the property located at 15 Grinnell Street, Assessors Map 31A, Lot 97. Work to take place in the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland.
2. CON 023-177: **28 Holiday Drive** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Carol Plotczyk for the construction of a 184 square foot addition at the property located at 28 Holiday Drive, Assessors Map 29C, Lot 654. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage and the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland.
3. CON 023-177: **4 Boulder Court** Notice of Intent filed by Sherry Krauthamer for the construction of a single family home at the property located at 4 Boulder Court, Assessors Map 2, Lot 6B. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage and the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland.
4. CON 023-178: **1 Calumet Road** Request for Determination of Applicability filed after-the-fact by Ronald and Sandra Stapleton for the installation of a fire pit and deposition of clean beach sand at the property located at 1 Calumet Road, Assessors Map 29B, Lots 582-584, 629-630. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, on Coastal Dune, and within the 100-foot buffer zone to Coastal Beach.

5. CON 023-179: **41 Bayview Avenue** Request for Determination of Applicability filed after-the-fact by William Ryan for the installation of a paved driveway and a fence at the property located at 41 Bayview Avenue, Assessors Map 28A, Lots 469 & 470. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage and the 100-foot buffer zones to Coastal Bank and Rocky Intertidal Shore.

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>

*Geoff Haworth, Chair, Fairhaven
Conservation Commission
FNN: 9/17/20*

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, October 1, 2020 at 6:30 pm
Town Hall, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

To access remotely Log onto:
<https://zoom.us/j/94873413355?pwd=a3ZLU3lIUhIMUxJNwttMEIXdlJyUT09>
or call 1-929-205-6099 - Meeting ID: 948 7341 3355 -
Passcode: 536318

Also on Fairhaven TV Channel 18 and
fairhaventv.com

1. **DRAFT 2020 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION PLAN** The Fairhaven Community Preservation Committee will conduct a Public Hearing to receive information and public comment on the Draft 2021 Community Preservation Plan.

Copies of the Plan may be viewed at the Office of Planning & Economic Development in Town Hall, located at 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA, and on the Town's Community Preservation Committee website: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/community-preservation-committee>

*Paul H. Foley, Director, Department of Planning &
Economic Development
Fairhaven Neighborhood News: 9/17/20 & 9/24/20*

Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

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

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/9523237756?pwd=VjUwT3dudnBKV3RKYWZhbEttmd9tdz09> or call 1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 952 3237 7756 Passcode: 591526

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. Continued from April 7, 2020, May 5, 2020, June 2, 2020, and July 7, 2020, and August 11, 2020, and September 2, 2020.)
2. **Administrative Appeal by A1 Crane – re: 86-88 Middle Street.** Administrative Appeal from a letter dated April 7, 2020 from the Building Commissioner stating that the operation on the site is in violation of the Mixed Use zoning regulations. (continued per applicant's request to September 2, 2020 Meeting, see attached.) Previously approved to Continue to November 3, 2020.
3. **6 Vincent Street. Owner: Stephen O'Brian.** 198-16: Variance request for 4.2' side setback and a 4.2' rear setback in a RA District for a 24x24 garage.
4. **50 Manhattan Ave. Owner: Eric Britto.** 198-16: Variance request for 5.4' on side, and variance for 6.0' on side for a jogged out small addition in a RA

LEGALS: cont'd on page 22

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BOH: cont'd from page 4
contract with Community Nurses Home Care, which Mr. Haworth stated was supposed to have been completed back in June and did not understand why the board was just addressing the contract now in September.

The board gave approval for Coastline Elderly to conduct some operations pertaining to the Meals on Wheels program at Oxford Terrace. Coastline Elderly workers will not be preparing food at the site, rather will be "plating" the food in preparation for distribution. The board waived

any related permitting fees for the non-profit organization.

Before adjourning, the board approved another two weeks of administrative leave for Health Agent Mary Freire-Kellogg at the advisement of Town Counsel Thomas Crotty, who said the Town was still working toward an amenable resolution to the issues that have arisen between Ms. Freire-Kellogg and the board members.

Mr. DeTerra recused himself from executive session to discuss strategy related to potential litigation involving Ms. Freire-Kellogg.

Upcoming Meetings

In-person attendance is restricted during the COVID-19 crisis. The information on how to join remotely is listed on the agendas. Most meetings also run live on the government access channels, and Fairhaven meetings are livestreamed at FairhavenTV.com

Fairhaven

Board of Appeals

Tues., 10/6, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Assessors

Thurs., 9/17, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 9/21, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 9/28, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Health

Thurs., 9/28, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

Economic Development

Thurs., 9/17, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 9/17, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Thurs., 9/24, Zoom, 7 p.m.

Marine Resources Comm.

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

Selectboard

Tues., 9/21, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Sustainability Committee

Tues., 9/22, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Acushnet

Board of Appeals

Thurs., 9/24, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board

Thurs., 9/24, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Fri., 9/18, Town Hall, 10 a.m.

Tues., 9/22, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Sept 2020	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	17	0823	2046	0136*	1403*
Friday	18	0911	2135	0225*	1458*
Saturday	19	1001	2225	0314*	1550*
Sunday	20	1051	2316	0401*	1636*
Monday	21	1144	----	0444*	1722*
Tuesday	22	0011	1242	0529*	1816
Wednesday	23	0112	1343	0623	1951
Thursday	24	0213	1442	0744	2208
Friday	25	0313	1543	1005	2324
Saturday	26	0417	1650	1139	----
Sunday	27	0525	1752	0021	1236

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

District, where side variance should be 10'.
 5. **480 Scoticut Neck Road. Owner: Jose Gouveia III** 198-18: Variance for 18' short of a required 20' side setback. 198-22: Variance request for 200' square feet over the allotted 700' sq feet for an accessory building in a RR District for a 30x30 garage.
Peter DeTerra, Chairman
 FNN: 9/17/20, 9/24/20

Acushnet Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals is hereby giving notice that a meeting will be held by the Board on Thursday, September 24th, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. via Zoom Meeting:
 REVISED

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86848944880?pwd=09maEFCeWoxNEQ5WEZadWNZTTThVUT09>
 Meeting ID: 868 4894 4880
 Passcode: 256394
 Dial by your location
 +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Case #2020.07.28A** A case of New England Retail Development, LLC c/o Tom Pratt, who is petitioning the Board for a Special Permit to be able to open and operate a gas station and convenience store with drive-thru, within the Village Business District. The proposed location is 158, 166 Main Street, and 17 Wing Road (Assessor's Map 13, Lots 36, 38, and 38A), which are currently owned by Delta Realty, LLC (c/o Mickey Higgins) and Tony's Service Center (c/o Tony Faria). This request is being made under the provisions of Section 3.3.2 (B) and 3.4 (A).
- Case#2020.09.24A** A case of Thomas Gonet, of 7 Haste Street, Fairhaven, who is petitioning for a Special Permit for an accessory apartment at 34 Porter Street, Acushnet, which is owned by the Estate of John Gonet, of 34 Porter Street, Acushnet. This request is being made under the provisions of Section 3.3.1 "B" and 3.4 "B".

Plans are available for Public view in the Town Clerk's office during their normal business hours.

FNN, 9/10/20, 9/17/20



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 TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020 AT 11 A.M.

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