



# Fairhaven Neighborhood News

A **FREE!** publication of all things Fairhaven  
*Including event listings from Cape Cod to RI*



The little paper  
with a big voice!

## Fairhaven native son killed in Afghanistan



Lance Cpl. Matthew R. Rodriguez, 19, of Fairhaven was killed in Afghanistan on December 11. A combat engineer with 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, he died while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, according to a Department of Defense press release. LEFT: Mr. Rodriguez training to be a 50-caliber gunner, taken from his Facebook page. RIGHT: Matthew Rodriguez's boot camp photo, provided by the Marines. See page 16 for story.



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### Also Inside:

- **Selectboard:** page 4
- **Acushnet news:** page 12
- **BPW:** page 18
- **Planning Board:** page 20

## From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —  
A day late and many dollars short.

Fairhaven lost one of its young ones this week. Lance Corporal Matthew Rodriguez, a Marine serving in Afghanistan, was killed during combat operations (see page 16). On Thursday, 12/9, the cover date of this issue, Matt's body will be transported from the New Bedford Airport through the streets of Fairhaven, past his house, to the funeral home in Mattapoisett. The wake is on Sunday, and the funeral on Monday. Details of the route are on page 16, on the town's website, and on our website.

It would be a great show of respect if people could line the route, at least the part near the center of town. Flags are available for free at town hall and the VFW, the NE Maritime Institute and the Fire Station.

Matt's sister and brother, Lauren and Adam, took time out to speak with me, to try to give people a sense of the kind of man he was. I tried to get it all in there, but that's just not possible. Look at his pictures, though, and you can see that a lot of promise was taken out of this world when that IED exploded.

I can't imagine how hard it is for his family, and I admit I have no idea what to say to people in this situation, even though I have to talk to them. It's just so sad to lose such a fine young man for any reason.

But it wasn't for just any reason. It was because he was serving his country, our country.

Let's show the family that Fairhaven cares. Let's get out there and wave some flags. It seems like a small thing to do, but it will make a big impact.

Well, this is our last issue of the year. Our next issue will be on January 9, so don't panic if you don't see us around in the next two weeks. We'll be back!

Before that, we have meeting coverage for you this week, though.

Jean Perry has written her last story for us. She's moving on, to our friendly competitor to the east, The Wanderer. We wish her luck. Meanwhile, see page 12 for Acushnet Selectboard and page 20 for Planning Board.

We also have Board of Public Works for you this week on page 18, and Selectboard on page 4.

There's lots of fun stuff in here, too, so be sure to thumb through each and every page and read it all very carefully, even the ads. And make sure you tell our advertisers you saw their ads here.

We got word that Fairhaven had a Secret Santa who was paying off layaways at Benny's and Walmart this week. We tried to track it down, but the story is probably not quite what people thought. At Benny's, we're pretty sure that one person had his or her layaway paid for. That's from sources who were really not supposed to say. Apparently, layaway is protected, kind of like lawyer-client communications.

At Wal-Mart, they wouldn't talk to little ole me. The referred me to the main media something-or-other, a



Beth David, Publisher

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Editor: Beth David

News Correspondents/Photographers: Mali Lim,  
Jean Perry, Michael Smith, Heidi Winnett

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NeighbNews@comcast.net

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## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

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toll-free number, which referred me to a website, making it very clear that it would be better to go to the website because it would be faster and that I should NEVER leave a message in both places. Geesh.

Well, I filled out their stupid form on the website and that was the end of that. They try to get back to us lowly media types in one "business day," but....well, they are just so important.

Yeah, like I expected to hear back from them.

Sorry, Secret Santa, your deed will have to stay secret. It's being protected like state secrets....well, like some state secrets.

It's Christmastime, Folks. And although we have a sad cover story, we also have the magic of the season around us. The Town Hall sing on Saturday was downright Norman-Rockwellish (see page 17). It was so cold, and the snow was falling and the kids were singing and Santa came in a fire truck. The kids were jumping up and down and the adults were too (because they were cold, though, at least that's what they said). Oh, that hot chocolate hit the spot.

Every year I try to come up with a Christmas message. One year I came up with a beauty, and I don't think I can top it. I won't try. I'm just going to comment on a trend I noticed on Facebook recently.

There's a post going around that says that not everyone has a big happy family and is happy during the holidays. The post asks that people re-post the sad message as a way of support. I guess it's a way of asking

us all to tone it down at Christmastime. Well, I beg to differ. I'm not going to tone it down. I'm sorry if you're sad, really I am, but I am not sad. I am happy, and I want you to be happy, too.

Why can't my happiness rub off on you?

Why does your sadness have to rub off on me?

It seems to me that the magic of the season is that the happiness spreads, not the sadness. It's time to find the magic, not push it to the side to make way for the gloom. There are so many ways to get involved at this time of year. Every group imaginable has a toy drive, food drive, coat drive, or other way to help make someone's season a little brighter. These are all good things.

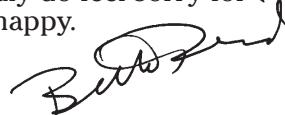
Helping to make someone else's season brighter, might be just the thing to make your own season a little brighter. Call the food pantries, they always need help. Call the nursing homes and assisted livings and Councils on Aging. They always need volunteers.

It seems to me that inside each of us is a little bit of Santa Claus, and when we get together to do something for others, we make Christmas magic. Just look around: At the free hot chocolate and Santa visits and Christmas Caroling and the hustle and bustle in the stores.

If that's not Christmas magic, what is? If that makes you hate the season, then, I truly do feel sorry for you, but I won't let it ruin my happy.

Until January 9....

Happy New Year, too!



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# Selectboard holds off on chicane decision; keeps shellfish alive

By Mali Lim

## Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Selectboard began its meeting on Monday, 12/16, by extending condolences to the family of Lance Corporal Matthew R. Rodriguez who was killed in Afghanistan on December 11 (see page 16 for story).

Town Shellfish Warden Tim Cox and Harbormaster David Darmofal discussed several issues with the selectboard, including Union Wharf lobster basin slots, the proposed fishing pier at Hoppy's Landing, and the possible merger of the Boat Ramp committee and the Shellfish Advisory Board.

Mr. Darmofal presented contract renewals for 12 Union Wharf slots, with amendments that will allow the town to relocate some of the vessels, if needed, due to pending construction at the wharf.

According to Town Planner Bill Roth, renovations scheduled for Union Wharf will affect the spaces for at least three vessels during the construction phase, and that "for the next 18 months Union Wharf will be a juggling act" as vessels will be shifted around to accommodate the work. The board voted unanimously to sign 11 of the contracts, with Mr. Espindola recusing himself for the vote for the 12th contract.

The West Island Improvement Association and the Boat Ramp Committee both asked for updates on the dredging plans for the proposed fishing pier, but officials were unable to give any further news. According to Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch, dredging plans are currently stalled at the state level, as the Army Corps of Engineers and the state's Coastal Zone Management offices have not yet agreed on the next phase.

In response to residents' concerns over \$27,000 in expenditures out of the special revolving account designated for Hoppy's Landing, Mr. Darmofal explained that the funds were used for maintenance of the dock and its structures.

The selectboard also accepted a recommendation from members of the Boat Ramps and Waterfront Recreational Committee and the Shellfish Advisory Board to merge the two groups. The selectboard initially suggested simply dissolving the Shellfish Advisory Board, which

hasn't held a meeting since 1999, since its sole member also happens to serve on the Boat Ramp Committee.

Mr. Darmofal, however, spoke against dissolving the shellfish advisory board.

"Tim [Cox] has put together some strong programs regarding shellfish over the years, and I see it becoming a very important aspect of this town in the future," he told the board.

The selectboard agreed that a more active shellfish advisory group would be the best solution, and they are requesting that anyone, including current members of the committees, who are interested in serving on the new combined committee submit letters of interest.

Approximately two dozen residents from the Shannon Meadows

subdivision spoke out during a lengthy public hearing to have a chicane (road island) removed from Oliver Street. Fifty of the subdivision's residents signed a petition requesting to have the chicane removed, citing safety issues and accessibility problems for at least three homeowners.

Whether or not the petitioners should be required to pay for the project versus spending town funds was also hotly debated.

The selectboard finally voted to send the issue back to the BPW, with directions to consult with qualified engineers and traffic experts to come up with a range of possible solutions and cost estimates. Mr. Roth agreed to work with the residents, the BPW and planning board to handle the next step in the process.

A public hearing on an ownership and management transfer for Friendly Farm Convenience went smoothly in comparison, as the board accepted the transfer pending submission of all required documentation.

The board received a letter from town art curator Al Benac, alerting them to a dispute over historical artwork and documents relating to the Henry Huttleston Rogers estate.

According to Mr. Benac, the school department has placed a claim on a letter regarding the Rogers School deed as well as a portrait of the benefactor which is being displayed in a meeting room in the school department. Mr. Benac has expressed his opinion that these artifacts are town property, not school department property, and should rightfully be displayed at town hall. The selectboard will send a letter to the School Department requesting further information on the issue.

## The only time people slow down is when they hit it [resident of Shannon Meadows subdivision]

subdivision spoke out during a lengthy public hearing to have a chicane (road island) removed from Oliver Street. Fifty of the subdivision's residents signed a petition requesting to have the chicane removed, citing safety issues and accessibility problems for at least three homeowners.

Although the board of public works initially looked upon the petitioners' request favorably, the planning board opposed it, and the selectboard was divided on what the best solution could be.

Residents argued that the chicane, which was installed to slow traffic down at the Oliver Street entrance of the subdivision does not serve its designed purpose at all.

"The only time people slow down is when they hit it," said one of the neighbors living near the chicane.

Poorly maintained in the summer and an obstacle for snow plows in the winter, the chicane poses a danger as

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## December Calendar of Events

Saturday, December 21st - Wine Tasting and Gift Basket Wrapping.

Sunday, December 22nd - Decorate your own Sugar Cookies

Tuesday, December 24th - Closing at 4pm

Wednesday & Thursday, December 25th & 26th - Closed

Tuesday, December 31st - Closing at 4pm

Wednesday and Thursday, January 1st & 2nd - Closed

The Emma Jean's Family & Staff  
would like to wish you all a

Merry Christmas  
and Happy New Year!



# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## Candlelight Vigil

Vigil for non-violence and to honor those who have died by violence, by the Southeastern Mass. chapter of Parents of Murdered Children, for the family and friends who have suffered a loss from a violent death. **At The Unitarian Memorial Church, 102 Green Street, Fairhaven, on Sunday, 12/22, at 5 p.m.**

Bring a picture of your loved one to be hung on our memorial tree and words or a poem to share. Refreshments after the vigil.

POMC is a non-profit national organization for families and friends who have endured the pain of losing a loved one from violence. We offer support, advocacy and education to members and to the public. We meet every third Thursday of the month at the Unitarian Church in Fairhaven, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. We welcome anyone who needs the help and support during the aftermath of murder.

For more information call Anne at 617-947-1639, or Sue at 508-993-6610, or visit [www.pomc.org](http://www.pomc.org)

## At the First Cong.

The following services are at the First Congregational Church, 34 Center Street, Fairhaven. Accessible. Call 508-993-3368

### Longest Night Service

Acknowledging the mixed emotions we may experience at this time of year, comforting music and readings, and quiet time for reflection help us find the peace of God's presence. **Sun., 12/22 from 7-8 p.m.**

### Christmas Eve Services

**Tues., 12/24 from 4:30-5:00 p.m.:** A special service for families with small children. Hear the Christmas story, sing carols, and light glow sticks around the Christmas tree.

**Tues., 12/24, from 7:00-8:00 p.m.:** Join us to celebrate the joy of Christ's birth with music and readings and a special message at this candlelight service.

## At the Unitarian

The following events are being held at the Unitarian Memorial Church, 102 Green Street, Fairhaven. Accessible. Call 508-992-7081, or visit [www.uufairhaven.org](http://www.uufairhaven.org).

## When Solstice Lights Beckon

**Sun., 12/22, at 10:30 a.m.:** A celebration in word and song of our deep connection with the earth at this special time.

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

**Tues., 12/24, at 7 p.m.:** Celebrate the holiday with this magical Christmas Eve service.

## Christmas Trees

Troop and Pack 55 Fairhaven still have wreaths and Christmas trees for sale. Prices from \$30-\$55; \$10-\$15 per wreath. Located at Mike and Wayne's on Rte. 6 in Fairhaven. The scouts will be selling Monday through Friday from 5:00 PM to 7:30PM, Saturday & Sunday from 9:00 AM to 7:30 PM. and will help you load your tree. Employees of Mike & Wayne's will collect money during the early hours on weekdays. All Proceeds Benefit Cub Scout PACK 55 & Boy Scout TROOP 55 Fairhaven of the First Congregational Church.

## Spread the Warmth

Mobile Loaves and Fishes is collecting warm clothing, coats, hats, mittens/gloves and blankets. Any new or gently used items will be distributed weekly in downtown New Bedford to area homeless. 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. Please remember those in need of warmth this winter.

## Polar Plunge

The annual Fort Phoenix Polar Plunge will be held on **Wed., Jan. 1, at 10:00 a.m. sharp at Fort Phoenix State Beach and Reservation, South end of Green St., Fairhaven**

Theme of the Polar Plunge "Who's your Superhero?" Dress in your superhero costume and take the plunge! Challenge your family and friends to come out and plunge in remembrance of the victims of domestic violence. A donation of \$25 buys a long sleeve T-shirt. Shirts will be available on a first come, first served basis. You can choose whether or not you jump in. Registration and t-shirts can be purchased at the Plunge from 9:00

a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Checks can be made payable to: Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars. Please note on check: Ft. Phoenix Polar Plunge.

## High School Open House

Fairhaven High School will be holding our 8th Grade Family Open House on Thursday January 9th at 6:30 pm. All 8th grade students interested in attending Fairhaven High School and their parents are welcome to attend. We will be sharing information about the High School and its curriculum. Students and their families will be able to participate in a school tour, an activities fair and a fine arts showcase. Any questions please feel free to contact the Guidance Office at 508-979-4120.

## Annual Women's Center Drive

Please help a woman in need begin a new life in the new year. Fairhaven's House Of Hair salon is conducting a collection to benefit the Women's Center in New Bedford. The battered women who seek emergency shelter at the center often do so without the necessary items to regain their self-esteem and the confidence needed to establish a new and secure life for themselves and their children.

Some of the things needed include everything from personal care products to gently used or new clothing and the household items needed to outfit a new apartment. A complete list of needed items can be found on the House Of Hair Facebook page or on the shelter's website <http://www.thewomenscentersc.com/donate.php>

Please bring your donations to the House Of Hair, 72 Main St., Fairhaven, Tuesdays 9-3, Thursdays 3-8, Fridays 3-8, Saturdays 10-5

## Blood Drive

The George H. Taber Masonic Lodge and the Red Cross are teaming up for another year of blood drives at the Fairhaven Rec Center. **Our first blood drive of the year will take place on Wed., 1/8, from 1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

With your participation we can all help the Red Cross to fulfill its mission of ensuring the availability of a safe and reliable blood supply to area hospitals.

## HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

### Volunteers needed

Lighthouse Animal Shelter is looking for volunteers. Located at 596 Hathaway Road, New Bedford, the new dog and cat, no-kill shelter. Volunteers are needed in a variety of areas.

Call 508-999-7387, email lighthouseanimalshelter@gmail.com, or visit [www.lighthouseanimalshelter.org](http://www.lighthouseanimalshelter.org). Adoption day every Saturday, 11-2.

### Free Parking to Shop

In an effort to encourage everyone to do their holiday shopping in New Bedford, the City is offering a special Holiday Parking Program. **Effective through Wednesday, 1/1/14**, the City of New Bedford will offer FREE 2-hour parking at metered spaces in both the **Downtown and on Acushnet Avenue and 2-hour FREE parking at the Elm Street Garage, and the Zeiterion Garage!**

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

### NY Eve Fireworks+

Celebrate the New Year at New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park! Ruth and Abby, the national park's 1850s ladies, will be marking the new year by providing materials for visitors of all ages to create their own 2014 calendar, and would be pleased to have you join them, from 5:00-7:00 PM. The event will take place on **Tues., Dec. 31 at the New Bedford Whaling National Park Visitor Center, 33 William Street, downtown New Bedford. Free.**

The calendar-making is just one part of City Celebrates! New Year's Eve, presented by AHA! and the City of New Bedford in the heart of the downtown historic district. Join the AHA! partners for a **FREE family-friendly evening in Downtown New Bedford from 4:30 to 9 p.m.** — but feel free to arrive early and stay late! **The fireworks start at 8:30, and take place over New Bedford harbor.** For more information on City Celebrates! New Year's Eve, go to <http://ahanewbedford.org/newyearseve.html>

### Grant applications

The Women's Fund at the Community Foundation has awarded over \$1M in grants in support of women and girls since 2005. The organization

is now accepting Letters of Inquiry for its 2014 Action Award grants.

The mission of the Women's Fund is to advance the educational attainment and economic security of women and girls in Southeastern Massachusetts. The Fund supports Bristol and Plymouth County-based organizations and is particularly interested in funding neighborhood-based efforts that provide programs and services to low-income girls.

Our 2014 Action Award focus is to continue to advance social change by supporting high impact projects, collaborations, and innovative systems that engage girls. We are most interested in funding evidence-based/informed projects that develop leadership and advocacy skills. More specifically, we are looking for projects that can address at least one of the following: 1) giving girls a voice to take effective action for meaningful social change, and 2) engaging girls to make positive choices, especially in relationship to higher education and career paths where they can succeed and thrive.

Action Award grants are limited to \$5,000 per organization and are made only to organizations that maintain Section 501(c)3, tax-exempt status. Interested organizations must **submit a Letter of Inquiry by January 17, 2014.** The Women's Fund will review initial letters and contact organizations directly if they are invited to submit a full proposal.

For additional information please log on to [womensfundsema.org](http://womensfundsema.org) or contact the Women's Fund at 508-717-0283.

### Tea Party Ship

In time for the 240th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, the New Bedford Whaling Museum is set to unveil a model of *Dartmouth*, first ship to be built in New Bedford in 1767, and which sailed into American history as one of the three vessels boarded and its cargo of British tea dumped into Boston Harbor on December 16, 1773.

*Dartmouth*, built in 1767 for the Rotch family, holds the distinction of being the first ship-rigged vessel constructed in then-named Bedford Village of Old Dartmouth, now New Bedford. Joseph Rotch arrived in the new settlement in 1765 from Nantucket, determined to establish a

whaling industry on the mainland. He built *Dartmouth* to transport whale oil to England, then the principle market for his product. Carrying oil to England, the ship would return with British products for the colonies. It was with a cargo of tea that the ship returned to Boston in November 1773. The Sons of Liberty, determined not to pay the tax on tea imposed by the British, dumped the tea from *Dartmouth* along with that of the brig Beaver and ship Eleanor into Boston Harbor. This act of defiance, dubbed the Boston Tea Party, emboldened colonists to rebel against British rule. *Dartmouth* was lost in 1774.

The Museum is located at 18 Johnny Cake Hill in the heart of the city's historic downtown. Hours of operation, November through March: Tuesday to Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Sunday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; open 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on holiday Mondays. For more info: [www.whalingmuseum.org](http://www.whalingmuseum.org).

### Scouts have website

Cub Scout Pack 7 launched their website recently and they encourage parents interested in getting their sons involved in Scouting from the Greater New Bedford Area to check it out. The site contains information about Cub Scouts, Pack and Troop 7 (Troop 7 is for older boys ages 11 and up), upcoming events, important announcements, and more. The address is [www.pack7nb.org](http://www.pack7nb.org).

### Call for Artists

"A Place at the Table." ArtWorks! and SouthCoast Serves have partnered together to help local food justice projects. Artwork for this exhibition should be inspired by food justice projects in the SouthCoast region. Works can be direct interpretations of a meeting that each artist is required to have with a food justice project (food pantry, community meal or food security program) that will be assigned to them.

Artists chosen to participate will receive a stipend for their work and can also receive a portion of the amount that their works are auctioned off for. **All entries are due in by December 31.** For more information please email Alicia at [aliciam@artworksforyou.org](mailto:aliciam@artworksforyou.org) or call 508-984-1588

# HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

## Solstice Stargazing

Go stargazing on the winter solstice during a **free Bay Adventure with the Buzzards Bay Coalition**. Join the Buzzards Bay Coalition and Bristol Community College Professor Stephan Martin for a nighttime stargazing walk at the Mattapoisett River Reserve on Saturday, Dec. 21 — the winter solstice, the longest night of the year. Far away from city lights, the 300+ acre Mattapoisett River Reserve offers visitors trails and a dark, expansive sky to view the stars.

**At The Bogs (approximately 137 Acushnet Road, Mattapoisett), on Saturday, Dec. 21 from 6-7 p.m. Free**

**Registration is required** for all Bay Adventures. To RSVP, email [bayadventures@savebuzzardsbay.org](mailto: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 Bay Adventures, visit [www.savebuzzardsbay.org/BayAdventures](http://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/BayAdventures).

## NY Eve in VT

While hordes of revelers head to Times Square, those seeking a New Year's celebration outside the norm head to Vermont. Yes, the Green Mountain State is host to traditional New Year's Eve festivals full of fireworks, torchlight parades and fanfare, but there's also an array of unconventional celebrations for Auld Lang Syne partiers, as well as those seeking decadent dining or sports competition. Visit [VermontVacation.com](http://VermontVacation.com) for Vermont's 14 Events to Ring in '14:

## Tide Calendars

Back by popular demand is the Westport River Watershed Alliance's 2014 Calendar. Each month is depicted with a beautiful photograph of the Westport landscape or river, and most useful is the daily tide information. Photos were provided by local photographers.

The calendar is \$15 and available at the WRWA office, 1151 Main Rd. in Westport and at the following Westport businesses: Partners, Country Woolens, Lees Market, The Westport Apothecary, and A.S. Deams.

Order online at [www.westport](http://www.westport)

watershed.org or call 508-636-3016 and have them sent directly to your home or gift recipient.

Proceeds benefit the programs that support WRWA's mission: to restore and protect the Westport River and its watershed.

## December in VT

Downtowns and ski villages are all decked out for the holiday season in Vermont. Choose from slopeside events and special offers at ski resorts, plus festive holiday lodging deals at inns statewide. Enjoy bustling shops and vibrant galleries in Vermont's 24 Designated Downtowns. Several towns host the 50/50 Challenge, a series of holiday events and sales that ensure a jolly good time for shoppers filling hard-to-stuff stockings! For a complete list visit <http://www.vermontvacation.com/>

## Miracle on 34 + Piano Bar

Ocean State Theatre Company (OSTC) is proud to announce the continuation of their Piano Bar Series. "Under the Mistletoe" will be held following select evening performances of the company's current production, the New England premiere of the popular holiday favorite, Miracle on 34th Street, The Musical. Free.

**Tickets for the Dec. 20 and 21 performances are on sale at the box office, 401-921-6800 or online at [www.OceanStateTheatre.org](http://www.OceanStateTheatre.org).**

## Gala Fund-raiser

Buzzards Play Productions is celebrating its first official season with a Gala Fundraiser and invites you to join in the celebration at our theater, 3065 Cranberry Highway, Wareham, on January 25th from 7 p.m.-midnight. Tickets are \$35.

Appetizers, a cash bar and entertainment will be provided. Support BPP and all the local artists and entertainers who've helped BPP bring theatre, comedy, music and so much more to Wareham and the South Coast. We'll look back at the past year, where we are now and where the future will take us! Join us for a fantastic evening and support the local arts!

Buzzards Play Productions is a local non-profit theatre that has been producing family friendly theatrical productions since 2011. Now a 501(c)3 organization, 2013 is the first official season of Buzzards Play Productions. In addition to theatre, the venue houses 3065 LIVE, a fully functional music venue which brings in acts from all over the country.

## JA Sponsors Needed

Junior Achievement of Southern Massachusetts (JA) is proud to announce that Bristol County Savings Bank will act as the Title Sponsor of the 2014 Junior Achievement Titan Challenge, a business strategy competition in which high school students compete against one another in teams using an online, interactive business simulation game.

During the event, 150 high school sophomores and juniors from 11 area schools will compete for scholarships. Many additional sponsorship opportunities are still available for local businesses and organizations. Participating sponsors may also provide the volunteer mentors that will assist students during the event. For more information, please contact Caroline Paradis at [caroline.paradis@ja.org](mailto:caroline.paradis@ja.org) or call 508-997-6536.

## Donate vehicles

Your car, truck or camper may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at 1-888-613-2777 for details. This is a free tow, quick pick-up, and donations are tax deductible.

Proceeds benefit blind and vision impaired persons in Mass. Visit [www.mabcommunity.org](http://www.mabcommunity.org)

## Gingerbread Decorating

**Christmas Gingerbread Man Day is Sat., 12/21, from 1-4 p.m. at the Smith-Appleby House in Smithfield, RI.** There is a \$5 donation for adults. Children are free. No reservations are needed. Visit the Smith-Appleby House Museum at 220 Stillwater Rd. in Smithfield, RI, just off I-295.

For more information, visit the website at <http://www.smithapplebyhouse.org> or call (401) 231-7363.



## **ENTERTAINMENT:**

Fri., 12/20, James Gagne, 8 p.m.  
 Sat., 12/21, Too Much Fun, 9 p.m.  
 Fri., 12/27, Johnny Basement, 8 p.m.  
 Fri., 1/3, James Gagne, 8 p.m.

*Planning a holiday party?* Book your reservations now!  
 Holiday Gift Cards available and can be redeemed at both  
 of our locations: Ice House Bar & Grill & Fathoms Bar & Grill.

### **MONDAY NIGHT PIZZA SPECIAL:**

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\$3.00 OFF any grocery order of \$25.00

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\*Special ends on 12/31/13

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Limited time offer!  
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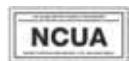
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## Recipe of the Week

### Pumpkin Pie Squares

1 c. All purpose flour  
1/2 c. Quick cooking oats  
1/2 c. Packed brown sugar  
1/2 c. Butter or margarine (I use butter)

#### FILLING:

2 cans (15 ounces each) pumpkin (I use Libby)  
2 cans (12 oz ea.) evaporated milk  
4 eggs  
1-1/2 c. sugar  
2 t. ground cinnamon  
1 t. ground ginger  
1/2 t. ground cloves  
1 t. salt

#### TOPPING:

1/2 c. Packed brown sugar  
1/2 c. chopped pecans  
2 T. Butter or margarine softened  
Combine the first four ingredients until crumbly; press into a greased 13x9x2 baking pan.

Bake at 350° for 20 minutes or until golden brown. Meanwhile, beat filling ingredients in a mixing bowl until smooth; pour over crust. Bake for 45 minutes.

Combine topping ingredients and sprinkle over top. Bake 15-20 minutes longer or until a knife inserted near the center comes out clean.

Yield: 16-20 servings. So yummy with the spicy pumpkin goodness of the traditional pie without the fuss of a pastry crust.

*Enjoy!! Bevy Lussier*

## Dollar Zone gives away computer



ABOVE: Nereida Perez of New Bedford accepts her Dell desktop computer from Mohammed Zubair, the manager of the Dollar Zone in Fairhaven on November 2. The store raffles off a gift once each month. Visit the store for details on how to win. Photo submitted.

## Father's Day Road Race donates proceeds

The Fairhaven Father's Day Road Race donated more than \$23,000 in proceeds to various nonprofit organizations and government departments this year, this year, the 39th annual.

Five groups received \$2,000 each: Fairhaven EMA, Fairhaven Fire Department, Fairhaven High School scholarships, Fairhaven Police Department and Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech scholarships. One-thousand dollar donations went to the Fairhaven Recreation Center, Fairhaven Senior Center, North Fairhaven Improvement Associatin, Southcoast Hospitals Group and Wounded Warriors.

The race also donated \$500 to Chrispin Demers Children Scholarship Fund,

Fairhaven High Band, Jimmy Fund and Shepherd's Pantry; \$400 to the Arthritis Foundation; and \$300 to Boy Scout Troup #55; and gave \$200 to 27 other nonforit groups, including community organizations and school

RACE: cont'd on page 13

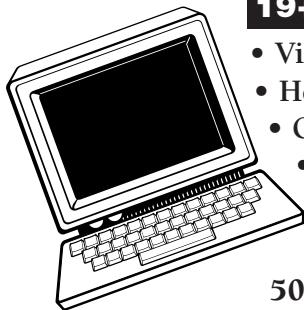


The Wood School's "Band of Brothers," a running group that is supported by adults at the school, runs in the 39th annual Fairhaven Father's Day Road Race on 6/16/13. Neighb News file photo by Beth David.

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**Saturday, 12/21**

Girl Friday, 8:30–12:30

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Every Friday, 9–1 a.m.

**Every Wed.:**

Disco Night  
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**Every Thurs.:**

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### Sunday Specials\*

\*with purchase of beverage ONLY

Fish & Chips: \$5.95  
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Hand-cut Sirloin Steak  
w/Fries: \$5

One Topping Pizza: \$5.00  
Clamboils are BACK!  
(Market price)

### Everyday Special:

Fish & Chips: \$6.95 (not  
applicable on Fridays)  
Light or English Batter

### Blackboard Specials

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

Every Tues.: Ladies Night, 7 p

Every Thurs.: Trivia Buff, 7:30

Every Sun.: Bar Bingo, 8 p.m.

Fri., 12/20: Couto & Mulligan, 5–8

Sat., 12/21: DJ Tara, 9 p.m.

Fri., 12/27: Billy Mulligan Trio, 5–8

Sat., 12/28: DJ Tara, 9 p.m.

Fri., 1/3: Couto & Mulligan, 5–8  
Sat., 1/4: DJ Tara, 9 p.m.

Fri., 1/10: Billy Mulligan Trio, 5–8

**TARA IS BACK!!**  
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Call Jevon for your other seasonal catering needs: full service, delivery or take-out options available.

Call 774-473-0393 (cell)



On Wednesdays, Dec. 11 and Dec. 18, we will again feature **ITALIAN NIGHT**. Choose from a large selection of sure-to-please favorites. **Open until 8 p.m.**

# Acushnet takes next step to abolish the BPW

By Jean Perry

## Neighb News Correspondent

Signed, sealed, and soon-to-be delivered, the Town Meeting-approved special legislation to abolish the Acushnet Board of Public Works is on its way to the General Court after a unanimous vote during the Selectboard meeting on 12/16.

There was not much else to say that had not been said already, before Selectperson Kevin Gaspar's motion to fulfill the "will of the people" as Chairperson Leslie Dakin put it.

Board Member David Wojnar added the remark that the "outstanding gentlemen" currently on the BPW might be asked, in the form of "a polite letter" from the Selectboard, to "forward all pertinent documents and decisions" to the future Department of Public Works authority, the Selectboard, in the meantime.

"I think the transition is going to be the most important part of [the process]," said Mr. Wojnar, adding that he wants the Selectboard "to keep a close eye on what's taking place" and perhaps schedule a joint meeting between the two boards in the foreseeable future.

Mr. Dakin agreed, but commented that it would remain a mere "request on our part" at this point.

The board also remarked on how important discussion will be regarding the formation of a new structure and how it should look, and referenced the pending roles of Town Administrator Alan Coutinho and Finance Director Cathy Doane in all of it.

A petition signed by 271 residents was the impetus for the 10/9 Special Town Meeting when residents voted 125-37 to abolish the BPW and grant all DPW authority to the Selectboard. Many residents were angry over the

new \$168 base water charge.

In other matters, the board voted unanimously to formally do away with compensatory time effective 7/1/14 after a review of the data analysis Ms. Doane and Mr. Coutinho compiled and presented to the board.

Back on 12/2, the board considered Ms. Doane's recommendation to revoke the Town's policy on comp time upon the start of fiscal year 2015, but hesitated to vote at that time before hearing from Ms. Doane personally. They also felt they lacked sufficient data analysis which Ms. Doane subsequently provided them.

Mr. Dakin ran down some of that data during the 12/16 meeting, referencing "one department" that,

---

I think the transition is  
going to be the most  
important part of [the  
process] [David Wojnar]

---

according to the facts, accumulated a total of 13.5 days in comp time (94.5 work hours) during FY13, at an \$1800 expense to the Town. It was confirmed with the Selectboard Office on 12/17 that the department mentioned is the Health Department. According to the data, the Health Department exceeded its overtime budget by \$1207, after \$3000 total in overtime spending.

The Health Department now, in FY14, has already spent 73% of its overtime budget and "is on track to expend their budget by 178% this year," said Mr. Dakin reading from Ms.

Doane's data.

"Thank you for your support," said Ms. Doane after the vote. "I think it will be in the best interest of the Town."

She added that the "lean staff," relative to the comp time problem "almost perpetuates itself."

In other news, before filing the letter, the board discussed concerns from the Buzzards Bay Coalition over what it considers inadequate monitoring of air-borne and water-borne PCBs from the dredging of the harbor by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The BBC wrote that it believes the "turbidity monitoring" that detects the sediment re-suspension and the release of PCBs into the atmosphere is inadequate and untimely released.

The letter stated that a dust sensor gave off an alert on 7/18 that showed particle levels at 75 parts per million, prompting a water truck to arrive at the scene to spray down the area and suppress the dust. The letter referred to the incident as a "significant elevation."

The BBC is urging an enhanced monitoring plan to monitor sediment re-suspension and the reintroduction of PCBs into the air. It calls on the EPA to allow the BBC's own representative to actively observe and monitor the stations regularly.

Mr. Gaspar said he thought EPA standards were already quite stringent and perhaps the BBC is seeking to exceed the standards.

"For good or bad, I think it's worthwhile," said Mr. Gaspar.

The letter is only an FYI letter at this time.

Mark Rasmussen, president of the

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

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Kelli Tomlinson

groups.

Organizer Allen Days said he especially wanted to thank the race sponsors, Citizens Bank and South-coast Hospitals Group, as well as the refreshment sponsors. Without them, he said, the race would not be as successful, or maybe not even possible.

### Thank you

At this special time of the year, the Fairhaven Road Race Committee was able to donate over \$23,000 directly back into the local community. We would like to express a sincere "thank-you" to the people who really make this possible.

Our dedicated volunteers, our generous sponsors and all of the runners who have made Fairhaven the place to be on Father's Day. Twenty-three hundred runners ran this year, and we have had record fields for the last six years.

We would like to invite you to join us next Father's Day, to help us celebrate the 40th annual Fairhaven Road Race. Mark your calendar, don't miss it. It will be the biggest and best yet.

*Allen Days Sr., Road Race organizer*

## ACUSH: cont'd from previous page

BBC, was on the agenda to appear before the board to talk about the Massachusetts Oil Spill Prevention Act that the board had tabled at a prior meeting, but was unable to attend the meeting.

He sent an email to Mr. Coutinho explaining that no action was required by the Town at this point, saying that the BBC was meeting with the Mass Department of Environmental Protection about the program, and a new approach to oil spill prevention might be adopted in the future. The board tabled the matter until January.

Also at the meeting, the board denied the Dighton Selectboard's request for support in designating the new Dighton Police Station, slated for completion in late 2015, as the "911 hub" for Bristol County, citing its centralized location as one good reason to do so.

Mr. Dakin said he saw it as "a move on their part to further funding for their police station."

"I'm reluctant to support the Town of Dighton," said Mr. Gaspar.

"Personally, I'd prefer to support

the Town of Acushnet," stated Mr. Dakin.

The board addressed one other matter, the newly established Rent Control Board, a.k.a., the Selectboard, acknowledging that soon the board will have to schedule a Rent Control Board meeting apart from the routine Selectboard meeting for swearing-in and adopting rules and regulations.

Mr. Wojnar said one thing stands out for him in the draft of the rules, and that was power to evict, which Mr. Wojnar stressed is the jurisdiction of Housing Court.

He suggested the board shouldn't be "in the business of deciding who stays and who goes."

"Rent control is one thing," said Mr. Wojnar, "but dealing with evictions is beyond our scope..."

**Christmas waves a magic wand over this world,  
and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful.**

*Norman Vincent Peale*



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20	FRIDAY	21	SATURDAY	22	SUNDAY	23	MONDAY
TEEN SKATE 7-10PM	AFTERNOON KID SKATE 2-4:30PM FAMILY SKATE 7-10PM	AFTERNOON KID SKATE 2-4:30PM	AFTERNOON SKATE 2-4:30PM				
24	TUESDAY SPECIAL TIME! CHRISTMAS EVE SKATE 11AM-1:30PM	25	WEDNESDAY MERRY CHRISTMAS CLOSED	26	THURSDAY AFTERNOON SKATE 2-4:30PM ADULT SKATE 7-9PM	27	FRIDAY AFTERNOON SKATE 2-4:30PM TEEN SKATE 7-10PM
28	SATURDAY AFTERNOON KID SKATE 2-4:30PM FAMILY SKATE 7-10PM	29	SUNDAY AFTERNOON KID SKATE 2-4:30PM	30	MONDAY AFTERNOON SKATE 2-4:30PM		TUESDAY NEW YEARS EVE SKATE 2-4:30PM
1	WEDNESDAY NEW YEARS DAY SKATE 9-4:30PM FAMILY PIZZA SKATE 6-8PM FREE PIZZA & RIBS		DON'T FORGET TO BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY!				

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## ATTENTION!!!

The Draft on Dec 14th for the Jr and Senior basketball program has been changed to Dec 28th, due to low coach sign ups. The times will remain the same 8 a.m. for Juniors and 10 a.m. for Seniors. AGES FOR SENIORS HAS CHANGED IT IS NOW 12-15 before Dec 1st

**Calling all basketball parents!**  
We are looking for motivated, committed individuals to volunteer as basketball coaches for this league. We are also in need of officials for the league, pay is roughly \$13 per game. For more information and to fill out a volunteer application please call or stop by the Recreation Center during league registration hours

## Lacrosse Program Boys & Girls

New Lacrosse program is coming in January!!! Sign them up to learn all about this increasingly popular sport!! Boys and Girls have separate programs. Learn and play program. Cost \$40 with membership; \$50 without

Kids ages 8-14 Tuesdays 4-5pm  
Start Date Jan 21st End Feb 25th

## Free Classes Dec. 19

Come try out a class before the program begins in January. Cardio Mix 5pm-6pm. Body Pump 6:45pm-7:45. No membership needed to try these classes

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

## Mall Trips

**Mon. 12/23:** Providence Place  
**Mon. 12/30:** Independence Mall  
**Wed. 1/8:** Newport Grand, Middle-

town Xmas Tree Shop  
**Wed. 1/15:** Warwick Mall  
**Wed. 1/22:** So. Shore Plaza

## Entertainment

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We will be closed all day Dec. 25th and Jan. 1st

### New Activity

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### Weather Cancellations

If we have snow accumulation there will be no daily shopping that day and activities may be cancelled. Call the Senior Center to confirm if your activity is cancelled. So, please stock up on non-perishable food items. If the Town Hall Offices are closed then the Senior Center is closed. Listen to the local radio or television stations for official closings.

### Coping with grief during the holidays

The holiday season can be, and often is a very stressful time for many people under the best circumstances. Holidays have become more and more commercial and expectations so great that it is

easy to get lost and overwhelmed with all of the preparations. When a grieving person is facing the holidays it can be a daunting challenge. So be kind to yourself, plan ahead, set priorities, include your loved one in your conversations, express your feelings, do something new, remember the rest of your family.

### Fuel Assistance

If you need fuel assistance, call 508-979-4029 for an appointment.

### Senior Work Off Program

There are still a few openings in the work off program for seniors who are interested in working in a town department in exchange for a credit of \$500.00 on your property taxes. Call the Sr. Center and ask for Phyllis.

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Peg Bracken

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# Fairhaven Marine remembered for his smile, as a good brother

By Beth David  
Editor

His nickname in Fairhaven Little League was "Smiley." He smiled so much that he actually got in trouble during boot camp for it and had to spend some time in the pit: a sandbox outside in "whatever weather" where he had to do "intense training," meaning lots of pushups.

He was Fairhaven's own Lance Cpl. Matthew R. Rodriguez, a combat engineer with 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, who died in Helmand province, Afghanistan, on December 11 when his MRAP (Mine-Resistant Ambush Protection) vehicle ran over an IED (Improvised Explosive Device).

"He was the greatest uncle any kid could ever dream of," said Lauren Rodriguez Webber, Matt's sister, who has two daughters. "He took them to the playground; he liked to bake and cook with them; he liked to chase them around and just be a crazy uncle, or more of a big brother type."

So he had a lot of energy?

Well, he liked to sleep, too, a lot.

"We weren't sure how he was going to handle boot camp, getting up at 4 a.m. and running on no sleep," said Matt's brother Adam Rodriguez. "He did get in trouble for smiling. He was always smiling."

Just two years younger than Matt, Adam said it was nice to have a big brother in high school with him at Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech.

"Of course, he'd see me in the halls and tease me. What siblings don't?" said Adam. "But it was always nice to know someone was there who had my back. Everyone around knew me as Matt's little brother, but luckily I never needed his help; but it was good to know I had him there."

Trying to come up with the one thing, though, that people should remember about their brother was not easy. He was a total-package kind of guy.

"It can't be just one or two things, it's everything and then some," said Adam. "Because he was just amazing, and everyone loved him. I don't know one person who does not like him."

He said people he doesn't even know approach him all the time saying, "You're Matt's brother."

"Everyone knew him as a sweet kid who always had that smile on his face," said Adam. "If that's how he's remembered, that's amazing. I'll remember him as my big brother and hero, the one I've been looking up to since birth."

Lauren admitted that sometimes people just don't want to say anything negative to be polite. But not when it comes to her little brother.

"He was genuinely a nice kid," she said, adding he loved his family and his friends and he was polite and helpful, never saying "no" when she needed something.

"My husband and I were laughing, remembering Matthew: who's going



to do my Matthew to-do list," she said, referring to a list of things he would do for her, like clean gutters and paint. He never complained, just asked "when and where."

"And he would work like a dog until it was done. It was just the type of kid he was," she said. "And he never complained...to my face anyway," she added with a laugh.

"And this world just doesn't know people like that anymore, and that's what I'll miss more than anything," said Lauren. "He left his mark on the world, but there's so much more to offer."

Adam said that ever since he was little, he wanted to be just like Matt.

Does that mean he'll join the military, too?

"I don't think my parents will let me," he said, and they both laughed.

"I can tell you that I won't let you," said Lauren.

But seriously, they would not have tried to talk Matt out of joining.

"I was extremely proud," said Adam. "I knew that's what he wanted

MARINE: cont'd on page 19



TOP: Lance Cpl. Matthew R. Rodriguez sporting the smile that got him in trouble during training, at his graduation from boot camp on November 17, 2012. LEFT: Lance Cpl. Matthew R. Rodriguez stands tall in his uniform behind his three nieces holding signs that show their pride and love for their uncle on the occasion of his graduation from boot camp on November 17, 2012, at Parris Island. The 2091 is his boot camp platoon. Photo courtesy of the Rodriguez family. RIGHT: Staff Sgt. Darius Kaywood of the USMC, assisted by Fairhaven Police Sgt Michael Bouvier, who served in the USMC, present the Purple Heart Medal to Julia Tapper, the fiancée of Lance Cpl. Matthew Rodriguez. Matthew's parents, Lisa and Rolando "Rod" Rodriguez stand alongside Ms. Tapper. Mr. Rodriguez is a Marine veteran, having served in Vietnam. The Purple Heart ceremony was performed at an organizational meeting to plan for LCpl Rodriguez's services. Photo Courtesy of Eddie Freitas. See photos in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)

# Fairhaven holds old-time holiday celebration

By Beth David  
**Editor**

The center of town was buzzing on a blustery Saturday as Fairhaven held its annual Old-Time Holiday celebration. Scores of nonprofits and local organizations set up in the town hall auditorium to sell home-made crafts, baked goods and unique items. Local students and Scouts sang throughout the day, keeping the Christmas spirit alive as people braved the cold and snow-threatening weather to browse the wares inside.

Other crafters set up at the nearby First Congregational Church and Unitarian Memorial Church.

Most of the vendors said they were happy with the turnout, especially considering the weather. A few flakes of snow sporadically dropped down while the Boy Scouts of Troop 52 sold hot chocolate on the steps of Town Hall.

Later that evening, the Fairhaven Improvement Association sponsored an old-fashioned sing-a-long. At first it looked like only the organizers were going to make it, but as soon as the children started to sing, the hardy souls of Fairhaven, about 50 strong, braved the frigid weather to stand outside of Town Hall and sing Christmas carols as the snow fell.

It had a downright Norman Rockwell feel to it under the archways of the stately Fairhaven Town Hall as snowflakes began to fall.

Then, Santa showed up and the children crowded around to receive their candy canes.

Julie Keefe, however, gave Santa a gift, a book about a fox that she herself wrote and transcribed on paper just for him.

Inside, after the singing, the neighborhood was treated to hot chocolate, cookies and popcorn, all courtesy of the Fairhaven Improvement Association.



ABOVE LEFT, L-R: Kamryn and Kaitlyn Rodriques show off the cookies they decorated just before gobbling them up at Old Time Holiday celebration's town hall shops in the auditorium of Fairhaven Town Hall. The cookie booth benefitted the Fairhaven High School Student Council and FHS Honor Society. RIGHT: Three boys entertain the crowd by singing Christmas carols on Saturday, 12/14, while people browsed the wares at the Old Time Holiday celebration's town hall shops in Fairhaven Town Hall. LEFT: Two boys share a book while singing at the annual Town Hall Sing sponsored by the Fairhaven Improvement Association on Saturday evening 12/14. BOTTOM LEFT: The camera flash exaggerates the size of the snowflakes as the youngsters of the Fairhaven Improvement Association sing Christmas carols waiting for Santa at the annual Town Hall Sing. BELOW RIGHT, L-R: William Bouvier, Shanti Furtado and Hannah Bouvier hang with Santa at the annual Town Hall Sing sponsored by the Fairhaven Improvement Association on Saturday evening 12/14. Photos by Beth Daivid. See the 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. Individual photos are available for purchase.



# Acushnet may want to tie into Fairhaven's water/sewer

By Michael Smith

## Neighb News Correspondent

With the recent development of Acushnet residents voting to dissolve the Board of Public Works, the town appeared before the Fairhaven Board of Public Works in early talks about possibly joining Fairhaven's water system.

Acushnet BPW member Norman Fredette appeared before the Fairhaven BPW inquiring about possible rates Acushnet would be charged for residents in Acushnet's south end to use Fairhaven's water and waste system.

In a special town meeting on December 9th, the town of Acushnet voted to eliminate their Board of Public Works after being criticized for increases in water and sewer fees.

Superintendent Vinnie Furtado said the cost would be "around \$6.45 per hundred square cubic feet of water used."

The rate does not include tie-in fees.

Acushnet would be under the same plan as Mattapoisett, which has some west-end residents using Fairhaven's system since 1977, according to board Administrative Assistant Kathy Tripp. Fairhaven's current agreement with Mattapoisett consists of Mattapoisett owning 10% of the system and pays their fees to Fairhaven on a quarterly basis.

Mr. Fredette said that approximately 150-200 homes in Acushnet's south end, including some businesses in the Laura Keene Avenue area, would tie into Fairhaven.

Chairperson Steven Riley told Mr. Fredette that the board would first need a municipal agreement with Acushnet before going forward.

Concerns about possible addi-

tional homes in Mattapoisett not being able to join because of Acushnet's proposal were voiced by board Vice-Chairperson Robert "Hoppy" Hobson and member Kathy Sturtevant.

Mr. Furtado assured the board there was "ample room" for future Mattapoisett residents to join in with Acushnet already on board "pending on the logistics of the agreement," he said.

Further talks with Acushnet have

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**Mr. Fredette said that approximately 150-200 homes in Acushnet's south end, including some businesses...would tie into Fairhaven.**

---

been tabled until the next meeting set for December 30th.

In items for action, the board discussed ideas for the possible future location of the town's recycling center.

Mr. Hobson suggested to the board of possibly having it on Bridge Street. Mr. Riley brought up the idea of contacting William Roth, town Director of Planning and Economic Development, in seeking parcels of land "three to four acres max," said Mr. Riley.

"It's good to get the ball rolling on it," said Mr. Riley, forwarding the discussion to a future meeting.

The board voted 3-0 in favor of

granting Fairhaven Harbormaster David Darmofal permission to use the Public Works-owned landfill storage building for boats and a repair workshop till December of 2014.

"It's been a valuable asset," said Mr. Darmofal, who has been using and repairing the building for some time. "It's a vital part of us keeping our stuff intact."

Other items for action included a unanimous 3-0 vote approving \$15,685 be paid to NuWater, Inc. for their work on upgrades to Tabor and South Street pumping stations and WPCF aeration tanks. Board members Brian Wotton and Mike Ristuccia were absent from voting.

Mr. Ristuccia later joined the meeting after voting was completed.

The board unanimously approved Fernandes Excavation to be the town's new drainlayer. Fernandes Excavation has been in business for 28 years and plans on starting early next year to install and repair drains.

Approval of paying Worldwide Industries a notarized \$62,301.95 for work done on the Boston Hill water tank was unanimous, 3-0.

A 3-0 vote was made to approve payment to GCG Associates \$4,090 for inspection fees on the construction of a new diner on 111 Huttleston Avenue.

Mr. Riley started the meeting with a moment of silence for fallen Marine Lance Corporal Matthew Rodriguez, 19, who died in Afghanistan while

Visit editor Beth David's blog, "Musings from a Small Island," at [www.BethDavid.net/blog](http://www.BethDavid.net/blog)



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**MARINE: cont'd from page 16**  
to do and he was happy doing it. I couldn't do anything but support him and that's what I did."

"I was proud," said Lauren. "The mom instinct in me came out and said 'not my Matt, not our Matt, he's not going.' But it's what he wanted. For as long as I remember he wanted to be a Marine. How can you discourage someone who has so much pride in what he wanted to do and wants to serve his country?"

Their father, Rod, was also a Marine and served in Vietnam. Both Rod and Matt's mother, Lisa, are

holding up under the pressure, according to Adam.

"It's unreal, to put it simply," he said. "I'm so proud of both of them because they've been so strong, it's amazing. They know he would want them to be as strong as they are."

"Every time I shed a tear I think I can hear his voice saying 'why are you crying. There's no crying in baseball,'" said Lauren.

LCpl. Rodriguez's remains are scheduled to arrive at New Bedford Airport on Thursday, 12/19, at 1 p.m. with a procession along Main Street (from Route 6) to Center Street to

Tripp Street to Washington Street to Route 6 to the Saunders-Dwyer Funeral Home in Mattapoisett. Residents are encouraged to line the route to show their respect. Flags are available at the VFW, Town Hall, Northeast Maritime Institute and the Fire Station. His funeral is scheduled for Monday, 12/23, at 10 a.m. at the First Congregational Church in Fairhaven, with burial at Bourne National Cemetery immediately after.

"He's getting the welcome home that he deserves," said Lauren. "It's just a shame that it's happening for this reason, and not just for his service."

## Mystery novels for the holidays



Clement R. Beaulieu of Sconticut Neck, Fairhaven, announces the publishing of his second historical mystery novel, *Round Corners*.

His first mystery novel, *Bad Lucky Number*, published in 2011, is set in the mill city of New Bedford, circa 1930, during Prohibition and the Great Depression. The newly released *Round Corners* follows some of the same characters ten years later, circa 1940, and the era of World War II.

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# Changing the covenant on Knowles property not easy

By Jean Perry

## Neighb News Correspondent

"We're sort of screwed," Attorney Chip Mulford told the Fairhaven Planning Board 12/17 during an informal discussion over the probability of modifying a 2006 covenant placed on the G. Bourne Knowles property on Huttleston Avenue.

The covenant that limits future condominium development on the 42-acre parcel to 50 two-bedroom units, although not set in stone, will be hard to break given its history with neighbors and, ultimately, with Town Meeting members.

Town Meeting would only approve a request to rezone the property from a residential agriculture and business zone to a rural commercial zone with the covenant. The covenant was intended, for the most part, to deter larger families with children from moving in and taxing the school system and infrastructure of the town, thus limiting the luxury condo development to two-bedroom cottage-style units.

That was all satisfactory to Developer Robert Karam until 2007 when "the proverbial you-know-what hit the fan," the analogy Mr. Mulford used to describe the real estate market crash, stalling the project indefinitely.

Now, another developer is expressing interest. With a rising real estate market, the new developer, who wishes to remain anonymous, now has a couple of new forces to reckon with: two wind turbines.

According to Mr. Hayward, the pending condos would become Fairhaven's closest residences to the wind turbines and, according to Mr. Mulford, they will indeed affect the property value.

"Since the wind turbines," said Mr. Mulford, "luxury condos are out of the question." And 50 "upscale" condos with only two bedrooms, to the developer, is not worth Mr. Knowles's asking price on the property. Mr. Mulford said they have already persuaded Mr. Knowles to go down to his bottom line price.

"We've beat that cow up as much as we could," said Mr. Mulford.

Mr. Mulford explained, of all the developers he approached about the property, most were not interested in building less than 100 units. To

another, anything less than 84 units would not be worthwhile.

"So, this is sort of my last best shot at it here," said Mr. Mulford, soliciting the board for an opinion on the likelihood of accepting a change to the covenant that would allow for three bedrooms while keeping the maximum at 50 units.

But this is a "once bitten, twice shy" sort of Planning Board now, and it wouldn't be a Planning Board meeting these days without Mr. Hayward's uttering of what appears to be the board's new unofficial motto.

"I know it's a 'buyer beware' situation," said Board Member Jeffrey Lucas about the close proximity to the turbines, "but I'm afraid it might exacerbate the problems we already have."

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...of all the developers ...  
approached about the property,  
most were not interested in  
building less than 100 units.  
**To another, anything less than 84  
units would not be worthwhile.**

---

The developer, said Mr. Mulford, is prepared to "roll the dice" though, and he thinks the development would be marketable. Mr. Mulford commented on how he is "baffled" by how some "susceptible" people claim to get sick from the turbines while others do not.

To Mr. Hayward, "The important thing to learn here is people can say 'buyer beware,' but then again, once bitten, twice shy," he said.

Mr. Hayward cited situations when, after years of no rubbish pick-up or snow plowing on private roads, people eventually say "we pay taxes and we want these services now." He referred to the most recent example of over 50 residents on Oliver Street who, after moving there with an existing chicane, now want it removed.

"You have 150 voices right there," said Mr. Hayward about potential residents of the pending development; 150 voices that, after they move

in, could potentially start complaining about wind turbines after a time.

Mr. Hayward read the last clause of the covenant aloud, "These restrictions can be released only by the Town of Fairhaven, and only upon finding by both the Town's Planning... and Selectmen..." as a joint-approval of both boards, plus a return before Town Meeting for final approval by a 2/3 majority vote.

"I'm prepared to accept that," said Mr. Mulford, adding he just wanted a chance at the three-bedrooms.

Mr. Hayward also pointed out that the property, after changes to the FEMA flood maps, now lies in a flood plain and velocity zone, requiring any development to be built "up in the air."

"I'm going to sit with the potential developer and make sure he takes a long look at the flood plain issues," said Mr. Mulford.

He said what he really wanted was a sense of his chances on the covenant change.

"If this isn't gonna go, then," said Mr. Mulford, pausing to make a wiping-his-hands-clean motion, "I'm done."

"There's certainly going to be resistance from the community," Mr. Hayward told Mr. Mulford. "I don't know what to tell you."

Any next move would require a public hearing, and a possible joint-hearing between the Planning Board and Selectboard.

The meeting was not televised because, according to Director of Planning and Economic Development Bill Roth, the chairperson anticipated a very short meeting that would not be worth the bother of taping. The meeting lasted about an hour and a half.

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## Fairhaven Meetings

### Board of Appeals

Tues., 1/7, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

### Board of Public Works

Mon., 12/30, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

### Community Preservation

Thurs., 1/16, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Conservation Commission

Mon., 1/13, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Oxford/Rogers Building

Thurs., 1/2, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Thurs., 1/16, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Personnel Board

Tues., 1/7, Town Hall, 4:30 p.m.

### Planning Board

Tues., 12/17 Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### School Committee

Wed., 1/8, Media Ctr., 6:30 p.m.

### Selectboard

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

## Acushnet Meetings

### Selectboard

Mon., 1/13, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

### TIDE TABLE

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

Dec. 2013	HIGH a.m.	HIGH p.m.	LOW a.m.	LOW p.m.
Thursday	19	0853	2118	0148* 1439
Friday	20	0928	2158	0231* 1514
Saturday	21	1005	2239	0312 1550
Sunday	22	1044	2321	0353 1625
Monday	23	1126	----	0436 1704
Tuesday	24	0004	1212	0524 1748
Wednesday	25	0051	1302	0623 1843
Thursday	26	0141	1357	0735 1945
Friday	27	0237	1458	0849 2046
Saturday	28	0338	1601	0952 2142*
Sunday	29	0439	1702	1047* 2235*
Monday	30	0536	1759	1141* 2329*
Tuesday	31	0630	1853	----

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

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

## 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](http://www.shepherdspantry.org)

## Public Hearings/Legal Notices

### Board of Appeals

The Fairhaven Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 7, 2014, at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall to consider the following petitions:

- Petitioner: Nicholas Costa**, RE: 16 Holcomb Street, Plat 25, Lot 134, Certificate #21320; 198-23-4B: A Special Permit is required for Building Trades as a Home Occupation.
- Petitioner: Route 6 Properties, LLC**, RE: 4 Shirley Street, Plat 26, Lot 13M, Book 6196 and Page 344; **198-18**: Short 15' of the required 20' front and rear setbacks within a Business District.

Peter DeTerra, Chairman

### Conservation Commission Public Hearings

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on January 13, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. In the Fairhaven Town Hall. Purpose is for Request for Determination of the following matters as required By Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 131 Section 40 as amended.

- Pursuant to Section 192.7 of the Code of the

Respectfully Submitted  
Fairhaven Conservation Commission

## From our readers

### Rogers & Oxford Buildings have prospects

The Rogers/Oxford School Study Committee has made a lot of progress in the past couple months, having worked their way through decisions about applying for Community Preservation Funds, finding out about restrictions on the leases, obtaining legal opinions from Town Counsel about restrictions that may be placed on the properties if they were to be sold or leased, etc.

At the last meeting, the committee discussed the possibility of putting both properties into an open Request for Proposals (RFP) to see what interest the properties would generate. Ideas that have surfaced during the meetings about possible use include satellite space for higher education, housing development, nursing homes, artist live/work space and museum space to name a few.

One of the things that the committee hopes to do is to recommend a set of restrictions on the future use of the properties to be able to maintain a certain character in the neighborhood.

If you live near these two properties, or otherwise are interested in their future use, I would encourage you to come out to the meetings in January, to learn what is being recommended and to voice your concerns to the committee.

The meetings are open, so anyone can attend. They are generally on the first Thursday of each month, starting at 6:30, at the Town Hall, but, in the month of January there will be an additional meeting, on the third Thursday of the month. So the January meetings will be on January 2nd and 16th.

Hope to see you there.

*Bob Espindola*

Selectmen Representative to the  
Rogers / Oxford Study Committee

### Dinner Cruise chaperones ride for free

The administrators at Hastings Middle School have booked a date in the spring for eligible 8th grade students to attend a dinner cruise aboard the Spirit of Boston. The first notice of the trip announced the cost to students of \$60.00, and the notification of several fundraising opportunities to allow students to earn money towards their admission.

I oppose this trip for several

reasons, for which the assistant principal could not give me satisfactory reasons to change my mind. Two years ago, when I inquired as to what students do if they don't attend the cruise, without hesitation I was told that, "Every student goes — well except those who are not eligible (due to their grades or behavior.)"

As I continued to question her, it was clear that there wasn't an alternative "planned" for students who didn't want to attend for any reason, financial or otherwise. When details and sign-up for the trip finally came later in the year, there was not even a choice of whether to attend or not. I concluded it was probably because they "needed" students to go since the deposit is nonrefundable.

This year, I asked the teachers whether they pay the same \$60.00 fee as the students. I didn't receive a single reply from them. I did receive a response from the principal, Mr. Miller, stating, "Your continual queries into our teachers' personal matters borders on harassment. Please cease and desist."

Since when is a "single" e-mail harassment? They know our kids are paying, why shouldn't we know if the teachers are? After inquiring to the superintendent, I was informed that, "The Odyssey Cruise Company offers complimentary tickets to the adults that attend."

Mr. Miller expressed to me in his e-mail, "Your negative attitude towards this dinner cruise will not prevent it from happening."

I'm not trying to prevent it from happening. I just want the administrators to be honest and up front with parents. Tell us that while we have to pay \$60.00 for our child to attend the cruise, the teachers are attending for free.

Make it clear to everyone from the beginning, as Mr. Miller told me, "No child has, or will be turned away because of financial hardship." The fundraising is not required. Administrators know how many families receive free and reduced meals. They shouldn't have to feel humiliated because of a ridiculously costly, nonessential field trip.

And make it clear that this trip is a CHOICE, and not a mandatory outing. Provide students who choose not to attend a fair day of education.

I don't believe this is a reasonable

"school" field trip. I would have no issues with it if it was scheduled on a weekend or evening.

*Michelle Furtado, Fairhaven*

### Selling Staffon property is "dumb"

On occasion, our Selectman in Fairhaven vote to do *dumb things*. Who know why? They recently voted to auction off the Staffon property on Alden Road to the highest bidder for a one-time payout. There's no vision there!

Bill Roth, our economic development director who works for us in the town hall, has proved he knows his stuff by bringing in much grant money over the years for improving roads and properties and saving the taxpayers money. He has excellent judgement. He spoke publicly to the Selectmen to save this property for town use and it's hard to believe the Selectmen ignored his sound advice and voted against it!!!

If there's one department that could use this property immediately, it's the Public Works Department. They're like the Army, always on the front lines doing their jobs keeping things running smoothly for all of us, but they get no respect!!! They need this property desperately for a new recycle center. They're trying to "make due" in a little area at the end of Arsene Street. They have little space to put all the yard waste that comes in day after day. They were put out of the Long Road Water Basin (and rightly so) and have had to move their piles at Arsene Street more north because of wetlands.

The Staffon property is industrial, high and dry, easy to get to, and is around the corner from the old landfill on Bridge Street.

One of our current Selectmen knows this, having been on the Board of Public Works for years, and yet voted to ignore this predicament and also the sound advice of Bill Roth.

For shame!

Some of us are not political and can be behind in our knowledge about what's going on in town, but it doesn't mean we still can't speak out.

Sure, the Selectmen have a right to vote the way they see fit, but in this case their reasoning was flawed and short-sighted and they're making a big mistake!

*Sallie Lou Johnson, Fairhaven*

# Fairhaven police news



ABOVE: William Lewis of Westport has been charged with cutting copper pipes (BELOW) from a house on Sconticut Neck Road in Fairhaven.



and was seen wearing a full backpack and carrying what appeared to be a very heavy duffle bag.

Officer Darmofal turned his cruiser around to speak with Lewis. When Officer Darmofal encountered him, he discovered that Lewis had discarded the duffle bag approximately 100 yards away. Lewis initially claimed he was doing work on one of the houses in the area and the bags he was carrying contained his tools. Further investigation revealed the bags contained copper piping that had apparently been cut from existing plumbing.

Officer Darmofal, along with Sergeant Matthew Botelho, Detective Bettencourt and Officers Ciccone and Dorgan, found a set of footprints in the snow left behind by Lewis. They followed the footprints back to a house where they found it had been broken into and its pipes cut and removed. Officers compared the pipes that were in Lewis's possession with the pipes that still remained in the house. The pipes, which had been painted, matched in color. The breaks and cuts in the pipes also matched up with the cut pipes inside the house.

## Alleged copper thief nabbed

Fairhaven Police arrested 25-year-old William Lewis of Sodom Road, Westport after discovering that he allegedly cut and removed copper piping from a house on Sconticut Neck Road. Just after 2 p.m. Wednesday, 12/11, Officer Marc Darmofal observed Lewis walking southbound in the 300 block area of Sconticut Neck Road. He appeared very dirty and disheveled

Lewis was charged with breaking and entering in the daytime to commit a felony, possession of burglarious instruments, vandalism and larceny from a building. He was arraigned in Third District Court Thursday morning, 12/13.



ABOVE: Horace Blake of New Bedford has been charged with assault and battery, armed robbery and home invasion while armed with a firearm in connection with an incident on Bridge Street in Fairhaven.

occurred just before 9am Tuesday morning, 12/10.

Fairhaven Police responded to 21 Bridge Street after receiving a call from a resident at that location that someone had just broken into their apartment. When officers arrived, they were told by the reporting party that they heard the door open to a common hallway in the apartment building. The victim said while checking to make sure their apartment door was locked, an unknown person, later identified as Blake, opened it about six inches. When the victim attempted to force the door shut, Blake forced his way into the apartment.

Once inside the apartment, Blake confronted the occupants and told them he had a gun and warned them not to make him pull it out. He had his hand concealed in his sweatshirt the entire time. Victims told police that Blake then grabbed a laptop computer that was sitting on a nearby table and fled from the apartment.

Blake was taken into custody later that afternoon by members of the

New Bedford Police Department's Gang Unit. He was taken back to the Fairhaven Police Station where he was booked prior to being transferred to the Ash Street jail.

Blake was apparently looking for a person who formerly resided at that address. This is not believed to be a random act. He was arraigned on Wednesday morning, 12/11.



ABOVE: Sean Flynn of Fairhaven has been charged with stealing opiate-based painkillers from pharmacies by threatening to detonate bombs or shoot the pharmacist in pharmacies in Fairhaven and in East Providence and Cranston RI

## Police nab one in pharmacy robberies

Detectives from the Fairhaven Police Department and the East Providence Police Department executed a search warrant at 36 Laurel Street, in Fairhaven last Friday morning. Detectives from both departments conducted a joint investigation into the robberies and

attempted robberies of several area pharmacies.

Numerous pharmacies in several municipalities had been targeted by an anonymous male caller demanding oxycodone and other opiate-based pain killers. In some cases, the caller threatened to detonate a bomb in the store unless the pharmacist placed their entire inventory of painkillers in the drive-thru drawer. In other cases, the caller threatened to shoot the pharmacist unless they complied with his demands.

The caller was eventually identified as 23-year-old Sean Flynn of Laurel Street in Fairhaven. Between the months of September and November, Flynn made ten calls of this nature to a number of pharmacies.

On September 7th, Flynn called the Fairhaven Rite Aid and the Fairhaven Walgreens demanding oxycodone.

POLICE: cont'd next page

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# West Islanders show they have big hearts



Bob and Cathi Konicki started the first annual West Island Toys for Tots drive this year. Bob gave Cathi most of the credit for spearheading the campaign, which yielded more than 200 toys for needy children in the area. Toys for Tots is a program of the United States Marine Corps Reserves, with designated businesses and local police and fire departments acting as drop-off centers. In Fairhaven, the local Fire Department coordinated with the Marines to get the job done. ABOVE: Bob and Cathi Konicki (middle) pose for a picture with Fairhaven Firefighters Erik Johnson (left) and Brian Riggs at the Fairhaven Fire Department. The Konickis' West Island Toys for Tots Drive resulted in more than 200 toys being donated. Marine Reservists will take care of distributing the toys to needy children. The goal of Toys for Tots is to deliver, "through a new toy at Christmas, a message of hope to less fortunate youngsters that will assist them in becoming responsible, productive, patriotic citizens," according to their website. For more information about the program, visit <http://www.toysfortots.org/>. Photo submitted. See it in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)

## POLICE: cont'd from previous page



Police seized more than 1600 pills and almost \$8000 in cash when they searched the Laurel Street, Fairhaven, home of Sean Flynn in connection with pharmacy robberies. Mr. Flynn is charged with stealing the drugs by threatening to detonate a bomb or to shoot the pharmacist. Police photo.

When he called the Rite Aid Pharmacy, he claimed to have a gun and threatened to blow up the store. When he called the Walgreens Pharmacy, Flynn ordered the pharmacist to put all his oxycodone in a bag and to place the bag in the drawer of the drive-thru window.

Flynn struck again in Fairhaven on November 5th. He called Walgreens

times. He was successful one time in New Bedford, one time in East Providence and one time in Cranston, RI. East Providence detectives eventually managed to identify Flynn by filing subpoenas for phone records. After learning that similar crimes had been committed in Fairhaven, detectives from East Providence began working with

and stated he placed a bomb in the store that he planned on detonating unless the pharmacist placed all the oxycodone in the drive-thru. Later on that same date, he called the Fairhaven CVS and made the same demand and issued the same threat.

In total, Flynn admitted to carrying out this act ten different

Fairhaven detectives and eventually secured a search warrant for Flynn's house.

The search warrant was executed just before 10 a.m. on Friday, December 13th. During the search, investigators seized over 1600 pills, most of which were opiate-based painkillers. Investigators also seized almost \$8000 in cash.

In addition to facing charges in New Bedford and East Providence, Flynn has been charged with numerous crimes in Fairhaven. Fairhaven Police are charging Flynn with three counts of possession with intent to distribute a class E controlled substance, two counts of possession of a class E controlled substance, possession of a class B controlled substance, trafficking oxycodone, threatening to commit bodily harm, three counts of making a bomb threat, attempt to commit larceny of a drug, and two counts to commit robbery of a drug.

Flynn was arrested and arraigned in Third District Court on Friday. He was held on \$100,000 bail.

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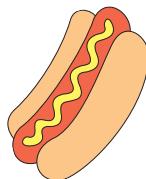
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# Land trust wants public to enjoy properties



By Beth David  
Editor

The Fairhaven-Acushnet Land Preservation Trust owns more than 740 acres in Fairhaven, Acushnet and Freetown, and the group wants the public to enjoy it all. A large chunk of that, 224 acres, is on Sconticut Neck Road in Fairhaven and is known as the Shipyard Farm property and the Winsegansett Heights/Marshes property.

On Saturday, 11/23, FALPT's Ken Lipman guided a walk/hike on the two properties, leading nearly a dozen people along the marsh and through the hiking paths in the woods.

The two-hour hike covered about two miles and included stories about rum-runners, quahog factories, and the history of the properties.

The FALPT has been marking more trails with green triangles and has cut several new trails over the last few years. The organization hopes to attract more people who want to use the trails for passive recreation.

Dave Fox said he joined the group that day because he likes the outdoors and is new to the area.

Lucy Reynolds said she thought it was a nice day and could use the exercise. She also said she wanted to learn more about Sconticut Neck and

the guided hike was the perfect chance. 508-667-1040, or visit [www.falpt.org](http://www.falpt.org).

Jean Lawlor said she wanted to explore the neighborhood where she lives and she likes to walk.

All three said they would definitely recommend the hike to people and would probably hike the trails again on their own.

"I will definitely bring other people," said Ms. Lawlor.

The FALPT also holds conservation restrictions on 279 acres for a total of 1022 acres of protected open space.

The FALPT is a non-profit membership organization. For more information about joining, contact John Darwin at



ABOVE: A group guided by Fairhaven-Acushnet Land Preservation Trust member Ken Lipman walks on the Shipyard Farm property on Sconticut Neck Road in Fairhaven on 11/23. BELOW: This path leads to Silver Shell Beach and is owned by the land trust. TOP LEFT: Look for these diamond shaped, green signs marking trailheads. Look for plain green diamonds along trails owned by the FALPT. Photos by Beth David.



## Antique toys on display



Jeff Lucas stands next to his antique toy display at the Millicent Library in Fairhaven. According to Debbie Charpentier, library archivist, the display has become an annual tradition. "His collection is quite extensive," wrote Ms. Charpentier in an email. "I don't think I have seen the same toy twice." See the display in the Rogers Room at the Millicent Library, 45 Center Street, Fairhaven, during normal hours. Photo submitted. See it in color at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)

## Manjiro Society celebrates



The officers of the Whifield-Manjiro Society joined the celebration at the State House in Boston on Wednesday, Dec. 4, to celebrate the birthday of the Emperor of Japan. Left to right are: Michael Silvia (Vice-president), Keiko Orrall (State representative), Ayako Rooney (Cultural Advisor), Gerry Rooney (Pres. & CEO), Mr. Akira Muto (Consul General of Japan), Dr. Brian Bowcock (Treasurer) and Aline Duval (Secretary). The Society operates the museum in Fairhaven dedicated to preserving the history of Manjiro Nakahama and his relationship with Fairhaven Whaling Captain William Whitfield. Capt. Whitfield rescued 14-year-old Manjiro and took him back to Fairhaven where he became the first Japanese person to live in the United States. Visit <http://whitfield-manjiro.org> for more of Manjiro's story. Photo submitted.

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