



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 15, Issue 40 • October 15, 2020

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

Acushnet holds free COVID testing



Acushnet officials are all set up to receive residents for COVID testing in the parking lot between the elementary and middle schools on Saturday, 10/10/20, when 30 cars showed up before the testing even began, and ended with 157 residents being tested. See page 16 for story. *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.



Beth David, Publisher

Early voting starts this weekend, not to be confused with mail-in voting. Early voting means you can go in person to vote before the 11/3 election. See page 11 for details. Only 19 days to said election. Oh, pray tell it will be the beginning of the end of the *Nightmare at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue*.

After last week's attack on this paper by the Fairhaven Selectboard Chairperson, I have to say it warmed my heart to get the kind of support I have received over the past week.

Within minutes of the end of that meeting, several readers donated through the PayPal link on our website. Since then, many other readers have also donated. You'll also notice a couple of ads in this week's issue paid for by readers to show support for the paper and a few letters to the editor (page 25). Wow. Just wow. I'm speechless...almost.

They realize that we are part of the community, in both Fairhaven and Acushnet. Before the *Neighb News*, which has been publishing for 15 years, was the *Free Press*, which published for around 20 years, as I recall. And of course, the *Fairhaven Star*, which published from 1879 to 1967. So Fairhaven has a long history of being home to a community newspaper.

We need both reader support and our advertisers to stay afloat, so, again...thankyouthankyouthankyou!

And, while we're on the subject, a big thank you to the residents, staff and management at Fairhaven Village. One of the residents is kind enough to distribute the paper to her neighbors each week. And, periodically, she takes up a collection and sends a check to us. She did that last week, BEFORE the Selectboard meeting, so it had nothing to do with the attack on us. I'm not sure which I like better, the response in my defense, or the randomness of a collection taken up to show appreciation for what we do.

Like I said, it warms my heart.

Please note who our advertisers are and tell them you saw their ads in the *Neighb News*. Until next week then...see ya (from a distance)

PS: Oops...I almost forgot. Halloween IS happening in these parts, just not the walk-throughs I'm sad to say. So if you have a decorated yard and you want people to see it, contact us ASAP to be included in our Halloween Trail issue which is NEXT WEEK. Info on page 11.

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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Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

COVID-19 update: Stay vigilant

By Beth David
Editor

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker said on Tuesday that residents need to continue to be vigilant in fighting the COVID-19 virus. Residents need to continue to wear face coverings, keep at least six feet away from others, wash hands frequently, and stay away from crowds.

The governor said that as the weather gets colder, people will be gathering indoors more frequently, making it easier for the virus to spread. He urged people to keep to small groups.

Governor Baker also outlined a series of steps taken or expanded since the pandemic hit in March. The state has one of the "most robust" testing networks in the nation, a first-in-class contact tracing network, and has worked to strengthen the state's readiness in other areas.

Massachusetts has increased testing, from 2,000 a day in March, to 13,000 a day in May, to 65,000 tests per day now. The state has the capacity to test 100,000 people per day.

The time to receive results from testing has also decreased, to one or

two days. All testing labs are located in Massachusetts. And the state is not relying on the federal government stockpiles for ventilators or other equipment.

Massachusetts hospitals have approximately 50 percent ICU capacity available, plus additional beds can be made available by converting medical or surgical beds. Temporary spaces can also be utilized again, such as at the five alternative medical sites the state set up in the spring.

The state has also funneled money to long term care facilities for infection control and staffing.

The state continues to stockpile PPE, partnering with local manufacturers, which pivoted operations to support essential workers. The Commonwealth has added millions of pieces of PPE to the state stockpile over the last several months with sufficient material to support medical institutions if their supplies run low through 2021. In addition to masks, gowns, gloves and other PPE, the stockpile includes approximately 1,200 ventilators, almost double the number on-hand in the spring. For

perspective, the peak number of ICU patients was 1,085 in April.

To leaf-peep or not to leaf-peep

The state's travel advisory is still in place, with all New England states except Rhode Island being exempt. New York is also on the lower-risk list, so leaf-peepers have a wide variety of places to visit without worrying about restrictions, such as self-quarantining after travel.

As of Tuesday, 10/13, Fairhaven was still in the yellow (moderate risk) on the state's interactive map (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/community-level-covid-19-data-reporting>); Acushnet, Dartmouth and New Bedford were in the red (highest risk); and Mattapoisett, Marion and Rochester were the lowest risk.

Cases

As of Tuesday, 10/13, Mass. had 137,565 confirmed cases, with 632 reported on that day; total deaths are 9,413, with 12 being reported on 10/13.

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/> for more COVID information.



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Selectboard chooses firm for TA search

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

The search for the next Fairhaven town administrator is officially on now that the selectboard chose Community Paradigm Associates, LLC as the search consultant at the 10/5/20 Selectboard meeting.

Bernie Lynch, a municipal employee recruiter, will assist the town in soliciting interest in the position and then help narrow the field of candidates according to the town's specific qualifications and desired experience. An appointed screening committee will then review those candidates and recommend a number of finalists for the Selectboard to hold final interviews and vote to appoint.

Mr. Lynch recommended that the board work fast to appoint the screening committee of no more than seven members, and suggested that individual board members and department heads spend the next three weeks meeting with the firm to define an ideal set of qualifications and experience for the position and complete the hiring process according to a tight timeline.

Town Administrator Mark Rees is set to leave in January 2021.

The board could potentially select from a set of finalists come the start of January 2021 and, said Mr. Lynch, depending on the hire's 30 to 60-day notice period to his or her employer, be on the job by early February.

In another matter, the board met with Kevin McLaughlin from Fairhaven Shipyard Corporation about a proposed floating dock that Mr. McLaughlin says the town has consistently opposed throughout a years-long conversation.

Mr. McLaughlin said the goal is to construct a floating dock to give the Buzzards Bay Rowing Club access to the water, but that the town has "stonewalled" progress and rejected a request to issue a license to allow it to be approved by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Rees stated that the town has not been opposed to the pier as suggested by Mr. McLaughlin, and that he has offered several proposals to the shipyard, which Mr. Rees said Mr. McLaughlin has rejected.

The sticking point is the legal ownership of the bulkhead that Town Counsel Thomas Crotty said still belongs to the Town of Fairhaven as stated in the deed of the property that the Town sold to the Casey Boat Building Company in 1943. Mr. Crotty stated that the town is not opposed to the pier, rather the town opposes Mr. McLaughlin's claim of ownership to the basin, also known as the lobster basin.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that he does not want to assert ownership over the point of access, and all he wants is to build the dock for the rowing club and for the town to stop opposing the pier. The matter was scheduled for a hearing with the Zoning Board of Appeals the following evening, and the board agreed with Mr. McLaughlin that it would offer up language to grant him a license, including wording about the town's ownership rights at the site.

The board also addressed an Open Meeting law complaint pertaining to not having accepted meeting minutes within the Attorney General's time-frame of 30 days or by the third subsequent meeting. Mr. Rees recommended that the board respond to

the complaint by acknowledging that it was not in compliance, but add in some wording about "how we were very busy with a lot of other activities, but that we would make every effort to comply moving forward," said Mr. Rees.

Board member Bob Espindola suggested the board consider a method of tracking minutes that need approval. Mr. Rees said town counsel's idea was to routinely list on the agenda the dates of meeting minutes pending approval.

The board as held a public hearing for Fairhaven Meadows, LLC - Nantucket Bay Vineyard for a farmer series pouring permit to allow vineyard owner Nicholas Christy to hold wine tastings at the agricultural property for a fee. The board closed the hearing and will wait until the next meeting before rendering a decision in light of some other possible Planning Board permissions Mr. Christy might require before moving forward with his proposed service.

An abutter, Craig Soares, questioned Mr. Christy's right to build various structures without permits or without having to notify him as an abutter. Mr. Christy told him that all the structures had been permitted by the town and that none of them required any variances of special permits. He did agree to meet with Mr. Soares and his wife to discuss all of his concerns and also address a complaint about another abutter's property being flooded with runoff from Mr. Christy's farm.

The board will take a vote on the farmer series pouring permit during its next meeting.

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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Fairhaven Farmers Market

At 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

CPC Applications

The Fairhaven Community Preservation Committee is accepting applications for the 2021 funding round. The 2021 Community Preservation Plan, Submission Guidelines and Application Forms are available on the Town's Web Site on the Community Preservation Committee's page: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/community-preservation-committee>

Activities that can be funded are:

- Acquisition, creation and preservation of Open Space.
- Creation, preservation and support of Community Housing.
- Acquisition, creation and preservation of Historic Resources.
- Acquisition, creation and preservation of land for Recreational Use.

The Deadline for applications is Friday, 11/13/20 by 12:00 Noon.

Further information is available from the Planning and Economic Development Department. For information or appointments call (508) 979-4082, Ext. 122 or email pfoley@fairhaven-ma.gov.

Cultural Council DL Extended

The Fairhaven Cultural Council Local Cultural Council Grant application window for 2021 projects has been **extended through November 16, 2020**. The council accepts online applications only. Online applications are now available from the MCC for LCC applicants via www.mass-culture.org. Applicants must complete their forms entirely online and upload any required supplemental materials by the November 16, 2020 deadline.

Each year, the Fairhaven Cultural Council, a local organization supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), awards Local Cultural Council (LCC) grants to support arts and cultural projects that directly benefit our community. Grant monies are distributed from both state and local funds designated specifically for this purpose.

For this grant cycle, applicants' projects or events must take place between January through December 2021. The Fairhaven Cultural Council prioritizes projects that take place in Fairhaven and most directly benefit Fairhaven residents, as well as first-time applicants and new projects. Please refer to Fairhaven's official MCC page at <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/cultural-council> for full local guidelines and council funding priorities.

Contact chairperson Bill Levasseur for assistance or with any questions at wjlevasseur85@gmail.com

Fishing Derby

The 2020 Massachusetts Saltwater Fishing Derby **runs through 11/30**. 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.

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

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

Video Contest

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is pleased to announce that the seventh annual statewide **high school video contest, Safe Streets Smart Trips**, began on 9/28/20. The contest serves as an initiative within the Massachusetts Strategic Highway Safety Plan to promote safe walking, bicycling, and driving behaviors within the Commonwealth. The contest, which began in 2014, encourages high school students to showcase their understanding of roadway safety across all travel modes to try to decrease pedestrian and bicyclist injuries and fatalities.

Deadline 11/4/20

The video contest, which is open to all Massachusetts high school students, features a freshman/sophomore category and junior/senior category. Per contest guidelines, students are asked to write and produce a 30-60 second video that focuses on one or several of the guidelines of the "Hands-Free" law.

Complete contest guidelines are at Mass.gov/roadway-safety-video. Students are required to strictly follow COVID-19 social distancing guidelines and health/safety precautions while making contest videos. Grand prize and runner-up videos in each category will be chosen by a MassDOT panel. The winning videos will be screened during MassDOT's annual active transportation conference, Moving Together, which is scheduled to take place virtually on November 17, 18 and 19. Top videos may also be used in future safety campaigns.

To learn more about the Safe Streets Smart Trips high school video contest, visit Mass.gov/roadway-safety-video.

For more information about the virtual 2020 Moving Together healthy transportation conference, visit www.movingtogetherma.org.

For more information about the "Hands-Free" law, please visit <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/hands-free-law>.

For transportation news and updates visit MassDOT at our website: www.mass.gov/massdot, blog: www.mass.gov/blog/ transportation, or follow MassDOT on twitter at www.twitter.com/massdot.

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

At the Drive-In

Drive-Ins are back, at the Seastreak Ferry Whale's Tooth parking lot, 532 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford. Visit <https://zeiterion.org/drivein/> for details and to buy tickets.

LIVINGSTON TAYLOR, Friday, October 16, 7PM, \$50/vehicle

Livingston Taylor's 50-year musical legacy has been described as "equal parts Mark Twain, college professor, and musical icon." A natural performer, his Taylor-esque sound and a unique mix of music, anecdotes and ineffable warmth connect with fans. Come hear this airplane-flying, motorcycle-riding, singing storyteller at this unique waterfront stage.

COCO (2017), Saturday, October 17, 7:30PM, \$25/vehicle

Despite his family's baffling generations-old ban on music, Miguel dreams of becoming an accomplished musician like his idol, Ernesto de la Cruz. Desperate to prove his talent, Miguel finds himself in the stunning and colorful Land of the Dead following a mysterious chain of events. Along the way, he meets charming trickster Hector, and together, they set off on an extraordinary journey to unlock the real story behind Miguel's family history. Rating: PG, 105 minutes

FESTIVAL BALLET PROVIDENCE & NEW BEDFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA, Sunday, October 18, 3PM, \$50/vehicle

An afternoon of dance and music presented by Festival Ballet Providence and New Bedford Symphony Orchestra! Rhode Island's resident ballet company will perform to live music by NBSO. Join us as these two world-class organizations in the Southcoast unite to for a unique and truly moving experience.

SUSAN WERNER, Thursday, October 22, 7PM, \$50/vehicle

Susan Werner composes skillful songs that effortlessly slide between folk, jazz, and pop, all delivered with sassy wit and classic Midwestern charm. Throughout her expansive career, boundless versatility has emerged as a hallmark of Werner's talent, and has proven to be a quintessential ingredient of her engrossing musical persona.

THE AVENGERS (2012), Friday, October 23, 7:30PM, \$25/vehicle

Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.),

Captain America (Chris Evans), The Hulk (Mark Ruffalo) and Thor (Chris Hemsworth) assemble together for the first time ever in this epic, action-packed blockbuster alongside Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson), Hawkeye (Jeremy Renner) and Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson). PG-13, 143 mins

FROZEN 2 (2019), Saturday, October 24, 7:30PM, \$25/vehicle

Why was Elsa born with magical powers? The truths about the past await her as she ventures into the unknown—to the enchanted forests and dark seas beyond Arendelle. The answers are calling her, but they are also threatening her kingdom. Together with Anna, Kristoff, Olaf and Sven, she'll face a dangerous but remarkable journey. In Frozen, Elsa feared her powers were too much for the world. In Frozen 2, she must hope they are enough. PG, 103 minutes

Mini Bazaar/ Lebanese Food

Our Lady of Purgatory Maronite Catholic Church is happy to announce that we will be sponsoring a **Mini Christmas Bazaar/Take Out Food Fest on Sun., 10/25, from 12 Noon to 5 p.m.** This special fundraiser is taking the place of the Summer Festival and Christmas Bazaar due to Covid-19. In light of the pandemic, this event will be **pre-paid & carry-out only.**

The full menu of food and pastries is available on our website at www.ourladyofpurgatory.org. There is also a link to place your order online (<https://www.ieatery.com/ma/new-bedford/olop>)

Then all you need to do is drive up on the 25th and pick up your delicious food in the parking lot of the church on the corner of Pleasant and Franklin Streets in New Bedford.

In addition to the Take Out Food Fest, we'll still be holding our the Annual Theme Baskets & Cash Raffle. These drawings will be held on Sunday, 11/22, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. The theme baskets will be shown via Zoom and will also be available for viewing on our website.

More details will be available next week. Contact the Rectory at (508) 996-8934 or ourladyofpurgatory@verizon.net

Cancellation: GNB Marine Corps

The Greater New Bedford Marine Corps regrettably announces that the annual party, scheduled for 11/5, has been canceled due to the pandemic.

For more information, contact Senior Vice Commandant Ron St. John, 508-979-5062. For more information on the GNBMCCL, visit www.gnbmcl.ning.com or email gnbmcl1775@gmail.com

Chowdah Fest Road

Chowderfest is a beloved and highly anticipated community event that brings the entire South Coast together for a day of fun, live music, and savory samples of chowders, soups! For over a decade this friendly competition amongst local food establishments has attracted over 3000 residents and tourists from all over New England to New Bedford City Pier 3 to cast their vote for their favorite recipe! We won't let 2020 slip away without having this staple event in some capacity.

Join us for a **10-day adventure on the SouthCoast Chowderfest Road Show** where over 20 local restaurants will compete for the highly coveted Chowder Cup from **Thursday, October 22nd until Friday October 31st.**

During this 10 day event with the purchase of a Chowderfest Passport Booklet you can visit participating restaurants during their regular business hours and receive a 2oz free sample of their Clam Chowder, Seafood Chowder, Signature Soup, and/or Kale Soup (depending on which category they have entered) with no purchase necessary! Then cast your vote online for who you think should be named the number one Chowder in the SouthCoast.

Two types of Chowderfest Passport Booklets are available **\$15.00 - Individual Passport - 1 2oz Sample per booklet per restaurant; \$35.00 - Family Passport up to 5 2oz samples per booklet per restaurant**

This a great way to spend some time with your friends and families, partake in a little friendly competition and support our local restaurant industry when they need it the most!

Visig <https://onesouthcoast.com> to buy tickets.

STILL OVERTOWN

NB Offices opening

The Lawler and Wilks branches of the New Bedford Free Public Library system and several city offices will reopen beginning Tuesday, October 13 with limited hours in order to provide in-person services.

The Lawler and Wilks library branches will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Limited browsing, with social distancing, and grab-and-go book pickup will be offered at the libraries. Lawler Library is located at 745 Rockdale Avenue. Wilks Library is located at 1911 Acushnet Avenue.

In addition, three city departments will reopen to limited in-person services: the Health Department,

Veterans' Services Department, and Licensing Board offices will reopen from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, following other City offices' limited hours.

Currently, several other offices located at City Hall are open to the public on a limited basis: the Treasurer's Office, City Clerk's Office, and Elections Office, all Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Access to the buildings will be limited. Residents can call ahead to these or other city departments with any questions.

In addition to mandatory mask use and social distancing, physical barriers have been installed to ensure the safety of visitors and city employees. Due to the pandemic, residents are still encouraged to pay any bills by mail, by phone, or online

whenever possible. Payments can be made online at the City's website, www.newbedford-ma.gov, and selecting 'Pay Bills' directly on the home page. To mail payments, residents can use the mailing address printed on their bills or mail their bills directly to the City Treasurer at City Hall – Treasurer's Office, 133 William Street, Room 103, New Bedford, MA 02740

Follow the City's social media pages, including Mayor Jon Mitchell's and the City of New Bedford's Facebook pages, tune in to New Bedford Cable Access on Channel 18, and visit the City website at www.newbedford-ma.gov for regularly updated news.

City departments are also doing business by phone or online. Call the switchboard at (508) 979-1400

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

Acush TH hours

Acushnet Town Hall hours have changed back to Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.– 4 p.m. However, due to the pandemic, the building is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with precautions in place. Call 508-998-0200

Voting Transpo

Early voting will soon begin for the Presidential/State Election (see page 11). For those seniors needing a ride to the Parting Ways Building in Acushnet to vote, the Acushnet Council on Aging will provide transportation on Thursday, 10/22 starting at 8:30 a.m.

Only two riders, plus driver, will be allowed on the van at any one time. Residents will have to call the COA in advance for a reservation, wear masks the entire duration of the trip and have a temperature screening before boarding the van.

Please call the COA, 508-998-0280 for more information.

Acushnet Grab n Go Lunches

A Grab and Go lunch program will begin for Acushnet residents, age 60+, on Thursdays at the Acushnet Senior Community Center, 59 ½ South Main Street. The drive through meals will be available to the first 50 participants and will be provided by

On the Go Catering. Advance registration is required and there is a suggested, voluntary donation of \$2/meal. Please call 508-742-9196 to register. Sponsored by Coastline Elderly Services.

Spooky Old Sturbridge Village

Phantoms & Fire brings a new twist to the Halloween season at Old Sturbridge Village (OSV), with a series of haunting outdoor performances and seasonal activities for all ages. Replacing the theatrical "Sleepy Hollow Experience," which has played at the Village since 2016, *Phantoms & Fire* offers guests a safe take on the Halloween season, following COVID-19 restrictions.

A cornerstone of the new event is "Nevermore," a series of six outdoor performances written and directed by P.J. Griffith, specifically for Old Sturbridge Village and partner Coggeshall Farm Museum. "Nevermore" welcomes a professional cast to the Village to bring to life the short stories and poems of author Edgar Allan Poe, told from the perspective of characters who have just witnessed these terrors occur. The stories will play out simultaneously in six different locations around the Village and tell familiar tales of horror, revenge, obsession and deception. Performances will be

repeated throughout the night in pulsating rhythm, just like Poe's tell-tale, beating heart, ensuring that visitors can experience them all.

Younger guests will delight in a new 2020 version of Trick-or-Treat at the Village, called "Clues & Candy." Making their way throughout the commons, families can collect clues and stamps that can be turned in for a big bag of goodies at the end of their visit! Participation in "Clues & Candy" is open to all ages. Costumes are encouraged, but COVID-safe facemasks must still be worn in following state and local guidelines.

Tickets for *Phantoms & Fire* are on sale now for \$16 per adult and \$12 for youth ages 4-17. Children under 4 are free to the Village during this event. *Phantoms & Fire* will take place Wednesdays through Saturdays, Oct. 21-31, with three times for arrival at 5:00p.m., 6:00p.m., and 6:30p.m. Once in the Village, guests are welcome to stay until the event concludes each night at 8:00p.m. Pre-registration is required, with tickets available at: <https://www.osv.org/event/phantoms-and-fire/>. *Phantoms & Fire* is presented by Country Bank.

Phantoms & Fire is also coming to Coggeshall Farm Museum located in Bristol, R.I. on Sunday, Oct. 25 and Sunday, Nov. 1. More details on the Coggeshall event can be found at: <https://www.coggeshallfarm.org/event/phantoms-and-fire/>.

Mass. AG launches statewide voter protection initiative

Press Release

With a clear message that her office will protect the right to vote in Massachusetts, Attorney General Maura Healey announced major initiatives to ensure election integrity in the weeks leading up to November 3.

"As Election Day approaches, I want each and every voter to know that my office is working hard to ensure your vote is counted, your voice is heard, and our elections have integrity," AG Healey said. "We are here to strengthen trust in our democratic process and protect your right to vote."

Election Protection Task Force

AG Healey has made voter protection and election integrity a priority of her office and is taking action to ensure a free and fair election. She convened an internal task force to coordinate election protection related priorities across the office and with state attorneys general across the country.

The task force includes attorneys in the AG's Office with expertise in civil rights, civil litigation, and criminal prosecution. Its work is focused on ensuring that every ballot cast is

counted and preparing to respond to and prosecute voter intimidation, which includes staffing the office's civil rights hotline to address concerns of interference at the polls.

Voter Education Campaign

The AG's Office has launched a new website with resources available for voters, including important dates, information about voting options, and how the AG's Office is protecting your right to vote. For more information, visit mass.gov/protectthevote.

This week, the AG's Office will also distribute thousands of voter protection flyers in multiple languages to the state's community-based organizations, faith-based groups, neighborhood associations, disability rights advocates, senior centers, colleges and universities, government officials, and municipalities. The flyers have been translated to Arabic, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, Spanish, and Vietnamese, and are also available online at mass.gov/votingflyers.

The AG's Voter Protection Flyer has information about how to vote, including making sure voters register or confirm their voter registration at

www.RegisterToVoteMA.com by the deadline of October 24, 2020. Voters can vote four ways:

- **Vote Early by Mail:** Apply now at www.MailMyBallotMA.com. We recommend you submit your application by October 20. Return your ballot by mail or deliver it in person to your local election office, an official ballot return drop box, or any early voting location in your city or town during early voting hours. Your ballot must be postmarked or dropped off by November 3 and, if mailed, must be received by your local election office by November 6. Track your ballot at www.TrackMyBallotMA.com or look up drop-off locations at www.mass.gov/vote.
- **Vote Early in Person:** Vote at an early voting location in your city or town between October 17 and October 30. Early voting locations and hours will be posted by October 9 on www.MassEarlyVote.com.
- **Vote Absentee:** You can vote absentee if you will be out of town or have a physical disability or a religious belief that prevents you from voting

AG: cont'd on next page

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MASS. INSPECTION

AG: cont'd from previous page

at your polling location. Request an absentee ballot by October 28 and postmark or drop off your ballot by November 3. If mailed, your ballot must be received by your local election office by November 6. Request an absentee ballot application by calling 1-800-462-VOTE or visiting www.mass.gov/vote.

- **Vote in Person on Election Day:** On November 3, vote at your polling location between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. If you are in line by 8 p.m., you have the right to vote. Confirm your polling location at www.WhereDoIVoteMA.com.

The AG's flyer also discusses voters' rights to equal access, to vote without intimidation and to have their vote counted.

- **Right to Equal Access:** All polling locations are required to be accessible, have an accessible voting booth, and have a system that allows voters with disabilities to mark their ballot privately and independently. People with disabilities may also have someone assist them at an early voting or polling location, use the accessible

vote-by-mail system, or vote absentee. Call 1-800-462-VOTE / TTY: 1-800-720-3480 for more info or visit www.mass.gov/vote.

- **Right to Vote without Intimidation:** State law prohibits election interference and voter intimidation. If someone verbally or physically confronts you while you are trying to vote, requests documentation where none is required, follows you, or interferes in some other way with your right to vote, call the Attorney General's Office at 617-963-2917.

- **Right to Have Your Vote Counted:** If you vote by mail, track your ballot at www.TrackMyBallotMA.com to make sure it is received and accepted. If your ballot is rejected, your local election official should contact you and send another — you can submit the ballot or vote in person. If you receive a mail ballot but do not return it or if you are concerned your election office will not receive it in time, you may vote in person.

Protecting Against Voter Intimidation

Voters have the right to cast their ballot free from intimidation, harassment, or interference. State and federal laws protect this right and AG Healey has said that those who engage in this type of illegal activity will be prosecuted. The law prohibits voter intimidation by public officials and private citizens alike.

In September,

after President Trump threatened to send law enforcement officials to polling locations to monitor elections, AG Healey's Office issued an advisory to make clear that intimidating or interfering with voters is illegal. The advisory reminds voters that their right to vote safely and free from intimidation, harassment, and coercion is protected under federal and state law.

AG Healey is reminding voters that if someone verbally or physically threatens or harasses you while you are trying to vote, or interferes in some other way with your right to vote, you can call the AG's Civil Rights Division for help at 617-963-2917. If you need immediate assistance, dial 911 or contact your local police department.

Multistate Action

AG Healey joined a coalition of attorneys general in filing for a preliminary injunction, which was granted, in a lawsuit seeking an immediate halt to illegal changes to the United States Postal Service (USPS) that interfere with postal workers' ability to effectively deliver the mail. In their lawsuit, the attorneys general assert that in some parts of the country, USPS's actions from July 2020 have led to significant delays, harmed veterans, seniors, and rural communities, and could disrupt the November election without court intervention.

Information regarding voter registration and voting procedures in Massachusetts can be found on the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Elections Division website at: www.sec.state.ma.us/ele.

For more information about AG Healey's election protection efforts, visit mass.gov/protectthevote.



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

<http://FairhavenTours.com>



<http://facebook.com/FairhavenTours>



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Recipe of the Week

Baked Apple Chips

- 2 Golden Delicious apples, cored and thinly sliced
- 1 1/2 teaspoons white sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

Preheat oven to 250°

Mix sugar and cinnamon together in a bowl; sprinkle over apple slices or toss slices in mixture.

Arrange apples slices in single s layer on a metal baking sheet (line with parchment paper, optional)

Bake in the preheated oven until apples are dried and edges curl up, 1-2 hours. Transfer apple chips, using a metal spatula, to a wire rack until cooled and crispy. They will not feel crispy until they cool down.

You may also flip apple slices halfway through baking and sprinkle the other side with cinnamon sugar.

Tip: Cut baking time by cooking on a wire rack.

Deer crashes peak in autumn

AAA Press Release

As daylight saving time comes to an end (on 11/1), Massachusetts drivers need to buck up this fall and be on the lookout for deer. According to a AAA Northeast analysis of crash data, October, November and December were the peak months for deer-related crashes in 2019 with an average of one deer crash every hour-and-a-half across the Commonwealth during those three months.

In 2019, there were 1,557 deer-related crashes between October and December, most commonly near sunset when deer tend to be grazing for food and on the move during their annual mating season. Eighty-one percent of deer crashes occurred outside daylight hours.

The top counties for deer crashes in Massachusetts last year were

Bristol (268), Worcester (260), Plymouth (210), Middlesex (188), Essex (122).

Most deer-related crashes occur because drivers simply don't see deer crossing the roadway in low-light conditions. But many crashes occur due to driver distraction or inattentiveness. AAA reminds motorists to:

- *Slow Down.* Reduce speed in low-light conditions, which will give you more time to respond to unexpected wildlife movements.
- *Scan off-road areas.* Deer may dash out from the shoulder or wooded areas adjacent to the road.
- *Be patient.* Where there is one, there may be many, so don't speed off after a deer crosses your path

DEER: cont'd on page 21

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Early voting begins in Mass. on Saturday

By Beth David
Editor

Voters in Massachusetts who do not want to wait until election day, but who also want to vote in person, may cast their votes for president and state offices starting on Saturday, 10/17, during specified hours. Voters may also use mail-in voting to avoid the polls on election day.

In Acushnet

All early voting in Acushnet is at the town clerk's office at the Parting Ways Building, 130 Main Street.

Hours are: Sat. & Sun., 10/17 & 18, from 8 a.m. to noon. Monday through Friday (two weeks), 10/19-23 and 10/26-30, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. And Sat., 10/24 from 3-7 p.m.; and Sun., 10/25, from 8 a.m. to noon.

In Fairhaven

All early voting in Fairhaven is at the Council on Aging/Senior Center, 229 Huttleston Avenue.

Hours to vote in person before election day are: Saturdays & Sundays, 10/17, 10/18, 10/24, 10/25, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Monday through Friday (two weeks), 10/19-23 and 10/26-30, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

By Mail

To vote by mail, contact the Secretary of State's office to have a mail-in ballot sent to you <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/eleev/early-voting-by-mail.htm>, or call 1-800-462-VOTE (8683), or 617-742-2828, or email elections@sec.state.ma.us. Or contact your local town clerk's office by October 20.

After you fill out your mail-in ballot (be sure to follow all directions, including where to sign), you may mail it to the clerk's office or you may drop it off in person before or on election day. In Fairhaven you may drop it into the special slot at the clerk's office to the right of the front door in town hall. In Acushnet, you may drop it off in the black box at the front of the Parting Ways Building, or in the mail slot in the door.

Mail-in ballots that are received by mail or in the drop off slot are time-stamped as received and are kept secured until election day, when they are routed to the proper precincts.

At the precinct, poll workers use the name on the outside of the yellow/manila envelope to check in/check out the voter, just as you would if you went in person. The ballots are

then removed from the envelopes and fed through the machine to be counted as any other ballot.

Fairhaven Assistant Town Clerk Linda Fredette said the office expects a 90% turnout based on the number of mail-in ballots already sent in (yes, 90%, that's not a typo).

And although they have hired extra poll workers, it will take a very long time to tally up the votes.

"We're gonna be here all night," said Ms. Fredette. "It's gonna be fun, fun, fun."

You may track your ballot at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/where.doivotema/track/trackmyballot.aspx>

On Election Day 11/3

The polls will be open on Tuesday, 11/3, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. for those wishing to vote on election day at their regular precinct location.

The Fairhaven Council on Aging is providing transportation services to seniors in need. Call 508-979-4029 at least one day in advance to schedule.

Contacts

Contact your town clerk's office with any questions: In Fairhaven, call 508-979-4023, Ext. 3; in Acushnet call 508-998-0200, Ext. 2.



Deadline 10/17
Pub. date: 10/22

Calling all Halloween Yards

Want to share your Halloween expertise with your neighbors? Send pictures of your yard to the *Neighb News* and we'll share them with our readers. Or call us at 508-979-5593 and we'll try to swing by and take a picture. Email: NeighbNews@comcast.net (preferred); USPS: 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719.



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Acushnet Selectboard discusses COVID

By Pattie Pacella

Neighb News Correspondent

At its regularly scheduled meeting on 10/6, the Acushnet Selectboard heard from the school department, the fire department, and the health department on COVID related matters.

Kristen Flynn, the School Department's Business Manager stated that they began "Phase 3" on October 5, with some of the children back to school in two groups, A and B.

She stated that the two groups were organized to be in school on alternating days, with all students on remote learning on Wednesdays. Ms. Flynn also stated that Kindergarten and first grade were at the building four days a week.

Health agent Joseph Correia also attended to continue the conversation regarding COVID-19 and the Town Hall re-opening plan.

Selectboard chair Kevin Gaspar, who admitted he was "a lot confused," read from the "color coded map," as he described it that the state has created to notify residents of the COVID-19 risk in each community.

"I'm not sure who made up this cockamamie chart. It doesn't apply to Acushnet as it is based on 100,000 residents with a percentage versus 100,000. We need to focus on Acushnet and our own numbers," Mr. Gaspar said.

Mr. Correia said he was there to give an update and have a discussion with the Selectboard on how to move forward to "try and get the best services to our residents." He said through the Board of Health their number one priority is the health and

safety of all Town residents. He said there has been an upswing in COVID cases.

"As we all know," Mr. Correia said, "Disruption comes in one case, as in Trump and Cam Newton of the Patriots."

Mr. Correia went on to say that close contact is cumulative and the infection takes 5-14 days to present itself. He said there have been 12 positives in two days in the month of October thus far, and 14 positives in September.

"We are having an upswing in COVID cases," he said. "And we need to be prepared on how we are going

may get the virus here or there.

"The moral of the story is we are never going to prevent anyone from getting COVID-19 in any of our buildings, unless you lock the doors up and not allow anyone in ever," he said.

Mr. Gaspar went on to say that he was under the impression that the town has done a lot to prevent the spread by adding the temperature kiosks at the town buildings, hand sanitizer, requiring that all entering wear masks. He said he wanted to move forward with the opening and servicing the residents on a daily basis.

"I understand the concept that the state is asking us to follow, but it's bogus," Mr. Gaspar said. "Let's talk about the red..."

"It's coming," Mr. Correia stated.

"And so is Christmas," Mr. Gaspar stated. Mr. Gaspar stated that Acushnet needed to work with the Board of Health to determine their own data for infection rates.

"Because what I'm reading from this paper, from the state is crap," he said. "If we use this as a guideline, we will never open Town Hall."

Selectboard member David Wojnar agreed that the state guidance paperwork was confusing. He said that his best guess to minimize or reduce COVID risk was to go from a seven-hour day to a three-hour window per day as they had suggested.

"From day to day we are servicing our residents," Mr. Wojnar stated. "From what I understand building permits have increased, people are paying their taxes, it's all getting done."

ACUSH: SELECT cont'd to page 20

"I understand the concept that the state is asking us to follow, but it's bogus," Mr. Gaspar said.

"Let's talk about the red..."

"It's coming," Mr. Correia stated.

"And so is Christmas"

to handle it."

Mr. Gaspar stated that they knew there would be an upswing based on when you contracted it, as there is an incubation period.

"It doesn't take a rocket scientist to drive around Town and see huge tents in people's yards and think to yourself, 'that's not going to be good,'" Mr. Gaspar said.

He added that there was absolutely no way to determine how one is getting the COVID-19 virus, but regardless of the Town Hall being opened, someone

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BPW postpones town auction

By Mary Macedo

Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Monday 10/5 the Fairhaven Board of Public Works discussed West Island traffic speed, the upcoming town auction, and approved of driveway waivers.

The board first met with contractor Antone Medeiros about a driveway waiver for 113 Center Street. Mr. Medeiros explained that the driveway was already dug up when he got the call for the job.

BPW Chairperson Brian Wotton explained that the first contractor dug up the driveway took the resident's money and they have not heard from him. Mr. Wotton said the contractor was not approved by the town, and the resident called Mr. Medeiros to finish the work.

Mr. Medeiros said the previous contractor dug for a 30 foot driveway, which is why they need the waiver. He said he has already received approval from the Conservation Commission. The resident wanted to expand their driveway to get their boats and trailers off the road.

BPW Vice-Chairperson Robert "Hoppy" Hobson said that it is good to get trailers ad cars off the roads.

Board member Cameron Durant said he approved as long as it was okay with Highway Superintendent John Charbonneau.

Board members Frank Coelho and Marcus Ferro agreed with Mr. Durant. The board voted unanimously to grant the driveway waiver.

In another matter the board met with John Hinds from the West Island Improvement Association, who wanted to discuss his idea of "Island Speed."

Mr. Hinds said when he joined the WIIA the members said one of their concerns was the speed residents drive on West Island.

Mr. Hinds said a study found that 70% of speeding tickets given on West Island are from West Island residents.

He said that it was funny that West Island residents are concerned with speeding on the island, but the island residents are the ones speeding.

The WIIA still said that they would like to try to diminish speeding on West Island, and that is why he came up with the idea of "Island Speed."

Mr. Hinds showed the board his colorful signs decorated with waves

that say "Go Slow, Island Speed," on them. Mr. Hinds said that it will hopefully help reduce the speed of vehicles to 25 m.p.h. Mr. Hinds also suggested possibly having those words printed on the pavement of some streets.

Mr. Hobson said he agreed and understood the speeding on West Island is an issue. He asked how many streets the "Island Speed" would be posted on.

Mr. Hinds said he was thinking about putting signage on Balsam Street and Causeway Road, with possibly two on Causeway Road, one in the area of the marina and one around the area of Dogwood Street. Mr. Hinds said that way cars see it coming on and off the causeway.

He said he would also like to put signage on Balsam Street where it merges with Alder Street.

Mr. Hinds said a study found that 70% of speeding tickets given on West Island are from West Island residents.

Mr. Hobson said he cannot picture people driving that slow on the actual causeway.

Mr. Hinds suggested possibly putting signage after the causeway where houses are, he suggested putting the first "Island Speed" sign on Alder Street after the causeway and then another sign near Dogwood or Ebony Street.

Mr. Hobson said he would be good with that.

Mr. Durant said he liked the idea and the signage, and suggested adding some graphic design and a nice font. Mr. Durant said the signage needs to be able to be seen by a car going 25 m.p.h.

BPW Superintendent Vinnie Furtado said he will look into the cost of signs, as well as signage on the roads. Mr. Furtado said signage on the road might be significantly more expensive because of the wear and tear over time; it would take a lot of maintaining.

Mr. Hinds said if just regular signs are cheaper maybe they can just do more regular signs and forgo the signage on the pavement. He would meet back with the association members and see what they think of the ideas, and look into designs for the signs.

Mr. Hobson complimented Mr. Hinds on his presentation.

"Good job," Mr. Hobson said. "You were good."

In another matter Mr. Furtado gave an update on his research into the BPW independent study. At previous meetings the board has discussed possibly commissioning an independent study to see if the BPW can save money in certain areas.

Mr. Furtado said he spoke with an engineering company that can do a financial study on the BPW, and he plans to meet with them next week.

He is going to see what the company offers and how much it will cost.

Mr. Coelho volunteered to attend the meeting and Mr. Wotton said if he can make it he would also like to attend.

Mr. Hobson, Mr. Ferro, and Mr. Durant agreed to send Mr. Wotton and Mr. Coelho to the meeting to represent the board and then report back about the findings.

In another matter, Mr. Furtado said he looked into buying a bidding software to host the town auction virtually, but at \$2500, it was definitely too expensive.

Mr. Furtado said that the board can either postpone the town auction or just do a silent auction the old fashioned way.

Mr. Wotton said Governor Baker is allowing gatherings of 100 outside if they really wanted to have auction.

Mr. Furtado said he would have to ask the Board of Health.

Mr. Coelho said he was in favor of moving the auction to a later date.

Mr. Wotton agreed that he would rather just postpone it, especially because there is not that much stuff available for auction this year.

The board voted to postpone the auction to the spring of 2021.

In another matter Mr. Furtado said they needed a new BPW representative on the Community Preservation Committee. Mr. Ferro volunteered, and was appointed by the board.

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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.

Early Voting at Senior Ctr

EARLY VOTING FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION HAS A NEW LOCATION. THIS YEAR IT WILL BE AT THE FAIRHAVEN SENIOR CENTER, 229 HUTTLESTON AVE. PLEASE ENTER ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THE BUILDING SECOND DOOR. FOLLOW THE SIGNS. October 17, 18, 24, and 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Week of October 19-23 and October 26-30 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. PLEASE VOTE

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.

Calling All Knitters and Crocheters

Beacon Hospice has asked the Fairhaven COA to participate in their Afghans large enough to cover someone in a chair or bed. These afghans will be going to veterans who are receiving hospice from Beacon. If you would like to participate in this heart warning project, please call the Fairhaven Senior Center at 508-979-4029 to sign up. Once the yarn is delivered to the senior center, the knitters and crocheters will be notified to come pick it up.



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Calling all Halloween Yards

Want to share your Halloween expertise with your neighbors? Send pictures of your yard to the *Neighb News* and we'll share them with our readers. Or call us at 508-979-5593 and we'll try to swing by and take pictures. Email: NeighbNews@comcast.net (preferred); USPS: 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719. **Deadline 10/17. Publication date: 10/22.**



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Acushnet offers free testing for town residents

By Beth David
Editor

The Acushnet Fire Department and emergency officials tested 157 people for COVID-19 at a free testing event on Saturday, 10/10/20.

Fire Chief Kevin Gallagher said he was “pleasantly surprised by the turnout.”

About 30 cars were in line before testing even began. The weather in the 60’s with a bit of a breeze probably helped the turnout.

The procedure only took about a minute once the paperwork was filled out. Acushnet received 1,000 tests, so they will probably hold another event at some point.

Michael Gonet said he did not feel sick, but thought getting a test was a good thing to do. He works at an

Arcade in Taunton.

The even was for Acushnet residents, who did not need a reason to seek the testing.

“Thank you also to the Acushnet Emergency Management Agency (EMA) Council on Aging (COA) and our Firefighters, EMTs and Police Officers who staffed the event,” wrote Chief Gallagher on the department’s Facebook page. “It may take a village to raise a child but it takes a community to beat Covid!”

Several people piped up on Facebook to say the event was a good thing and a good experience.

“I think it went well,” wrote Yvonne Allen, who added that she was “anxious” about the test.

“This was a 1 on a scale from 1 to 10 for discomfort,” wrote Ms. Allen.

“Glad I did it. It’s worth the peace of mind, especially since we’re expecting a grandson any day now.”

“Great job and very well organized!” wrote Darlene Farrell. “Thank you everyone involved for offering this opportunity to the residents of Acushnet!”

“This was very well organized and quick,” wrote Judi Castle. “Thank all of you who participated. Thank you Town of Acushnet. I love Acushnet.”

“Great job! Couldn’t have been easier!” wrote Phyllis Daniels.

“Excellent job team! Acushnet cares about there people!” wrote Elizabeth Leaver.

Results of the tests are available now. Visit <https://www.accureference.com> to get your results. Or call Accu Reference Medical Lab, 908-474-1004.



ABOVE LEFT: Frances Gwozdz gets swabbed for her COVID-19 test during the free COVID testing event held in Acushnet between the elementary and middle schools on Saturday, 10/10/20. ABOVE RIGHT: Giselle Crowell gets swabbed for her COVID-19 test. BELOW LEFT: Michael Gonet gets swabbed by Kaylee Desroches. BELOW RIGHT: Acushnet officials are all set up to receive residents for COVID testing in the parking lot between the elementary and middle schools on Saturday, 10/10/20, when 30 cars showed up before the testing even began, and ended with 157 residents being tested. *Photo by Glenn C. Silva.*



Lions give the Old Stone Schoolhouse grounds some TLC

Press Release

The Fairhaven Historical Commission wishes to publicly thank the Fairhaven Lions Club and their members for the thorough outside clean-up they performed at the Old Stone Schoolhouse on North Street.

The building, a single room school house built in 1828, is a popular stop for Japanese visitors following the Manjiro Trail.

The property was in need of some tree trimming, raking and mulch, so the Fairhaven Lions Club stepped up

and volunteered to do an intense clean-up of the property which included mulching the flower beds.

“We have limited funds to maintain these historic properties so when someone steps up and offers to help for free, we graciously accept,” said Wayne Oliveira, Chairman of the Historical Commission that oversees all of the historic properties in town including Fort Phoenix, the Academy Building and the Old Firehouses, just to name a few.

The Fairhaven Lions Club is an



international civic group serving the community for over 75 years. To learn more about joining the Lions Club here in Fairhaven contact President Bill Moniz at lc1914bb@aol.com



LEFT: Members of the Fairhaven Lions Club conduct a thorough clean-up of the grounds of the Old Stone Schoolhouse in Fairhaven recently. RIGHT: Lions members wave to the camera. Photos submitted by the Fairhaven Historical Commission.

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Fairhaven Town Meeting to tackle 29 articles on Tuesday

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

Fairhaven's October 20 Special Town Meeting Warrant has been posted and sent to the printers, albeit a few days before the Fairhaven Finance Committee was able to vote on its recommendations on some of the articles. Nonetheless, only 29 of the 34 articles will be considered after the Selectboard already voted to pass over three, and then Town Administrator Mark Rees told the Finance Committee on 10/8 that two additional articles would be passed over.

After a 6-4 vote recommending all seven capital projects in Article 9 totaling \$2,143,900, four dissenting FinCom members, Lisa Plante, Bernie Roderick, Kathi Carter, and Carolyn Roberts, authored a "Minority Report" recommending indefinite postponement.

The Selectboard recommended adoption of the entire article.

The four FinCom members acknowledged that the field is in need of repair, but did not deem the project "critical" at this time. The four also acknowledged that while the town's financial situation is not yet "dire," revenue losses due to the pandemic and reductions in state aid have left the future of Fairhaven's fiscal soundness uncertain.

"There will be no immediate harm done if we delay this article until the annual Town Meeting in six months," the report reads. "At that time we should have a clearer picture of the Town's finances."

It goes on to say that while the town's debt service is positive, "...it does not seem fiscally wise to borrow 1.2 million dollars for something that is not critical to the functioning of town services.

"This is not the time to incur additional debt for something not immediately 'essential' for which taxpayers will have to pay."

"In May 2021, we should have a much clearer picture of our revenue situation and be in a better position to make an informed decision about when to address the athletic field situation," the report reads.

The FY21 Capital Plan also includes \$250,000 for the Council on Aging/Recreation Center HVAC

replacement; \$205,000 for the police and marine resources radio upgrade; \$75,000 for a one-ton dump truck for the Board of Public Works; \$52,000 for a fire response staff vehicle; \$131,900 for police cruisers.

There are 16 articles in the warrant that the FinCom did not have time to vote on before it went to print, and aside from those that will either be passed over or require even more time for the committee to consider, the FinCom members managed to vote on eight more on 10/8.

Article 28, a petition from the Sustainability Committee for the lease of two electric vehicles and a charging station looks for \$16,400 in matching funds to acquire a Massachusetts Department of Environ-

The FinCom's discussion began... with an audible groan...followed by some FinCom members wondering how the town could save money by leasing two vehicles instead of continuing to use the two the town already owns.

mental Protection grant to lease two new electric vehicles for three years and install an electric charging station. The town received the grant back in January, and Conservation Agent Whitney McClees reported to the Selectboard that running two electric vehicles instead of two gas powered ones would save the town about \$900 a year.

The FinCom's discussion began on 10/8 with an audible groan by one of the committee members, followed by some FinCom members wondering how the town could save money by leasing two vehicles instead of continuing to use the two the town already owns.

Town Administrator Mark Rees tried his best to explain how, saying that the town would save about \$22 every time one of the electric cars needs to be charged as opposed to whenever one of the gas-powered cars is currently refueled. Mr. Roderick wondered why the town could not consider the grant when the two gas-powered cars are no

longer usable.

Without the aid of a Sustainability Committee member to offer further explanation, Mr. Rees was unable to give the committee enough information to make a recommendation that night.

The committee recommended adopting Article 18 to appropriate \$282,600 toward Community Preservation Act projects, even though only some of that funding will be spent this fiscal year with \$180,000 being approved but not allocated toward any specific projects.

Mr. Elliott pointed out that for the past couple years Town Meeting has approved CPA funding without allocating it, carrying the funds over into the next fiscal year for future projects. Mr. Rees said the carryover of CPA funds is likely due to the staff changes in the Planning Department leading to a lack of advertisement to the community of the availability of the funds.

"Has it (CPA in Fairhaven) run its course?" Mr. Elliot asked Mr. Rees, given that the town keeps reserving the funds for future appropriations.

CPA funds are raised through a 3% surcharge on property taxes.

"I certainly don't think so," said Mr. Rees. One of the benefits of CPA money is that the town receives a certain percentage of matching funds from the state every year, he said.

The FinCom voted to recommend Article 18 that includes \$75,000 for a Green Meadows Door replacement, \$15,000 for the Buzzards Bay Coalition Boys Creek March Conservation Project, and \$12,600 for Community Preservation Committee annual expenses. A total of \$180,000 would be reserved for another year.

The FinCom and Selectboard, voted to recommend the adoption of Article 25, Gold Star Parents Tax Abatement Bylaw. The article provides a property tax abatement to the surviving parents or guardians of a military veteran who was killed in active duty, died as a result of an injury sustained during active duty, or is missing in action.

Petitioner Frederick Jones et.al. is hoping to ban the use of thin film plastic bags at stores with Article 23.

TM: cont'd next page

TM: cont'd from previous page

It would ban the use of plastic bags at point of sale stores with a gross floor area of at least 5,000 square feet, with enforcement assigned to the Board of Health or the Selectboard. The article would impose a fine of \$200 for each violation. The Selectboard and the FinCom both yield to petitioner.

Both boards will yield to the petitioner on Article 24 submitted by former Health Agent Mary Freire-Kellogg et.al. which seeks to reinforce standards for the Board of Health. The article would require the Board of Health "to be held to the standards set forth in the Selectmen's Boards and Committees Handbook [<https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/board-selectmen/pages/boards-and-committees-handbook>] as well as the Personnel Bylaws and Collective Bargaining Agreement." Ms. Freire-Kellogg states in her proposed article, "I understand the Board of Health should remain autonomous in matters concerning public health, however, I am referring to matters of the Board of Health's personal conduct and establishing a standard they should be held to, as all other Boards and Committees in Fairhaven are required." She also seeks to include the Wellness Committee in these standards.

Both boards will also yield to the petitioner on Article 34 to rezone land owned by G. Bourne Knowles from the Apartment/Multifamily District to the Business District.

Petitioned by the fire chief, Article 27 would allow the town to petition the General Court to enact a Special Act to set specific requirements for eligibility for promotion to the rank of fire lieutenant. The Selectboard recommends adoption while FinCom yields to the petitioner.

Both boards recommended adoption of the following articles:

- Article 4, the fiscal year 2021 operating budget's remaining \$31,020,644, which is less the 1/12 and 1/3 budgets already approved at the Annual Town Meeting. The total FY21 budget is \$52,690,951 including the recommended reserve fund appropriations.
- Article 5 is to approve the \$2,362,791 Water Enterprise budget.
- Article 6 is to approve the

\$2,716,350 Sewer Enterprise budget.

- Article 7 approves \$162,112 for the Cable Television Enterprise Fund budget.
- Article 8 is to approve the Fairhaven Public Schools Cable Television Enterprise Fund budget of \$138,256.
- Article 10 appropriates \$13,217 from the Water Ways User Fund for dredging at West Island.
- Article 13, \$375,000 for roadwork, was recommended by both boards for adoption; however, the recommended motion is different from the four roads proposed by four different petitioners. Instead of repairs to Robert Street, Cove Street, Bonney Street, and Chase Road, the proposed motion is to repair Chase Road, Bellevue Street, Fisherman Road, and Massasoit

Article 23 would ban the use of plastic bags at point of sale stores with a gross floor area of at least 5,000 square feet. The article would impose a fine of \$200 for each violation.

Avenue.

- Article 15 is to deposit \$65,000 into an ambulance stabilization fund.
- Article 16 is to appropriate \$1,745,000 for the Water Enterprise Capital Plan: well capacity evaluation, \$125,000; van, \$30,000; Farmfield Street/Harborfield water main, \$90,000; water meter reading system, \$1.5 million in borrowed funds.
- Article 17 to appropriate \$982,179 from the Sewer Enterprise Capital Plan, which includes \$250,000 for inflow and infiltration study; \$75,000 for a muffin monster (grinder) for Tabor Street pumping station; \$657,179 for West Island Treatment Plant Capital Improvements.
- Article 20 would appropriate \$15,000 for the propagation of shellfish, petitioned by the Harbormaster.

When it came to the street light requests of Article 26, Mr. Elliot

proposed a recommendation to adopt only two of the four proposed lights in the article after doing some "homework" on the proposed new lights for Emerson Avenue, Saltmarsh Road, Reservation Road, and Long Road. He recommended adoption for only Saltmarsh Road and Long Road, which the FinCom ultimately recommended. The Selectboard will make its recommendation at Town Meeting.

Article 29 would transfer \$10,000 in required matching funds from the Waterways User Fees account for an economic feasibility study of potential uses for Union Wharf.

Article 30 would approve the transfer of \$89,500 from the 5/4/19 Town Meeting article 17C to the Union Wharf Phase IV repairs account from 5/4/19 Town Meeting article 17A. The funds will go toward strengthening the bulkheads around Union Wharf.

Finance Committee recommendations for the following articles will be given at Town Meeting:

- Article 3 to set the salaries of town officials, which the Selectboard recommended adopting; the FinCom will wait to make a recommendation. Mr. Elliott said he thought the article was pretty straightforward, but after hearing from Mr. Rees that the amounts could change, Mr. Elliot said: "It sounds like there's something going on here."
- Article 11, which would authorize the Selectboard to enter into an agreement for a land swap at Union Wharf.
- Article 21 to transfer \$490,173 from the Surplus Revenue for the reduction of the tax levy; however, Mr. Rees said that amount could go up or down slightly before TM.
- Article 31, to enter into a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) agreement for 46 Charity Stevens Lane, petitioned by Con Edison Clean Energy Business.

Both boards will yield to the petitioner on Article 33, to grant an easement for a sewer connection to Arsene Street from 245 Huttleston Avenue, petitioned by Daniel and Cherie Nault.

The 10/20 STM will be held remotely via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

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 PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FAIRHAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed Bids for the construction of the "Town of Fairhaven, West Island Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade" will be received by the Public Works Department at 5 Arsene Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719 until 10:00 a.m. local time on October 29, 2020 at which time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. Sealed Bids must have outer envelope marked as "Town of Fairhaven, West Island Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade."

Sealed Bids from Subcontractors addressed as referenced above will be received by the Public Works Department at 5 Arsene Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719 until 10:00 a.m. on October 20, 2020 and then at said

office publicly opened and read aloud. Sub-Bids with the required Bid deposit will be received for the following items of work:

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Bidding Documents may be obtained electronically from the Tighe & Bond website at: http://www.tighebond.com/Projects_Out_to_Bid.php If the bidding website is unavailable, email Nicole Rose at NJRose@tigheBond.com to obtain bidding documents.

Prospective bidders must complete a one-time registration process on the web site in order to receive log-in credentials. Bidders must log in to the web site to download bidding documents for the project. Bidders will be added to the "planholders" or prospective bidders list upon downloading the bidding documents for the project.

A bid deposit shall be furnished in accordance with the Instructions to Bidders.

A pre-Bid conference will be held at the site on October 14, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN, MASSACHUSETTS
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ACUSH SELECT: cont'd from page 12

Mr. Correia agreed: "Yes, we don't want a disruption and yes we want people to be and feel safe."

"We've done everything to assure people's safety," Mr. Gaspar said. "I don't want to get caught up in we're open, we're closed; we're open, we're closed."

"If you're that freaked out about COVID 19 then stay home; it doesn't matter whether there is one case or ten," he said.

Mr. Correia just reiterated that if Acushnet continues to go in an upward swing of positive cases it is something that will need to reevaluate.

In other business, Chief Kevin Gallagher explained how his department was conducting antibodies testing at the School Department for anyone who wanted to take the test. He said he and his team are there every Wednesday for anyone who wanted to take the test.

Chief Gallagher was also asking for the Selectboard's support in a town-wide COVID testing for Saturday (10/10) for Acushnet residents.

"I can't commend you and your staff enough for all the work you have done for the safety of Acushnet residents," Mr. Gaspar stated.

After the testing Chief Gallagher posted on Facebook that 157 Acushnet residents were tested (see story on page 16).

Mr. Gaspar stated he was hoping that some of the CARES ACT monies could go to help support local businesses, either with a break in their tax bills or liquor license renewals that are coming up.

"It's not a lot of money," he said. "But a small gesture to say that we support our local business."

Town Administrator, Julie Hebert stated that she has heard of other Towns either waiving the fees or prorating them for the amount of time the businesses were open.

Mr. Gaspar stated he was good

If you're that freaked out about COVID 19 then stay home; it doesn't matter whether there is one case or ten [Acushnet Selectboard Chairperson Kevin Gaspar]

with waiving the liquor license fee. Mr. Wojnar stated they could help with any bill the Town provides, such as the water bill.

The board asked Ms. Hebert to look into it so it could be discussed at a future meeting.

Business Manager of the Department of Public Works, Kathy Silva was present to advise that after many discussions with the three vendors that could possibly do a big bulky item day, they advised they did not have the shredder to do it at this time.

Ms. Silva said that SEMASS did commit to providing a big bulky item day in the Spring of 2021.

Ms. Silva told the board there were different options for residents to

trash big items. They can call Waste Management directly for a fee of \$28.00, and they would advise what day they could pick it up. The resident also has the ability to drop off items at the Town's recycling center at 700 Mill Road on Fridays and Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Ms. Silva noted that the resident would need to go to the Department of Public Works to pay for the item they wanted to take to the Recycle Center.

In her Town Administrator's report, Ms. Hebert advised there would be no town sponsored Halloween Parade this year.

Ms. Hebert also read a letter from the Council on Aging attendees thanking the Selectboard as well as Jim Marot, the Building Inspector, for the wonderful building pavilion that was built at the senior center.

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DEER: cont'd from page 10

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Along with earlier sunsets, the end of daylight saving can increase the risk of drowsy driving, as well. The time change can disrupt circadian rhythms and contribute to loss of sleep. According to AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety research, losing one to two hours of sleep doubles your crash risk, and an individual operating a vehicle with five hours of sleep or less in a 24-hour period faces the crash risk of someone driving drunk.

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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

Visit <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov> for remote access information

Fairhaven Board of Appeals

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

Board of Public Works

Mon., 10/19, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 10/19, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Green Street Project Mtg

Thurs., 10/15, Virtual, 5 p.m.

Housing Authority

Thurs., 10/15, Oxford Terr., 1 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 10/28, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 10/19, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Sustainability Committee

Tues., 10/27, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Town Meeting

Tues., 10/20, Zoom/Virtual, 7 p.m.

Acushnet

Board of Appeals

Tues., 10/20, Zoom/Call-in, 4 p.m.

Planning Board

Thurs., 10/22, Zoom/Call, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Thurs., 10/20, Zoom/Call-In, 7 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Oct 2020	HIGH a.m. p.m.	LOW a.m. p.m.	
Thursday	15	0714 1937	0024* 1257*	
Friday	16	0759 2023	0110* 1349*	
Saturday	17	0847 2113	0158* 1443*	
Sunday	18	0937 2204	0248* 1536*	
Monday	19	1028 2256	0339* 1623*	
Tuesday	20	1121 2350	0425* 1707*	
Wednesday	21	----	1217 0509*	1756
Thursday	22	0050 1318	0559 1924	
Friday	23	0153 1419	0718 2147	
Saturday	24	0251 1516	1008 2257	
Sunday	25	0351 1618	1123 2353	
Monday	26	0455 1721	----	1218
Tuesday	27	0552 1812	0038 1304	

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

Watershed ride rolls from Little Compton to New Bedford

Press Release

Two hundred sixty five cyclists pedaled across Southeastern New England on Sunday, 10/4, to show their support for clean water during the Buzzards Bay Coalition's Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride, a scenic bicycling tour stretching from Little Compton, R.I. to New Bedford, Mass.

Pedaling beneath sunny skies and moderate winds on a cool fall day, the cyclists recorded impressive fundraising and participation totals at the 14th annual ride. The 291 registered participants, supported by 58 volunteers, raised \$200,000 and counting for clean water.

This annual event supports the Coalition's work to ensure clean water in all Bay communities, restore and protect Bay ecosystems, and get people of all ages outside and engaged with their Buzzards Bay. Supporters can still donate to the Watershed Ride by going to savebuzzardsbay.org/ride.

"Today is one of the most memorable Watershed Rides that we've hosted in the event's 14 years. It may have been different from our



ABOVE: Family members greet a rider as he approaches the finish line at Fort Taber Park in New Bedford during the Buzzards Bay Coalition Watershed Ride on Sunday, 10/4/20. Submitted photo

traditional ride, given the changes we made for social distancing to keep everyone safe. But it was perfect — enthusiastic participation, a stunning route, and beautiful weather," said Coalition President Mark Rasmussen. "This has been a challenging year for everyone, and as a community, I think we needed the kind of celebration of the Bay that we had today."

This year's ride differed from past events in that the Coalition offered a 62- and a 30-mile route, both of which ended at Fort Taber Park in New Bedford, rather than Woods Hole. In addition, a number of measures were adopted to facilitate social distancing, such as a rolling start and expanded water stop areas.

RIDE: cont'd next page



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RIDE: cont'd from previous page

The sun rose orange and pink on a cool autumn morning at Sakonnet Point in Little Compton, where 176 riders departed on the Watershed Ride's 62-mile "metric century ride." The route wound through Little Compton and Westport's rich coastal farmland to the wave-washed coast along Horseneck Beach State Reservation, where another 89 riders began their 30-mile route.

Along the way from Sakonnet Point to Fort Taber Park, riders pedaled past more than 2,500 acres of permanently protected woodlands, wetlands, salt marsh and beach habitat managed by the Coalition, local land trusts and state and local municipalities. Among the reserves on the route is the Lyons Brook Reserve in Westport, a 55-acre property that the Coalition will formally open to the public while preserving its vital cold-water stream habitat and its connection to protecting water quality in the East Branch of the Westport River.

The Watershed Ride drew cyclists of all ages and abilities from 102 communities in 11 states, some of whom rode the event as a virtual participant from as far away as Oregon. The oldest riders were Leonard and Patty Johnson of North Falmouth, both of whom are in their 80s. More than half of the riders participated as a member of one of 37 teams, made up of groups of friends and family who train, fundraise, and ride the course together.

The top fundraisers were Chip Johns of Mattapoisett, who raised \$10,462; Jeffrey Gonsalves of South Dartmouth who raised \$4,310 and



ABOVE: Cyclists make their way along the road in Sakonnet Point during the Buzzards Bay Coalition Watershed Ride on Sunday, 10/4/20. BELOW LEFT: Cyclists ride along the Little River Road bridge in South Dartmouth. BELOW RIGHT: Cyclists ride through the Acoaxet section of Westport. Submitted photos by Keith Nordstrom.

Ken Cheitlin of Pocasset, who raised \$3,935.

"The Watershed Ride is a great celebration of Buzzards Bay and a great way to stay fit," Johns said while taking a well-deserved break for lunch at Fort Taber Park. "The ride is a great way to support the Coalition and the route offers amazing vistas of the Bay."

The top fundraising team this year was NaughtyxNature, which raised \$22,500. With 19 members, the team was one of the largest participating in the Ride this year, despite the fact that this was the group's first year of participation. Nearly all the riders were first-time participants in the Ride, too.

"This was an amazing day and

event," said Daniel Cooney, the captain of the NaughtyxNature team and a first-time Watershed Rider. "Many of us on the Naughty by Nature team grew up on the bay and it means everything to us. The Coalition is an incredible organization that gets stuff done, and we want to do our part to help protect and preserve the Bay."

The Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride is one of two signature outdoor fundraising events hosted by the Coalition. The other is the Buzzards Bay Swim, a 1.2-mile open-water swim across outer New Bedford Harbor. (This year's swim was cancelled due to the pandemic.)

For more information, email events@savebuzzardsbay.org or call 508-999-6363. ●●●



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From our readers

Neighb News is Not Gossip

Our current Chair of the Board of Selectmen seems to misunderstand newspapers and the role they fill. He applies those misunderstandings to Fairhaven's most important local newspaper, the *Neighborhood News*.

The chairman seeks to belittle the *Neighborhood News* by calling it a "magazine" and its content "gossip." The editor, however, is producing a newspaper, and in all the time I have been reading it, I've had no doubts that it is so.

The difference is a big one. A newspaper is produced to give the publisher and editor a voice. We should expect it to express opinions that analyze and criticize the actions and opinions of the powers that be — the Selectmen and especially the chair, in our case. To the newspaper's readers, this is a valuable service, whose value will be diminished if the paper sugarcoats its editorials. I can decide for myself if I think the editor is going overboard, and I don't want someone else to pressure the paper, effectively deciding for me.

Politicians, such as our Selectmen, should take the criticism in stride. They should read it, evaluate it themselves, and draw what benefits they can from the newspaper's independent review. Statesmanship and mature reaction to criticism reflect well on one being critiqued. But the childish, taking-it-personally reaction we see from the Chair reflects poorly on him and — to outsiders — on the Town of Fairhaven.

The *Neighborhood News* is an important source of information for many of us in Fairhaven. We need it. The Board of Selectmen would be doing our Town a disservice to spitefully discontinue using the paper to keep us informed about upcoming Town meetings and other events.

Rich Griffiths, Fairhaven

Town Officials are Childish and Immature

I receive the *Neighborhood News* by email and have been subscribing for several years. Although I no longer live in Fairhaven, I grew up there and graduated from Fairhaven High. I remained in the Greater New Bedford area until I retired in 1993, when I moved to Florida. However, I wanted to stay in touch with my home town

and found the *Neighborhood News* the perfect way to do it.

I am writing this letter to tell you and the town officials that I am embarrassed at how immature and childish the town officials are behaving. They are all acting like a bunch of clowns. I am disgusted by the pettiness displayed by most of them. I can't believe the residents of Fairhaven have voted these idiots into office. I definitely agree with you that these board meetings have become "shitshows" and are a waste of the taxpayers' time. People of Fairhaven, you can do better. Next election vote these clowns out of office and replace them with some serious, mature officials.

Suzanne Butler, Boynton Beach, FL

It's the Barnum and Bailey Board of Health

I saw the open meeting complaint article in the 10/8/20 issue (page 11).

The Board of Health has been in chaos since DeTerra took over as Chair. According to meetings there are missing bills, documents, lost passcodes, missed phone messages, files, not aware there is a Google drive with documents on it, missing minutes, missing agendas, missing payroll, misuse of Rules of Necessity etc.

How convenient the Town Clerk's office has all the mailings which were mailed at the same time but BOH does not. It has been like watching a circus show The Barnum and Bailey Board of Health.

My complaints are based on Massachusetts laws. The complaint is an opportunity to identify and rectify the infraction not avoid it. The laws are in place for an open and transparent government. This is exactly why I will challenge the BOH response and ask the AG for a ruling. This is not personal, it is about following the rules. I am a resident of MA and BOH is not following state law. Who I am or my sister is does not matter. What matters is 122 days have passed and minutes are still not accepted. Agendas with no details are illegal.

Why was my name and address listed? This was not done on any other citizens' complaints? Why grandstand in the meeting about the complainer and not discuss the complaint itself? I am not hiding

anything. Just another form of harassment they are known only too well for.

My suggestion is, follow the laws and I will have no complaints.

Let's see what the Attorney General says.

PS I am an avid reader. Keep up the good work!

Amy Singelais, Marion

BOS Motions "transparently vindictive"

During the October 5 Selectboard (BOS) meeting Chairman Daniel Freitas made a motion to assign the legal ads to papers other than the *Fairhaven Neighborhood News*. His reason for doing so was that he did not like the "gossip" coverage in FNN and that "people" had complained to him about it. He said he did not want people having to read the coverage to access legal notices.

He did not have the courtesy to advise Beth David, the publisher, that he had put the discussion on the agenda. However, she got wind of it and appeared via Zoom to defend her paper. Evidently, Freitas planned to make his motion a "done deal" without any consideration of supporting data.

His motion was transparently vindictive. His intent was to hobble the paper's revenue because he does not like the paper's reporting. And admittedly, the coverage has been damning for Mr. Freitas:

- His brawling near the McDonald's parking lot where, allegedly as the aggressor, he is awaiting a scheduling for court appearance.
- His visible hostile attitude toward reasonable and well thought through comments by fellow board member Bob Espindola during BOS meetings.
- His declaration that he will not allow public comments during several important BOS meetings.
- His decision not to entertain involvement of the state's Department of Revenue which exists to help municipalities plan and adopt best practices.
- His defense of an event sponsored by the BOH chairman that appeared to violate MA state pandemic rules on gatherings of more than 50 people.

Now, on top of it all, his shameless

LETTERS: cont'd on next page

LETTERS: cont'd from previous page

performance during the October 5 BOS meeting (10/8/20 issue, page 4) which you can watch on www.fairhaventv.com It starts at two hours and thirteen minutes (2:13 on the progress bar) and ends at 2:46 .

As you watch, ask yourself:

1. *Did Beth David make a clear and compelling case for continuing the ads with FNN? Overwhelmingly YES!*

You will see that she came prepared with the facts, figures, and clear rationale. Unlike other options, her paper is free, dedicated to the community, and read first and foremost by Fairhaven residents. Her column inch cost is the most favorable and she was willing to add extras to keep the business. There really is no comparison or better option for Fairhaven.

2. *Now ask yourself if Mr. Freitas was able to offer any evidence to support his motion? Clearly No!*

His mind was made up and based solely on flimsy unsubstantiated complaints by unidentified people. In order to objectively evaluate, the record should reflect the specific complaints and who is making them.

His disdain for FNN is obvious and his focus was hell-bent on moving the ads regardless of his lack of facts. He did not know any of the specifics: cost to the town to place ads, cost to the community to access ads, or other papers reach into Fairhaven's intended audience. Yet, he remained undeterred in pushing his motion.

Fortunately, Mr. Espindola insisted on an objective data comparison, departmental feedback, and specifics re any complaints. Mr. Silvia, likewise, said he wanted to see relevant information. So, the motion was not seconded and will be revisited at the next BOS meeting.

It must be asked: Is this any way to conduct the town's business? The public expects that motions be based on sound reasoning, supported by objective factual data, and not out-of-spite revenge. Arbitrary motions like this, before gathering the facts beforehand, reveal extremely poor judgement.

3. *Now, the people of Fairhaven must ask themselves: "Is Mr. Freitas worthy to be a selectman?" So far, the evidence — in pattern, practice,*

behavior, and example — is that he is not.

And, Mr. Freitas has a choice. If he does not like what is being reported, he can either wallow in it or change it by behaving better and model good behavior to others. He could work at setting an example of sincere collaboration; demonstrating objectivity and fairness; being respectful to his colleagues and constituents; and, putting the best interests and image of Fairhaven forward.

Most leaders start with these attributes and are tempered by humility and an awareness that, as public servants, they will be held accountable. It just goes with the territory. Clearly, Mr. Freitas has a steep learning curve to be worthy of the office he occupies.

The bigger question for all of Fairhaven is: Do we allow irresponsible behavior to shape Fairhaven or do we have the political will to insist on good governance? If we don't speak up what we see is what we get!

Cathy Delano, Fairhaven

Thank you,
Neighborhood News,
for speaking truth
to power.

*Beth Luey, Fairhaven,
A grateful reader*



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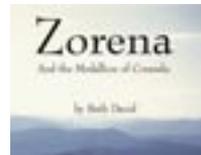
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