



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



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with a big voice!

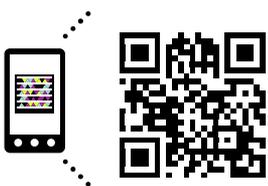
Volume 15, Issue 48 • December 10, 2020

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

Santa visits Benoit Square



Santa arrives in Benoit Square in Fairhaven on an antique fire truck for the annual lighting of the square on 12/4/20, although the event had a smaller crowd and no sit-down with Santa due to COVID-19 restrictions. *Photo by Beth David.*



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First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

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

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

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

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.



Beth David, Publisher

We are getting to the end of the year, Christmas, other major holidays, and...the last issue of the Neighb News for the year next week. So, if you have any listings, letters, ads, etc., get 'em in ... get 'em in ASAP.

The Selectboard got the report on the employee morale/climate study (see page 4). It seems that employees just want a little respect and a little appreciation. YaTHINK?

Really. How hard is that?

Of course, people will take away what they wanted to hear. It was a bit of a mixed bag, with employees saying good and not-so-good things

We also have a Board of Health meeting on page 19. They hired a health/food inspector. Which is a big deal.

They talked about other stuff, of course, and just when you thought it might not get ridiculous, Mr. Ristuccia, who was running the meeting, shut off Diane Hahn with a flourish. Then he went on a bit about how he runs a meeting and no one talks out of turn, because of course, he's in charge and he can just have the technician mute people now. Then...wait for it...he called her a "jerk."

Yup. It was a second after the adjournment, so, of course, they edited it out of the video you will see on the town's website. But...we heard it.

This Zoom stuff is getting old. It really is an affront to the spirit of the open meeting law. And when our own little Mussolini over there gets all hepped up about his power, well...there you have it.

Can we please just dissolve that board?

Speaking of which...

A new group is trying to get a Charter Commission established in Fairhaven (see page 10). It would look at the structure of the town, which is now ruled by a set of bylaws that sometimes conflict with each other. It would also be an opportunity to look at all these boards and decide what we need and what we don't. And, while we're at it, let's make Selectboard five people, okay?

There's plenty more in here, of course. While you're going through, be sure to notice who our advertisers are and tell them you saw their ads in the *Neighb News*. Until next week then.. See ya,

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Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Volume 15, Issue 48

Thursday, December 10, 2020

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Published weekly on Thursday by

Fairhaven Neighborhood News, LLC, at

166 Dogwood Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

NeighbNews@comcast.net

www.NeighbNews.com

508-979-5593 • Fax: 508-991-5580

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

COVID-19 update: Governor orders whole state back a notch

By Beth David
Editor

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker has ordered a rollback of the reopening of businesses in the state. Every community is required to go back to Phase 3, Step 1 regulations starting on Sunday, 12/13.

A spike in COVID-19 cases prompted the change.

The restrictions limit outdoor event venues and spaces to 50 people (down from 100); arcades and recreational businesses, gyms, health clubs, places of worship, office spaces and similar venues will be reduced to 40% capacity (down from 50%); outdoor theaters and performance venues will be limited to 25%, with a maximum of 50 people; people hosting more than 25 people outdoors will be required to give advance notice to their local board of

health.

Indoor theaters and performance venues, higher contact recreational businesses (trampolines, laser tag, roller skating, etc.) will be required to close.

Changes in restaurants will also go into effect on Sunday. Patrons will be required to keep their masks on except when eating and drinking, instead of being allowed to remove their masks as soon as they sat at their table; a maximum of six people a table (down from 10); a 90-minute time limit on tables; food court seating in malls will be closed. Customers are encouraged to dine only with members of the same household.

In offices, employees must wear masks at their place of work when not in their own workspace and alone. Employers are encouraged to close or

limit the use of break rooms. At gyms, people will need to wear masks at all times.

Visit mass.gov for details.

Town Employees Test Positive

Both Acushnet and Fairhaven had to close their town halls last week due to a positive test of an employee.

The numbers

As of 12/3, Acushnet was still in the red with a total of 311 cases, 56 in the last 14 days (active), and a positive test rate of 5.29%.

Fairhaven has moved back to yellow, with 606 total cases, 100 in the last 14 days (active), and a positive test rate of 4.55%.

Visit mass.gov "community-level data" to see the weekly health reports.

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Wishing Everyone *Happy Holidays*



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mobydickmarina@gmail.com • www.mobydickmarina.com

It's Time to Celebrate the Stars

VISIT: Wings Court in New Bedford and the CNHC Fairhaven office until January 4
ONLINE: communitynurse.com/honorees



Stars are still available to purchase for our 2nd installation
ONLINE: communitynurse.com/stars



Walk of Stars
Honoring and Remembering the Stars in our Community

MOLife's 25th Anniversary Gala Celebration

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Selectboard receives workplace climate assessment

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

An employee engagement and work culture study has determined no “morale problem” at Town Hall among employees, although it did find some negativity.

The Fairhaven Selectboard on 12/7 reviewed the study results with Mary Beth Bernard, the consultant who assessed the workplace climate at Town Hall over the summer. That assessment included a review of town records, policies, and information from the Internet and surveys and interviews with employees and department heads, focus group meetings and an analysis of employee turnover.

The survey asked employees and Selectboard members to define a positive workplace culture, and some of the top answers were appreciation, communication, collaboration, fairness, and “no rumors.”

But when it came to how employees view the current workplace culture, the results were predominantly negative: cliques, closed doors, divided, dysfunctional, gossipy, losing good people, negative, political, rumors, sour, toxic, turmoil, unfair social media, unsupportive, unwelcoming, and work alone.

“What looks like a negative, I have to say, the essence of this report is really everybody is very satisfied with their jobs,” said Ms. Bernard. “However, the climate is not what they’re satisfied with.”

The majority of responses were positive, with most employees expressing that they felt free to express their opinions at work, feel appreciated by their department heads, and believe that their work makes a difference for the town. They trust their co-workers within their departments and overall feel they have received appropriate training.

They especially appreciated the opportunities for professional development regularly offered and supported by Town Administrator Mark Rees, and most respondents did not perceive a practice of favoritism within their departments.

“So, there’s a lot of love for the town,” said Ms. Bernard. “Don’t get me wrong, we did talk about unpleasant things.”

But overall, she said, “You have a very strong foundation there. [The next town administrator and human

resources director] have a really strong workforce to work with.”

Employees’ advice to the Selectboard: Stop misrepresenting them in the media; start uniting, not dividing; don’t participate in gossip; don’t ignore issues, solve them; set a good example, especially during meetings; get off Facebook; stop targeting good employees; establish a culture of fairness; foster teamwork; and “communication is key.”

Ms. Bernard said employees often feel that they receive pertinent information through gossip and second-hand sources, including pertinent information, and some reported no consistent communication.

Employees love their jobs, for the most part, Ms. Bernard said, “But they’re embarrassed when people come into Town Hall and say their morale is low.”

Some things have changed over the past couple of years as well,

I thought I was going to find a huge culture problem, but I found a high employee engagement quotient
[Mary Beth Bernard]

employees say. Office doors are now closed when it used to be more open and family-like. And while they feel appreciated almost daily by their supervisors, employees report that town “leaders” rarely recognize them for their hard work.

“You have the basis to rescue this,” said Mr. Bernard. “It’s not a sinking ship. You have great people who like their jobs and departments that trust each other, and that’s what most municipalities strive for.”

As for a high turnover, Ms. Bernard said there is no turnover pattern, but there had been some recent “high profile turnover.”

Overall, employees rated Town Hall a great place to work, although many expressed that they wished they could have answered the question the highest grade. They said they hoped the board would use the study results to make improvements.

The board’s focus should be on communication and recognition, said

Ms. Bernard, and recommended that new TA and HR director candidates receive copies of the report. She recommended they hold regular meetings with employees instead of just department heads.

“They have faith that the board’s going to do the right thing with this report and maybe come up with a way to recruit a new town administrator that’s going to be big on communication and recognition [and] to continue the work that [Mr. Rees] did,” Ms. Bernard said. “I thought I was going to find a huge culture problem, but I found a high employee engagement quotient.”

Selectboard member Bob Espindola said the results were helpful and a significant opportunity for the board to do better for the employees. He asked Ms. Bernard about the board’s tentative need to appoint an interim town administrator and whether this study should play a role in their selection.

“Absolutely,” said Ms. Bernard. She recommended appointing someone outside of Town Hall, such as a retired TA, instead of a current town employee.

“It’s a hard position to put internal people in that role,” especially when there is some “unrest,” she said. “I think it’s a lot of pressure to put on an internal candidate.... It’s actually probably a disservice to them to be placed in an interim role and then be a candidate.”

Mr. Espindola said he struggled to comprehend how employees could describe the workplace culture as unfavorable but respond favorably to most of the questions.

Ms. Bernard said that within the departments, employees are mostly happy; it is across the entire workplace at Town Hall where most feel discontent. For example, staff used to enjoy Christmas parties, but division and gossip, “things that were beyond their control,” Ms. Bernard said, is a “wound that really showed.”

Selectboard member Keith Silvia said he was afraid “people wouldn’t open up” for the study. “I knew there was some division, and it seems like you did get to that.”

Ms. Bernard recommended repeating the study in two years to gauge improvement.

“I’m so happy that we finally got

SELECT: cont’d on page 13

AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

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.**

Fill the bus

10th annual Fill the Bus toy drive. Join the Fairhaven Police Department, Walmart, Dunkin Donuts, Safe Zones and Tremblay's Bus Company on **Sat., 12/19, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at Walmart in Fairhaven.** All you need to do is help fill the bus with Christmas gifts for our area children. Gift cards for our middle and high school students are needed.

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 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.

UPDATE: Toy Drive NOT Canceled

The Fairhaven Firefighters, Local 1555 will be taking part in this year's U.S. Marines' Toys For Tots' Christmas toy drive. Please consider donating a new, and unwrapped toy. This has been a challenging year for all, but your donations will help to ensure that those most in need will be able to have a wonderful Christmas! **All toy donations can be dropped off at the Fairhaven Fire-EMS station, 146 Washington St. by Tues., 12/15.**

NOTE: Last week we ran a listing saying the toy drive was canceled, but due to a lot of interest by the public, Local 1555 decided to hold the drive after all.

Gridiron Pop-Up

Get your Blue Devil Spirit Gear at the Fairhaven Gridiron Club, **Sun., 12/13, 1-4 p.m., 47 Boston Hill Rd.,**

Fairhaven. All social distancing guidelines will be followed.

This will be an outdoor shopping opportunity. Masks are required and hand sanitizer will be available for use. You may also shop on our website for pick-up on this date at: fairhaven-gridiron-club.square.site. Please email with any questions: fairhavenbluedevel@gmail.com.

Your continued support helps the Gridiron Club to fund scholarships for all Fairhaven High School graduates who have been a part of the Blue Devil football program, and allows us to continue to provide support directly to the FHS football program as needed.

Holiday Party

Join us for Faithaven TV's **Home for the Holidays virtual holiday party on Fri., 12/18, 5 p.m. FREE for all ages. Online only event.**

Featuring live interactive show: Join in on the fun via Zoom. Chat with Santa on a virtual call LIVE from the North Pole! Also featuring holiday trivia, stories, magic tricks and surprises. Hosted by "New England's Favorite Magician," Todd Migliacci. Fun for the whole family, whatever you celebrate!

For more information and to watch online, visit fairhaventv.com/homefortheholidays

Mass. pols send letter to keep WCVB in Bristol County

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.

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.

A letter signed by US Senators Edward Markey and Elizabeth Warren, and US Representatives William Keating and Joseph P. Kennedy III, went to the CEO of Comcast and the president of Hearst,

which owns WCVB TV.

"We write to express our concern about reports that Comcast subscribers in Bristol County will be losing access to local news and broadcasting from WCVB, their Massachusetts ABC affiliate," reads the letter dated 12/3/20. "The loss of this channel will prevent Bristol County residents from viewing a critical source of Massachusetts news and information over their set-top boxes."

The letter notes that particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic residents need access to the station for "state-specific announcements to stay healthy and safe."

"Acknowledging how critical it is for Massachusetts residents to maintain their access to in-state news, other companies in the broadcast and cable industries have recently reached agreements to serve their

customers and preserve viewers' access to the programming they value," reads the letter.

The letter specifies that the signers are not commenting on the merits of either side's position: "We simply encourage both parties to pursue good faith negotiations in this matter so that Bristol County residents continue to receive important Massachusetts information, including emergency alerts, sports, and daily news. Consumers should not be caught in the middle."

To weigh in the decision, visit www.xfinity.com and scroll down to find "Submit Feedback, or call Headquarters 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.

The letter is available on our website at www.NeighbNews.com

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



FROM THE Fairhaven Office of Tourism

This 2020 Holiday Season we thank you for your support and attendance at the events that we were able to hold, particularly the Huttleston Marketplace at the Visitors Center and the Pirates and Privateers programs at Fort Phoenix.

Thanks also to Fairhaven TV for producing the Henry H. Rogers Virtual Walking Tour video and for creating “virtual” events to mark special holidays and traditional celebrations throughout the year.



TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN, MA

Office of Tourism & Visitors Center

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<http://FairhavenTours.com> • FairhavenTours@fairhaven-ma.gov

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Fairhaven church will switch to renewables by 2030

Press Release

Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven (UUSF) is the latest local organization to commit to switching to 100-percent renewable electricity by 2030. The UUSF Board of Governors signed on to The Climate Reality Project's 100% Committed campaign in November, pledging that their three-building property's electricity would come entirely from renewable sources by 2030. This announcement comes on the heels of similar pledges from six other local organizations,* as more Southcoast groups and businesses take control of their energy future.

The UUSF grounds in historic old Fairhaven include the cathedral whose landmark spire is widely visible from the approach to New Bedford harbor (and elsewhere), earning it the nickname #CathedralByTheSea.

The UUSF announcement comes at a time when both the reality of the climate crisis and the practical steps to solve it have never been clearer. Seventeen of the 18 hottest years on record globally have occurred in this century, with 2016 and 2019 nearly tied for hottest overall. Recently, uncontrolled wildfires wreaked havoc on the West Coast, fueled by drought conditions, lightning strikes, and human error. Meanwhile, oceans are rising, warming, and spawning ever more severe coastal storms around the globe.

The 2020 Atlantic hurricane season set several new and unwelcome records, including the most hurricanes to make landfall in the continental United States in one season. So far, our region has been spared.

Climate Reality Massachusetts Southcoast brings together the

passion to fight climate change with the passion to protect our local environment. "Members of the Southcoast's Climate Reality chapter partner within our own community on public outreach, education, and advocacy, creating local solutions to the global climate emergency," says Fairhaven resident Laura Gardner, who founded the chapter in late 2019. "But we can't do it alone. I challenge other businesses and nonprofits across the Southcoast to join us and become a 100% Committed partner. Together, we are an unstoppable force for change."

"The Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven is excited to become a partner of The Climate Reality Project," said Bob Rocha, currently President of the UUSF Board of Governors and longtime Acushnet resident. "In so doing we affirm the seventh UU principle, 'Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part', acknowledge local efforts to increase use of renewable energy, and encourage other congregations to join us."

Founded by Nobel Laureate and former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, The Climate Reality Project is leading worldwide efforts to accelerate the shift to clean energy and solve the climate crisis. With a global movement of over 25,000 Climate Reality trained leaders, we are spreading the truth about the climate crisis and building popular support for clean



Board of Governors president Bob Rocha signs on to Climate Reality's 100% Committed project last month on behalf of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven (UUSF). Submitted photo.

energy solutions.

With the climate crisis threatening our planet and ways of life, The Climate Reality Project's 100% Committed campaign works with communities, universities, and businesses worldwide. By taking action and committing to run on 100-percent renewable electricity, we can make a difference in our communities and around the world.

*For more information visit <https://www.climaterealityproject.org/initiative/100-committed>, and email climaterealitysouthcoast@gmail.com to learn how to get involved locally.

Fairhaven Visitors Center & Historical Society Museum
Academy Building, 141 Main St. next door to Fairhaven High School
508-979-4085
M, T, Th, F: 8:00-noon & 12:30-4:30
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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/>

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 10-11 in the Church basement.** Masks required.

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

Transgender Remembrance Vid.

on Transgender Day of Remembrance, The South Coast LGBTQ+ Network hosted a candlelight vigil in downtown New Bedford to mourn the lives of 37 transgender and nonbinary

individuals murdered in the United States in 2020. The event also memorialized the violent killing of Filipina trans woman Jennifer Lauder at the hands of New Bedford native and U.S. Marine Scott Pemberton in 2014.

To see a video tribute of the South Coast Transgender Day of Remembrance event, please visit our YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWfQ0D2FgQk&feature=youtu.be>

If you'd like to watch a recording of the entire ceremony, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ei3FzTXVOQk&feature=youtu.be>

We also encourage you to watch acclaimed filmmaker PJ Raval's documentary about the murder of Jennifer Laude, CALL HER GANDA, which is currently available on Amazon Prime.

The South Coast LGBTQ+ Network is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax-deductible. Proceeds support programs and advocacy for LGBTQ+ residents of all ages on Massachusetts' South Coast. To learn more visit <https://www.sclgbtqnetwork.org>

WHALE Virtual Tour

Instagram Live Virtual Tour Series Continues On

Have you been wishing for more WHALE tours? You're in luck! **Fri., 12/11 at 10:00** we have a special inside look at our newest partnership project: 60 Eighth Street. This restoration project is led by the South Coast LGBTQ Network and will transform the former historic Sister Rose House into a downtown LGBTQIA+ community center. Teresa Willander, WHALE Development Coordinator, has all the history and re-use details ready to be heard. To tune in, please make sure to follow us on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/waterfrontleaguenb/>

To learn how to watch an Instagram live video visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XpL5ErgPhKw&t=4s>

Dock-U-Mentary

Join us for an encore presentation of the film, "From Karmøy to New Bedford."

CONT'D NEXT PAGE

Walk of stars open for gazing

Press release

After a very difficult 2020, a local organization has decided to shine some light on the positive people and organizations of the Southcoast and remember those we lost. Community Nurse Home Care, Inc (CNHC) is a non-profit agency that has provided home care and hospice care to the 21 cities and towns of the Southcoast for more than 100 years.

CNHC has been consistently honored with top star ratings by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. They typically celebrate this honor with a luncheon honoring several members of the community. With Covid19 interrupting this plan, they decided it was better to find a way to recognize all the stars in the community and give them the opportunity to shine brightly in a safe, public way, as an outdoor display.

"We are so happy to offer this safe, socially distant event to the community," said Lisa Parent, President and CEO of Community Nurse Home Care, "and at the same time we are raising

funds to support the safe and compassionate care and unfunded needs of our patients."

Members of the community purchased each of the stars for the display to honor people they were grateful for or would like to remember during this holiday season.

The display is located at Wings Court in downtown New Bedford (honor and memorial) and Community Nurse's Fairhaven Office Memorial Garden (memorials only) from December 9, 2020 - January 4, 2021. Visitors will find honor stars adhered to the walkway and memorial star ornaments hung in the trees. **The display's opening is timed to coincide with AHA! New Bedford's December "Starry Night" event, on Thursday, December 10.**

Throughout the holidays, visitors can stroll at their leisure through the Walk of Stars and enjoy the stars — on the paths, in the trees and in the sky. Information about the honorees and remembrances are available on the website from now until the

display is complete. Visitors are welcome to leave comments, thoughts of gratitude and remembrance on the website to share. You can visit www.communitynurse.com/stars for more information or to purchase a star or contact Stasia Powers Director of Community Engagement and Development at spowers@communitynurse.com.

"Thank you to everyone who helped us make this event happen especially the City of New Bedford Parks, Recreation and Beaches Department and Committee," said Powers, "and to our many sponsors who took a chance on this very unique idea. Special thanks to our top sponsor, Mutual of America Financial Group."

"Mutual of America Financial Group is pleased to support Community Nurse Home Care's mission by serving as a Platinum Star Sponsor for its Walk of Stars," said Michael Braney, Vice President of Mutual of America's Providence Regional Office.

STILL OVERTOWN

The screening will take place over **ZOOM at 1:00 pm on Sun., 12/13**. To join the ZOOM Meeting, use this link, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81643129223>

"From Karmøy to New Bedford" is about the Norwegian immigrants that traveled to New Bedford and Fairhaven in search of a better life. Many flourished and some became legends in both countries. Recorded in Mortholmen in Åkrehamn, Norway, Aleksander Hauge and Roger Pedersen use music and pictures to tell stories of the Norwegian immigrant experience. Sig Hansen, Johannes Solstad, and Jarle Nilsen, the Mayor of Karmøy, also appear.

There are portions of this film that are in Norwegian without English subtitles.

This film screening is part of a series of programs related to our current gallery exhibit, *We Came to*

Fish, We Came to Work: Stories of Immigration. This exhibit explores stories of immigration and cultural heritage on New Bedford's working waterfront. Programs include film screenings, cooking and craft demos, performances, and talks.

Dock-u-mentaries are presented by New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center and New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park. The Center's 2020 exhibits and programs are funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Creative Commonwealth Initiative, and the Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, and New Bedford Cultural Councils. Thank you to BankFive for supporting our film series.

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.

WGBH Celtic Sojourn

Celebrate the holiday season with *A Christmas Celtic Sojourn* Dec. 15-20. Virtual Event. Standard event pass: \$52.50 For tickets, visit: <https://www.christmasceltic.com>

Celebrate the holiday season and entertain your family and friends virtually with

Our incredible roster of musicians, singers and dancers from around the world have been hard at work preparing for our virtual shows. Enjoy poetry, sing-alongs, recipes and our treasured Christmas Celtic ensemble.

Act now to secure your seats! GBH members receive 20% off tickets. Enter promo code: GBHCCS20 to get your discount. Don't miss this chance

to score some holiday savings on your A Christmas Celtic Sojourn tickets. Like us on Facebook for the latest updates

Nutracker for free

For the first time ever, Boston Ballet will partner with NBC10 Boston to bring Mikko Nissinen's "The Nutcracker" to homes across New England. Celebrate the holiday season with a brand-new, one-hour broadcast of this beloved ballet and bring the magic of "The Nutcracker" straight into your living room.

Television dates: Sat., 12/12, NECN, 7 p.m.; Fri., 12/25, Tele-mundo, 5 p.m.; Fri., 12/25, NBC10 Boston, 7 p.m.

The broadcast is also available for a limited time at www.bostonballet.org

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., 12/12 at 10 a.m. Suddenly in Command: Boating Seminar** This virtual boating safety primer, offered in partnership with the U.S.

Coast Guard Auxiliary, is designed for those not generally at the helm, and will help you to be prepared with the basics in an emergency. The three-hour Zoom session will cover basic boating terminology and operating principles, as well as essential safety measures.

• **Sat., 12/12, noon Saturday at the Sawmill: Birdfeeders and More!** Enjoy a nature walk and then participate in a related arts and craft session. We will forage for pine cones and identify birds on the Acushnet River during the walk. Afterward, we will make bird feeders with peanut butter, bird seed and pine cones. This program is appropriate for families.

• **Wed., 12/16, 9 a.m. Waggin' Walks** It's a morning walk with your favorite furry friend on a beautiful trail at Nasketucket Bay State Reservation in Mattapoisett. Come meet new dog pals and friends and get in some steps. The view at the end of the trail is worth the muddy paws.

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

Chocolate covered nutty cranberries

12 oz. chocolate chips
1 cup fresh or frozen cranberries
1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts

In medium double boiler melt chocolate over hot, not boiling water

Stir in cranberries and walnuts
Onto wax paper, drop by teaspoonfuls

Chill till firm

Store in covered container in fridge

By Mary Jane Richard

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)

Group collecting signatures for Charter Commission ballot question

Press Release

Fairhaven Forward is an apolitical group seeking to collect 1,725 certified signatures to add onto the ballot: "Shall a commission be elected to frame a charter for the Town of Fairhaven."

Once we reach the threshold of signatures needed, voters will vote for this ballot question as well as the nine Fairhaven residents needed to serve on the charter commission.

This group of Fairhaven residents formed as Fairhaven Forward for two reasons. The first is to educate voters on how our town government is designed and works and second, to increase participation in our political process through engagements and conversations as a community. We feel a Charter Commission would help bring residents together, engage them in our democratic process, and learn more about our town government through studying its strengths and weaknesses over an 18 month period.

Once the report is then finalized,

voters will then have the opportunity to either approve or disapprove of the charter.

If you would like to sign and send the petition, please follow the instructions below. Voters can either send it via mail or drop it off at 117 Pleasant Street in Fairhaven.

If you want to learn more about our Charter Commission efforts, please visit our website www.fairhavenforward.org or visit our Facebook page: Fairhaven Forward.

If you'd like a completely contactless option...

1. Download the petition at www.fairhavenforward.org, or from the *Neighb News* website: www.NeighbNews.com
2. Print the form on either 8.5 x 14 or 8.5 x 11 paper DOUBLE SIDED. *If using 8.5 x 11 paper, the form must be reduced in size to fit the paper.*
3. Mail/Drop off the signed form to: 117 Pleasant Street, Fairhaven, MA, 02719
Email fairhavencharter@gmail.com

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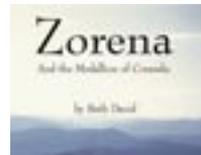
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DaCunha's

Dispatches

News from high school in the age of COVID

By Elizabeth DaCunha

Special to the Neighb News

Week Two: Different ways to organize your work

Welcome back! This week, we will be digging deeper into the remote week of hybrid learning to see how students organize and complete work, as well as find out how teachers post work and communicate with kids that need clarification.

I wanted to see whether or not kids had a routine they stuck by regularly or not. Sophia Lanzoni, a junior at FHS explained that she has a routine because it, "helps me to remain balanced and study on a week where I don't have much structure."

Many students felt the same way, waking up early every day in order to be productive, whether in school or at home.

There are also some students who take advantage of being at home, doing their work as they please.

"I do my work when I feel like it," said freshman Brayden Tremblay. "I wake up late, with a different schedule every day."

Based on what people had to say about their remote week routine, each individual approaches it differently, but it seems that having an organized schedule does benefit students' learning.

After interviewing so many

different students, it became clear to me that everyone has their own routine, but also a unique way of completing their work.

For example, Joshua Arruda explained, "I do my work by class, so each day I will complete one of my five classes."

There are also many students, like ninth grader Olivia Turgeon, who plan their work out daily.

"I like to organize it in my planner because it helps me feel less overwhelmed," said Olivia.

Other students, like Eric Zhao, have made adjustments to the remote week as they get more used to it

"At first, I did all my work right

While everyone is trying to figure out how they learn best, especially now, it is crucial to try different things, and see what works best.

away, but then I started spacing out day by day," he said. "It got easier as I spaced it out."

While everyone is trying to figure out how they learn best, especially now, it is crucial to try different things, and see what works best.

I also wanted to take a look at how teachers post work, and allow students to give feedback about it.

I found that teachers posted work in various ways including posting one assignment per day, or sending it all out at the start of the week. Fairhaven High School is also using a virtual platform known as BUZZ that many students like freshman Sofia Torres shared.

"I don't like BUZZ because it is not

user-friendly," she said.

It seems that Google Classroom is mainly where teachers post their assignments, and students prefer it over the work provided on BUZZ.

According to Arden Bradshaw, "Most teachers assign the work with a document outlining all of our tasks for the week," which makes it easier for kids to complete the weekly work.

For the most part, students do like the way their teachers send out the weekly work, but do have preferences. Some students would like it if all work was sent out at the beginning of the week, so they can plan it out all at once. Whereas, others would rather have one assignment from each teacher per day because it's less overwhelming.

Despite the difference of opinions, it seems that teachers are successfully getting the work out to students. But what happens when students do not understand that work?

Well, I interviewed students asking how they communicate with their teachers.

Some kids simply stated, "I don't."

Others said they use email or add a private comment on assignments.

Most teachers have been responding to students quickly through emails, which is great to hear because communication is key to learning. Unfortunately, some kids feel that it is hard to communicate effectively with their teachers because they do not have the opportunity to do Zooms or Google meets regularly.

Seeking help purely through messages and emails is no way of learning, but it is good to see that both teachers and students are able to work together from a distance.

Next week, we will take a break from the students perspective, and see what teachers have to say about hybrid learning. Stay tuned.



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Benoit Square lighting without the crowd

By Beth David
Editor

COVID may stop crowds, but it can't stop the holiday spirit.

Usually Benoit Square is full of people on the night of the big lighting of the Christmas display, but this year, just about 20 people managed to find out about the event and showed up to enjoy it in person. Sponsored by the North Fairhaven Improvement Association, the annual lighting of Benoit Square usually involves singing by the crowd and a chance for children to see Santa.

This year, due to COVID restrictions, the event can be enjoyed by residents online. The Fairhaven public access channel recorded the event and will make it available on FairhavenTV.com on the Community Media Page.

So the usual suspects gathered on Friday, 12/4, to hear Miss Apple Peach Tori Kalisz, and Miss New Bedford

Alyssa Maitoza, sing Christmas songs until Santa arrived on the antique fire truck. And the light switch got flipped to on.

Santa did hang around in the street awhile for some socially distanced photos, then he rode off into the darkness. But don't worry, he promised to return on Christmas Eve.

"It's just what the town needs," said Pauline Parker, president of the NFIA. "We need a little Christmas."

She said so many fun events could not take place this year so the NFIA was determined to keep the square lit up. Volunteers decorated the weekend after Thanksgiving.

When Ms. Parker addressed the crowd, she asked them to be sure to spread out (they were) and to keep their masks on (they all wore them). The group also had a sign-up sheet in case contact tracing is necessary.

Her thank-you list included EMA,

Board of Health, police, the town; Ms. Kalisz and Ms. Maitoza for the entertainment; the set up crew, Troop 52, their parents and Troop leaders; Venture Crew; NFIA Members and their family; the donors who helped out with supplies and donations, Lena Lebrun, Sue Leclerc, Heidi Hacking, Peter Deterra, Barry Parker, Douglas tree Farm; Fairhaven TV and even the *Neighb News*.

Ms. Parker flipped the switch, and Ms. Kalisz said she was "filled with Christmas spirit."

After a few Christmas carols, they sang "Here Comes Santa Claus" (okay, twice, there was a delay...ahem), and the Big Guy came in on the fire truck.

The event will be highlighted during the Town Hall Holiday Party on 12/18 (see page 5), and then will be available on FairhavenTV.com community media page.



ABOVE LEFT: Connor decides that Santa is just too scary and grabs onto his sister Kaylee while Miss New Bedford (left) Alyssa Maitoza and Miss Apple Peach Tori Kalisz try to help, during the annual lighting of the square on 12/4/20, although the event had a smaller crowd and no sit-down with Santa due to COVID-19 restrictions. ABOVE RIGHT: The Gazebo at Benoit Square is all lit up and welcome for company on 12/6/20, a couple of days after the official lighting. BELOW LEFT: The volunteers of the North Fairhaven Improvement Association, including elves and Mrs. Claus, are flanked by Miss Apple Peach Tori Kalisz (left) and Miss New Bedford Alyssa Maitoza (right) RIGHT: Lilly poses with the tree in the Gazebo at Benoit Square on 12/6/20, a couple of days after the official lighting of the square. Photos by Beth David.



Acushnet lights up, but without the crowds



Acushnet did not hold its annual lighting this year due to COVID restrictions, but the fire station and grounds are still decorated and will be lit up every night just like every other year. The town held a Santa parade on Sunday, 12/6, so Santa could still visit Acushnet children, albeit from afar. Residents lined the route to greet the big guy. The annual lighting usually includes singing by the middle school choir and a chance to sit with Santa and have pictures taken, and hot chocolate and cookies, too. The Christmas spirit is still alive, though, on the grounds of the fire station at Parting Ways, on 24 Russell Street. The lights will be on every night and it is open to the public. ABOVE: The lights are on at the Acushnet fire station. *Photos by Beth David.*

SELECT: cont'd from page 4

this report,” said Selectboard Chairperson Daniel Freitas. He said he had been trying for two years to get this study done, but the “logjam” persisted until Mr. Silvia joined the board. “It sort of validates some of the things that I was saying. All I wanted at the time was to make sure that all our employees were happy.”

After an exchange with Mr. Freitas, Mr. Rees stated, “For the record, I welcome this report.”

He said he believed there were some “disgruntled employees with their own agenda in their hand.”

He asked Ms. Bernard: “So, is there a morale problem, or isn’t there?”

“No,” she replied. “I don’t think there is. I think there is a perception problem.”

In other business, the board also set the tax rate, and although property values increased, the tax rate did, too.

The average single-family house went up in value in 2021 to \$319,583 from \$316,541 in 2020. The board accepted the Board of Assessors’ recommended residential tax rate of \$11.29 per \$1,000 in value, up from \$11.06/\$1,000 in 2020, which, in combination with the rise in property value, will result in an increase of

roughly \$107 for the average single-family home.

The board voted to keep the split-tax rate, which taxes commercial properties at a higher rate than residential properties. The commercial tax rate for 2021 increased to \$22.53/\$1,000 from \$22.04 in 2020.

The board also approved the BOA’s recommendations that Fairhaven not adopt a residential exemption to reduce the taxable valuation of a taxpayer’s principal residence, and not adopt a small commercial business exemption that would reduce small business valuation by 10%.

The BOA explained that adopting a residential exemption would raise the residential tax rate on all residential properties except those that are assessed below the average home. Adopting the small business exemption is not feasible because it is too difficult to determine who qualifies, and the tax rate would increase for ineligible businesses.

Mr. Rees commented that the \$336,613 in new growth revenue for 2021 is the second-highest in 15 years. In 2018, new growth reached \$381,000. He attributed the increase to an uptick in new home and

business construction and additions that were all properly recorded.

“[This increase] reflects the fact that Fairhaven is a good place for people to live and operate their business,” Mr. Rees said. “I’m very proud of the town for being able to have these high new growth numbers.”

The board approved Mr. Rees’s appointment of Deputy Chief Todd Correia as the acting fire chief effective 1/9, the day after Fire Chief Timothy Francis retires.

“I have total faith in him taking over,” said Mr. Francis.

In other business the board:

- Approved the updated volunteer committee handbook; and the revised Wage and Classification Schedule as a result of the minimum wage increase.
- Met with the Housing Authority to appoint Ronnie Manzone and Marc Scanlon to fill the two vacant seats.

Also during the meeting, Diane Hahn interrupted to ask Mr. Freitas if he had a medical condition preventing him from wearing his mask properly (over his nose), a complaint voiced in meetings in the past. Mr. Freitas answered that he did, indeed, have a COPD.

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Fairhaven Council on Aging

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

Holiday Schedule

The Senior Center will be open for calls half a day, December 24 and 31. The Center will be closed on December 25 and January 1.

Transportation

The COA van will run Monday through Friday beginning at 8:00 a.m. for in town shopping and errands as well as daily trips to Market Basket. All passengers will have their temperature taken before entering the van and must wear a mask while on the van. The van will be thoroughly sanitized after each use. Volunteer Medical transportation has not yet been resumed.

The Dental Hygienist

Preventive dental services are being offered by Mobile Dental Hygienist.

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Dale Evans

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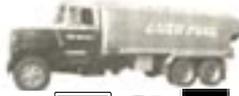
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Acushnet has increased COVID cases, employee tests positive

By Beth David
Editor

Statement from Achusnet Fire Chief Kevin Gallagher

Saturday, December 5, 2020:

"This past Wednesday we held a Covid 19 testing clinic in the parking lot of the town schools. A total of 356 individuals were tested. With 98% of the test results posted (as of 10:00 a.m. Saturday) we can report that 23 people tested positive. That is a positive percentage rate of 6.46%.

"We were warned that our numbers would increase after the Thanksgiving holiday. They did. We tested 530 individuals with the rapid test the day before Thanksgiving with 15 cases identified for a positive percentage of 2.8%.

"You won't read about these new numbers until next Thursday, the day the state releases their weekly report. I spoke with the Acushnet Health Agent early this morning and we agreed to share this information to alert you as soon as possible that the fall surge is here, in force! We have to triple down on our personal protection practices (wear a mask, stay inside whenever possible, smartly distance and wash your hands often) to slow this spread.

"This was a rough week in Acushnet. Next week may be just as rough as the holiday exposures continue to mount. Too many Acushnet residents received a call from me yesterday and today that they didn't want to get and I didn't

want to make.

"We need to simply focus on slowing the spread. Any actions you take toward this goal will be appreciated by your entire community.

"Thanks for your consideration."

The town of Acushnet holds testing events often, but they aren't on a set schedule. So find out when they are testing the public, visit the Acushnet Fire & EMS Department's Facebook page, or contact the fire department, 508-998-0250, to find out when they are testing next.

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/>

An Acushnet town employee who works in the Parting Ways Building tested positive for the COVID-19 virus, prompting the town to shut down the building for the weekend. The town was notified on Friday, 12/4, and closed the building for cleaning and disinfecting. The building reopened on Monday. The town had already closed all lobby hours due to the virus, so they are "confident that there was no direct contact with the public," reads a statement on the town's website.

"The Town of Acushnet has prided itself on being proactive with the COVID-19 pandemic," reads the statement. "We have consistently provided free testing clinics to our residents and staff, and have put many precautionary measures in place inside our buildings to prevent the spread as much as possible. However, this proves that we are not completely immune. As cases continue to grow in Acushnet, we would like to use this opportunity to remind all residents to continue to practice social distancing, mask wearing and handwashing/sanitization to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19."

On Saturday, Fire Chief Kevin Gallagher posted a statement on the department's Facebook page noting that the town's positive case numbers are going up.

Appreciate this news?

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Acushnet residents start pet food pantry

By Beth David
Editor

Kenneth Gonsalves saw a man struggling to pay for one can of cat food. He bought the man 10 cans, which made him feel good, but he couldn't stop thinking about "hungry animals and the families that love them but are struggline to feed them," he wrote on his Facebook page.

So he decided to do something about it. He and his wife Jill turned their seasonal farm stand at Curly's Farm, 95 Wing Road, Acushnet, into a

pet food pantry.

The response has been "amazing," he said in a Facebook post, with pledges coming in from all over.

The stand now has food, treats, and other necessities for dogs, cats, bunnies, birds and more. In addition to food, there are leashes, collars, dog and cat toys, cat litter, and more.

So, if you are having a tough time caring for your furbabies, swing by and take advantage of the kindness of your neighbors.

Mr. Gonsalves posted in All Things

Acushnet that they have received a "steady stream" of donations.

"Your generosity has allowed us to help families struggling through cancer, hip replacements, unemployment, advanced age and numerous other struggles," he wrote. "This has been an eye opening experience for me personally in many ways. I hope we all can continue to work together to ease the burdens of those less fortunate. Thank you all!"

Find them on Facebook/Acushnet Pet Food Pantry.



The Acushnet Pet Food Pantry offers free food and other necessities for dogs, cats, bunnies and even fish, at 95 Wing Road in Acushnet, Mass. Photo from Facebook/Kenneth Gonsalves.



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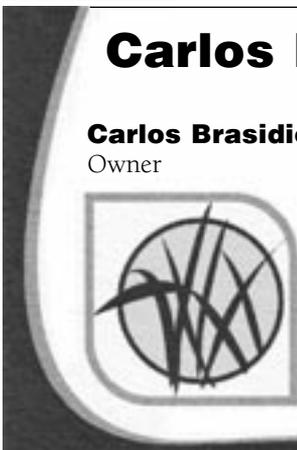


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NMLS # 422864

Board of Health hires health inspector

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

In the absence of Fairhaven Board of Health Chairperson Peter DeTerra during the board's 12/2 meeting, BOH members Michael Ristuccia and Geoffrey Haworth interviewed two health inspector candidates, ultimately hiring the lifelong Fairhaven resident as the tiebreaker for the two men's seemingly equal qualifications.

Mr. Haworth and Sarah Dupont, the interim health agent, conducted the initial interviews of a larger pool of candidates. They narrowed it down to the one they picked, Tom Hemingway, a 59-year Fairhaven resident who once served as Fairhaven's health inspector until he abruptly quit, and the current part-time assistant health agent for the Town of Acushnet, Patrick Hannon.

When Mr. Hemingway arrived for his interview, Mr. Ristuccia urged him: "Sell yourself to me."

"I have a good rapport with people, and I'm here to help," said Mr. Hemingway before expressing his gratitude for the work of his two interviewers. "I don't think I have to sell myself. I'll do the job and I'll get it done."

In response to questioning, Mr. Hemingway said he was the town's health inspector for three years. No one asked him why he left the job four years ago, or commented on the circumstances surrounding his decision to quit.

In a phone interview, Mr. Hemingway said that he left the job without the customary two weeks notice, but it was not "abrupt" or a surprise. He said he left for personal reasons, due to some stresses in his personal life. He also said that department personnel and the board knew about his situation and were not surprised, because they knew that he might have to leave on short notice.

"I did not leave abruptly. [The health agent] and I talked many times over," he said, about his need to leave. "I had personal things going on and she gave me her blessing."

Mr. Hemingway said he liked the job, and had no problems with anyone professionally. He said they were a good team and "great to work for."

"I absolutely love Fairhaven," he said. "My mother and father raised us in this town. I love this area."

Mr. Ristuccia noted that because of COVID-19 the job would require a

little more, including "educational stuff with the restaurant people."

"You seem very sure of yourself," said Mr. Ristuccia. "You've done the work in the past; you know what it is, you know the town ... you're very familiar. So, I have no question in my mind that ... you would be as good or better and he would be as good or better at the job - it's going to be a very difficult decision.

"As you can see," said Mr. Haworth "[Mr. Hemingway has] done the job, he's been here and done the job for three years ... so there's no question that he could hit the ground running. He's a lifelong town resident ... so that in itself makes him an excellent candidate, but the fact that he knows the job inside and out makes him an even better candidate."

Mr. Haworth noted Mr. Hemingway's "direct approach," and

The board members both agreed that both candidates were good choices, and decided that Mr. Hemingway had the edge because he is a Fairhaven resident.

confidence.

"You don't want to be a harasser-type agent," added Mr. Hemingway. "You don't want to go in and really boggle people down; you want to help them."

The board members both agreed that both candidates were good choices, and decided that Mr. Hemingway had the edge because he is a Fairhaven resident.

Mr. Ristuccia said he would like to employ both men since there may be some leftover funds in the BOH budget due to not having paid staff salaries because the department has been short two staff members, a health inspector and an administrative assistant, for weeks.

Mr. Haworth took the opportunity to assure the public that the BOH members do more than show up to a meeting every two weeks. He said they do a lot "day-in-day-out," and that every member of the board "is in communication every day," to make

sure the town has a "functioning public health department in this crisis."

The two voted to hire Mr. Hemingway and set his pay scale at \$28.40/hors. They then voted to hire Mr. Hannon on a temporary basis at the same pay scale pending the availability of funds.

During her report, Ms. Dupont reported the state's 11/25 data, stating that Fairhaven had a total of 110 active cases and 540 for the year. Fairhaven has moved from "red" to "yellow" in the states' color-coded system.

The Fire Department will continue to conduct free COVID-19 testing for Fairhaven residents every Saturday from 9 a.m.-noontime at the Recreation Center until further notice. Residents must show proof of Fairhaven residency.

Mr. Haworth reported that he had been thinking about the pandemic and believes he has found a new way to combat the spread of the virus that perhaps no one has thought of: HEPA filters in buildings such as nursing homes.

"I'm a contractor. I put together buildings. I understand how buildings work," said Mr. Haworth. "Most of these buildings in town have forced hot air.... And I think one of the things that could really help ... in these facilities is— if we actually reach out and check if these facilities are using HEPA filters..."

He said he suspects that heating systems may be recirculating the virus throughout buildings and people are indoors more now.

"I was having a long thought about this the other day, as like, how can we prevent these closed spaces?" Mr. Haworth said. "And I looked it up and, sure enough, they have — they're called HEPA filters. And they claim that it will filter out the COVID."

Mr. Haworth said the board is always working and "thinking outside of the box" to develop "new ways of combatting the situation" behind the scenes.

He recommended having Ms. Dupont reach out to the nursing homes and schools to tell them about HEPA filters because, he continued, "Little guidances like this will help."

Ms. Dupont said she communicates with the superintendent of schools weekly but could not recall

BOH: cont'd on page 21

From our readers

Political signs stolen three times

We recently moved into our home on Fort Street in Fairhaven and have enjoyed becoming a part of this beautiful, historic, waterfront town. Our neighbors are wonderful; walking to the Post Office, Library, Town Hall and Fort Phoenix has been great; seeing the harbor every day heaven!

BUT (You knew it was coming, right?), there is one glaring exception to our otherwise positive experience: not once, not twice but THREE times our yard signs have been either defaced or stolen. These incidents were reported to the police, not with the expectation that the idiots who were responsible would be apprehended, but because we wanted this criminal behavior on record.

We paid real money for these signs and placed them on OUR PROPERTY! Two signs were in support of our presidential candidate (who incidentally WON the election). That's over now; I can let it go. However, the third sign simply states our values and beliefs, what we hold most dear.

The sign reads "In Our America,

Black Lives Matter; Science Is Real; We Are All Immigrants; Love Is Love; Feminism Is for Everyone; Kindness Is Everything."

The sign was prominently displayed next to our front door, approximately 25 feet from the sidewalk.

Who is so small of mind to steal this sign?

Cindy Johnson, Fairhaven

Fairhaven: Get to know your elected officials

The small town has a dilemma. In cities like New York, Boston...even Providence and New Bedford you have the luxury of voting and being able to hide. However in Fairhaven we vote and we run into you at Stop and Shop; we see you at school pick up; we say hi to you at the coffee shop. We can't hide. Our elected officials see us regularly. The loser of the election sees us and wonders if we, their high school English class neighbor, voted for them or the other candidate.

Because of this we tend to vote for our friend. We vote for the nice guy because he's nice and well "why not".

We vote for the small business owner because he has a business and "how different can it be". Guess what? It can be very different.

Being nice in the face of a bully doesn't always get it done. When turning the other cheek doesn't work you have to be willing to dig in and push back. Being a small business owner doesn't mean you can work with others. In fact it can often mean the opposite. Arguably my best friend spent 15 years working for companies before he realized he simply wasn't cut out to work for someone.

He decided to go out on his own and be his own boss. It's admirable but would I elect him to work in a role where he has to answer questions? Probably not. That mentality could work for a mayor (not really) but certainly not for a group of people who have to work together for a common goal. That common goal is the people.

Can we look at our elected officials and say they work for us? Is it easy for us to get our issues addressed or at least answered? Have you tried to get

LETTERS: cont'd on page 22



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Upcoming Meetings

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

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

Fairhaven Board of Health

Wed., 12/16, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 12/14, Arsene St., 6:15 p.m.

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., 12/16, 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.

TA Screening Comm

Mon., 12/14, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Acushnet

Planning Commission

Thurs., 12/17, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Appeals

Tues., 1/12/21, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Assessors

Wed., 12/30, Zoom, 11:30 a.m.

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	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*	
Saturday	19	1120 2355	0415 1651	
Sunday	20	---- 1215	0500 1740	
Monday	21	0050 1308	0609 1855	
Tuesday	22	0141 1358	0906 1956	

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

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BOH: cont'd from page 19

whether the schools already employ HEPA filters, but she check.*

Mr. Haworth also implored residents to resist "COVID fatigue," adding, "If you're not covering your nose and mouth, you're not doing what you need to do."

The board is running "full steam over here," Mr. Haworth continued, coming up with ways to help. He said he has man ideas but is selective with what he brings to the public.

"If I sat here with all my ideas," he said. "I think I would bore the public and bore this room."

The board also heard from Department of Public Works Superintendent Vincent Furtado about complaints that DPW workers were not wearing masks in public. Mr. Furtado assured the board that masks are provided and use is enforced.

Just as Mr. Haworth motioned to adjourn, resident Diane Hahn, who had been outside Town Hall protesting and attempting to submit requests to appear on the board's agenda, asked to speak, saying that her virtual Zoom hand had remained raised but was ignored.

"And now you're probably going to mute me; however, I did—"

"Off!" Mr. Ristuccia ordered, and the technician muted Ms. Hahn immediately. "Anybody that's going to speak out of turn is not going to be speaking at any of the public health meetings that I control."

A prior version of the Zoom recording ended a second or two after adjournment when Mr. Ristuccia could be heard saying, "Jerk!" The video on the official town website, www.FairhavenTV.com cuts out before the insult.

**During the School Committee's 8/19/20 meeting, school administrators introduced the measures that experts had recommended for inhibiting the spread of COVID-19 inside schools, including the use of air filters in the HVAC system. See the 8/27/20 edition of the Neighb News.*

When you're curious,
you find lots of
interesting things to do.

Walt Disney

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"

Acushnet

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals is hereby giving notice that a meeting will be held by the Board on Tuesday, January 12th, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom Meetings:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83297986217?pwd=d4k4rUk5pY0loQXUveXBCSjJOMzB3UT09>

Meeting ID: 832 9798 6217

Passcode: 480063

One tap mobile

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US (New York)

Dial by your location

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+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 832 9798 6217

Passcode: 480063

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Case #2020.07.28A** A continuation of the case of New England Retail Development, LLC c/o Tom Pratt, who is petitioning the Board for a Special Permit to be able to open and operate a gas station and convenience store with drive-thru, within the Village Business District. The proposed location is 158, 166 Main Street, and 17 Wing Road (Assessor's Map 13, Lots 36, 38, and 38A), which are currently owned by Delta Realty, LLC (c/o Mickey Higgins) and Tony's Service Center (c/o Tony Faria). This request is being made under the provisions of Section 3.3.2 (B) and 3.4 (A).
- Case#2020.10.20A** A continuation of the case of New England Retail Development, LLC c/o Tom Pratt, who is petitioning the Board for a Variance to be able to allow wall signs in excess of 50 square feet and pole sign in excess of 15 feet tall. The proposed location is 158, 166 Main Street, and 17 Wing Road (Assessor's Map 13, Lots 36, 38, and 38A), owned by Delta Realty, LLC (c/o)
- Case #2021.01.12A** A case of Kevin Murray, of 75 Lambert Street, Acushnet who is petitioning for a Variance to be able to change the lot lines of his properties located at 7 and 9 Kendrick Street, Acushnet. This request is being made under the provisions of Section 3.3.1 E: Development Standards.
- Case #2021.01.12B** A case of David Calheta, of 19 Darling Street, Acushnet who is petitioning the Board for a Special Permit to be able to construct an accessory apartment at his Darling Street address. This request is being made under the provisions of Section 3.3.1 B (1).

Please note that the October 20th, 2020 meeting went as follows: Case #2020.07.28A was continued, Case #2020.10.20A was continued, and Case #2020.10.20B was granted a Special Permit.

***Plans are available for Public view in the Town

Clerk's office during their normal business hours.***
FNN, 12/10/20, 12/17/20, 1/7/21

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Fairhaven

Conservation Commission

Monday, December 21, 2020 at 6:30pm
Town Hall, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

To Access Meeting Remotely:

<https://zoom.us/j/99492395052?pwd=MURQMHRobjJXOWlXS0wwZ20oxVzM3dz09>
or CALL 1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 994 9239 5052
Passcode: 083758

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold the following **Public Hearings** pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, s. 40) and the Code of the Town of Fairhaven Chapter 192, Wetlands:

- CON 023-194: **North Street – Map 15, Lot 43** Notice of Intent filed by Lee and Elizett Miguel for the installation of a six-foot perimeter fence at the property located on North Street, Assessors Map 15, Lot 43. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage and the 100-foot buffer zone to Salt Marsh and Coastal Beach.
- SE 023-1297, CON-19-051: **Hiller Avenue & Timothy Street, Assessors Map 28C, Lots 71 & 71A** Notice of Intent filed by Robert Roderiques for the construction of paved roadways and stormwater management systems and the installation of utilities including the placement of fill for the aforementioned work for a proposed 16-lot subdivision at the property located at Assessors Map 28C, Lots 71 and 71A. Work to take place in the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

Public participation will be via virtual means only: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Fairhaven Conservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. The public may participate in this meeting via remote participation. Information regarding remote meeting access, listed above, will also be provided on the Conservation Agenda posted on the Town's website at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Copies of the applications listed in this hearing notice may be viewed electronically at: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/conservation-commission/pages/current-filings>

Geoff Haworth, Chair, Fairhaven
Conservation Commission
FNN: 12/10/20

Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall Banquet Room, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95108313775?pwd=bHBScDE1N2QzTjYU2pxTnRTLzV2UT09>
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- Administrative Appeal by Fairhaven Shipyard – re: 7 Union Street.** Seeking reversal of zoning determination by the Town of Fairhaven Building Commissioner dated February 20, 2020. (Application attached) – **Continued** from April 7, 2020, May 5, 2020, June 2, 2020, and July 7, 2020, and August 11, 2020, and September 2, 2020.) Asking for a continuance to December 1, 2020 per applicant's request. **Asking for a continuance to January 5, 2020**
- Administrative Appeal by A1 Crane – re: 86-88 Middle Street.** Administrative Appeal from a letter dated April 7, 2020 from the Building Commissioner stating that the operation on the site is in violation of the Mixed Use zoning regulations. (see attached-Exhibit 3) (continued per applicant's request to September 2, 2020 Meeting, see attached.) Previously approved to **Continue to November 3, 2020. Continue to March 2021, at applicant's request.**
- 6 Lawton Street, Owner: Roger Caron.** 198-21(c): Variance request to extend a conforming structure on a non-conforming lot.
198-18: Variance request for 6' variance on the rear addition, whereas 30' is required.
198-16: Special Permit request for an in-law apartment in a RA District.
- 14 Wigwam Beach Road, Applicant: Luis Pacheco.** 198-32.2(a): Special Permit request for 50' over 75' maximum; total length of pier, gangway, and float 125' to achieve 2.5' of water at mean low water per Zoning By-law
- 7 Pine Avenue, Filipe Garcia.** 198-18: Variance request for 2.6' on side setback for addition in a RA District.

Peter DeTerra, Chairman
FNN: 12/10/20, 12/17/20

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LETTERS: cont'd from page 20

an item on the agenda? I have (3 to 4 weeks ago) and it hasn't been addressed.

You could look at me and say I happen to be 6'3 300 lbs and it's easy to stand up for myself but that's not it. I did the work. I graduated from Boston College as a math major, yes I said math major. I attended University of Chicago Booth school with a finance and strategy concentration. It happened to be the number one school in the country the year I was admitted. I've been a father, climbed the corporate ladder and the best husband I can be. I've been elected to student government at every level.

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