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Neighborhood News

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with a big voice!

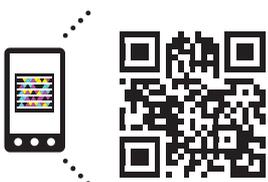
Volume 9, Issue 46 • December 4, 2014

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

Fairhaven fights, but can't beat Dartmouth



Fairhaven High School's Noah Furtado faces Dartmouth High School's Matthew Craig (left) and Jacob Rose in the annual face-off on Thanksgiving Day, 11/27. Fairhaven got on the board with two touchdowns, but couldn't pull off a win. The Blue Devils lost to the Indians 31-14. See page 12 for more photos. *Photo by Beth David. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com*



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Also Inside:

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- **BPW:** Page 20

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

Br...it's getting cold out there. But that's okay. The Christmas season is hitting its stride, and the cold weather only makes it more like the holiday season.

We have a bunch of holiday happenings this weekend, including the lighting of Benoit Square in Fairhaven (page 6), the lighting of the Acushnet Fire Station (page 8) and the lighting of the Common Park in New Bedford (page 7). But that's not all. There are lots of Christmas concerts and other gatherings all leading up to the big day.

Next weekend is Fairhaven's Old Time Holiday weekend, and that is always lots of fun. We'll have all the details on that next week. Meanwhile, just block off the whole weekend, especially Saturday. That's when you'll be able to do all your Christmas shopping at the various fairs.

This weekend, you can get your Christmas tree and do all sorts of other holiday stuff.

We have some meeting coverage for you this week. The Selectboard is on page 4 and BPW is on page 20.

The Board of Public Works hired a Heavy Motor Equipment Operator. After the last one changed his mind and they blamed the press for it, the board decided to do the whole thing in executive session. They found some loophole in the Open Meeting Law that says they can.

I beg to differ, but...well, no one cares what I think.

Maybe they can as per the letter of the law, but it surely does not adhere to the spirit of the law. They didn't even publicize the one finalist's name on the agenda.

The whole point of hiring someone in open session is to give the public a chance to weigh in. When the screenings, interviews and decisions are made in executive session; when the name of the new hire is not released; then there's no chance for the public to weigh in. Shame on you BPW.

I get the whole argument about a person's privacy and not wanting his present boss to know he's looking for a job. But that's just tough luck when you apply for a job with a municipality. It's public funds, so the public has a right to weigh in. This isn't your personal construction company. It's a town department. The rules are different.

In my opinion, the whole thing was illegal, but I guess the law has just enough ambiguity and vague language to give them the wiggle room to do it all in secret.

The misuse of executive session is an issue that needs to be discussed at the state level.

The public is being cut out of too many discussions. The Selectboard had four issues for executive session this week, with no explanation of what they were or who they involved. The public has right to know who filed an MCAD complaint and against whom. The public has a right to know what the "issue" is with the conservation commission. It's about another town board for heaven's sake. How that warrants an executive session meeting is beyond my little brain's ability to comprehend.

It's out of control, but unless the public demands more transparency, it will just get worse.

Until next week then...see ya



Beth David, Publisher

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Volume 9, Issue 46

Thursday, December 4, 2014

Copyright 2014 Elizabeth A. David

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Published weekly on Thursdays by
Fairhaven Neighborhood News, LLC, at
166 Dogwood Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Nothing? Really?

New Bedford still top earning port

City of New Bedford Press Release

In its annual report, Fisheries of the United States, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced on 10/29 the latest data on U.S. recreational catch and commercial fish landings and value. For the fourteenth consecutive year, the Port of New Bedford is the number one fishing port in the nation.

New Bedford had the highest valued catch, 130 million pounds of fresh seafood valued at \$379 million. The Port of New Bedford has been the number one fishing port in America since 1999.

New Bedford vessels landed two-thirds of the total value of all seafood landings in Massachusetts, and fully one-third of the value of New England's landings. For comparison, Gloucester, Massachusetts landed 3.6% of New England's catch value, while Portland, Maine landed 2.7% of New England's catch value.

"This is very positive news for our City and the region but, there is much work to do to ensure New Bedford

retains the competitive advantages that have enabled our domination of the industry," said Mayor Jon Mitchell.

The Port of New Bedford's number one status is the direct result of the

**Scallop landings
account for more
than 81 percent of
New Bedford
seafood landings.**

nation's highly valued scallop fishery, which is centered in New Bedford. Scallop landings account for more than 81 percent of New Bedford seafood landings.

The nation's scallop industry is now both profitable and sustainable.

The fishery has recovered over a twenty-year period, as the industry worked in conjunction with University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, School of Marine Science and Technology (SMASST) to improve stock assessments and management controls efforts.

Unfortunately, this success has not been replicated in the groundfish industry. The value of landings from groundfish vessels declined by 30% in 2013 in New Bedford. Federal disaster money has just started to reach the businesses affected by the disaster.

Moving forward, industry, academics and regulators must once again work together to improve stock assessments and develop management controls which provide sustainability in the ground fish industry as they have for the scallop industry.

Visit <http://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/commercial-fisheries/fus/fus13/index> for the NOAA report, or download from our website at www.NeighbNews.com

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Fairhaven tax rate to increase by 5.65%

By Beth David
Editor

Valuations are down, so the tax rate goes up. That's the way it usually goes, and Fairhaven is no exception. The Fairhaven Selectboard voted to raise the tax rate by 5.65% at the tax classification hearing during the board's meeting on Monday, 12/1.

Director of Finance/Treasurer/Collector Wendy Graves and the Board of Assessors presented the Selectboard with the numbers on valuations, the town's overall assessment by the state and the recommended rate for FY15, the maximum allowed under the restrictions of Proposition 2 1/2. The law allows a town to raise taxes up to 2 1/2 percent of the town's total valuation, plus new growth and any debt exclusions.

Individual properties within the town may see increases of more or less, depending on depreciation or appreciation of specific properties.

Last year's tax rate was \$11.50 per \$1,000 for residential properties and \$23.21 for commercial properties. The FY1 rate will be \$12.15 per \$1,000 for residential properties and \$24.50 for commercial. The shift between residential and commercial remains the same.

The average home in Fairhaven is valued at \$246,911 (down from \$247,700 in FY14). Last year's average tax bill was \$2,848.55; in FY15 the average tax bill will be \$2,999.97. The total valuation of properties in the town is \$1,844,247,558, compared to last year's valuation of \$1,849,070,614, a drop of \$4.823 million.

According to Ms. Graves, the values for single family homes decreased by 0.3%.

The rate will have to be certified by the state before it can go into effect.

In other business, the board accepted and signed two conservation restrictions. The Shaw Farm CR covers 120 acres, 48 in Fairhaven and 72 in Mattapoisett, on the DeNormandie Farm on Shaw Road.

The Weeden Road CR covers 32 acres on property also owned by Philip DeNormandie.

Both CRs will be co-held by the town and the Buzzards Bay Coalition.

The Shaw Road property has a hiking trail through the woods that can be accessed from the bike path. The trail connects the bike path to

the Nasketucket Bay Reservation (NBR).

"It's a really nice walk," said Allen Decker, Director of the Land Protection Program for the BBC. This is a key component of the project."

He told the board that the Department of Conservation and Recreation is expanding the NBR.

Town Meeting appropriated \$200,000 for the two projects. Mr. Decker said that various matching grants were higher than expected and the town will receive \$22,000 back.

The two parcels, costing \$2.4 million for the CRs, are part of a larger deal involving 10 parcels equaling 411 acres (135 in Fairhaven and 276 in Mattapoisett) and costing \$6.2 million. The BBC has been working on the complicated deal for five years.

Local funds from Fairhaven and

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Mattapoisett, state funds and federal funds were used in the purchases.

The final deal is scheduled to close on 12/10, at which time the hiking trail will be open to the public.

The CR means that the property cannot be developed. Mr. DeNormandie will still own the two properties.

The board also reconsidered and changed its vote on auctioning off the Staffon property at 124 Alden Road.

The board had decided not to auction off the property to hedge its bets against a possible "no" vote at town meeting for the Mill Road property.

The board is going to ask town meeting on 12/9 to buy 31.72 acres on Mill Road. Discussion on uses for that property had included a fire and police safety complex, and the board was suggesting that all money from auctioned properties be used to lower the debt on the purchase. The

property on Alden Road was one of those properties to be auctioned off.

However, the board decided not to auction off Alden Road just in case they needed it for a police/fire complex, in the event that Town Meeting votes against buying Mill Road.

On Monday, the board changed its mind again, deciding to sell Alden Road, after hearing that it is not suitable for a safety complex, and probably not suitable for even one department.

Selectboard member Geoffrey Haworth said he was inclined to keep Alden Road as a "backup plan" for a fire station.

Selectboard chair Robert Espindola made the case that Alden Road would not be suitable for a police or fire station, and definitely not both.

Selectboard member Charles Murphy said emphatically that he had wanted to sell Alden Road all along.

"I want Alden Road sold," said Mr. Murphy, and, he added, he wants the town to buy the Mill Road property.

"I encourage residents to ask real estate agents about that property," said Mr. Murphy, meaning Mill Road.

The board voted to sell Alden Road, with a stipulation by Mr. Haworth that any money raised from it would be used for capital purchases, which would include land.

The board also spent some time discussing the FY15 budget and beyond.

Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch told the board that a look at projections of revenue and fixed expenses, such as salaries, shows that "expenditures will exceed revenue," within the next few years.

He told the board that the town needs to figure out how to live within its means. He suggested that the town use a smaller percentage of receipts from fees and licenses and free cash, as part of the budget.

He also said the town needs to stop saying "yes" to the specific requests of departments and groups that want to use the free cash for projects.

In the past, the board has recommended spending at town meeting that Mr. Osuch said the town can no longer afford.

"The reality is your fixed expenses are going to exceed your revenue," Mr. Osuch told the board.

SELECT: cont'd on page 13

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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Benoit Square Light

Friday, 12/5, at 6:00 p.m. Benoit Square, Main & Adams Streets, Fairhaven. The North Fairhaven Improvement Association will light the decorated square and welcome Santa Claus to North Fairhaven. Free.

WI Moonlight Walk

Come discover the "night life" during this free evening hike under the full moon at West Island State Reservation in Fairhaven. We'll walk through the forest to the scenic salt marsh to fully enjoy the splendor of the full moon's light. This free walk is open to explorers of all ages.

Sat., 12/6, from 4:00-5:30 p.m., at Fir Street, West Island, Fairhaven.

To RSVP, email bayadventures@savebuzzardsbay.org or call (508) 999-6363 ext. 219.

This program is part of the Coalition's Bay Adventures series: programs designed for explorers of all ages to get outside and discover Buzzards Bay. To learn more about all our upcoming Bay Adventures, visit www.savebuzzardsbay.org/BayAdventures.

ALS Tree Sale

Douglass Tree Farm annual **Christmas tree sale on Sat. & Sun., 12/6 & 7, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Sciticut Neck Road.** The proceeds of the sale will be divided equally between Compassionate Care ALS and SHARE, the Society for Human Advancement through Rehabilitative Engineering.

All trees are \$40; choose the one you like and we will cut it or you can cut it yourself. There will be plenty of volunteers to help out.

Also, this year: live white spruce, 2-3 feet, that can be planted; \$20 each or 3 for \$50.

Visit the Facebook page, Douglass Family ALS Tree Sale, for more info.

Scouts Tree Sale

Troop and Pack 55 Fairhaven is holding its Annual Christmas tree fundraiser. **Starting the day after Thanksgiving** selling both wreaths and Christmas trees. The height of the trees range from 5-8 ft, prices vary, \$30-\$60 per tree depending on the height and fullness of each tree; \$10-\$15 per wreaths.

Located at **Mike and Wayne's on Rte. 6 in Fairhaven.** The Scouts will be selling Mon.-Fri. from 5-7:30 p.m., Sat. & Sun. from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Scouts and parents volunteer to help you choose a tree or help tie it to your car. Employees of Mike & Wayne's are gracious enough to collect money for the Scouts during the early hours on weekdays when the scouts are not there. We have a total of 200 Christmas Trees consisting of 100 Balsam and 100 Frasier Firs and a total of 60 wreaths for sale this year. Come early and pick your tree, wreath or just walk through our selection.

Toy Drive

The Fairhaven Police Union is sponsoring a toy drive for local needy families. If anyone would like to make a donation, the department is asking people to drop off a new, unwrapped toy in the front lobby of the Fairhaven Police Station, 1 Bryant Lane, (corner of Washington Street). We are asking for toys for children of all ages to brighten the Christmas holiday for less fortunate children in our community.

All contributions are welcome and will be greatly appreciated. The members of the Fairhaven Police Department would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy holiday season and extend our best wishes for a wonderful New Year.

The toy drive will be conducted until December 21st. However, if any donations are received after that date, we will be sure to put them to good use.

Christmas Concert

The Church of the Good Shepherd, 357 Main St., Fairhaven, will hold its Annual Christmas Concert on **Friday, Dec. 5 at 7:00 p.m.** The concert features local talent and an opportunity for the audience to sing Christmas Carols.

For more information call Kathy at 508-245-2792. We welcome everyone.

Storytime with Santa

At the Seaport Inn and Marina, Fairhaven, on **Sun., 12/7. Story Times begin at 1:00pm and 4:00pm**

Meet Mr. Claus, Mrs. Claus and some of their elves, as they bring the

magic of Christmas to life in an uplifting presentation of classic stories. Christmas treats available as well as hot chocolate and apple cider!

All proceeds go directly to the Rett Syndrome Association of Mass. in honor of Michelle Lopes, to find a cure for Rett Syndrome. Rett Syndrome is a neurological disorder that leads to developmental reversals which in many cases cause a child to suffer from loss of the ability to walk, use their hands, and speak along with many other devastating symptoms.

Minimum donation: \$10 dollars per child. Admission includes photos with Santa (You take your own!) and storytelling. For tickets contact Tara O'Connell 774-992-5955, The Seaport Inn and Marina 508-997-1281, or pay at the door if we don't sell out!

Spaghetti Dinner

To benefit the Neediest Families Fund. Join us on **Wed., 12/10, at Jake's Diner, 102 Alden Rd., Fairhaven, from 3-7 p.m.** Take a chance on our 50/50 raffle or about 25 other items that have been donated, including a tablet, gift basket, and a bus trip in the spring. You do not need to be present at the drawing to win.

All items were donated by our generous vendors and local businesses, so 100% of the proceeds will go to the Neediest Families Fund.

Tickets: \$10, includes spaghetti dinner, from salad to dessert, PLUS a half-price breakfast at any one of our three restaurants. Buy tickets at Jake's anytime, or at the door.

Fine Craft Fair

Enjoy holiday shopping at Art On Center's very first Fine Craft Fair on **Sat., 12/6, from 10 AM to 6 PM.**

An amazing variety of fine craft, made by local artisans, will be available to meet your gift-giving needs. All items are handmade and include stained glass; seashell craft; jewelry of several types featuring macrame and semi-precious stones, vintage crystals, and more; turned and carved wood; hand painted silk scarves; and more! Come meet the artisans and see how they make their one-of-a-kind creations.

Art on Center is a 501(c)3 federally approved nonprofit organization, at

cont'd next page

STILL AROUND TOWN

15 Center Street, Fairhaven. Call 774-206-1709, email info@artoncenter.org or visit www.artoncenter.org

Book Club

The suspense, fiction book, "Songs of Willow Frost" by Jamie Ford, is the selection for the Millicent Library's Thursday Morning Discussion Group on **Thurs., 12/18, at 10 a.m.** The book tells the story of William Eng, a twelve year old Chinese-American boy, who

escapes from an orphanage to find his mother, Willow, an erotic film star.

At the Millicent Library, **45 Center St. Use the Walnut Street entrance. Accessible.**

Call Norma Markey, 508-993-3745.

Toys for Tots

The Fairhaven Fire Department, 146 Washington Street, is accepting toys for the Toys for Tots program. Just drop off new, unwrapped toy

anytime at the station.

Save the Dates!

FIA Singalong, Sat., 12/13, 6 p.m., Town Hall.

Old-Time Holiday weekend, 12/13 & 14: Brick Church Fair, Town Hall Shops; Holiday Marketplace, Wood School Pancake Breakfast, and more.

Details in next week's issue.

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Holiday Bazaar

Sat., 12/6, from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

The Centre, United Methodist Church, 230 Union Street, New Bedford (across from D&D).

Hand-crafted items, jewelry and more. Come in and browse. Come one, come all to this family event. Proceeds benefit the church.

Call 508-992-2224 with questions.

Free Parking

In an effort to encourage everyone to do their holiday shopping in New Bedford, the City is offering a special Holiday Parking Program. Through Thurs., 1/1/15, the City of New Bedford will offer FREE parking at your first metered space for up to two hours in both the Downtown and on Acushnet Avenue, or up to two hours FREE parking at the Elm Street Garage, and the Zeiterion Garage!

Call the Traffic Commission Office at (508) 961-3153 with questions.

Toy Drive

Join the New Bedford Firefighters' Union and United Way of Greater New Bedford in their 16th Annual Toy Drive to provide toys to local youth this holiday season. New, unwrapped toys, gift cards or movie tickets can be donated at locations throughout the SouthCoast through Monday, December 15th.

All of the items collected will be separated and delivered to local nonprofit organizations that serve youth.

Donate toys now until Monday, December 15th. These toys will be distributed to local organizations serving youth throughout New Bedford, including any New Bedford

Fire Station from 8am-6pm

Please do not contact the New Bedford Fire Department with toy requests. Please contact United Way of Greater New Bedford with any questions at 508-994-9625 ext. 10, including a list of businesses that will accept toys.

Holly Jolly Party

Fifth Annual Holly Jolly Christmas Party to benefit greater New Bedford area charities for children and families. Date: Thursday, December 11, 2014 (snow date: Dec. 12) Time: 5:30 pm. To 9 pm

Where: Bar 908, 908 Purchase St., New Bedford, MA 02740 Cost: \$10.00 plus one unwrapped toy worth at least \$10 (gift cards also accepted) Notes: complimentary buffet and music by DJ Lady K. For tickets: contact buddy.zanzibar@gmail.com or call Martha 5089976791.

Auditions

Your Theatre, Inc. director Robin Richard will hold open auditions for the single role of Silda on December 11, at 7:30 p.m. All other roles have been cast.

Aunt Silda is in her late 50's to late 60's. She is a recovering alcoholic who wants to try smoking pot with her young nephew for the experience. She is loud, brash and very "New York." Although the play is essentially a drama, Silda has some comic zingers as well as some heavier dramatic scenes. The actress playing Silda faces the challenge of being serious as well as being the comic relief. Great role!

Auditions are held at Your Theatre, Inc. located at 136 Rivet St. (corner of County St.), New Bedford, in the

wheelchair accessible auditorium of St. Martin's Episcopal Church. Parking and entrance located at rear of church on County St. Further information about the audition is available by calling Your Theatre, Inc. at 508-993-0772, or by sending an email to info@yourtheatre.org. The theatre's web site is www.yourtheatre.org

Food Drive

The New Bedford Council on Aging has organized a food drive to help local seniors in need during the holiday season. Donations of non-perishable food items will be collected at all New Bedford Senior Centers and will be distributed to senior center patrons. Any excess food items collected will be donated to New Bedford food pantries.

Now through Dec. 31 non-perishables may be donated at the Downtown Senior Center (725 Pleasant St.), Buttonwood Park Senior Center (1 Oneida St.), Brooklawn Senior Center (1997 Acushnet Ave.), Hazelwood Senior Center (553 Brock Ave.), Ashley Senior Center (543 Rivet St.) and Hillman St. administrative office, 181 Hillman St., Bldg. #9.

NB Holiday events

Cove Street Neighborhood Group Tree Lighting: Fri., 12/5 at 5:30 p.m. Park on the corner of Ruth Street and Salisbury Street

Holiday Stroll: Sat. 7 Sun., 12/6 & 7, from noon to 4 p.m. Downtown New Bedford. Downtown New Bedford will be bustling with holiday spirit, shoppers, families and festive activities. Artisans, crafters, restaurants, specialty shops and

NB HAPP: cont'd on page 9

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

Christmas Concert

As it has for nearly five decades, the Sippican Choral Society of Marion ushers in the Christmas season in Southeastern Massachusetts with its annual Christmas concerts on **Fri., 12/5, at Grace Episcopal Church in New Bedford at 8 pm, and again on Sun., 12/7 at 4 p.m. in Tabor Academy's Wickenden Chapel in Marion.**

The chorus will again be joined by the fabulous Sippican Children's Chorus under the direction of Leslie Piper, which will sing two of their own pieces, the German carol "Still, Still, Still" and the contemporary gospel spiritual "Go Where I Send Thee" by Caldwell and Ivory. They will also join the choral society on a number of selections.

Tickets are \$15 each (\$7 for children under 18), and are now available at The Bookstall in Marion, the Symphony Shop in Dartmouth, the Euro in Fairhaven, and No Kidding in Mattapoisett's Ropewalk. A limited number will be available at the door. Doors for the Friday concert at Grace Church on County Street in New Bedford will open at 7:30 p.m. Doors of the Sunday concert at Wickenden Chapel on Spring Street in Marion will open at 3:30 pm.

Contact Peter McDonald at 508-748-0286 or via email at peterconverse mcdonald@gmail.com.

Clothing Drive

Girl Scout Troop 68116 is holding a Food and Winter Clothing Drive. on **Sat., 12/6, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Acushnet Town Hall front steps.**

We are asking for hats, scarves, coats, mittens/gloves, socks, and non-perishable food items to help underprivileged people of all ages during this cold winter season.

We will provide what is gathered to local food pantries.

If you have any questions you can contact Debbie Rock at 508-984-5123.

Cat Adoption Day

We're spreading the Holiday cheer for homeless cats by holding a Cat Adoption Day on **Dec. 7, from 12:00 to 3:00 pm at Animal Associates Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic on 606 State Road, Route 6, Dartmouth, MA.**

During this Holiday time of giving

and sharing, many cats are spending the holidays in cages alone or cold and hungry on the streets. Our Holiday wish this year is to find wonderful lasting homes for our sweet and loving cats, who want nothing more for the holidays than to be safe, warm and happy in their own home.

Contact Animal Advocates at (508) 991-7727 or 774 888-9008 or e-mail animaladvocates@comcast.net We will also be holding a Cat Adoption Day on December 14 and throughout the Holidays. Animal Advocates is a nonprofit charitable no-kill humane animal organization, committed to preventing pet overpopulation.

Acushnet Events

See page 16 for info on lighting of the fire station and Greens sale at the Senior Center.

Lantern Light Tour

Mystic Seaport will open the 35th season of its Lantern Light Tours on Saturday, November 29.

A New England holiday tradition, Lantern Light Tours is a 70-minute progressive play that is set on Christmas Eve, 1876. Featuring actors from Connecticut and neighboring states, the cast weaves a heart-warming holiday story in the setting of the historic buildings and vessels of the Museum. The Lantern Light Tour plot is changed every year. **Performances begin Nov. 29.**

Purchase tickets at www.mysticseaport.org/lanternlighttours, or by calling 860.572.5331. Tickets are \$30 for adults (\$25 members) and \$23 for children ages 5-17 (\$18 for youth members). Not recommended for children under 4 years old.

A Christmas Carol

Buzzards Play Productions is presenting the Christmas Classic *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens at 3065 Cranberry Highway Wareham, MA 02538; 508-591-3065; buzzardsplayprod@aol.com; http://buzzardsplayproductions.com/bpp_theatre/christmas_carol

Traci Antil will be directing for the first time at Buzzards Play Productions and is excited to be bringing such a classic tale to the stage.

There is no better time than this season to look back on the past and

look forward to the future. And there is no better story than Scrooge's to remind us just how precious time is."

The ten show run will through 12/21. Tickets are \$15 for adults, children ten and under are \$10

Buzzards Play Productions is a local non-profit theatre located in Wareham, MA. The theatre has been producing family friendly theatrical productions since 2011. In addition to theatre, the venue houses 3065 LIVE, a fully functional music venue which brings acts from all over the country

Womens's Club

The Mattapoisett Woman's Club started off the Christmas season by decorating at three mansions in Newport, RI. The Historic Landscapes & Horticulture of The Preservation Society of Newport County enlists volunteers to help decorate the mansions for the holidays and thanks to Sue Mitchell, who contacted Jim Donahue, Curator of the Society, we were one of several groups to help with this massive undertaking. We had a blast for a few hours taking part in a "behind-the-scenes" activity.

Where will we volunteer next? Join us for our next meeting and get involved!

The Mattapoisett Woman's Club **Christmas luncheon will be held Thurs., 12/11 at 11:30 am at The Congregational Church in Reynard Hall, 27 Church St., Mattapoisett.** Accessible. Our program features Michelle Gordon at the piano. The luncheon will be catered; **the cost is \$20. he deadline for reservations is Dec. 5th.** If you would like to join us, please contact Barb at 508 864-5213

The new year will begin with our January 15th meeting at noon. Our speaker will be Gerry Rooney who will discuss the Whitfield-Manjiro story: in 1841 a boat, a 14-year old boy, a storm, a shipwreck on an island, a rescue by a whaling ship from New Bedford. Pique your interest? Please join us

Comedy Show

On Friday 12/12, welcome back Mr. Steve Wronker, for his Hypnotist Comedy Show. Doors open at 5 PM Show starts at 7 PM. Free snacks will be available. Tickets are \$15.00 each. At VFW Post 6643, 89 Middleboro Road. Call 508-763-2292 for tickets.

boutiques will come together to create a unique holiday shopping experience. The two-day event is organized by Downtown New Bedford Inc., and aims to encourage holiday shoppers to buy local. <http://www.downtownnb.org/>

City of New Bedford Official Christmas Tree Lighting, Sat. 12/6, 4:30 p.m. City Hall Plaza. Join Mayor Jon Mitchell and Elected Officials for this festive annual event! At 4:30 p.m. Santa and Mrs. Claus will join the New Bedford High School and All-City Middle School Marching Bands and Color Guard for a **parade up William Street to the Library steps.** At 5:00 p.m. Mayor Jon Mitchell will welcome all for the City's official Tree Lighting Ceremony. New this year: special entertainment and a holiday surprise!

Festival of Lights Celebration at Clasky Common Park, Sun., 12/7, 5 p.m., Clasky Common Park at County and Pope Streets. Join the countdown celebration to illuminate festive displays of dazzling lights throughout Clasky Common Park. Members of the Parker Elementary School chorus will perform and Santa Claus is expected to join the

celebration.

Far North End Neighborhood Association Tree Lighting, Sun., 12/7, 6:15 p.m., Fire Station # 5, 3665 Acushnet Avenue

Harrington Park Tree Lighting, Wed., 12/10, 6:30 p.m. Harrington Park located at Court Street and Tremont Street (across from Hathaway School)

Brooklawn Park Association Tree Lighting, Wed., 12/17, 6:5 p.m., Brooklawn Park (1997 Acushnet Ave.)

South End Business Association Tree Lighting, Thurs., 12/11, 4:15 p.m. book reading, 5:30 p.m. tree lighting. Howland Green Library, 3 Rodney French Boulevard

Ashley Park Tree Lighting, Thurs., 12/11 at 6:30 p.m. Ashley Park on the corner of Rivet and Bolton Streets.

Bullard Street Neighborhood Association Tree Lighting, Sat., 12/13, at 6:30 p.m. Riverside Park on the corner of Belleville Avenue and Tallman Street

Custom House Square Holiday Celebration, Sat., 12/13 and Sat., 12/20 Custom House Square (Intersection of William Street and Acushnet Avenue in the Historic Downtown). Get ready for the holiday

season with an array of holiday activities in Custom House Square. Including: **Free horse drawn carriage rides** (12-2pm & 3-5pm), **carolers in the Historic District** (12 - 1:30 pm), visit with **Santa Claus** (1-3pm). Take pictures on the big red sled and experience many more activities!

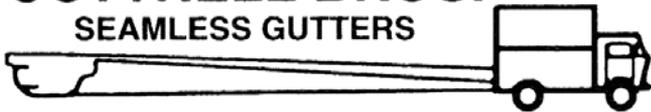
Annual Santa Sightings 5K Fun Run and Walk! Sat., 12/14 at 11:00 a.m. Race starts at City Hall in Downtown New Bedford, 133 William Street. Last year, nearly 1,700 runners in Santa suits participated in this family-oriented run through the historic city of New Bedford. Visit <http://www.thesightings.com/event/santa-sightings/> for more information or to register.

Knot Tying Demo

Knot tying and splicing expert Barbara Merry will demonstrate nautical knot tying techniques at the Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum on Thurs., 12/11 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Rotch-Jones-Duff House 96 County Street. This program is a free event and is co-sponsored with the Working Waterfront Festival.

Call 508-997-1401 or visit www.rjdmuseum.org.

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Recipe of the Week

Figure Friendly Pumpkin Dessert

- 1c. Skim milk
- 1/2 c. Nonfat plain yogurt
- 1c. canned pumpkin
- 1/2 t. cinnamon
- 1/2 t. Pumpkin pie spice
- 1 package sugar free instant vanilla pudding
- 1 c. Nonfat Cool Whip

In a medium mixing bowl combine first 5 ingredients; mix at medium speed for 1 minute. Add pudding mix.

Mix for 2-3 minutes. Fold in whipped topping. Divide into 4 desserts dishes.

Refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

Top w/additional topping!!!
Yummy!! Enjoy!!

Bevy Lussier

Brandolini portrait unveiled



Long time Fairhaven Collector Carol Brandolini's will be remembered. That was the message on Thursday, 11/20, when Town Curator Al Benac presented a portrait of Ms. Brandolini that was placed on the wall in the Collector's Office. ABOVE, L-R: Selectboard member Charles Murphy, retired Fairhaven Collector Carol Brandolini, and Town Curator Al Benac pose under the newly unveiled portrait of Ms. Brandolini in the collector's office in Fairhaven on 11/20. Photo Courtesy of Anne Kakley.

To share a recipe with your neighbors

Mail to 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719; fax to 508-991-5580; email to neighbnews@comcast.net

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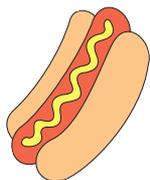
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Thurs., Dec. 25, Christmas Morning: Open for
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Dartmouth takes Fairhaven 31-14 in Thanksgiving Day win



The annual matchup between Fairhaven High School and Dartmouth High School on Thanksgiving Day saw the Blue Devils lose to the Indians 31-14 at Dartmouth stadium. It seemed for awhile that Fairhaven would go scoreless into the half, but just before the end of the second quarter, the Blue Devils scored a touchdowns. Early in the third quarter, FHS would score again, but that would be it. The held DHS back on a few good tries, though, with Roberty Layport (BELOW), stopping Cooper Smith before he could get to the end zone on one of the last plays of the game. TOP LEFT & RIGHT: Fairhaven's Kross Negalha manages to get his foot away from Dartmouth's Marly Dembitzki, just to get nabbed by Dartmouth's Jacob Rose and a few other Dartmouth defenders. *Photos this page by Beth David. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com*

Anatomy of a tackle



In one of the last plays of the game, Fairhaven's Robert Layport tackles Dartmouth's Cooper Smith before he can get a touchdown in the fourth quarter. Fairhaven lost the game at Dartmouth stadium, 31-14 on Thanksgiving Day. *Photos by Beth David.*

Town meeting to decide on Oxford/Rogers Schools; Mill Road

By Beth David

Editor

Fairhaven Town Meeting members will be asked to decide the fate of the Rogers and Oxford school buildings at a special town meeting on 12/9. TM members will face 14 articles.

The articles likely to garner the most discussion are probably the disposition of the two schools and the purchase of property on Mill Road.

Articles 4 and 5, which require a 2/3 vote, will transfer the custody of the Rogers School and the Oxford School buildings to the Selectboard. As it stands now, the properties technically are in the control of the School Department, although, that department essentially turned over the keys and all maintenance headaches to the selectboard when students moved into the new Wood School last year.

After the custody has been transferred, the selectboard will ask, in article 6, for \$9,000 to facilitate the auctioning off of the two buildings.

The closing of the schools was controversial and the selling of the buildings is by no means a consensus.

The Rogers School was built by

town benefactor Henry Huttleston Rogers and many residents feel it should not be sold.

The building has fallen into disrepair in recent years.

A Rogers/Oxford Schools committee recommended selling the properties, but with many stipulations in the RFP and on the deed.* The Selectboard has been working on a Request for Proposals for months. The RFP is not part of the articles.

The Finance Committee has recommended adoption of both articles.

Article 7, which requires a 2/3 vote, will authorize the selectboard to buy 31.72 acres on Mill Road for \$1,465,000. The town has the right of first refusal on the property through Chapter 61A because it enjoyed a tax break for agricultural use. A proposed solar farm on the property changed the use of the land, which gives the town the right to purchase it.

Both the Fire Chief and the Police Chief have eyes on the property for a combined fire/police safety complex.

The Selectboard has backed off that proposal, saying only that it is a prime location that the town cannot

affort to give up.

The article does not specify how the property may be used or how it should be paid for. The board is recommending borrowing the money.

The Finance Committee does not support the article, recommending indefinite postponement.

Article 8 is another article that may garner some discussion. The article will allow the Selectboard to research and enter into a contract to aggregate electricity. The measure is designed to combine the buying power of Fairhaven with other municipalities to get lower electric rates.

The effort is being spearheaded by the Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District.

Individual households will be able to opt out of the agreement.

To download the complete warrant for the 12/9/14 special town meeting visit the town's website at www.fairhaven-ma.gov/pages/fairhaven_ma_news/I01F2E32E or our website at www.NeighbNews.com

*Changes error from previous versions. RFP, not auction

SELECT: cont'd from page 4

The town has limited options for raising revenue, so cutting expenses is the only other choice.

The governor has also announced a shortfall in the state budget and has suggested cutting aid to towns to help close the gap.

The town's budget is made up of property taxes, state aid to towns, and receipts from permits and license. Some departments, such as sewer and water, use money from those fees to run their departments.

The board will decide at its next meeting to set a date for department budgets to be submitted.

In a lighter matter, Town Curator Al Benac unveiled an 1895 map of Sciticut Neck to the Acushnet line that was donated by Lorraine Mello, in memory of her husband Dan Mello, a well known realtor in town. Mr. Benac had the map mounted in a frame recovered from the Rogers School building. The map is hanging in the banquet room of town hall.

The board held off on setting rates for the lobster basin at Union Wharf. Mr. Osuch urged the board to increase the \$1500 flat fee significantly, by \$400 to \$500. He reiterated his

stance of past years that the fee is too low.

Boats in the basin are reserved for town residents who make a certain percentage of their income from fishing. The boats are supposed to be working fishing boats, and there was some discussion as to whether some boat owners are actually fishing their boats.

The board decided to get more information on what other municipalities charge for their public dock space.

The board also held a public hearing with Planning and Economic Development Director Bill Roth on the Community Development Block Grant Program. The town is eligible for up to \$624,800, which is less than previous years.

The lower amount means that road projects will not be feasible, but sidewalks and other smaller infrastructure projects will be.

The plan includes the area by the old Anthony School and part of North Fairhaven. Included in the area are two properties owned by the Fairhaven Housing Authority.

The CDBG grant will help to modernize heating in at least one of

those buildings.

No members of the public commented on the plan. There will be three more public meetings to iron out details before Mr. Roth submits the grant application.

The grant money may also be used for improvements to individual homes in the area subject to income and other guidelines. Home owners should have received a card in the mail alerting them to the program.

In other business, the board:

- In a joint meeting with the Planning Board, appointed Ann Richard to the PB to fill the unexpired term of Frank Budryk who resigned in October
- Announced that the Collector's office now accepts credit cards. Other departments are also working on being able to accept credit cards for various permits, licenses and other charges.s

The board reconvened in executive session to discuss a personnel matter with the Animal Control Officer; a conservation commission issue; the property at 211 Mill Road; and a filing with the Mass. Commission on Discrimination.

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Mohegan Sun

Hurry!! December 17th

Leave Rec 8 a.m. Return to Rec 630 p.m. Cost \$20.00 casino package included (\$15. Meal credit \$10 bet coupon. Call for more info, pre-registration required

Relaxed Yoga Flow

Relaxation yoga is a great option for beginner students. This class will allow you to de-stress after a busy day and give you a chance to stretch, which will lightly raise your heart rate and increase blood flow throughout your body. This class is geared to improve posture, balance and increase range of motion. Modifications and options for all levels will be offered during class. Please bring your own props (i.e. blocks, blankets, water) for the 1 hour class.

For Adults, Wednesdays 10 a.m.-11:15 Cost: \$45 Member \$50 Non. Start Date: January 7 End Date: March 11 Instructor: Kaylee Frano

FREE CLASS December 17th open to everyone

Anniversary Extravaganza

Join us for a **free day of fun** as we celebrate 13 successful years at Fairhaven Recreation!

Santa will be making an appearance so bring your camera. Our staff will be doing face painting and holiday craft! **Sat., 12/6, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

Home Alone Class

This course is designed to encourage children to be more independent. Topics covered will be basic first aid, door and telephone protocol, accident prevention, and first aid for choking and safety measures. Pizza will also be provided. Space is limited... sign up soon! Ages: 9-11 Date: Jan. 28, 5:30-8 p.m., \$45 Members \$50 Non-members. Instructor: Beth Oleson.

Fairhaven Senior Center

**508-979-4029 • 229 Huttleston Ave
Supportive Senior Day Care Program, 9-3 • 508-993-9455
Respite Care: one day, half-a-day. Regular rates apply.**

Visit our new website at:

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

Mall Trips

Dec. 3: Twin Rivers

Dec. 17: Warwick Mall

Dec.10: Seekonk Plaza & Swansea Mall

Dec. 22 (MONDAY): South Shore

Entertainment

Call Fairhaven COA for entertainment schedule: 508-979-4029

Special Activities

HOLIDAY PARTY TIME!

Single Senior Supper Club Holiday Celebration: Tues., 12/16, 4-7 p.m. DJ and Raffles. Sign up by 12/11.

South Coast LGBT Holiday Celebration: Wed., 12/17, 5-7 p.m. Family Gingerbread Workshop

Legal Services

South Coastal Counties Legal Services, Inc., Thursday, 12/11, 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Rosa Farizo will be at the Senior Center to answer your questions concerning Social Security Benefits, Subsidized housing matters, Public Benefits Cases, Nursing Home related problems. **THIS IS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.** Please call 508-979-4029. This is funded in part by Coastline Elderly Services to provide free legal assistance to SENIORS AGE 60 AND OVER.

Senior Discount Day Trip

Next Salvation Army Trip is Jan. 5, to the Wareham store. Only 14 seats so call the Fairhaven COA at 508-979-4029 to reserve your seat, \$2.00 donation is suggested.

Sewing Circle

The sewing Circle group will meet on Dec. 8, from 1-3 p.m. Do you want to learn to sew or maybe do a little quilting? Join us at the Fairhaven Senior Center and meet Debbie as she shares her sewing expertise.

Cops 'n Donuts

At the Fairhaven Senior Center with Det. Janice Bubluski, Elder Safety Office in Fairhaven. She has some important messages to share. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and have a donut of course. Call the Senior Center for the next date.

Holiday Closings

The Senior Center will be open half a day Dec. 24 & 31. Lunch will be served. The Center will be CLOSED on Dec. 25 & 26, and Jan. 1 & 2. If you need to go shopping or banking make sure you call ahead on Monday or Tuesday of Christmas week (December 22 or 23) and New Year's week (Dec. 30)

Learn to Play Bridge

Fun Challenging Social at The Fairhaven Senior Center Monday from Jan. 5-Feb 23, 8-week course from 1-3 p.m. \$88.00 including bound text. Call Jocelyn at 508-997-3029 or e-mail her at jgoran@comcast.net to sign up or if you have any questions.

Single Seniors

Single Seniors Supper Club first and third Tuesday of the month. If you are single senior 60 or older and would like to attend, please call the Senior Center by Monday at 508-979-4029.

Ongoing Programs

Call 508-979-4029 for days and times

A/G Consumer Mediator; Bingo; Board Meeting/monthly; Bridge; Caregiver Support & Education Group; Chair Yoga, Computer Training; Fit Quest; Friends of Elderly/monthly meeting; Grocery Shopping; Knitting classes; LGBT Supper Club; Line Dancing; Live Band; Medical Transportation; Nutrition Program/meal served; Osteoporosis class; Outreach Coordinator; PACE Fuel Assistance; Pitch; Reassurance Program; Shopping; Singles Senior Supper Club; Supportive Senior Social Day Program; Tai Chi; Tap 'N' Time, Walking Clubs, Zumba.

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ATRIA FAIRHAVEN

Our residents are looking forward to an exciting, eventful December here at Atria Fairhaven. We'd love for you to join us.

(RSVP: 508-994-9238)

Join us for:

Christmas Shopping at Atria! Wed., 12/10, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., *First Floor living room:* The Traveling Boutique will be here with Alfred Dunner Clothing, pocketbooks, scarves, jewelry and more. Come do your Christmas shopping with us. RSVP.

Christmas Caroling, Sun., 12/14, 2:30 p.m.: Chris Waters will be here singing Christmas Carols. Come join in the fun. Refreshments will be served. RSVP.

Keynotes Coming to Atria, Mon., 12/15, 2:30 p.m.: Join The Keynotes as they sing to our residents with all the happy holiday tunes. Enjoy refreshments and great company. RSVP.

Jingle Bell Ball, Tues., 12/16, 5–7 p.m.: Jingle, mix and mingle at the Jingle Bell Ball. Get in the spirit of the season with a holiday cocktail party. Enjoy festive music by Tom and Betty, delicious drinks and hors d'oeuvres. We look forward to spending this wonderful holiday with friends and family like you. RSVP by Dec. 5.



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From the Acushnet Council on Aging

Money Management Program

The Money Management Program was developed to assist low-income elders who have difficulty writing checks, balancing their checkbooks and managing their money. Some of these elders may be homebound, visually impaired, confused, and without family nearby to help. The day-to-day operation of the program is managed by Coastline with the purpose being to provide assistance to elders who might be at risk of losing their independence due to their inability to pay basic rent, food, and utility bills on time.

A trained, insured, supervised volunteer is carefully matched one-on-one with an elder needing assistance. The volunteer goes to the elder's home at least monthly to help keep track of income and expenses.

Volunteers are needed to assist in providing this worthwhile service. For more information, please call Linda Aguiar 508-742-9113.

Greens Sale

The Greater New Bedford Garden Club Annual Tea and Greens Sale is Saturday, December 6th at the Acushnet Senior Center, 59 1/2 So. Main Street. Greens sale runs from 1:00-4:00 p.m. (open to the public), Tickets for the tea are sold out.

Did YOU reach the "donut hole" last year?

If so... chances are you could reach it again!

If you have a Medicare Part D or Medicare Advantage plan and do not get Extra Help, you will reach that coverage gap when the total retail cost of your prescription drugs reaches \$2,960. Then you will pay 45%

of the cost of brand name drugs and 65% for generics. Think what that means.... a \$300 brand name drug will now cost you \$135!

This is where Prescription Advantage can help.

Prescription Advantage, the Massachusetts prescription drug assistance program, can help pay for your prescription drugs when you reach the "donut hole."

To find out how to lower your drug costs, call Prescription Advantage at: 1-800-243-4636 or TTY (toll free) at 1-877-610-0241 for the deaf and hard of hearing with Text Telephone capability. Or visit: www.prescriptionadvantagemma.org.

The money you save can be your

The Acushnet Council on Aging and Senior Center is located at 59 1/2 S Main St., Acushnet; 508-998-0280. Find them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AcushnetCOA>

Acushnet's new fire truck ready for work



You say good-bye, and I say hello! The Acushnet Fire & EMS Department placed into service on 12/1 Squad 3 (RIGHT), a 2015 Ford F550 with 250 gallon water tank and Honda pump with multiple discharges and booster line. It replaces Engine 3 (1988 Ford F350, 150 gallon tank, lawn mower engine) which has served the town well for the past 26 years. *From the Acushnet Fire & EMS Facebook page.*

Annual Lighting

The annual lighting of the Christmas display and Sing-Along will be held on Sunday, December 7th beginning at 6:30pm at Fire Station #1 on Russell Street in Acushnet. Please join us for this longstanding Acushnet tradition.



The Acushnet Fire Station is all lit up in this Neighb News file photo from 2013. This year's lighting will be on Sun., 12/7.



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Hour of Code

By Samantha Wunschel

Computer Science Education Week is coming up, bringing with it the Hour of Code Program. The program was piloted at Fairhaven High School for the first time last year and will be making an appearance once again this December. The programs run in all computer-based classes for one hour in which students will work with tutorials on the art of coding.

This year Mr. Pilla, the teacher leading the Hour of Code Program at FHS, is planning on introducing a JavaScript tutorial. The students will have the opportunity to write simple programs using the JavaScript language which is currently the most common website application programming language.

Fairhaven's goal for the Hour of Code Program is to expose as many students to coding as possible. Coding is everywhere, from our computers and cellphones to the grocery store self-checkout.

Programming touches all of our lives on a daily basis.

The Hour of Code Program runs nationwide during the week of December eighth to the fourteenth, however, it can be done at any time depending on the schedule of the school implementing it.

The program is meant to raise awareness about the growing field of computer science, especially for today's generation. It is designed to further develop problem solving skills, logic, and creativity.

The Hour of Code activities are self-guided, allowing teachers the freedom to alter them to fit with their students' specific needs, but there is

That means that if the trend continues, by the year 2020, there will 1,000,000 more [coding] jobs than there are students.

enough information on the website to guide teachers who don't have a lot of experience with programming as well. Because of this flexibility, students from grade school onwards are able to utilize tutorials on a PC, smart-phone, tablet, or even with no computer at all.

According to the Code.org website, "Computer science is a top paying college degree and computer programming jobs are growing 2X the national average."

That means that if the trend continues, by the year 2020, there will 1,000,000 more jobs than there are students.

The high school will send eight to ten students to the middle and elementary schools to help guide younger students with the program and serve as role models to them.

At the middle school all students will be exposed to the program and experience computer programming on either December tenth or eleventh.

At East Fairhaven Elementary School, students will begin to explore coding through the LEAP program, and LeRoy L. Wood Elementary School will use the program during their computer technology time.

The Fairhaven district looks forward to another year celebrating Computer Science Education Week and another chance to spread the word about a growing field that many are unaware of.

The Hour of Code Program really forces students to take a moment to notice all the ways that computer science and programming touch their lives.

Visit www.code.org for more information.

To learn more about the happenings at FHS, visit the FHS Happenings blog at Fairhavenhighhappenings.blogspot.com

The first in an occasional series by students and/or staff at Fairhaven High School to keep the community apprised of the goings on at FHS.

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ENTERTAINMENT:

Fri., 12/5, CJ Martin, 8 p.m.–Mid.
 Fri., 12/12, James Gagne, 8 p.m.–Mid.
 Sat. 12/13, Too Much Fun, 9 p.m.–1 a.m.
 Fri., 12/19, Buzzard Blue Band, 8 p.m.–Mid.

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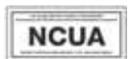


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Fairhaven man charged with heroin trafficking

Fairhaven Police Dept. Press Release

A Fairhaven man was arrested Monday morning, 12/1, for narcotics violations in the parking lot of the Citizens Bank located at the corner of Route 6 and Washington Street.

Fairhaven Police Detectives, working with investigators from the Bristol County Sheriff's Office, detectives from the Mattapoisett and Dartmouth Police Departments and agents from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, arrested 51-year-old Christopher Bessette and charged him with trafficking heroin.

Detectives secured a search

warrant for 163 Washington Street, apartment 208, which is where Bessette had been living. A second search warrant was secured for a Mazda 6, which is the vehicle Bessette had been watched utilizing to complete his drug transactions.

During the searches, investigators seized over 25 grams of heroin, over \$1,000 in cash, drug scales and packaging materials, drug paraphernalia, and hypodermic needles and syringes. Bessette will be arraigned in Third District Court. The penalty for trafficking in heroin of this amount carries a minimum mandatory sentence of 5 years in state prison.



Christopher Bessette of Fairhaven has been charged with trafficking heroin. Fairhaven police photo.

Two men killed in motorcycle accident

Fairhaven Police Dept. Press Release

Fairhaven Police responded to a single vehicle crash on Route 6 in the area of Welcome Street at approximately 7:40 p.m. Tuesday, 11/25. When officers arrived, they found two males on the ground along with a heavily damaged motorcycle.

It appeared the motorcycle struck a utility pole, ejecting both

passengers. The 30-year-old operator, Steven Viera of Rochester, was pronounced dead at the scene. The passenger, a 33-year-old John Letendre of Fairhaven, was transported to St. Luke's Hospital where he was pronounced dead just after 8 p.m.

The accident appears to be alcohol related.

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on my head,
but eternal spring
is in my heart.

Victor Hugo



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BPW hires Heavy Motor Equipment Operator

Kylie Schuster

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Board of Public Works hired a new Heavy Motor Equipment Operator at its meeting on Monday, 12/1. The board also discussed grease traps and flowable fill.

The board had offered the HMEO position to someone back in October, but that person declined to take the job. There was some controversy at the time over the person chosen, as he did not have a Class II license (see 10/9/14 issue). There was also some controversy at the time about having the interview in open session (see 10/23/14 issue).

The Mass. Open Meeting Law allows the screening of applicants to be done in executive session. The BPW met on 11/20 in a posted meeting to screen candidates in executive session for the position.

Board chairperson Michael Ristuccia, members Brian Wotton and Robert "Hoppy" Hobson, and DPW superintendent Vincent Furtado were at the meeting.

In a follow-up interview, Mr. Furtado said that after the last person changed his mind about taking the job, the board decided to use executive session to choose the final candidate and only use open session to hire him, instead of presenting more than one finalist. He cited the portion of the law that states the chair may decide an open session will be detrimental to the process. The finalist's name was not on the posted agenda for the 12/1 meeting.

At the meeting on 12/1, Mr. Furtado explained that six unnamed candidates were interviewed for the position on 11/20, and that James Lawrence was chosen as the best candidate for the job.

Highway superintendent John Charbonneau stated that Mr. Lawrence did not have an air brake Endorsement License.

Mr. Lawrence told the board that he was in the process of getting that license.

The board voted unanimously to hire Mr. Lawrence. Board member Robert "Hoppy" Hobson was absent.

In another matter, Norman Lussier appeared before the board to discuss the section on grease traps in the new Sewer Ordinance the BPW has been drafting. Mr. Lussier is a plumber in Fairhaven and also a part time plumbing inspector for the town.

DPW superintendent Vincent Furtado explained that the board has been "toying around with ideas on how to fix the grease trap problem in town," and that the board invited Mr. Lussier in to get his input.

"Grease is an expensive problem for the town," stated Mr. Lussier. "But we don't know where the grease is going."

Mr. Furtado stated that the Board of Health had recently hired a new inspector and said that "things are looking better."

Highway superintendent John Charbonneau was asked to appear before the board to discuss the use of flowable fill. In a previous meeting the board had discussed the possibility of using it for all new road work. The fill is used to go under and around pipes, and helps prevent settling and, therefore, cracking.

"I'm not sure if flowable fill should be used for every road in Fairhaven," stated Mr. Charbonneau. "It's going to be expensive, especially in areas without sewer."

Mr. Charbonneau said a better option for the town would be to

extend the liability time frame of the companies that do road repair in town to three years instead of one.

The extension would make the companies responsible for any settling or cracked asphalt near the area they worked on for a minimum of three years.

BPW Chairperson Michael Ristuccia stated that if they decide to extend the liability, they would need to create a list detailing how old each trench is and who would repair it. The board decided to look into the warranty extension.

Water superintendent Edward Fortin appeared before the board to ask them to push his paperwork to town counsel. Mr. Fortin explained that he wanted to put a streamflow water gaging system in the Mattapoisset River, but he was not sure who was controlling that land.

Board member Brian Wotton motioned to ask the Selectboard to have town counsel review the papers regarding who is in charge of the land in question. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the use of the Landfill Storage Unit for the Department of Natural Resources.
- Approved the final payment for Taber and South Street work, and also for the first payment and the change order for Shore Drive parking lot.
- Approved the bid from Baystate Regional Contractors to work on a town water pump. It was the lowest bid, coming in at a little less than \$1 million.
- Convened in executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Beth David contributed to this story.

Erin Shea becomes associate attorney at Surprenant & Beneski

Press Release

We are proud to announce that Erin L. Shea has joined as an associate attorney with the estate planning law firm of Surprenant & Beneski, P.C., with offices in New Bedford, Hyannis and Brockton/Easton, Massachusetts.

Attorney Shea started her education with an Associate's Degree in Paralegal Studies, earned her Bachelor's Degree in Business Management and received her Juris Doctor degree from the University of

Massachusetts School of Law. For many years, Attorney Shea was a case manager at the law firm. In her new role as an attorney, she will utilize those skills to further assist clients. Atty. Shea's practice will focus on protecting assets from the cost of long term care, estate tax issues and protection of children's inheritances from creditors.

Professionally, Atty. Shea is licensed to practice law in Massachusetts and is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys and

the Massachusetts Chapter of NAELA. She also serves on the Human Rights Committee for Comprehensive Mental Health systems in Dartmouth.

Personally, Atty. Shea resides in Dartmouth with her fiancé, Anthony and is a health enthusiast who enjoys exercising, reading but most of all, spending time with her friends and family.



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Snow parking ban

No vehicles shall be permitted to remain on the hydrant side of all streets in Fairhaven from December 1 to March 31 from midnight to 8:00 a.m. and also during the time of any snowfall or snow removal operations. On streets with no hydrants, NO vehicles shall be permitted to remain either on the east side of streets running north and south or on the north side of streets running east and west.

The BPW is authorized to remove, or cause to be removed, to some convenient place, including a public garage, any vehicle interfering with the work of removing or plowing snow or ice from any way, and the cost of such removal with all storage charges resulting there from shall be paid by the owner of such vehicle.

The Fairhaven Police Department will strictly enforce this Parking Ban. Violators will be towed and/or ticketed.

By Order of: FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Hearings/Legal Notices

Town of Fairhaven Notice of Neighborhood Meeting. FY 15 Community Development Block Grant Application

Town of Fairhaven will hold a Neighborhood Meeting at 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, December 11, 2014, in the Oxford Terrace Community Room, Fairhaven Housing Authority, 275 Main Street, Fairhaven, MA. The purpose of the meeting is to take in Public input on the Town's intention to apply to DHCD for up to \$625,000 for a Heating System modernization project at the Oxford Terrace Housing Authority complex and to construct sidewalks along North Street (between Main & Adams Streets). If you are interested in improvements within your neighborhood, you are urged to attend the Meeting, where the Town will be available to answer questions. The Town will also be taking applications for the current housing rehab program. The rehab program is first come first served.

*William D. Roth, Jr., Director
Planning & Economic Development Department*

Fairhaven Board of Health Synopsis of Fairhaven Board of Health "Regulation Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products" and "Regulation Prohibiting Smoking in Workplaces & Public Places"

On November 10, 2014, the Fairhaven Board of Health voted to amend two regulations. The first entitled "Restricting the Sale of Tobacco Products" requires cessation signage in tobacco retail stores, limits the total number of tobacco retailers to the number of licenses issued by Dec 31, 2014, limits tobacco retailers to be a minimum of 500' from a school K-12, creates a pricing policy for single and two-or-more cigar packs, bans all flavored tobacco products as defined in the regulation and requires a liquid nicotine disposal plan for spills and outdated product. The second entitled "Regulation Prohibiting Smoking in Workplaces & Public Places" includes a 25' setback to all municipal buildings thus eliminating the current Municipal Building Regulation and bans the use of e-cigarettes wherever tobacco use is banned. The regulations will become effective January 1, 2015. A copy of the regulations is available at the Board of Health office.

Fairhaven Meetings

Board of Appeals

Tues., 1/6, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Health

Mon., 12/1, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 12/15, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Capital Planning Com.

Tues., 12/16, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

Community Preserv. Comm.

Thurs., 12/18, Town Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 12/8, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board

Mon., 12/16, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 12/10, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

TOWN MEETING

Tues., 12/9, Hastings Middle School

Acushnet Meetings

Conservation Commission

Wed., 12/10, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Planning Commission

Thurs., 12/18, Parting Ways, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 12/8, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Dec. 2014	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	4	0549	1812	----	1251*
Friday	5	0633	1857	0006	1344*
Saturday	6	0716	1941	0040	1429*
Sunday	7	0800	2027	0116	1453
Monday	8	0845	2111	0155	1453
Tuesday	9	0928	2155	0232	1512
Wednesday	10	1011	2241	0308	1540
Thursday	11	1057	2330	0344	1612
Friday	12	1148	----	0423	1650
Saturday	13	0023	1240	0510	1739
Sunday	14	0113	1331	0612	1838

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

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From our readers

Solar developer makes case for Mill Road site

Dear Fairhaven Town Meeting Member,

On behalf of BlueWave Capital I am writing to you regarding an important decision you will be asked to make at the Special Town Meeting on December 9, 2014. On that day, you will be offered the opportunity to vote to approve or reject the Town's proposed purchase of 31.72 acres at 211 Mill Road for \$1,465,000 through the Chapter 61A right-of-first-refusal process. I would like to convey what I believe is important information for you to consider in making that decision.

BlueWave Capital is a Boston-based solar developer that has worked over the past year and a half to plan and permit a 7-acre portion of the site at 211 Mill Road for construction of a 1-megawatt solar array. We have collaborated closely with the Town of Fairhaven, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the local electric utility to obtain all of the necessary permits and approvals and our project is ready to commence construction and begin delivering significant benefits to the Town.

The benefits to Fairhaven include:

- Approximately \$40,000 in rollback taxes upon release of the property from Chapter 61A with additional revenue generated by building permit fees prior to construction start.
- More than \$250,000 in property taxes over the first 20 years of the operation of the facility.
- The use of local contractors for both the construction and the ongoing maintenance of the solar facility.

- No additional load on local infrastructure — no traffic, no additional children in schools and no utility impact except for improved electrical infrastructure.
- The opportunity for Fairhaven residents to achieve meaningful electricity cost savings from the project through the purchase of shares of clean, carbon-free renewable energy from the Mill Road facility.

Today, many Fairhaven residents aren't able to install solar at their homes due to structural, shading or ownership issues. If BlueWave's project is built, individual households, whether owners or renters, will be able to purchase discounted energy generated by the Mill Road facility and thereby lower their household electricity bills while supporting the Commonwealth's clean-energy transformation.

Finally, because solar farms are such a low-impact form of development, the project site can be easily returned to agricultural use or made available for commercial development upon the expiration of the facility's anticipated 20-year life. In fact, we are actively exploring the potential for grazing sheep and growing shade-resistant plants and vegetables on the site, practices that are not uncommon for solar projects elsewhere in the world.

BlueWave has built its reputation as a trusted partner for towns and cities across the Commonwealth by promoting local economic development in addition to the environmental and financial benefits that come with solar photovoltaic project development. We understand that the Town has capital planning needs for

e m e r g e n c y services and other important functions, and simply seek to emphasize that we are prepared to immediately commence con-

struction of this project and deliver the aforementioned financial, environmental and community benefits should the Town forego the proposed purchase of the 211 Mill Road property.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my letter and to be a part of this important process for Fairhaven.

Sincerely,

*John P. DeVillars
Managing Principal
BlueWave Capital, LLC*

Mill Road site not suitable for fire/police station

[Fairhaven] Town meeting members should be proud of our finance committee members who spend hours preparing a budget for town meeting. But the school department wanted two "state of the art" new schools, the East Fairhaven and the Wood schools. We have demolished two schools and vacated the Oxford and Rogers Schools.

Now the fire chief and police chief also want a new country club. With the efforts of the executive secretary who should be non-committal, [they] want us to buy swamp land for a million dollars.

Priority first: sell the land on Alden Road and the Council on Aging property on Scoticut Neck.

This million-dollar dream is for the fire and police station only, without discussion or thought of where the money may come from. It may be geographically centered, but poorly accessible to all sections of town.

Or consider adding to the Washington Street building, which has been remodeled, and soon to have a new roof. There is also room available on Bridge Street next to the Animal Shelter, on nine acres of town land. Free.

Let's put this article on hold, have a committee to see if we need a new station, not a country club in the swampy suburbs.

Al Benac, Fairhaven



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Support the Food Pantry

The Shepherd's Food Pantry at the Long Plain United Methodist Church in Acushnet spends more than \$5,500 each month to keep the shelves stocked. It serves more than 120 families each week and has seen a sharp increase in families seeking food.

Tax deductible donations may be sent to Shepherd's Pantry, PO Box 760, Fairhaven, MA 02719. Visit www.shepherdspantry.org

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