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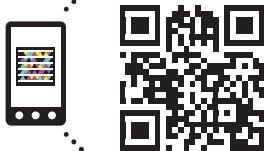
Volume 9, Issue 47 • December 11, 2014

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

## Region lights up for Christmas; Santa joins fun



The are lit up for Christmas this weekend, with lighting festivities in Acushnet, Fairhaven and New Bedford. ABOVE: Santa Claus rides in on an antique fire truck to greet children at the lighting of Benoit Square in North Fairhaven on Friday, 12/5. See page 12 for more photos. Photo by Beth David. See it in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)



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### Also Inside:

- **Special Town Meeting:** Page 4
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- **Acushnet Selectboard** Page 16
- **Happenings:** Pages 6, 7, 8

# From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —  
A day late and many dollars short.

Oh my, where to begin this week. How about with a fan letter? Well, sort of.

Hoppy wrote a letter (see page 22) complaining about my editorial last week when I slammed the BPW. He said I wasn't fair because I let the Selectboard off the hook when they hired the four new police officers. He's right. I forgot to mention that the names of the new police officers were not on the agenda. My mistake.

The point is that these are public funds and these people will be interacting with the public; especially police officers, who will be interacting with the public with great power and authority over people. The public has a right to weigh in and tell of their interactions with these candidates before they are hired. People should not have to go to the meeting to find out who they are. The names should be on the agenda so people know ahead of time.

The Selectboard isn't the only board that tries to keep things under the radar, so to speak. All the boards are at risk of it. It's just too easy if there aren't people and press going to the meetings. Heck, even town meeting is guilty of it. I tell you that if I were a town meeting member, I'd constantly be at that microphone all the time and just saying, "um....er..maybe I'm stupid, but I don't understand what this article is that's for hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxpayer money. Would someone explain it to me?"

They don't explain anything unless there's an argument about it. I always have to call several sources to get explanations when I write about town meeting articles before and again when I write about the meeting itself after. I am always hopeful (naive??), thinking that I'll get an explanation at the meeting. Then...the article comes up, they vote and that's it. I always think I'm some sort of dunce, until I call about it and get an explanation.

I sure hope that Town Meeting members are asking questions before these votes and not just voting with the recommendations so they can move the meeting along.

The moderator, or the petitioner, or someone should explain. Or an explanation should be included with the town meeting warrant. The article text by itself isn't enough.

It's just a pattern, from board to board, from meeting to meeting, that those "in the know" feel they are the only ones who need to know.

Okay, enough about that (for now).

This weekend is Old Time Holiday weekend (see page 3). If you've never strolled around the center of Fairhaven during the Saturday that all the shops are happening, then this is your chance. Don't miss it. The bells from the Church will be ringing, people will be walking around buying stuff, and everyone will be in the Christmas spirit. I have it on good authority that Santa Claus himself will be making more than one appearance in our burg this weekend, too.

And make sure you take a drive around town, too, at night. Lots of houses are decorated with Christmas lights. It's lots of fun to do, to find the houses. It's a great way to get in the Christmas spirit, and you can stay warm and toasty inside your car!

Speaking of lights, we have several stories about the public lightings from this past weekend (see pages 12, 13 & 17).

I must say those kids are great. They sang out there in the cold...and I mean CCCOOOOLLLDDD....brrr.

One last thing. We'll have ONE MORE ISSUE before our winter break. So if you have any events you want listed from now through 1/8, send 'em in NOW. We will not publish on 12/25 & 1/1.

(Merry Christmas to me!)

Until next week then, see ya



Beth David, Publisher

# Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our article on Town Meeting articles in last week's issue we made a mistake on the article dealing with the disposition of the Oxford/Rogers School buildings. The committee recommended using the RFP process to sell the properties. We apologize for any confusion our error may have caused.

# Old Time Holiday is this weekend in Fairhaven

Fairhaven's Old Time Holiday celebration is this weekend. Here's a run-down of the events. For information, call 508-979-4085 or email FairhavenTours@aol.com.

## SATURDAY, 12/13

**Fairhaven Town Hall Shops, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Town Hall, 40 Center St.** Non-profit and church groups have booths to sell holiday related items and more. Entertainers by Fairhaven music students. **Drop boxes for new, unwrapped toys** to be given to the area's needy children and for the United Way food drive. Free. Accessible.

**Holiday Musicians, The Brick Church Fair, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., First Congregational Church, 34 Center St.** Craft Vendors, food, raffles and much more. Lobster roll luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Accessible.

**Holiday Marketplace, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Unitarian Memorial Church parish house, 102 Green St.** Stress-free shopping with a variety of fine crafters' booths, baked goods and the Women's Alliance holiday greens. Festive holiday music and a visit from

St. Nicholas. Free. Accessible.

**Wrapping Paper Making , Art Show, and Sale, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Art on Center, 15 Center St.** Lots of materials on hand for you to design and make your own holiday wrapping paper. There will also be cookies and hot chocolate and a fantastic selection of artwork priced for holiday giving.

**Sanctuary Tours, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Unitarian Memorial Church, 102 Green Street.** Guided tours will be given of the English gothic church built in 1904 by Henry Huttleston Rogers. A \$1 per person donation is suggested. Accessible.

**Holiday Soup and Sandwich Luncheon, 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Harrop Center of Unitarian Memorial Church, 47 Center St.** A luncheon of hot soup or chowder and sandwiches. Prices vary.

**Lobster Roll Luncheon, 11:00 a.m. until sold out, First Congregational Church of Fairhaven, 34 Center St.** Hotdogs and chowder are also available. Accessible.

**Town Hall Sing-Along, 6 p.m. Town Hall, 40 Center St.** A community

tradition! Sing carols on the steps of the Town Hall while waiting for the arrival of a visitors from the North Pole. Then enjoy some hot chocolate. Sponsored by the Fairhaven Improvement Association. Free.

## SUNDAY, 12/14

**Old-Time Christmas Carol Sing, 1 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 16 Temple Place.** TLC Play and Learn Campus Youth Choir and other voice ensembles will sing carols and other Christmas songs. A Sing-along will follow. All are welcome. Free will offering. Accessible.

**Service of Lessons and Carols, 4 p.m., Unitarian Memorial Church, 102 Green St.** The Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven presents a service of lessons and carols, with seasonal readings and music performed by Music Director Dwight Thomas and the choir of the Unitarian Memorial Church. All are welcome. Free. (Donations accepted.) Accessible.

*See page 6 for more events this weekend.*

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# Town Meeting rejects Mill Road land deal; okays electric deal

By Beth David  
Editor

Fairhaven Town Meeting members soundly rejected a bid by the Selectboard to buy property on Mill Road at a special Town Meeting on 12/9.

In what was a quick, mostly non-controversial meeting, members passed most articles with no discussion, including the Oxford/Rogers School Buildings articles.

Selectboard Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch gave his pitch to town meeting, complete with slides and his trusty laser pointer, urging the purchase of 31.72 acres on Mill Road, but to no avail.

The town has the right of first refusal on the property because it is a chapter 61A parcel, meaning it has enjoyed tax breaks for agricultural use. A proposal to sell or change the use of the land triggers the town's right to buy it. The state program was started to encourage farming.

"The town is in dire need of developing new growth," said Mr. Osuch.

New growth adds to the tax base because Proposition 2 1/2 limits the town's ability to raise property taxes by 2 1/2 percent plus new growth.

Mr. Osuch said that taxes from the planned solar farm could not compare to what the town would get if it rezoned the property and sold or leased it to a company that would provide jobs to local people. He said even just carving up the property into residential house lots would gain more for the town in taxes than the solar farm.

He addressed a problem with traffic at the intersection of Bridge Street and Route 240, saying the state already had plans to improve it by adding a second left-turn lane.

He urged TM to support buying the property, saying there was very little land left in Fairhaven that could be used for business and industrial use. The area in question has very few house and is surrounded by large commercial properties, including an urgent care center.

He also said that the wetlands on the property were not extensive and that the un-buildable portion has existing walking trails that could be left open to the public.

He compared the \$1,465,000 price tag to what Southcoast Hospitals paid for its property, \$1,700,000 for 31.2 acres in 2009. Mr. Osuch also

reminded members that SCH is a nonprofit and, therefore, pays no taxes to the town, a fate he said the town should try to avoid for the property in question.

Mr. Osuch recommended that the town borrow the money with an interest-only loan and use sales of auction properties to lower the principal before refinancing the loan or selling the property.

"Are you going to be willing to invest in your future," asked Mr. Osuch. "If you vote 'no,' there will be a solar farm there next year."

"I think it's important to control the development of this property," said Mr. Osuch, stressing that the town can make sure a jobs-creating



"I don't believe the town is in the real estate business," Fairhaven Town Meeting member Earl Faunce told town meeting on 12/9, speaking against the purchase of property on Mill Road. *Beth David photo.*

business buys or leases the property.

He made no mention of possibly putting a fire/police safety complex at the site, which had been discussed at Selectboard meetings.

Economic Development Director and Town Planner Bill Roth also spoke in favor of the plan. He said it would be a "tragic loss," to remove the property from its highest use (commercial/industrial) for 20-30 years, referring to the solar farm which has a 20-year lease for seven acres of the property.

Selectboard chairperson Robert Espindola also spoke in favor of the proposal and read a letter from Paul Downey of Mill Bridge Holdings, which owns 200 Mill Road.

In his letter Mr. Downey said that the town should retain control of the property and that the "possibility of creating a commercial zone that will bring increased tax revenue to the town and, potentially, a considerable number of new jobs is too important

to pass up and should remain in Fairhaven's control."

Mill Bridge Holdings is the fifth highest taxpayer in Fairhaven, paying nearly \$138,000 in taxes last year.

SouthCoast Hospitals also sent a letter in support of the town buying the property.

Selectboard member Charles Murphy also spoke in support of the land deal, saying it was a "one-time" opportunity and important to future growth. He said the property would be in the control of the town and not at the "whim of a private developer."

He said the town needs new growth to add to the tax base.

"I urge you to do the right thing for the town," said Mr. Murphy.

Finance Committee chairperson John Roderiques, however, criticized each point and brought up a couple of other cautionary issues.

First, he said it was a "totally different spin" from the story being told "way back when."

He said the FinCom did not have a chance to research the issue because it was not put before them in time. A problem, he said, that seemed unnecessary, because the issue has been "under the radar" since at least last April.

He said there were no concrete plans for the site and that plans changed with every criticism.

"This is an ever developing plan based on criticism," said Mr. Roderiques, adding that the "original idea" for getting the property was not even mentioned in any of the previous presentations, in an apparent reference to the police/fire complex, which Mr. Roderiques did not name.

"There's something here driving the need to bring this," said Mr. Roderiques expressing his dismay at what the "something" might be.

"If you vote for this, you'd better be here in May," he told TM members to vote on re-zoning the piece for commercial/mixed use/industrial. It is zoned rural residential now.

He said they also have no idea what the Planning Board might say about possible uses of the property.

"This isn't a plan. This is a concept," said Mr. Roderiques.

He said he has seen many plans in the past 20 years that have not worked, in apparent references to tax break agreements and the wind

**TM: cont'd on page 20**



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# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## Old Time Holiday

See page 3 and ad on page 24.

## 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.

## Free Movie Night

Library Movie Night: "Le Samourai," **Mon., 12/15, 7 p.m., Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven.** (Use Auditorium entrance, Walnut St.) LE SAMOURAI (1967) - After killing a night-club owner, professional hitman Jef Costello is seen by witnesses. His efforts to provide himself with an alibi fail and more and more he gets driven into a corner. Starring Alain Delon, directed by Jean-Pierre Melville. In French with English subtitles. Rated PG. 1 hour, 41 minutes. Handicap accessible. **Free.**

## Pancake Breakfast

The LL Wood School is holding its annual pancake breakfast on **Sat., 12/13, from 9-11.** Hands on holiday crafts for children to make. **Scholastic Book fair until 12.** All are welcome. **\$5 per person.** Pancake sausage OJ and coffee.

## Sponsor a Chair

The Friends of the Millicent Library in collaboration with the Millicent Library is asking for the Fairhaven community's support in sponsoring 100 new chairs for our town's library auditorium.

Community members or local businesses can purchase and sponsor one of the 100 chairs for only \$50. The Friends of the Library members have committed already to purchasing 15 of the chairs. The auditorium is located in the basement of the Millicent Library.

A permanent plaque will be

mounted on the back of each chair, with an inscription of the individual's choice. Chairs can be bought in "memory of," or as a special gift, or with the name of the business. If there is a favorite author an individual would like to designate with an author's chair, or a respected Fairhaven citizen, the name can be embossed on the plaque, including the donor's organization or name. The plaques are capable of carrying three (3) lines of text with twenty letters in each line.

All chair sponsorships are a tax-deductible donation to the Friends of the Millicent Library.

Forms can be picked up at the Millicent Library or by contacting Martha Berg, 508-997-8517, cybergmib@comcast.net or Kaisa Holloway Cripps at kaisa.hollowaycripps@gmail.com. Or, please send your chair donation with your name, address, telephone, email and text to include in the plaque by January 31 2015 to: Friends of the Millicent Library, P.O. Box 30, Fairhaven, MA 02719.

## Special Edition Library Card Set

The Friends of the Millicent Library is holding a Mini-Fundraiser offering special edition Library Card Set for \$5. Includes one regular card and one key-chain card. Gift certificates available

You must meet the eligibility requirement for a Millicent Library card. This is in place of the generic, free cards.

Call for details, 508-992-5342.

## WI Toys for Tots Dedicated to Matthew Rodriguez

Christmas is the time for giving, and Cathi and Bob Konicki are again working with the Marines and their Toys for Tots program. Last year's toy drive was such a success, that the Konickis decided to do it again, but this year the effort will be dedicated to Lance Corporal Matthew Rodriguez, the Fairhaven Marine who was killed in Afghanistan on Dec. 11, 2013.

Toys for Tots provides toys to kids who might not otherwise get any presents for Christmas

West Island is sponsoring a Toys for Tots gift drive. Your generous donation of a new toy or money to purchase a new toy will be greatly appreciated.

**Please drop your toys or donation off by Dec. 13, at 151 Balsam Street,** the residence of Bob and Cathi Konicki, who have volunteered to assist the Marines in this worthy project.

## Winter Items

Mobile Loaves and Fishes is collecting warm clothing, socks, boots/shoes, coats, hats, mittens/gloves and blankets. Any new or gently used items are distributed weekly in downtown New Bedford. **Drop boxes are located in the Fairhaven Town Hall and the Fairhaven Fire Station.** For large donations please call Jenn at 774-263-9280 to arrange pick up.

Gift card and monetary donations may also be made to: Pacific Union Congregational Church, PO Box N206, Westport, MA 02790.

Please remember those in need of warmth this winter. Your used items can make a difference!

For more information visit <http://mlf.org/locations/new-bedford/>

## 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.

# HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

## 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.

## Santa Run

**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.

Registration at the South Coast YMCA on 12/13, from 5–8 p.m. and day of the race from 7–10 a.m. Fee is \$35.00. Youths 6 and under are free, and 7–12 are \$10.00.

Register at: <https://www.raceit.com/Register/?event=26931> or [www.thesightings.com](http://www.thesightings.com)

## Singers Wanted

To join the acclaimed Greater New Bedford Choral Society. Requirements: Blend in with your section, pay nominal dues for music, etc. No private audition. Rehearsals Tuesdays from 7:30–9:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, New Bedford, corner of County and Union Streets. **Starting date: Tues., 1/6.** Contact 508-644-2419. Visit [www.gnbc.org](http://www.gnbc.org)

## Anniversary Concert

The Greater New Bedford Choral Society presents our **50th Anniversary Concert**. Gerald P. Dyck, Music Director; Christopher Ricci, Accompanist. Echoes of our First Concert, Haydn's Saint Nicholas Mass, Songs of Christmas and Winter, Songs about the Number 50. **Join us on Sun., 12/14, at 3 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, County & Union Streets, New Bedford.** Accessible. **Tickets: \$15.** Accompanied children 12 and under, free. Tickets at the door or online at visit [www.gnbc.org](http://www.gnbc.org)

## Christmas Pageant

Come and celebrate the Birth of Jesus in song and tableau, Sun., 2/14, at 3 p.m., at St. Lawrence Church, 110 Summer St., New Bedford. **Free will donation and a canned good for the needy will be taken at the door.**

Come and bring your family, friends and neighbors! Let's celebrate the true meaning of the SEASON!

Christmas Blessings to all our families and friends throughout this Holy Season! May you have a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year!

## House Tours

Join the New Bedford Preservation Society for its 23rd Annual Holiday House Tour on **12/13 (4–8 p.m.) and 12/14 (1–5 p.m.); Pre-Tour Brunch 12/14 (11–1 p.m.)** Start at Wamsutta Club, 427 County St., New Bedford, Tour Headquarters.

You'll surely catch the holiday spirit as you tour the city's 19th century residences, beautifully decorated for the season. This year's tour will feature the West of County Street historic district, where several residences will be shown for the first time. Visitors will also enjoy the costumed historic portrayals which will take place at one of the homes. Each year the unlimited array of design ideas inspire in the varied architecture and interiors, which are as diverse as the owners.

**Admission: \$19 advance purchase w/\$2 discount to society members; \$23 all tickets at the door. Advance tickets** available at [nbpreservationsociety.org](http://nbpreservationsociety.org) Contact Catherine Potter, 508/997-6425, [NBPS2000@yahoo.com](mailto:NBPS2000@yahoo.com) or [www.nbpreservationsociety.org](http://www.nbpreservationsociety.org)

## 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 Mon., 12/15**

All items 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.

## NB Holiday events

**Brooklawn Park Association Tree Lighting, Wed., 12/17, 6:15 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!

## Food Drive

The New Bedford Council on Aging has organized a food drive to help local seniors. 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.

## HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

### 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.

### Perry Hill Church

**Open House, Sat., 12/13, at the Perry Hill Church 39 Perry Hill Rd. Acushnet.** Refreshments will be served, Apple Cider, & Hot Chocolate, cookies and brownies. Please come and see the work that has been done at the church and see what needs to be done to complete this project.

Everyone is welcome to come and look at the fine work that has gone into this project.

### 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](http://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](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 show will run 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

### Joy of Giving

Get into the holiday spirit this weekend with United Way of Greater New Bedford and the Dartmouth Mall for the "The Joy of Giving" event! **Donate toys, gift cards and nonperishable food items at the Dartmouth Mall from 1-4 p.m. on Sat., 12/13**

Shoppers who donate will be entered into a raffle to win one of twelve great prizes including a \$1,000 shopping spree, a gift set from Yankee Candle, Michael Kors Tote Bag, Coach Sunglasses, and Pandora Bracelet from Hannoush Jewelers. Those who donate to the United Way will also receive a free ornament.

FUN 107 will be on hand to announce the winners at 4:30pm and shoppers can watch winners choose their prizes at 5pm.

Toys and gift cards will be distributed to local agencies for youth in need this holiday season.

### Sight Tree

The Acushnet Lions Club has installed a Sight Tree at the Fire Station in Acushnet. Put your old eyeglasses on the sight tree and the Lions Club will put them to good use. The national program takes the lenses and ships them to developing countries to be used in eyeglasses.

Just go by and drop off your old glasses.

To learn more about the program, visit <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/our-work/sight-programs/eyeglass-recycling/index.php>

### Holiday Social

Downcity Holiday Social every Sat. through Christmas at Aurora, 276 Westminster St., Providence.

Fun things for the whole family such as Santa & Mrs. Claus posing

with you for a complimentary Polaroid photo, a Letter to Santa table set up courtesy of Paperworks and access to the complimentary bagel bar with the purchase of a seasonal drink from the Aurora bar.

Movies on the Block has curated a selection of holiday movie favorites that will be running during the day and there will be food vendors on hand to purchase a snack.

Visit <http://www.shopdowncity.com/news/archives/category/specials-and-offers>

### Fish Council members needed

The New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) is soliciting applications for seats on several of its advisory panels. Panel members will provide information and guidance to Council committees and recommendations to the Council during the development of federal fishery management plans or plan amendments. Advisors also may be asked to assist in addressing a special issue or problem. Currently, the Council seeks applicants to fill vacant seats on its Habitat, Recreational Groundfish Fishing, Whiting, Enforcement, Skate and Groundfish Panels.

To apply, download the application materials at [www.nefmc.org](http://www.nefmc.org) under "News" or call the Council office at 978.465.0492. For more information about member responsibilities, contact Pat Fiorelli at 978.465.0492, ext. 106 or [pfiorelli@nefmc.org](mailto:pfiorelli@nefmc.org).

### Downtown Jingle 5K

Amica Insurance is now the title sponsor of the Amica Downtown Jingle 5K, and the event will return to the **streets of Providence on Sunday, Dec. 14.** The race begins and ends in front of the Rhode Island Convention Center, 1 Sabin St., Providence.

The 2014 Amica Downtown Jingle 5K consists of the 5K race, as well as the Amica Elves Kids Run (children ages 14 or under). Kids Run begins at 10:30 a.m., and it will be followed by the 5K at 11 a.m. Participants are also encouraged to dress up in holiday outfits on the day of the event, and they will receive bells to add to the festive atmosphere.

For info or to register, visit <http://www.downtownjingle5K.com/>.

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## Recipe of the Week

### Cherry-Pecan Icebox Cookies

1 c. Butter softened (no substitutes)  
1-1/4 c. sugar  
1 egg  
2-1/2 c. all purpose flour  
1-1/2 t. baking soda  
1/8 t. salt  
1 c. chopped pecans  
3/4 c. chopped red and/or green candied cherries

In a large mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar. Add eggs; mix well. Combine the flour, baking soda and salt; add to creamed mixture and mix well. Stir in pecans and candied cherries. Shape into four 8-inch rolls; wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours or until firm.

Unwrap and cut into 1/8- to 1/4" slices. Place 2" apart on ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 350 for 7-8 minutes or until lightly browned and edges are set. Cool 1-2 min. before removing to wire racks.

Great for freezing. Store up to 6 months. When ready to use, remove from freezer 1 1/2 hours before baking at above directions.

*A deelish crisp cookie. Enjoy!!  
Bevy Lussier*

## COA celebrates Portuguese heritage



Clients of Fairhaven Senior Social Day celebrated a day of Portuguese culture in October. Staff and volunteers, in full costume, from Fairhaven Social Day prepared and served the clients a luncheon consisting of kale soup, linguica pepper and onion subs, a tuna and potato casserole, and rice pudding for dessert. The luncheon was followed by traditional Portuguese dance performed by the staff and volunteers. ABOVE, L-R: Chris Levault, Lee Freitas, Julio Morales, Sue Roderiques, Joyce Cookinham and Maggie Harrison. Submitted photo.

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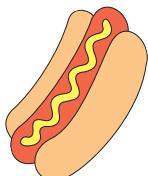
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**Wed., Dec. 24, Christmas Eve:** Closing at 2 p.m.

**Thurs., Dec. 25, Christmas Morning:** Open for  
breakfast 6:30 a.m. to 12 noon

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## NFIA lights up the square



The North Fairhaven Improvement Association held its annual lighting of Benoit Square on Friday., 12/5. Santa arrived on an antique fire truck and lots of neighbors showed up to sing Christmas Carols until he got there. Inside the NFIA building, children had a chance to tell the Big Guy their Christmas wishes. ABOVE: The Gazebo is all lit up in Benoit Square and the sign sends out holiday wishes to everyone driving by. BELOW LEFT: Grace Pacella has a little fun with Santa's beard. MIDDLE: Sylas Moraes isn't exactly happy to see the Big Guy, although he does clutch his candy cane while Isaiah Almeida hangs onto Sylas. RIGHT: Marissa Williams poses with Santa. BOTTOM, L-R: Some of the displays on the square. Photos by Beth David. See them in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)



## Acushnet residents brave the cold for annual lighting



Acushnet residents joined the fire department for its annual lighting on the fire station grounds on Sunday evening, 12/7. The Ford Middle School Chorus led the crowd in Christmas songs while everyone waited for Santa to arrive in a fire truck. "The best way to spread Christmas Cheer, is to sing loud and clear," Fire Chief Kevin Gallagher told the crowd, paraphrasing a quote from the movie *Elf*. He thanked those who helped put up the display, especially the firefighters who braved the cold weather to get it all done. Inside, the crowd was treated to hot chocolate with marshmallows AND whipped cream, and lots and lots of cookies. Santa arrived and gave all the children a chance to sit on his knee and tell them their Christmas wishes. A few cried and tried to bolt, but most of them knew the program. ABOVE LEFT: Layla Garro overcomes her fear from earlier in the night to share a laugh with her dad and Santa. MIDDLE: Charlotte Johnson looks closely at Santa as she tells the Big Guy her wishes for the big day. RIGHT: Dexter Pereira tells Santa just what he wants for Christmas. Photos this page by Beth David. See them in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com) Visit us at [www.Facebook.com/NeighbNews](http://www.Facebook.com/NeighbNews) to see more photos of this and other events.



LEFT: Students in the Ford Middle School Chorus lead the crowd singing Christmas carols.  
BELOW LEFT: Rudolph and the abominable snowman (Bumbles BOUNCE) are part of the display on the lawn of the Acushnet Fire Station on Main Street.

BELOW RIGHT: Santa's Workshop with his elves is one of the displays on the lawn of the Acushnet Fire Station on Main Street.

The display is lit every night and is free and open to the public.

Photos by Beth David.  
See them in color at  
[www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)



# Fairhaven Recreation Center

**Open Mon-Thurs, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fri., 6 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; Closed Sunday • 227 Huttleston Ave, 508-993-9269 http://fairhavenma.virtualtownhall.net**

## 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**

## Kool Kids

## Christmas Vacation

This 4-day program is a great opportunity to make new friends while participating in fun group activities such as pillo polo, floor hockey, dodge ball, cooperative games, flag football, arts & crafts. Kids will need to bring their own lunch for the first 3 days of the program. The last day is a pizza lunch combined with a New Years celebration. Come ready to party! Sneakers and active clothes must be worn each day. Kids will be grouped according to their current grade in school.

Grades: K—5 Dates: 12/22, 12/23, 12/29, 12/30 Time: Drop off at 8AM Pick up by 3PM Instructors: Staff Member: \$100 Non-member: \$125

# 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.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA\\_COA/index](http://fairhavenma.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA_COA/index)

## Mall Trips

**Dec. 17: Warwick Mall**

**Dec. 22 (MONDAY): South Shore**

**Jan. 14: Emerald Square Mall.**

**Jan. 7: Newport Grand, Middletown XMAS Tree Shop**

## 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

### 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 Jan. 12 & 26 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 Bubliski, 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 (Dece. 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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(RSVP: 508-994-9238)

**Join us for:**

**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.

**New Year's Eve Party**, Wed., 12/31, 2:30 p.m.: Join us as we ring in the New Year in high style. Let's celebrate with a fun afternoon with family and friends, delicious refreshments and entertainment with DJ Brian Simmons. We can't wait to celebrate the new year with you!! RSVP.



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# Acushnet hears pitch for way to insure retirees

Michael Smith

## Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on 12/8, the Acushnet Selectboard heard a proposal that could potentially give the town some extra cash for funding pensions.

Barry Sylvia of Commonwealth Retirement Benefits Insurance Services, Inc. and attorney Matthew Thomas said the insurance plan would be of no cost to town employees or the town. They were seeking a memorandum of support and demographic information on retirees and employees so they can implement the plan.

Investors would pay the premiums on a death benefit to town employees and retirees, who can sign up at no cost to them.

"We've been working with new and innovative concepts," said Mr. Sylvia. "We're using life insurance contracts to fund the unfunded liability in your public pensions. This leaves no cost to the public employee."

The premiums would be financed through a large lender and not the town or residents of Acushnet, according to Mr. Sylvia. The lender makes a loan to the life insurance company, which would pay death benefits to the special purpose trust. In turn, the trust would pay \$25,000 on the death of the beneficiary.

The trust would not be a town trust, but a private trust. The town would receive a gift from the company based on their profits from the program. Then the town could take those gifts and place them in a trust owned by the town, to pay for its unfunded benefit liabilities.

Currently, however, the town is not funding the OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits) liability at all, according to Town Administrator Alan Coutinho.

The town is part of the Bristol County retirement fund.

"What you're basically agreeing to do is accept a gift," said Mr. Thomas.

The town's OPEB are in good shape, according to Mr. Coutinho.

A trust set up by Mr. Sylvia, however, could help pay for future OPEB obligations. Municipalities across the state and the country have been grappling with rising costs of health care for retirees, which is largely what OPEB is about.

Mr. Thomas said the special purpose trust would have five overlooking members, including three members from the lender company. He suggested the other two members be the town administrator and the treasurer from Acushnet.

"It's purely a private option," said Mr. Thomas of employees signing up

---

I don't want to be on the hook for something that doesn't pan out. I want to be able to look every employee in the eye and say this plan works. [David Wojnar]

---

for the insurance policy. The employee signing the life insurance would not have to pay anything, according to Mr. Thomas.

Selectboard Chairperson Gaspar noted the extended lifespan of people, thus creating a prolonged financial burden on taxpayers.

"It's not sustainable and we are looking for alternate ways to fund OPEB," said Mr. Gaspar. "There are catastrophic results in the pension system that need to be reformed."

Mr. Thomas said the plan is not a "panacea" that will fix all the problems.

The plan is to reduce the burden of OPEB on the taxpayers and is only one "cog in the wheel," said Mr. Sylvia.

Mr. Gaspar motioned that the plan go to town

counsel for review. Board member David Wojnar asked for more research on the plan before moving forward.

Mr. Coutinho also suggested bringing the proposal to the Department of Revenue so they could look at it.

"I don't want to be on the hook for something that doesn't pan out," said Mr. Wojnar. "I want to be able to look every employee in the eye and say this plan works."

In another matter, the board met with Steve Tibbels, the golf course superintendent to discuss an update on irrigation components that need replacing at the Acushnet River Valley Golf Course.

Mr. Tibbels said he wanted to "make things clear" on the irrigation system that. He said the whole system is not being replaced, but only parts of the system.

"These would be the primary components," said Mr. Tibbels.

One component to be replaced would be the central computer software that controls the system located in Mr. Tibbels's office. Other components include pumps, which he said are running below efficiency at 800 gallons per minute.

"Our fairways don't drain as... well as our greens and tees."

A new pump would remove water at 1,000 gallons per minute and at 100 percent capacity.

The bulk of maintenance at the golf course is removing and putting water on the course, said Mr. Tibbels.

"Instead of waiting for the system to break in July where we can ill afford it, what we are proposing is to head that off," he said.

Mr. Gaspar advocated to pay for

ACUSH: cont'd on page 21

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# Clasky Common is all lit up for the holidays



The City of New Bedford held its Festival of Lights celebration on Sunday, 12/7, at Clasky Common Park. The mayor, city councilors, neighbors and students of the nearby Parker Street School all braved frigid temperatures to join Santa for a few Christmas Carols and the official flip of the switch on the city's biggest display of lights. The display will be lit every night until after New Year's and is free and open to the public. ABOVE: Students from the Parker Street School chorus sing Christmas Carols on stage at the Festival of Lights on 12/9 in New Bedford's Clasky Common Park. BELOW LEFT: A polar bear traverses the park with the magnificent tree in the background. BELOW RIGHT: People walk along the walkway through the middle of the park. Photos by Beth David.



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Thursday, December 11, 2014

Fairhaven Neighborhood News



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## **ENTERTAINMENT:**

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.  
 Fri., 12/26, James Gagne, 8 p.m.–Mid.

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Thursday, December 11, 2014

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Page 19

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## TM: cont'd from page 4

turbines.

"Everything looks great on paper," he said, but projects have a way of coming back to "bite us in – certain parts."

"I am not what you'd call a 'tree hugger,'" said Mr. Roderiques to some laughter from TM members, adding that it was "ironic" that the town would exercise its 61A right of first refusal for an agricultural property, just to turn around and develop it.

He said, although the proposal was legal, the 61A statute was not intended to substitute a developer in the private sector for a town, and "essentially" that is what the article will do.

"We are going into the real estate business," said Mr. Roderiques, and addressed the new growth argument. "One parcel is not going to solve the problems of this town."

"It's a matter of what you think government function should be," said Mr. Roderiques. "I'm not against economic development, but I'd like to see a plan. This is a concept."

When he finished speaking, the die seemed to be cast when more than half the room clapped.

Andrew Jones, a former member and chairperson of the Conservation Committee, also spoke against the purchase, and questioned how much of the parcel was wetlands.

Mr. Osuch admitted that a wetlands verification had only been done on part of the property, where he solar farm would go, but not the rest of it. He said, however that what was considered wetlands had "walkable trails" that were being used, and that part of the property was also being mowed by the farmer.

"I think it's a huge gamble to take," said Mr. Jones.

Earl Faunce got a laugh when he noted that he was usually "butting heads with" the FinCom and Mr. Roderiques, but agreed on this one.

"I don't believe the town is in the real estate business," said Mr. Faunce, adding that the \$1.465 million and any money used to pay it off could be better spent in other areas.

TM member Kevin Costa raised the issue of how much it would cost in various fees and studies to develop the property. Mr. Osuch said they had not looked into those numbers.

John Pond got the final comment in asking who would pay for it all, the

development, the studies, etc.

He reiterated his oft-repeated plea for better education and more manufacturing jobs.

"Never mind milking the golden cow, us taxpay-ers," said Mr. Pond.

In the end TM members voted overwhelmingly to kill the measure, voting for Indefinite Post-ponement.

Town Meeting also discussed

Article 8, which would allow the town to join a group of other municipalities to aggregate electricity for businesses and residents.

The theory is that the increased buying power will result in lower costs for individual ratepayers. Residents and businesses will be able to opt out of the program.

Wayne Hayward, who is also chair of the planning board said he took exception to the notion that people will have to opt out, instead of opting in.

John O'Rourke, Director of Marketing Northeast for Good Energy, who is pitching the program in conjunction with SPIVEY (Southeast Regional Planning and Economic Development District) confirmed that it was an opt-out program, but said it would be very simple for people to do. He said 10 other municipalities had already voted to join the group.

"Because they understand that forming a large buying group will lower electric rates," said Mr. O'Rourke.

He told TM members that Massachusetts has the highest electric rates in the continental US.

NSTAR will still provide the electricity and the bill, said Mr. O'Rourke. A different supplier will be listed on the bill.

Mr. Hayward said he just wanted to make sure members knew that they would have to "take an action to expressly opt out."

"We believe we're going to get you a rate that you're not going to want to opt out of," said Mr. O'Rourke.

TM voted to allow the Selectboard to enter into a contract for the



L-R: Fairhaven Finance Committee members Robert Furtado and Scott Fernandes keep an eye on FinCom chairperson John Roderiques as he addresses town meeting on 12/9. Beth David photo.

program.

Town Meeting members also passed Article 13, which accepted the provisions of Chapter 381 of the Acts of 2014, the Mass. legislative action that created the town administrator position. The measure eliminates the position of Executive Secretary and changes Fairhaven's type of town government to a strong Town Administrator.

Mr. Osuch, however, is still on the job. The board will discuss the new position at its next meeting.

The article was passed at a Town meeting last May and needed to be approved by the legislature and again by TM before going into effect.

TM also voted, with no discussion, to move about \$2.26 million from six sewer betterment projects to their respective stabilization funds. The move allows the town to pay down some of the principal on those existing loans in anticipation of a refinance at a lower rate. The plan should save the town about \$700,000 in interest payments over the life of the loan.

In other business TM members:

- Voted to transfer custody of the Rogers School building and the Oxford School building to the Selectboard. In a related article TM also voted to appropriate \$9,000 for fees associated with the sale of the two school buildings.
- Passed \$11,700 in additional spending for the police department's FY15 budget. The money is to help in hiring new police officers. The department had more openings than it anticipated.

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Peg Bracken

**ACUSH: cont'd on page 21**

the full cost given the course is now 18 years old and "things start to deteriorate."

The board approved the full appropriation of \$128,000 to replace components of the irrigation system.

The board also looked into lowering the debt service of the golf course so it could be restructured without adding significant cost to the town, and relieve stress in golf course operations.

Golf Committee member Ed Isaac noted the increase in the state minimum wage over the next few years will add to the strain in operating the course, for example.

"If we don't do this," said Mr. Isaac about restructuring the golf course's debt, "in FY16, we're going to have to make cuts."

The subject was tabled to the next meeting.

The Selectboard received two letters of resignation from town Beautification Committee members. The board welcomes letters of interest from the public.

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		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.
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Saturday	13	0023	1240	0510 1739
Sunday	14	0113	1331	0612 1838
Monday	15	0202	1421	0720 1934
Tuesday	16	0254	1517	0819 2025
Wednesday	17	0351	1616	0916 2116
Thursday	18	0445	1709	1014 2209
Friday	19	0531	1753	1104 2259*
Saturday	20	0613	1835	1149* 2347*

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

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

## Public Hearings/ Legal Notices

### Board of Appeals

The Fairhaven Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 6, 2015, at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall to consider the following petitions:

#### CONTINUED HEARING:

1. **Petitioner: Michael J. Ristuccia, RE:** 52 Cedar Street, Plat 4, Lot 8, 77A; Book 10341 and Page 205; 198-18: Short 45' of the required 100' frontage, short 8,978 sq. ft. of the required 15,000 sq. ft. all in a RA District.

#### NEW HEARINGS:

1. **Petitioner Amy & Greg Caswell, RE:** 54 Williams Street, Plat 09, Lot 031; Book 9010 and Page 22, 198-18: Short 16' of required 20' front setback, 7' short of required 10' side yard; 15' short of required 30' rear yard and 5% over max building coverage of 30% all within an RA District.
2. **Petitioner: Matthew Brodo, RE:** 163 Cottonwood Street, Plat 43B, Lot 163; Certificate 22621; 198-18: Short 10' of the required 20' side yard and 2% over max building coverage of 15% all within an RR District.

*Peter DeTerra, Chairman*

## 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.

### Cable Advisory Comm.

Fri., 12/12, Town Hall, 2 p.m.

### Capital Planning Com.

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

### CDBG Meeting

Thurs., 12/11, Oxford Terr., 6:30 p.m.

275 Main St., Community Room

### Community Preserv. Comm.

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

### Conservation Commission

Mon., 1/5, 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.

## Acushnet Meetings

### Planning Commission

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

### Selectboard

Mon., 12/22, Town Hall, 3 p.m.

## Man shot in hand

A 42-year-old North Fairhaven man accidentally shot himself in the hand as he prepared to clean his Glock handgun on Thursday, 12/4.

According to police, the man ran out of his home after the accident and a neighbor called police.

Paramedics transported the man to Rhode Island Hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

Police spokesperson Sgt. Kevin Kobza said no charges will be filed. The man was licensed to own a handgun and the incident appears to be an accident.

Christmas is a necessity.  
There has to be at least  
one day of the year to  
remind us that we're  
here for something else  
besides ourselves.

Eric Sevareid

## **BPW member criticizes editorial**

I would like to comment on last week's editorial in the *Neigh News* that criticized the BPW (Board of Public Works) for the way it hired a highway worker.

To be fair, the *Neigh News* should've also mentioned police, fire and school departments. They all do the same thing.

They interviews for the last four police officers were all done in secret and they only brought in the four finalists when [the Selectboard] hired them.

We're only doing what everyone else has been doing for years.

Have you ever seen a teacher hired on TV? Never. And you never see a cop anymore either.

I'm only trying to say, be fair with it. I just didn't think it was fair the way

## **From our readers**

it was written. I wouldn't have minded if you had mentioned the fire and police

*Robert "Hoppy" Hobson,  
Vice Chair, Fairhaven BPW*

## **Mothers' Club Assists Families in Need**

The Fairhaven Mothers' Club is giving \$1,000 gift cards to families of East Fairhaven School students who need some help over the holidays. The cards will enable parents to buy food and gifts at WalMart and Stop & Shop.

Families are selected by school personnel and are not identified to the club.

The Mothers' Club has sponsored this holiday project for more than ten years, rotating the gifts among the town's elementary schools. Last year gift cards were given to families at Wood School.

The funds are raised through sales at the Old-Time Holiday Fair (this weekend), the Homecoming Fair and the club's annual card party. Funds are also used to give college scholarships to high school seniors who live in Fairhaven.

The Fairhaven Mothers' Club is celebrating its centennial year this year. Its goals include "promoting child education, welfare and health" and giving financial assistance to needy families and children. Members meet once a month to plan projects and to hear speakers on topics relating to children and families.

For further information contact: Cherri Johnson, President, 508-994-6535; Barbara Mitchell, Community Service Chairperson, 774-202-1675.

*Ginny Lubker, Publicity,  
Fairhaven Mothers' Club*

## **Massachusetts has a new political party**

### *Press Release*

The United Independent Party (UIP) officially took its place alongside Democrats and Republicans as a recognized, major political party in the Commonwealth of Mass. The news came following certification of November 4 election results released by Secretary of State William Galvin's office on December 3.

2014 gubernatorial candidate Evan Falchuk, who ran for Governor of Mass. as the United Independent Party candidate, earned nearly 72,000 votes on Election Day this year. In doing so, Falchuk earned in excess of the three percent of votes required in the November 4 statewide election for the United Independent Party to receive official recognition as a "major" party alongside the Democratic and Republican parties.

The United Independent Party — dedicated to a greater diversity of progressive ideas combined with fiscally sane solutions — now will be on equal footing under state law with Democrats and Republicans regarding equal election and fundraising laws.

Next in UIP plans, Falchuk noted, is running candidates for office throughout Mass. in the 2016 elections, and aggressively boosting voter enrollments in the United Independent Party throughout 2015.

"Already, nearly twenty prospective candidates have contacted us

about running for office as UIP candidates, including current Democrats and Republicans," Falchuk stated. "We're interested in helping smart, pragmatic, winnable candidates run for office — particularly for our State House's Senate and House seats, the majority of which run unopposed each election cycle."

To maintain major party status in Massachusetts, state law requires that at least one percent of Massachusetts voters enroll with the United Independent Party in time for the 2016 elections. Voters may download the Secretary of State's official "Mail-In Voter Registration Form" by visiting <http://bit.ly/15T2O9A>.

"Now that we received official party certification from the Secretary of State's office, we can ramp up our statewide efforts to enroll a minimum of one percent of voters in the UIP. We know this will happen, and is a big part of what will help our staying power as a major party in Massachusetts," said Falchuk.

The pragmatic UIP is focused on the principles that everyone is equal, everyone's civil liberties

must be protected, and government must spend taxpayer dollars wisely.

Founded by 2014 Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate Evan Falchuk and a group of supporters from throughout Massachusetts, the United Independent Party (UIP) is committed to moving from the outdated political establishment debate of "small government versus big government" to one focused on greater fiscal accountability to voters, stronger protection of civil rights, and innovative, pragmatic solutions that improve the day-to-day lives of people, families and communities. The UIP calls for smart, brave reform of our politics, economy and government.

For information about the UIP visit [www.UnitedIndependent.org/enroll](http://www.UnitedIndependent.org/enroll).

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just to say: I truly enjoy  
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from Louise Dupre



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# FAIRHAVEN

OLD-  
TIME

HOLI  
-DAY



## DECEMBER 13 & 14

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

#### Town Hall Shops

*Booths by non-profit groups. Face painting.*

*Drop-off for Toys and Food donations for the needy*

Town Hall, 40 Center St., 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### Brick Church Fair

*Craft booths, baked goods, thrift shop & more*

Congregational Church, 34 Center St., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

#### Holiday Marketplace

*Craft booths, holiday greens & more*

Unitarian Church, 102 Green St., 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

#### Town Hall Sing-along

Town Hall, 40 Center St., 6:00 p.m. *Sponsored by the Fairhaven Improvement Association.*

#### Unitarian Church Tours

Unitarian Church, 102 Green St. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### Wrapping Paper Making & Art Sale

*Design and make unique wrapping paper*

Art on Center, 15 Center St., 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### Holiday Soup & Sandwich Luncheon

Harrop Center, Center St., 11 a.m. -1:30 p.m.

#### Lobster Roll Luncheon

Congregational Church, 34 Center St., 11 a.m. - ?

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

#### Old-Time Christmas Carol Sing

Trinity Lutheran Church, 16 Temple Pl., 1:00 p.m.

#### Service of Lessons and Carols

Unitarian Memorial Church, 102 Green St., 4:00 p.m.

The Old-Time Holiday Weekend is sponsored by Fairhaven non-profit and church groups and is coordinated by the Fairhaven Office of Tourism. Complete program listings are available from <http://Fairhaventours.com>. For more information, contact the Fairhaven Office of Tourism, 141 Main Street, Fairhaven, telephone 508-979-4085, email [FairhavenTours@aol.com](mailto:FairhavenTours@aol.com). The Fairhaven Visitors Center hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to Noon and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. The Visitors Center will not be open on Saturday, December 13, during the Old-Time Holiday.