



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 15, Issue 47 • December 3, 2020

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

Light a Light tree fund-raiser presses on



The Light-A-Light tree on the west lawn of Fairhaven High School on 11/27/20 lights up one bulb for each donation, which is the main fund-raiser for the Fairhaven Alumni Association. See page 12 for story. *Submitted photo by James Mahaney.*



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First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Judge Murray Gurfein, Pentagon Papers case, June 17, 1971:

"The security of the Nation is not at the ramparts alone. Security also lies in the value of our free institutions. A cantankerous press, an obstinate press, a ubiquitous press must be suffered by those in authority in order to preserve the even greater values of freedom of expression and the right of the people to know."

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

Oh, Fairhaven Selectboard, you are the gift that keeps on giving...that is if you consider it a gift to be totally embarrassed by your elected official who's a big manbaby...um...local guy... not that guy in the White House (48 more days!!!!).

But I digress. Selectboard Chairperson Dan Freitas actually told board member Bob Espindola that people "can't stand" him...right after he said the same about the *Neighb News*. I had Mr. Freitas pegged at about 12 years old for his clearly stunted development. Apparently, I was too generous. He's more like six. See page 4 for that, or fire up the computer or channel 18 with a batch of popcorn.

We have a new column starting this week. Elizabeth DaCunha was looking for a new challenge. Okay, she's 14, most of her challenges are new, right?

Anyway, she is participating in the hybrid remote-one-week, in-person-one-week model at Fairhaven High School. With no extra curricular activities due to COVID-19, she needed something different to do.

She will be writing about pandemic life in high school. Check out her column on page 11 and let us know what you think. I think she did a terrific job, and I look forward to reading about how the students are handling school in the pandemic.

Looks like we'll have to run a story about hunting in these parts. There's some Facebook chatter that has people up in arms because hunters were out there with their shotguns along the bike path. We ran the dates and a warning a few weeks back, but I guess it won't hurt to run a new one. Shotgun season for deer is only two weeks. But archery goes to the end of the year, and black powder will open up on 12/14 and go to 12/31, so there will still be hunters out there. They are not doing anything illegal or wrong just because you see them. Wear blaze orange if you are nervous about hunters not seeing you. There is no hunting on Sundays, so you'll have the woods to yourself then.

There's other good stuff in here, of course. Take your time as you thumb through. Be sure to notice who our advertisers are and let them know you saw their ads in the *Neighb News*. See ya (from a distance)



Beth David, Publisher

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

COVID-19 update: Surge is here, but governor says no closings

By Beth David
Editor

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker said this week that although the state has seen an increase in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations, he has no new closures planned for businesses. He said there are brighter days ahead, in anticipation of at least two vaccines that should be available in the next couple of weeks.

Meanwhile, he said residents need to continue doing all the things we have been doing in the past 10 months, such as wearing masks, washing hands frequently, and social distancing.

Gov. Baker said that a "deep dive" into the data shows that "too many cases" are from houses of worship. Since October, 36 clusters have been from houses of worship, with 316 confirmed cases.

"The most dangerous aspect of

COVID-19," said he Governor, is its ability to spread by people with no symptoms.

In one case, he said, 200 positive cases resulted, and 90 businesses were exposed. Of those, 23 had clusters of their own, which led to 40 cases at a university. They all were traced back to a house of worship.

Gov. Baker said he understood that the holiday season is filled with traditions.

"But this year should be different," he said. "We ask faith leaders and those who practice to engage in safe procedures."

He praised those who are holding remote services, car lot services, and are otherwise trying to stick to the guidelines. He asked people to keep their distance and keep gatherings small if they must go in person, and wear a mask.

"We know how hard it is to ask people to alter these time honored traditions," said Gov. Baker, but he stressed that those types of gatherings are how the virus spreads.

After 10 months of "fear and anxiety and tragedy and sacrifice and uncertainty," people are especially needing their holiday gatherings. He said people just need to recognize and understand that if they are going to get together with people they do not usually spend time with, they need to take precautions.

"This isn't, hopefully, a forever thing," said Gov. Baker.

As of 11/27, Acushnet, which is still designated yellow, had 282 total cases, with 55 in the last 14 days (active), and a positivity rate of 4.91%. Fairhaven, which is in the red, had 540 total cases, with 110 in the last 14 days, and a 5.25% positivity rate.

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It's Time to Celebrate the Stars

VISIT: Wings Court in New Bedford and the CNHC Fairhaven office until January 4
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Stars are still available to purchase for our 2nd installation
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Selectboard and FinCom decry TM vote; meeting devolves...again

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

Town Meeting approved the \$1.2 million for the high school turf field project back in October, but not through the 2/3 vote required to borrow the money. Instead, School Superintendent Dr. Robert Baldwin made an alternate motion to take the money from free cash, which only needed a majority vote, and it passed.

Although the motion was perfectly legal, some Fairhaven Finance Committee and Selectboard members called this roundabout way for a department head to secure capital project funding a “bad precedent” and a “slippery slope” that undermines the progress achieved from the Town’s many years of financial planning.

On 11/30, the Selectboard and Finance Committee held a joint meeting to discuss ways to safeguard the free cash account from alternative TM motions that are incongruent with the Town’s financial goals. The town officials blindsided by the motion wondered how it even happened without their prior awareness or an opportunity to discuss it.

FinCom Chairperson Padraic Elliott wanted to learn something from the method through which the alternate motion was conceived and avoid it in the future, for example, by developing Town Meeting protocols to intercept alternative funding mechanisms for articles.

FinCom’s concern, and that of Selectboard member Bob Espindola and Town Administrator Mark Rees, was that the annual budget undergoes a rigorous process that “takes months to pull together,” said Mr. Elliott, and this year it needed free cash to balance it.

The night’s discussion was not about trying to change Town Meeting’s vote or argue the merits of the project, Mr. Elliott said, instead, it was to learn from the process.

Town Moderator Mark Sylvia emphasized that Town Meeting has the ultimate authority on how it disposes of every article. The process typically involves town counsel’s help in drafting motions while the Selectboard and FinCom make recommendations on article adoption. Still, any TM member can amend a motion or make an alternate one. He said TM members usually reach out to him in advance to make sure they prepare their motion properly, as was the case with Dr. Baldwin.

They discussed it a couple of days

before TM and Mr. Sylvia told Dr. Baldwin the procedure, and also recommended “as a courtesy” that he should reach out to the chairperson of both the Selectboard and FinCom.

Mr. Rees said he got a call from Dr. Baldwin on the day of Town Meeting about the potential alternate motion.

FinCom member Bernie Roderick did not hide his frustration over how it all went down: “It would appear that more people knew that this was coming, but I have no knowledge of the Finance Committee being made aware.... We always meet prior to ... Town Meeting for at least an hour to tie up loose ends; everybody knows that.”

He said he was sure the School Committee knew about it, was curious if the Selectboard knew, and said the FinCom had an “obligation and legal

We don’t want to necessarily quash the Town Meeting members’ ability to do their legislative work [Town Moderator Mark Sylvia]

right” to be informed ahead of time. Free cash, he said, should not be used as a “piggy bank.”

“The Town has an obligation to install procedures to make sure that this doesn’t happen again,” said Mr. Roderick.

Meanwhile, in the Zoom chat, “I respectfully ask for Mr. Freitas to wear his mask properly,” wrote Ann Espindola attending the meeting remotely while her husband sat near Mr. Freitas, who was wearing his face mask below his nose.

After confirming that no rules were broken with Mr. Baldwin’s motion, FinCom member Kevin Gallagher suggested “looking in the windshield as opposed to the rearview mirror.”

He suggested they discuss formalizing rules or guidelines that memorialize the “courtesies” of notifying the Selectboard and FinCom of motions such as Dr. Baldwin’s.

Some towns have such a rule in the books, Mr. Sylvia stated, and there are consequences to them. Most alternative motions are born on the floor “in the passion of the debate” or from a member’s compelling argument.

“We don’t want to necessarily quash

the Town Meeting members’ ability to do their legislative work, but it’s a good point,” said Mr. Sylvia.

FinCom minority member Lisa Plante noted that School Committee Chairperson Brian Munroe’s motion to call the question ended the debate.

“We needed to explain to people the seriousness of taking the money out of free cash and what could possibly happen,” said Ms. Plante. “Nobody was given a chance.”

“I have just been taken aback by the whole thing,” said FinCom member Kathleen Carter, adding that she has received calls asking how the scenario happened.

“The optics were poor; the notification of everybody was just not timely,” said Ms. Carter, and suggested maybe requiring more than a simple majority for higher amounts of money spent. “I think it’s a slippery slope of setting a precedent and I think it’s a dangerous precedent.... We can do a lot better for the Town; I know we can.”

“I caution us trying to restrict quantum of votes for types of projects,” said Mr. Sylvia. “We’ve got to defer, in the end, to Town Meeting’s judgment.”

“The motion came as a total surprise to me,” Mr. Espindola said. “I was quite upset by the way it was unfolded... without the selectmen being notified in advance...especially when it was advanced by Dr. Baldwin, the department head, on behalf of the School Committee.”

Mr. Espindola said he later sent Mr. Munroe an email expressing his disappointment and concern about the motion setting a dangerous precedent. It was through Mr. Munroe’s response that Mr. Espindola said he learned that Selectboard Chairperson Daniel Freitas was notified in advance of the likelihood of the alternate motion.

“This information, however, about a \$1.2 million swing in free cash, was not shared with the other two selectmen,” said Mr. Espindola, despite the board having met an hour prior to Town Meeting.

He said the Selectboard and FinCom could both met before TM and could have formed a message about why the motion was not in keeping with the town’s policies.

“This veering off from the financial policy goals that the full [Selectboard] signed onto without the debate of our board and without the opportunity to

SELECT: cont’d on page 19

Town Might Lose WCVB Channel 5

Fairhaven Comcast subscribers received an email on November 20, notifying them that WCVB Channel 5 would no longer be available in the line-up as of 12/22. The channel is an "out-of-market" ABC station. Because ABC6 is also available, Comcast noted in its email that all national programming would be available.

Fairhaven is part of the Providence Designated Market Area (DMA), so the Boston stations are considered out of market.

A spokesperson for Comcast told the *Neighb News* that the company is still negotiating with WCVB, so there is still a chance that the station will not disappear.

Channel 5 is the station that creates "Chronicle," a TV news-magazine that also features travel and profiles. The show profiled Fairhaven as a tourist destination.

To weigh in the decision, visit www.xfinity.com and scroll down to find "Submit Feedback, or call Headquarters in Chelmsford, MA at 215-286-1700; or call WCVB, 781-449-0400, Ext. 2, and ask to speak to general manager Kyle Grimes; or mail to 5 TV Place, Needham, MA 02494.

Comcast uses the Nielsen ratings DMAs, which have put Greater New Bedford in the Providence DMA. If all the affiliates moved their stations, for ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX, the area would lose most of its Massachusetts state-house news, Boston news, and traffic updates.

COVID Testing

The Fairhaven Fire/EMS department, in cooperation with the Fairhaven Board of Health, will be offering a FREE Covid Test Clinic **EVERY SATURDAY** for Fairhaven residents and town employees until further notice. Next Date: **Sat., 11/28, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Fairhaven Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Ave. WALK-IN ONLY, NO appointments.**

Snow Park Ban

No vehicles shall be permitted to remain on the hydrant side of all streets in Fairhaven from December 1st to March 31st from midnight to 8:00 a.m. and also at the time of any

snowfall or snow removal operations. On streets with no hydrants, NO vehicles shall be permitted to remain either on the west side of streets running north and south or on the north side of streets running east and west. Violators will be towed and/or ticketed.

Mothers Club

Fairhaven Mothers' Club Makes Annual Holiday Gift

Despite the challenges presented by the pandemic, the Fairhaven Mothers' Club has again been able to provide gift cards for families in need of help during the holiday. Gifts this year went to families at East Fairhaven Elementary School.

The members of the club wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season and hope to see you at the 2021 Old Time Holiday Fair.

Donate to Food Pantry

The Shepherds Pantry's annual Holiday Fundraiser is ongoing. Because of COVID-19, this year has been very stressful for volunteers. Demand has increased significantly. The Shepherd's Pantry has kept its doors open, but the large food drives were canceled this year due to the pandemic. So donations are even more important.

Send tax-deductible contribution to the Shepherd's Pantry, P.O. Box 760, Fairhaven, MA 02719.

Toy Drive Canceled

Fairhaveb Local 1555 will not be conducting its Annual Toy Drive this year. Due to the current situation with COVID-19, we are suspending the drive until next year. This is particularly disappointing for us because we have been doing this for many, many years. We would like to thank the citizens and businesses of our Town for your continued support. We would also like to recognize Allen Days and Donald Leblanc for all the time and effort they have put in over the years in organizing the drives for the Marine Corps. Mr Days and Mr Leblanc are pillars of society, examples of public service that we should all be thankful for."

SAVE THE DATE:

Trail Clean-Up Day

Join us for a volunteer work day to maintain the East Fairhaven School Trail. Bring your love and excitement for our local trails as we clean up the brush around the trail. Bring work gloves if you have them. We will have rakes and loppers, but feel free to bring your own!

Sat., 12/12, 9-11 a.m., East Fairhaven Elementary School, 2 New Boston Road, Fairhaven.

RSVP to Emily at ch001783@discoverchampions.com

The East Fairhaven School Trail, which winds through woods and wetlands just behind EFS, is designed to bring outdoor education to life for students and families. This engaging nature trail is a welcoming spot for the whole community to connect with nature. The Trail is used by EFS classes, Champions Before and After-school programs, and the community as a whole.

Toastmasters

Virtual Open House

Curious about public speaking? Four local Toastmasters clubs will host the Area 61 Virtual Open House on Thurs., 12/3 from 7-8:15 p.m. Learn all about Toastmasters and "The Power of Public Speaking" in a fun, friendly environment. The event is free, but pre-register is required at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/area-61-virtual-open-house-tickets-128445282297>. Zoom link will be sent via email 24 hours prior to the event!

Toastmasters clubs from Fairhaven and the local area are joining together to present a fun, free, virtual educational event. This open house will introduce the Toastmasters program of learning effective communication and leadership skills in a supportive club setting.

Visitors will get a glimpse of what a typical club gathering is like, including hearing a speech on "The Power of Public Speaking" by Distinguished Toastmaster Maryann Murphy, witnessing a live speech evaluation, and getting the chance to practice their own extemporaneous speaking skills during a fun "Table Topics" activity.

Friends of Bike Path reaches fund-raising goal for connector

Press Release

The Friends of the Mattapoissett Bike Path (the “Friends”) are pleased to report that the community has responded enthusiastically to the Friends’ campaign to raise funds for the completion of the Marion Connector. To date, over 90 households have made contributions or pledges ranging from \$5 to \$25,000.

Although contributions are still coming in and some pledges remain to be collected, the fundraising progress to date has enabled the Friends to issue the \$95,000 commitment letter required for the project to be put out to bid in December.

“The generous support for this fundraising effort from so many people demonstrates just how important the completion of the bike path is to our communities,” said Bonne DeSousa, president of the Friends. “We expect the final totals for this campaign will be sufficient to provide some protection against cost

overruns in the Marion Connector project as well as permit the Friends to retain some of its cash on hand for future projects. The broad support for this campaign is encouraging to the Friends Board. It means there is wide backing for the work required to complete the remaining segments of the bike path”.

“The Town of Mattapoissett is very grateful to all those who are contributing to this campaign and making it possible to complete the Marion Connector in the near future,” said Mike Lorencio, Administrator of the Town of Mattapoissett. “The fact that many contributions are from residents of other towns in the area is evidence of the regional importance of the bike path.”

The “Marion Connector” is a 1/2 mile bike and pedestrian path between the eastern end of Industrial Park Drive and the Marion Town line. At the border, it will connect with a similar shared use path to be con-

structed in the future by the Town of Marion. It provides a trailhead with handicapped accessible parking and access to the woodland trails of Tinkham Forest and the Aucoot Woods area.

When Marion’s Pathway project (which is funded and currently in permit review) is complete, walking running and cycling on a paved shared use path will be available between Point Road in Marion, Route 105 in Marion and Industrial Drive in Mattapoissett.

The Friends is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization, so contributions to the Friends for the construction of the Marion Connector are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. To learn more, visit <https://mattapoissettrailtrail.com>

To donate, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/the-mattapoissett-marion-connection>, or mail to Friends of the Mattapoissett Bike Path, PO Box 1336, Mattapoissett, MA 02739.

AG: Be careful giving to charities

Press Release

In anticipation of the upcoming holiday season, and as people across the state continue to struggle amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Attorney General Maura Healey advises residents to make informed decisions when donating to charities. The AG’s Office released a new bulletin showing that only 47 percent of the funds that professional solicitors raised on behalf of charities were transferred to charitable organizations in 2019. More than half of charitable contributions collected were retained by the professional solicitors.

“Massachusetts charities are providing critical services and resources to individuals and communities during a challenging time as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact our state,” said AG Healey. “If you are in a position to give, be sure to do your research and make informed decisions about your giving in order to maximize the impact of your donation.”

Charitable organizations sometimes pay professional solicitors to solicit donations from the public, and solicitors are required by statute to register with the AG’s Office. Conventional professional solicitors fundraise through phone, mail and door-to-door campaigns. The 2019

Professional Solicitor Bulletin outlines the financial results conventional solicitors and charities report from campaigns conducted in Mass.

In calendar year 2019, conventional professional solicitors collected more than \$127 million in Massachusetts. While the amount kept by professional solicitors varied widely among solicitors, only approximately \$60.2 million ended up with the actual charities. The 2019 report is consistent with campaign reports from the last five years, in which professional solicitors transferred less than 50 percent of funds they raised to charities. The 2019 report reflects a slight increase over 2018, when an average of 45 percent of every dollar that a professional solicitor raised went to charities.

The AG’s Office encourages potential donors to consider the following points when they are contacted by a solicitor:

- Is the solicitor calling your home a volunteer or a professional fundraiser?
- How much of every dollar donated will go to the charity?
- Confirm the charity’s name and the services it offers.

Professional solicitors are required by law to disclose certain information when asked and may not mislead

prospective donors or misrepresent facts. While the most effective means of preventing fraud is an educated donating public, the AG’s Office has a variety of tools to address deceptive practices.

The AG’s Office (<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/office-of-attorney-general-maura-healey>) maintains annual financial reports from charities and professional solicitors that operate in the Commonwealth, which are available for public inspection online.

For additional tips on donating, consumers may also review our Giving Wisely Advisory and the Donating Dos and Don’ts: A Guide to Charitable Giving.

In April 2020, AG Healey sent out an advisory to residents urging them to make informed decisions when specifically donating to charities that support people affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. AG Healey also has information about COVID-19 relief efforts that are sponsored by charities registered and in compliance with the AG’s Office.

Individuals with inquiries or complaints about charitable solicitations should call the Attorney General’s Non-Profit Organizations/Public Charities Division at 617-963-2101, or access the complaint form online.

West Island Red Hatters help local family

By Beth David

Editor

It's a small group, but with a big heart.

The West Island Red Hat Society, a group of a dozen or so older women who wear red hats and socialize at least once a month, managed to collect \$1,100 for a local family in need this holiday season.

"I'm amazed," said Cathi Konicki, who organized the fund-raiser.

With fewer opportunities to give this season, she thought it would be nice for a local group to help a local family.

She contacted one of the local

schools and they recommended a family of four, headed by a mom who had left a bad relationship behind her. The hard-working woman is having a tough time making ends meet, so the extra cash is a sure bet to help her make a memorable holiday season for her children. The gift was given to her in time for Thanksgiving.

Ms. Konicki packaged up the gift cards, some little sparkly hats and a couple of other little things, into a festive holiday gift bag. The gift cards include discount department stores, grocery stores and local restaurants.

She said some pretty good things come out of "the rock in Buzzards Bay."



\$1100 worth of gift cards and a few other small items are packaged up in a festive way by the West Island Red Hat Society to donate to a local family chosen by a Fairhaven school this holiday season. Photo by Beth David.

Scouting for Food helps local panty

By Beth David

Editor

Pack and Troop 52 Fairhaven filled a truck with nonperishable food items for the Shepherd's Pantry earlier this month. On 11/14, the Scouts adapted their annual

"Scouting for Food" program due to the pandemic. Instead of going door to door, the Scouts made camp in the parking lot at St. Mary's Church in Fairhaven. "We filled a truck!" wrote Pack 52 on its Facebook page. "Thank you everyone who donated food

today! Fairhaven is a generous community! And thank you Troop 52 for all your hard work! Next year we'll fill two trucks!"

"A huge thank you to our community and those who donated food!" wrote Troop 52. "We were able to fill a

truck with all your donations and bring it to the pantry to help others!"

To learn more about Pack 52, find them on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pack52fairhaven/>); for Troop 52 visit <https://www.facebook.com/Troop52Fairhaven>

To learn more about the Shepherd's Pantry, visit <http://www.shepherdspanty.org> or call 508-763-9289. To donate, send check or money order to The Shepherd's Pantry, PO Box 760, Fairhaven, MA 02719.



ABOVE: Members of Pack and Troop 52 of Fairhaven line up for a photo opp on 11/14/20 during their annual "Scouting for Food" event, which was very different due to the pandemic. RIGHT: The truck is filled with food destined for the Shepherd's Pantry in Acushnet. Photos from Pack 52's Facebook page.





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HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

NB COVID testing

Free daily testing for all Mass. residents is available at the Whale's Tooth Parking Lot, 532 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford, every day (no appointment necessary), 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; call 401-654-4679 with questions; for other sites in NB, visit <https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/health-department/covid-19-resources-2/>

Photo Contest

The Buzzards Bay Coalition is celebrating the 2020 holiday season with an online contest to highlight the beauty and abundance of our region's lands, waters and wildlife.

Six winners will be selected at random for a gift of BBC swag. There is no cost to participate. To enter, individuals should "follow" the Coalition (@savebuzzardsbay) on Instagram, Facebook, or Twitter, and share a photo of a favorite place in the Buzzards Bay region via social media **by midnight on Sat., 12/12**. The photo can be a landscape or water-scape, a closeup of some wonder or image of people at play on the Bay or in the watershed lands surrounding it.

Submit photo either as a public post that includes a tag of the Coalition or as a social media story that is then sent as a screenshot via social media messaging to the Coalition. Three entries maximum.

Artist Reception

New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! is proud to announce the opening of a solo exhibition by New Bedford artist Pat Coomey Thornton titled *Immersion & Interaction: Witnessing the Everyday*. This modest retrospective features a selection of paintings, drawings, and sculptures culled from over thirty-years of

NBAM invites the public to join the artist at an **Opening Reception Sat. 12/5 from 12 - 2 PM**. Timed-tickets for admission and masks are required. Some of Coomey Thornton's works on paper can still be viewed in City Hall's Ashley Room through the end of the year (Room 120, 133 William Street, New Bedford).

Visit: newbedfordart.org

Fire Victims Fund

The City of New Bedford along with community partners including the

Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford have established a relief fund for the families displaced by a fire that destroyed three homes on Washburn Street on Thanksgiving Day. The fund has been established at First Citizens' Federal Credit Union, and 100% of donations will be distributed to the families, with no administrative fees deducted.

To donate, mail or drop off checks made out to the Washburn Fire Victims Fund, Inter-Church Council, 128 Union Street Suite 100, New Bedford MA 02740. Donations can also be left for the fund at any First Citizens' Federal Credit Union. To donate online, visit the Inter-Church Council's page for this fund at <https://www.gnbcares.org/washburn>.

The fund is administered by the Inter-Church Council thanks to a partnership with First Citizens' Federal Credit Union, and beginning with a donation of \$13,500 from the First Citizens' Charitable Foundation.

Virtual Concerts

Entrancement, Sun., 12/5

South Coast Chamber Music opens its December concert with one of Beethoven's earliest Piano Trios in celebration of the 250th anniversary of his birth on December 17, 1770. Violist Anna Griffis will perform Augusta Read Thomas's touching "Incantation," a brief meditation on loss and hope, before bewitchment concludes with Dvorak's scintillating Piano Quartet No 2. Welcome, winter light! Entrancement will be recorded in the New Bedford Whaling Museum's Harbor Gallery, overlooking New Bedford Harbor. This will be the inaugural performance of the Steinway piano, generously donated by Lisa Schmid Alvord and Joel Alvord.

Tickets are \$10 per household. All ticketed patrons will receive an email on December 5 containing instructions and a private link for access on YouTube. The concert will premiere at 4pm, then you will have access to this link for 30 days and may view as often as you wish.

For tickets: <https://nbsymphony.org/chamber-series-2020-2021/>

Holiday Pops, Sun., 12/19

Our virtual concert will include our magnificent New Bedford Symphony Orchestra musicians performing your holiday favorites at festive locations

around the South Coast, Music Director Yaniv Dinur and South Coast Chamber Artistic Director Janice Weber performing a piano piece for 4 hands, a show-stopping performance by the Showstoppers, the entire orchestra in a joyful performance of Sleigh Ride, and soprano Elena Shaddow, a rising star of stage and screen, singing holiday songs with Yaniv's virtual accompaniment! We might even throw in some ugly Christmas sweaters...

Tickets are \$10 per household. All ticketed patrons will receive an email on December 19 containing instructions and a private link for access on YouTube. The concert will premiere at 4pm, then you will have access to this link for 30 days and may view as often as you wish

For tickets: <https://zeiteriontheatre.secure.force.com/ticket/#/instances/a0Ff400000JKfDIEAL>

SAVE THE DATE!

Polish Food Sale

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, on No. Front St., New Bedford, will be having a frozen food sale on **Sat. Dec. 12, from 10-1 in the Church basement**. Masks required.

Featuring Pierogi, Golombka (stuffed cabbage), cabbage soup, kielbasa.

Celtic Sojourn

Brian O'Donovan brings you A Virtual Christmas Celtic Sojourn to enjoy with loved ones in the safety of your own home. He and the artists will perform virtually, singing familiar songs; dazzling as always, with musical creativity, and visiting musicians around the world in their homes while sharing their holiday traditions.

Brian will be your host, introducing the artists, chatting with them about their lives, reading favorite poetry, and bringing a special story of remembrance and musings from his own West Cork Christmas.

Join us in celebrating the Celtic, Pagan, and Christian traditions of the season with this magnificent performance!

Thurs., 12/17, 7:30 p.m. Viewable through Jan. 2. Proceeds from the performance benefit the performers and The Zeiterion. For tickets, \$52.50 per household, visit <https://zeiterion.org/christmascelticsojourn2020/>

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

FAYB Tree Sale

Fairhaven Acushnet Youth Baseball Christmas Tree Fund-raiser, Pope Park Champions Field, Acushnet. Mon.-Fri., 5-9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., Noon-9 p.m., (check FAYB Facebook page for changes in schedule). Featuring trees, wreaths, hot cocoa, cookies, and more. Pictures with Santa at home plate on Saturday and Sunday (only).

Accepting cash or check only. Masks required. Practice social distancing.

Snow Park Ban/ Acushnet

By vote of Town Meeting, parking is restricted as follows: in water district, parking allowed opposite side of hydrants, out of water district, parking allowed north side of street running east and west; and, parking allowed on west side of streets running north and south.

Violators subject to being towed away at owner's expense. (Authority, Article 17, March 11, 1970 Annual Town Meeting, which adopted Chapter 40, Section 22D of the General Laws.) Parking restriction is from November 25, 2020 to April 15, 2021. *Acushnet Selectboard: Kevin Gaspar, Sr., David Desroches, David E. Wojnar*

Free Holiday Parking/Boston

The city of Boston is offering free parking at meters for two hours on Saturdays until the day after Christmas at the 8,000 meters located throughout downtown and other commercial districts. Parking meters are located throughout Boston's downtown, as well as in several of the city's residential neighborhoods that host commercial districts, including Boston's Main Streets.

While payment at meters will not be required on these five days, the time limit on the meters will be in effect. The purpose of this is to allow as many customers as possible a chance to take advantage of this opportunity.

Remaining dates are: 12/5, 12/12, 12/19, 12/6.

For more information, visit <https://www.boston.gov/news/city-boston-offer-two-hours-free-parking->

meters-saturday-holiday-season

Story Walk

Thanksgiving StoryWalk®, Open dawn to dusk, **7 days a week through Dec 7. FREE!** Handy House Heritage Trail Enter at Handy House parking lot off 202 Hix Bridge Road, Westport. By Westport Historical Society, 508 636 6011. Visit www.wpthistory.org

Nickommoh! A Thanksgiving Celebration by Jackie French Koller

"Now frost lies thick on the fields at dawn, and the winged ones pass overhead in great numbers, calling out their good-byes. It is time, now. Time for the People to come together, together to give thanks. Nickommoh!"

Nickommoh is a Native American word meaning celebrational gathering. The traditional Native American harvest Nickommoh was held outdoors, lasting several days and included gaming, feasting, and contests of skill.

StoryWalk® is an innovative and delightful way for children — and adults! — to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Laminated pages from a children's book are attached to signs, which are installed along an outdoor path.

The Handy House Heritage Trail provides a safe outdoor space with plenty of room for social distancing.

Holiday Lights

First Annual Winter Lights Display Celebration throughout Cape Ann! Nov. 27, 2020 - Jan. 1, 2021, 4pm-10pm Daily. Pack up the car and head to Cape Ann for the First Annual 2020 Winter Lights Display! This scenic Cape Ann community drive celebration showcases over 150 places lit up to help us all celebrate the joys of the season. A custom-designed Google Drive Map will be produced and available at DiscoverGloucester.com - highlighting Rockport, Gloucester, Essex and Manchester's participating locations. We invite family, friends, locals and visitors alike to join us for a month-long promotion of enchanting exploration and glimmering light displays. It's designed for your SAFETY in MIND! Visit: <https://www.discovergloucester.com/winter-lights-cape-ann/>

Holiday Greens Sale

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club

presents "A Holiday Greens Sale" Pop-Up Event on **Sat., 12/5, from 10 AM - 2 PM at the Bowl Mar Parking Lot, 22 County Road, Route 6, Mattapoissett.** The Pop - Up Sale features a variety of decorated fresh wreaths, swags, and holiday centerpieces as well as bunches of holly and evergreens created by Club Members. Limited edition notecards will also be available for purchase. Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted.

Bundle up, put on your mask and come join us outside for this special Holiday event. Proceeds will support the Mattapoissett Woman's Club Scholarship Fund and other community projects. Rain Date is Sunday December 6 th, 10-2.

Bay Adventures

There is still plenty to do and enjoy outdoors, and the Buzzards Bay Coalition is here to help you with a few ideas for fall fun.

All Bay Adventures are free, but registration is required as space is limited. To register and for more info: <http://savebuzzardsbay.org/events>.

- **Sat., 12/5, 9:30AM New Bedford Casual Bakery Bike Tour** Buzzards Bay Coalition HQ, 114 Front Street, New Bedford, MA 02740. Come join this leisurely ride to see murals, bakeries, and historical sites of New Bedford. We will stop at a couple bakeries for some treats on this eight-mile loop. Hosted by Buzzards Bay Coalition **Cost: Free**
- **Mon., 12/7, 9:00AM. Bird Tour: Shaw Farm**, Shaw Farm Trail, 97 Shaw Road, Fairhaven, MA 02719. Join us with a local birder to explore wildlife at Shaw Farm Trail. Hosted by Buzzards Bay Coalition. **Free**
- **Wed., 12/9, 10:00AM Itty Bitty Bay Explorers: The Mitten Guided Story Walk** Ross C. Mathieu Nature Trail, Jordan Street, New Bedford, MA 02740. Join us as we explore rivers and woods in the North End of New Bedford at the Ross C. Mathieu Nature Trail on Jordan Street.

Given current health concerns, the Coalition's outdoor programs are restricted to small groups. Guests should bring and be prepared to wear masks. When equipment and supplies are required, there will be no sharing among participants. Additional safeguards may be put in place as appropriate.

Recipe of the Week

Sweet Potato Pie

- 1 (1 pound) sweet potato
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup milk
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 (9 inch) unbaked pie crust

Boil sweet potato whole in skin for 40 to 50 minutes, or until done. Run cold water over the sweet potato, and remove the skin.

Break apart sweet potato in a bowl. Add butter, and mix well with mixer. Stir in sugar, milk, eggs, nutmeg, cinnamon and vanilla. Beat on medium speed until mixture is smooth. Pour filling into an unbaked pie crust.

Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 55 to 60 minutes, or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Pie will puff up like a souffle, and then will sink down as it cools.

From allrecipes.com

To share a recipe with your neighbors

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

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Sales transaction ends in stabbing

Press Release

FAIRHAVEN — Lt. Kevin Kobza reports that the Fairhaven Police Department is actively investigating a stabbing that occurred Thursday afternoon, 11/26.

At approximately 3 p.m., Fairhaven Police were dispatched to the area of Main and Elm streets for a report of a stabbing. Upon arrival, officers found a male party bleeding from multiple stab wounds. He was treated on scene by Fairhaven Paramedics and transported to Rhode Island Hospital.

The victim, a 23-year-old New Bedford resident, told police that he arranged for the sale of a cellphone on Facebook Market Place. He said he was picked up by two males driving a black Jeep, and while he was in the Jeep, an argument took place



Fairhaven Police encourage residents to use the "Meetup Spot," located at this sign (ABOVE & BELOW), at the Fairhaven Police station on the corner of Bryant Lane and Washington Street to make transactions with people they do not know. *Submitted photo.*

after the suspects attempted to take the phone without paying for it.

The victim was then reportedly stabbed several times. He managed to escape from the vehicle and summon help.

As the investigation is currently active and ongoing, no further details will be released at this time.

Fairhaven Police strongly encourage anyone conducting any type of transaction that requires them to meet with people they do not know to do so in the parking lot of the Fairhaven Police Department, located at 1 Bryant Lane. There is an area that is specifically designated as an "Internet Purchase Exchange Location." People do not have to call ahead, they may simply take advantage of the spot that has live video recording. However, people may contact the police if they feel uneasy or uncomfortable.



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Fairhaven

DaCunha's

Dispatches

News from high school in the age of COVID

By Elizabeth DaCunha



Special to the Neighb News

FAIRHAVEN HIGH SCHOOL: 12/3/20

The year 2020 has been anything but normal: Masks, lockdowns, social distancing.

You hear it all from adults complaining about losing money and working from home, but does anybody talk about the effects Covid is having on children these days? If you haven't heard much about it yet, prepare to get a look on the inside, COVID through the eyes of a kid.

First, let's take a look at how life was for kids back in March when the world first shut down.

Initially, everyone was excited to miss a couple days of school, sleeping in late, having no work. Then, a couple of days turned into a couple of weeks, then a couple of months. Before you knew it, the rest of the school year was canceled, and no one was to leave their homes.

When work was given, it was optional and simply a review of topics learned prior to the lockdown. Students carelessly completed it, and when asked, felt it was boring, useless, busy-work.

End of the year activities like graduation were canceled, taking away the experience and memories as well. Instead, kids felt like those next few months were a waste of time.

Even summer was hard for lots of students because parents had them stay home, not being able to see friends. Luckily, there were also many students that were able to go out and safely hang out with their friends, finally having some sort of social interaction since the lockdown.

Kids also shared their excitement over the fact that at least the summer was longer this year due to the pandemic!

Now that we've discussed how the pandemic turned the world upside down earlier this year, let's look at how things have progressed since, and the challenges students are facing daily because of COVID-19.

I was able to speak with many students partaking in hybrid learning at Fairhaven High that were

Kids also shared their excitement over the fact that at least the summer was longer this year due to the pandemic!

expressive about their thoughts regarding the effects of COVID on their education and overall high school experience.

The transition to a modified school year obviously has its challenges. Students go into school one week, then learn remotely the following week. Many preferred the traditional in-school week because they felt that they could learn the material better with the aid of a teacher there to answer their questions and teach in the classroom as they have in the past.

It's not surprising that kids feel deprived because they are missing out on sports seasons, dances, and such, but they also appreciate the chance to be learning inside the classroom.

However, there seems to be mixed feelings about the remote week.

There are some kids that actually prefer learning from the comfort of their own home, not having to wake up early or get out of their PJs.

It also seems that work is just a review of the topics covered during the week that students were in school, so the work is easier to do.

There are others that feel the complete opposite, struggling to learn content by themselves, especially when the only way to reach teachers is through email.

Many students expressed their concern about the amount of work given during the virtual week, and even feel that grading should be different based on the circumstances, that grades should not count as much as the in person week.

It's not just the material that provides a challenge for some students, but also distractions at home, such as siblings, phones, or temptations to procrastinate and take ten trips to the kitchen.

Being a kid, you just cannot focus the same as you can in an environment strictly for learning, and this has proven to be true for many.

No matter what you prefer, in class or at home, I think it's safe to say that the coronavirus is forcing everyone to adjust.

This week of COVID Through the Eyes of a Kid has dived into the effects of COVID on students and their education, as well as their social lives. Come back next week to find out more from yours truly, Elizabeth DaCunha.



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FHS Alumni Light-a-light fund-raiser continues

From press release materials

The Fairhaven High School Alumni Association once again has lighted the beautiful Colorado Blue Spruce Tree on the west lawn of the high school for the 36th annual Light-a-Light Campaign.

The FHS Alumni Association puts all their donations directly back into the high school in the form of scholarships, restoration projects and a variety of gifts to the school such as new Chrome books for students and iPads for the staff.

On Friday evening November 27th FHS Alumni Board of Directors member "Cuffy" Tunstall, '61, flipped the switch that lit up our 2020 version of the annual Light-a-Light campaign. Each lighted bulb on this stunning tree represents the donations that had been made thus far by our loyal alumni and friends of FHS.

A Friendly Competition

As of November 28th the 2020 Light-a-Light campaign has generated \$16,911 from 348 donors. Our goal of \$30,000 by December 31st can still be reached. The "Battle of the Classes" is once again very competitive. As of November 28th the Class of 1966 is in First Place with 36 donors, followed by the Classes of '64 with 17 donors, '67 and '71 with 15 each. Next are the Classes of '65 and '68 with 13 each

while '62 has 12. Staying close with 11 donors each are the classes of '53, '58, '61 and '76.

The winning class will have a \$ 1 , 0 0 0 scholarship awarded in the name of their class at the June 2021 FHS graduation, and the class finishing second will have a \$500 scholarship given in their name from the Alumni Association.

To help your class in this competition, please go to fairhavenalumni.org/light to see how to make a donation. You can view the updated 2020 Donors List on our website. It will be updated every week.

To view the updated 2020 Donors List see the attachment below. This list will be updated at

the end of each week. Donations can also be mailing a check made out to "FHS Alumni" to P.O. Box 6, Fairhaven, MA 02719.



The Light-A-Light tree on the west lawn of Fairhaven High School on 11/29/20 lights up one bulb for each donation, which is the main fund-raiser for the Fairhaven Alumni Association. Photo by Beth David.

Oxford School residence project receives needed tax credits

Press Release from Sen. Mark Montigny's Office

The proposed senior housing development at the old Oxford School in Fairhaven has been awarded tax credits and subsidies as part of the Commonwealth's 2020 Affordable Rental Housing Program. The 2020 awards were announced by Governor Baker on October 21st. The Oxford School project was one of 28 projects across 19 communities to be selected.

"Increasing quality, affordable housing options for senior citizens is a primary concern for my constituents," said Senator Mark Montigny, who earlier this year worked with town officials and the Baker Administration to secure the legislation needed to advance the project. "I greatly appreciate the

steadfast commitment by the town and all stakeholders to ensuring this development will finally come to fruition and provide some much needed housing relief in Fairhaven."

Earlier this year, Senator Montigny helped advance critical legislation entitled, An Act authorizing the conveyance of an interest in a certain parcel of park land in the town of Fairhaven (See <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2020/Chapter88>). This legislation was necessary in order for the project to be considered eligible for state and federal tax credits.

According to the Baker Administration, the project will receive the following in 2020:

Oxford School Residences is an adaptive-re-use/new construction project located in Fairhaven. The

project sponsor is Stratford Capital Group, working in partnership with the non-profit CHOICE. DHCD will support Oxford School Residences with federal and state low-income housing tax credits and subsidy funds. The project consists of ten units of adaptive re-use in the former Oxford School and 42 units in the new construction. When construction is complete, 45 of the 54 total units will be reserved for seniors earning less than 60% of AMI, with 11 units further restricted for seniors earning less than 30% of AMI. As required by DHCD, the sponsor also will offer supportive services to residents.

To see the other projects, visit <https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-awards-1057-million-to-support-new-affordable-housing-development>

YWCA Women of Distinction 2020

From Press Release Materials

They're women who have made their mark in a variety of Southcoast arenas and YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts honors them as "Women of Distinction." This year's Women of Distinction awardees include Ms. Tanya Alves, Ms. Danielle Brown, Ms. Samia Walker, and Ms. Mandi Costa. They will be joined by this year's Spirit of Leadership Award recipient, Ms. Jacqueline Le, as well as the recipient of the Yvonne M. Drayton Award, Ms. Lynn Whitney, Esq.

YWCA Women of Distinction Awardees were recognized on Thursday, 11/19/20 at the YWCA's 11th Annual Women of Distinction Awards Event, held via the internet this year due to Covid-19.

YWCA Women of Distinction Awards inspire others to achieve by recognizing the leadership of women in a variety of arenas. YWCA Women of Distinction have brought key issues facing women, girls and people of color to the forefront.

The Awards recognize outstanding women in our region, whose lives, leadership, accomplishments reflect the YWCA's Mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. They are recognized for their exceptional commitment to improving the lives of women and girls through their leadership, advocacy, and community service, while achieving success in their career fields.



Woman of Distinction: Tanya Alves

The first Women of Distinction awardee, is Ms. Tanya Alves. Raised in New Bedford, she has been a mentor for

young people for more than 20 years. She has created a variety of successful youth development programming in the area for New Directions, Insight Youth Development, and other youth groups. She is a former YWCA Board Member, serving as Clerk and is currently a member of the Martha Briggs Educational Club and a recent member of the Dartmouth Rotary. Tanya is business partners with her

mom at Celia's Boutique, located in downtown New Bedford, which is one of the few women owned minority businesses in the city. She is also the principal in Southcoast Development Solutions, LLC, a consultant business she owns with her husband.



Woman of Distinction: Danielle Brown

Danielle Brown is the FAIHR Project Coordinator, a program within Steppingstone Inc., which provides services to homeless individuals with severe mental health or co-occurring disorders. In addition, she oversees the Welcome Home supportive housing program, a HUD funded program for those previously homeless in the City of New Bedford, as well as providing outreach services to those homeless on the streets. She is a Recovery Coach Academy trainer, supervisor and CARC certified recovery coach for the Steppingstone Recovery Coaching Program.

Woman of Distinction: Samia Walker

Through her own non-profit organization, Doodles Creative Sessions, Samia has built strong networking relationships that will accentuate her passion for inclusive communities. She remains active in her community through local non-profit organizations that focus on the youth, such as Third Eye Youth Empowerment, New Bedford Historical Society, and Black Girl Magic. As an alumnus of EforAll South Coast, Samia is excited to contribute to such an important part of her community in her role as Program Manager. Her perspective of the accelerator program will offer future entrepreneurs the support and guidance to help their businesses flourish, especially through adversity. She has proven that through her



acceptance of the honorable Christina Hamilton Award.



Woman of Distinction: Mandi Costa

Mandi is a retired Navy Chief Petty Officer, serving from 1984 to 2005, including Operation Desert Storm and post 9/11. Currently, Mandi works as an Assistant District Director with the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs at the Boston District Office. As an Assistant District Director, Mandi diligently investigates discrimination against women, minorities, veterans and individuals with disabilities and has led discrimination investigations for multi-million dollar settlement cases. She is also on the Board of Directors for A's B4 and volunteers with the Cape Verdean Veterans Association.

Spirit of Leadership Award: Jacqueline Le

Jacqueline has a passion for community service and civic engagement. She has demonstrated both leadership and commitment to the Mayor's Youth Council (MYC) during her tenure on the council and served as co-chair. Jacqueline was actively involved in 2 citywide election forums participating as a panelist as well as supporting last year's event chair to have a successful event by helping to plan the forum and offering guidance, support and her time as a volunteer. She chaired and coordinated the MYC's successful Leadership Academy for middle school youth. She planned a multi-week course on leadership, recruited and trained volunteers, coordinated the Academy sites and participants and delivered three successful Academies as the major project conducted by the MYC last year.



YWCA: cont'd on page 18

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 <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/recreation-department>

The Gym is Open!

We have socially distanced!

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

- Locker rooms will not be open
- Members must bring in their own water bottles or purchase from machine.
- Members must wear masks upon entering and exiting building
- Members must sanitize equipment after use
- Members must adhere to social distancing guidelines
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http://fairhavenma.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA_COA/index

Fairhaven Council on Aging

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

Medicare Open Enrollment

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

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

changes to this plan.

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

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

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

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Acushnet lowers tax rate

By Beth David
Editor

The Acushnet Selectboard set the FY21 tax rates at its 11/17 meeting, retaining the 25% shift that means commercial properties pay more, and leaving about \$350,000 in excess tax levy. The tax rate was based on a levy lower than the state's certified, according to Principal Assessor Kelly Koska. The town worked up the numbers and then the state increased the levy, meaning that the town could have increased the tax rate a little more and still stay within the confines of Proposition 2 1/2, which limits municipalities from increasing tax levy assessments by more than 2 1/2 percent.

Acushnet had a healthy amount of

new growth, which allows an increase, and a one-time readjustment in the personal property tax (equipment owned by businesses), that also created a large increase.

The result is a Fiscal Year 21 tax rate of \$13.83 for residential property, and \$17.86 for Commercial, Industrial, Personal Property (CIP).

Had the board decided to use the excess tax levy, the rates would have been 44 cents more for residential, and .36 for CIP.

"Historically, we don't leave excess levy capacity," said Ms. Koska.

The tax rate is per \$1,000, so residents need to multiply the \$13.83 by the assessed value of their home. For instance, a \$100,000 home would pay \$1,383 in taxes plus debt exclu-

sions, such as the police safety complex.

School Business Manager Kristin Flynn updated the board on the school department's use of \$350,000 in CARES Act (COVID-19) money. The schools used the money to install air filtration systems and isolation areas, bought Chromebooks and joined a network for remote learning.

The board also approved \$12,000 for the Cable access department to buy equipment and pay for other upgrades to improve the efficiency and quality of the transmission and recording of town meetings.

The board also authorized the veterans agent to administer the donations to the Veterans Memorial, as Tom DeCosta will no longer be able to.

A message from the Acushnet fire chief on COVID-19 increase

A VERY IMPORTANT MESSAGE
FROM THE CHIEF
December 1, 2020

The month of November saw 124 new Covid 19 cases in Acushnet. Our previous monthly high was in October when 63 residents tested positive. We nearly doubled that number in the past 30 days.

The much talked about fall surge is upon us. We are moving indoors more due to the colder weather. We are mixing with people outside our immediate bubble more often. Quite frankly, we are letting our guard down.

In the spring we were obsessed with washing our hands, staying socially distanced and wearing a mask. Do we still have that same intensity or are we giving into Covid fatigue?

Acushnet has no hospitals or nursing homes to blame. This is

clearly the result of community spread. We are the source of the spread. Our personal protection habits make the difference, if we are trying.



How many times have you said, or heard someone say, that it's ok to be with certain people because "they

don't go anywhere." Is that based on fact or is that becoming an excuse for dropping your guard? Given the current surge, we can't be like that anymore.

We are in the middle of this long war right now. A vaccine is coming but not for a while. What we do in the next few weeks will make a huge impact, one way or the other.

November doubled October. We cannot let December do the same.

It is not my intention to preach. It is my intention to alert you to the reality of the moment and to urge you to protect yourself, your family and mine.

As a reminder, we are hosting regular community wide testing clinics at the parking lot between the schools on Middle Road. Find the Acushnet Fire & EMS Department on Facebook for upcoming dates.

Acushnet Fire Chief Kevin Gallagher

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Friday, Dec. 25, 2020

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YWCA: cont'd from page 13



**The Yvonne M. Drayton Award:
Lynn Whitney,
Esq.**

Lynn and Wendy Pacheco formed an Association in 2007 and she continues to practice law in New Bedford as Whitney and Pacheco. Active with New Bedford community organizations and professional organizations over the past four decades, she was a director and then president of the YWCA for five years during the 1990s. She had the privilege of working with Yvonne Drayton as the Executive Director

during those years, and was inspired along with many others by Yvonne's long-term vision on how to improve the YWCA and fulfill the mission of eliminating racism and empowering women.

The YWCA is forever grateful to the continued support, advocacy, and commitment demonstrated by these local community leaders. Their persistent determination to see this campaign succeed epitomizes the YWCA's mission to ensure peace, justice, freedom, and dignity for all.

To watch the ceremony online visit https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XIkYU-1Leos2bHU-fd_NRb1A1aXyErfp/view

To learn more about YWCA South-eastern Massachusetts visit <https://ywcasema.org>

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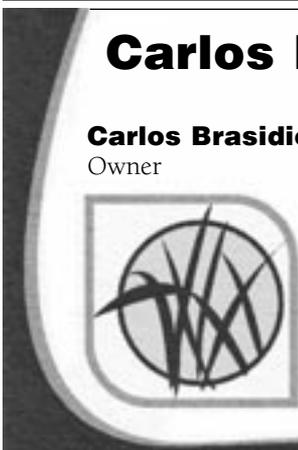


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SELECT: cont'd from page 4

respond as a board at Town Meeting is totally unacceptable," said Mr. Espindola.

He said the board and the town administrator worked for years to establish policy objectives, resulting in an improved bond rating and lower borrowing costs for the town.

"The last thing we want to do is to reverse our good work with careless financial management practices," said Mr. Espindola. "I can't honestly imagine a more flagrant breakdown in communication at a more important time than on the day of Town Meeting. The taxpayers of Fairhaven deserve better, and steps should be taken to ensure this sort of breakdown in communication does not repeat itself."

Mr. Elliott asked Selectboard member Keith Silvia if he had any suggestions or comments.

"No, I didn't have anything," said Mr. Silvia. "I didn't know anything about it, so..."

Mr. Freitas tore his mask away from his mouth and addressed Mr. Espindola directly.

"I had a one-minute call with Mr. Munroe," during which Mr. Munroe asked Mr. Freitas, in Mr. Freitas's words, "If this thing fails tomorrow, are you still willing to be on board if... asked to be brought through that?"

"I never spoke as a selectman," Mr. Freitas continued, seeming to struggle at times for coherence. "I was on the committee for that, that stood for that, it was not a conversation that had anything to do with you two selectmen. I don't know where you get the breakdown of this."

"I'm sure you got phone calls, Bob, did you call me? Have you spoken to me about this before? You said your little speech here tonight about how I'm wrong, and you, obviously, are always so right, Bob. I think you're wrong, and I'm owed an apology, as far as I'm concerned. I didn't do anything wrong that night — I'll stand by all day long. If Brian Munroe told you he worked out something with me, then you need to work it out with him to find out what the lie was because I worked nothing out with him."

Mr. Espindola said he never accused anybody of "working anything out," and Mr. Freitas talked over him.

"There was a breakdown in communication," said Mr. Freitas. "I don't have to tell you my phone calls if somebody asks me if I'm supporting something. I will support what I want to support, correct? I can do that, or do I got to go through you?"

Mr. Espindola replied, "So if you know

that something like this — with this order of magnitude — is going to take place, you don't think the selectmen as a board should be discussing it?"

"As a matter of fact, I believe it was written down on the paper," said Mr. Freitas. "It was already written down when I showed up there that morning, so I thought this would already be discussed with as many people as possible. I thought it would already be discussed from the top-down.... That night, me and Mark had a discussion. So my discussion with Brian had nothing to do with you two [Mr. Espindola and Mr. Silvia] at all... I was just assuming that, maybe wrongly, that there were conversations with everybody."

Mr. Espindola echoed the word "wrongly."

"Just like you don't pick up the phone and call me with discussions that you're having — ever," said Mr. Freitas. "But I do

Because, Bob, you're going to get your five minutes of fame this week on the Neighborhood News, but that's about all you're going to get — you'll get nothing else out of it. Most people can't stand that paper — in fact, they can't stand you! [Daniel Freitas]

want an apology for that because it makes it sound like it's something nefarious."

Mr. Espindola said he would not apologize.

"If I was the chairman of the board and someone notified me [that] this important of an article change was going to be made, and we had a meeting scheduled, I would have brought that to the attention of the board and said this is what I was told was going to happen," said Mr. Espindola as Mr. Freitas continued talking over him.

"So, if you have a discussion at your home with somebody and then you feel that you need discussing with me because I'm sure that you've talked about politics at your house, you've never thought to call Keith or myself and say this is what's going on, Dan, this is — I've had this discussion?"

Mr. Espindola started to say something, but Mr. Freitas drowned him out.

"Because, Bob, you're going to get your five minutes of fame this week on the *Neighborhood News*, but that's about all you're going to get — you'll get nothing else out of it. Most people can't

stand that paper — in fact, they can't stand you!"

"This seems completely out of order. Could we get back to the motions, guys?" interjected FinCom member Christopher Fidalgo.

Mr. Elliot tried to get a grip on it as well, but Mr. Freitas, now nearly shouting, continued in his trajectory.

"I'm not going to continuously be called out during meetings by somebody who's continuously trying to work against me," said Mr. Freitas. "So that's not going to happen. And if you listen hard enough, that's exactly what that was. Nobody else has said the same thing on here...."

Just then, Fairhaven resident Diane Hahn unmuted herself and said, "This is ridiculous. Ridiculous! Mr. Freitas, please calm down."

Immediately, Mr. Freitas put his mask back on as it was before, nose exposed, and folded his hands on top of the table.

"Keep your mask on above your nose and stop shouting. It's dangerous," said Ms. Hahn before she was muted by the Zoom moderator.

Mr. Elliot, trying to regain order, said, "I don't think anything is going to be resolved here. Why don't we move on..."

No one pointed out that if Mr. Espindola called either of his fellow board members to discuss town business, it would be a violation of the Open Meeting Law because they are a three member board and two members create a quorum.

The rest of the meeting unfolded with a few more suggestions on avoiding future free cash fallout— some deemed possible and others, Mr. Sylvia said, might not work for the largest representative Town Meeting in Massachusetts. One such way might be to require a 2/3 vote to transfer from free cash.

Mr. Espindola gave several suggestions, including having the Capital Planning Committee chairperson present at Town Meeting. While Mr. Espindola spoke, Mr. Freitas grabbed his phone and left the room. He returned moments later, his mask still below his nose, and played with his phone until Mr. Espindola finished speaking.

"We need to keep reserves for free cash," Mr. Rees said. "That \$1.2 million could have been used in the Capital Stability Fund for future capital needs that are identified in the five-year plan."

The group will hold another joint meeting early in 2021 after the new town administrator starts.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Freitas apologized for his behavior.

"I apologize. I got a little testy," he said.



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Upcoming Meetings

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

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

Fairhaven

Community Preservation

Wed., 12/16, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
Thurs., 12/17, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 12/7, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Marine Resources Comm

Thurs., 12/3, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 12/9, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 12/7, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Sustainability Committee

Tues., 12/15, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet

TIDE TABLE

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

Dec.. 2020		HIGH a.m. p.m.	LOW a.m. p.m.	
Thursday	3	0937 2206	0226	1509*
Friday	4	1022 2255	0310*	1549*
Saturday	5	1114 2351	0355	1632*
Sunday	6	---- 1211	0445	1725*
Monday	7	0048 1308	0550	1830*
Tuesday	8	0143 1404	0707	1935*
Wednesday	9	0239 1503	0818	2034*
Thursday	10	0340 1608	0928	2133*
Friday	11	0441 1707	1040*	2233*
Saturday	12	0533 1758	1139*	2327*
Sunday	13	0621 1845	----	1231*
Monday	14	0708 1935	0016*	1327*
Tuesday	15	0758 2026	0108*	1424*
Wednesday	16	0849 2118	0203*	1507*
Thursday	17	0938 2208	0253*	1541*
Friday	18	1028 2300	0335*	1614*

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

It always seems impossible until it's done.

Nelson Mandela

Public Hearings/Legal Notices

NOTE: All legal notices are available on the Neighb News website, www.NeighbNews.com, under the "Legal Notices" tab on the top of the main page. Legal ads are also available at <http://masspublicnotices.org>, search under "Fairhaven Neighborhood News"

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, December 16, 2020 and Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 6:30 pm
Banquet Room, Town Hall, 40 Center Street
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REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS FOR CPA FUNDING

The Fairhaven Community Preservation Committee will conduct two nights of Public Hearings to review eleven (11) applications for CPA funds that the CPC is considering for recommendations to the Annual Town Meeting in 2021. Please check the CPC website or with the Planning and Economic Development Department if the night for review has been changed.

The following applications will be reviewed on
Wednesday, December 16, 2020:

1. **Green Meadows Roof (Fairhaven Housing Authority).** Proposal to replace the 1996 roofs on the eight (8) separate buildings. **Request Amount: \$65,000.**
2. **Academy Building Front Door Access (Fairhaven Historical Commission).** Proposal to build new front landing and steps with railing, brick walkway and new lighting. **Request Amount: \$195,000.**
3. **Old Stone Schoolhouse Restoration (Fairhaven Historical Commission).** Restoration of the schoolhouse building including gutters, fascia, soffits and fence. **Request Amount: \$15,000.**
4. **Town Hall Street Lamps (Fairhaven Historical**

Commission). Proposal to build four (4) decorative street lamps on the sidewalk around Town Hall. **Request Amount: \$22,000.**

5. **Fairhaven High School Windows Restoration Phase 4 (Fairhaven Public School District).** Phase four of window restoration work at High School focusing on restoration of the existing wood window sashes and windowsills. **Request Amount: \$70,313.**
6. **Historic Structures Survey Update (Planning & Economic Development Department).** Proposal to hire a consultant to update approximately 125 of the 293 Historic Structure Surveys done in the late 1970's and early 1980's that are listed on the Massachusetts Cultural Resources Inventory and Survey (MACRIS) site. **Request Amount: \$30,000** as local match for an MHC grant.

The following applications will be reviewed on
Thursday, December 17, 2020:

7. **Millicent Library Chimney Restoration Project (The Millicent Library).** Restoration of the chimney at the library on the National Register of Historic Places. **Request Amount: \$136,360.**
8. **Library Sidewalks Phase 2 (Department of Public Works).** Second phase of funding for restoration of brick sidewalks on William and Walnut Streets. **Request Amount: \$92,000.**
9. **Livesey Skateboard Park Resurfacing (Ann Richard).** Proposal to resurface the flat surfaces at the Skateboard Park with concrete. **Request Amount: \$200,000.**
10. **Unitarian Church Stabilization & Restoration - Phase 1 of 4 (Unitarian Memorial Church).** Phase 1 of 4 to include repointing of masonry, installation of electric cathode system, replacement of copper roofing and downspouts, flashing below copping stones, and new welded seam membrane roof for cloister. **Request Amount: \$193,439.**

11. **Whitfield-Manjiro Carriage House Restoration (Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society).** Proposal to renovate and stabilize the carriage house. **Request Amount: \$150,000.**

Copies of the Applications and Plans may be viewed at the Office of Planning & Economic Development in Town Hall, located at 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA, and on the Town's CPC website: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/community-preservation-committee/pages/2021-cpc-applications-received>

Paul H. Foley, Director, Department of Planning & Economic Development
11/26/20, 12/3/20

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN TAX RATE CLASSIFICATION HEARING

In accordance with Chapter 369 of the Acts of 1982, the Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on the issue of allocating the local property tax levy among the five major property classes. The hearing will be held in the Banquet Room of the Town Hall, Fairhaven, Massachusetts on December 7, 2020 at 7:00 PM. The hearing is held to give input to the Board of Selectmen who according to this state must determine the local property tax burden to be levied among the five property classes which are: residential, open space, commercial, industrial, and personal property. All interested taxpayers are invited to attend via Zoom and may present oral or written information on their view. The Board of Assessors will be in attendance to provide all information and data relevant to making their determination.

Board of Selectmen: Robert Espindola,
Daniel Freitas, Keith Silvia
FNN 12/3/20

From our readers

Wellness Committee Never Lived Up to Expectations

I've wanted to weigh in on my personal opinion on the Town's Wellness Committee/Program for a while now. Since I was recently referred to in the article regarding the disbanding of the committee, now is a good time to do so. (*Neighb News 11/26/20.*) Selectman Espindola was absolutely correct when he said I pushed for the Employee Assistance Program. Most municipalities and quite a few successful businesses (the ones who truly appreciate their employees) have an EAP for their workers. An EAP is a service that provides help for all kinds of personal issues such as marriage, gambling, drug/alcohol and mental health assistance. Fairhaven did away with theirs years ago to save money. It was recently brought back, which we are thankful for.

I attended one of the initial group meetings at the beginning stages of the Wellness Program. Representatives from BC/BS were in attendance. All we heard about was savings; how the Town could save money. When asked about the benefits to the employees ("What are our savings?")

we heard nothing. Every year, sometimes twice each year, our BC/BS rate goes up. Sometimes it's through increases by BC/BS, sometimes it's the Town's decision. I'm not really sure how the Town "saved" any money through the Wellness Program.

Here's how this works: If the employees "get healthier", they need less medical attention. If they do not need to go to the doctor as much, they use less insurance, thus the Town pays out less; however, Blue Cross profits increase because they have to spend less money on medical payments. Yet these profits are not shared with the employees; the employee sees continued increases. At least once or twice each year, we see an increase.

Right now, a family plan for the least expensive BC/BS package is \$189.95. Per week. The typical town employee pays \$9,877.40 annually for insurance. It does not matter whether it's just you and your wife or a family of 15. If you ever wonder why employees start their careers in Fairhaven and move elsewhere, this is one of the biggest reasons.

I commend Selectman Espindola for his diligence and effort to offer

this to the employees. Bob is truly interested in helping the employees get healthier. But until the employees start seeing MORE from BC/BS and the Town in regards to helping control the insurance increases, maybe the Wellness Committee is right where it needs to be.

Eddie Freitas, Fairhaven

Firefighters Union says stay safe, get tested

"The Fairhaven Firefighters Association, Local 1555 would like to wish everyone a safe, happy Holiday season. These are trying times for all of us. We want to get the family together, hug our loved ones. We're now in a very sad time where every kiss or hug can have repercussions.

When celebrating the Holidays, please do so responsibly. Masks on, social distancing. The Fairhaven Fire Department has been offering free COVID testing to Town residents. The paramedics of your Fire Department are proud to be part of this, part of the solution. Do your part, be part of the solution too! Watch for the dates and times. * GET TESTED.

Fairhaven Firefighters Union
*See the Happenings pages (5, 8, 9)
for listings on COVID testing.



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