



# Fairhaven

# Neighborhood News

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



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with a big voice!

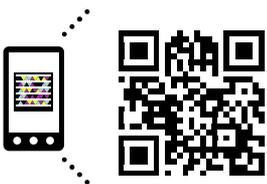
Volume 16, Issue 2 • January 7, 2021

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

## Not official...but still cool



The motto on the shirts of the annual Fort Phoenix Polar Plunge is "Be Cool — Plunge." Well, there was no official plunge on New Year's Day this year due to the pandemic, but some people decided to be cool and plunge anyway. ABOVE: A group of family members/cousins jump in the water at Fort Phoenix on 1/1/21 even though the annual polar plunge was canceled due to the pandemic. See page 12 for story. 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

Oh, here we go again. This is getting sooooo tiresome.

Contrary to Mr. Freitas's fantasy world where first there are so many reporters clamoring to get into the room it could never be allowed due to overcrowding concerns and second there hasn't been a reporter in the room in years (yes, he said both things were true at the same time, see page 4), the *Neighb News* has been faithfully covering Selectboard meetings for 16 years. We have been in the room for nearly all of them, simply missing one or two here and there over the years, until COVID restrictions and Mr. Freitas's brazen attack on the First Amendment and this paper by keeping us out of the room.

Mr. Silvia, you will remember, was allowed in the room during the campaign before he was a Selectboard member and during the most stringent restrictions. We have asked repeatedly to be let in the room, as the Zoom option is woefully inadequate. Mr. Freitas said no, Mr. Espindola said yes, and Mr. Silvia (who may as well cite his white male privilege out loud) has never responded to the email requests that were made by the town administrator.

Are you disgusted with these guys yet and their blatant double standard?

Mr. Freitas's assertion that the governor has ordered it is ridiculous. He did not. Town Counsel wrote in an email that it is up to the board. (Besides, anyone can read the executive order. It's pretty clear.) The press is an essential service, essential to democracy, essential to the public, essential to transparent government, all things that apparently are not important to Mr. Freitas.

Are you disgusted yet?

They routinely let in people with appointments, have let in several people at a time when it's something they think is important.

Well, the press is important. And watching it on TV, via Zoom, or on the computer is not the same as being in the room. Of course, they know that. Which is why they want us out. Don't think? Are you disgusted yet?

Anyway, welcome back.

Fire Chief Tim Francis is retiring (see page 13), and his ride home shindig is on Friday (see page 5). I'm sure we'll be seeing him around town, though. Vroom vroom...see you on the bike in the spring, Tim!

Oh, can't forget our cover. No official plunge this year, but people still wanna have fun!

See page 12 for some brrrr talk.

Until next week then...see ya  
(from a distance)

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# Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Volume 16, Issue 2

Thursday, January 7, 2021

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Published weekly on Thursday by

Fairhaven Neighborhood News, LLC, at

166 Dogwood Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

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www.NeighbNews.com

508-979-5593 • Fax: 508-991-5580

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## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our last issue (12/17/20), we inadvertently left off the name of a letter writer, on the letter entitled "Board of Health is not protecting public health. The letter writer was Diane Hahn, and we assure you she did not intend to be anonymous. We apologize for any confusion our error may have caused.

# COVID-19 update: More contagious COVID-19

By Jean Perry

## Neighb News Correspondent

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker warned residents on January 5 that the new, more contagious COVID-19 variant is likely already in the state and residents should remain vigilant in exercising precautions to mitigate exposure.

"I think most of us are working on the assumption that it's here," Gov. Baker said during a press conference on Tuesday. "There would be no reason not to."

The new virus has already been confirmed in New York, Colorado, Florida, and California.

The Baker-Polito Administration announced on January 4 that the state's first responders, the next eligible priority group in Phase 1 of the Vaccine Distribution timeline, will be eligible for vaccinations starting on January 11.

During Phase 1, expected to last from now through February, the vaccine will be offered to the remaining priority groups such as residents and workers in congregate care centers (including correctional

facilities and shelters), and home-based health care workers.

The state adjusted its Phase 2 priority group on January 4 to include citizens age 75+ and individuals with two or more comorbidities, both deemed high-risk for severe complications of COVID-19. From February until April, pre-k and k-12 education employees will receive the vaccine, plus workers in transit, grocery utility, public works, sanitation, and public health workers. Phase 2 also includes individuals age 65+ and those with one comorbidity.

Phase 3 should begin in April when the vaccine will be available to the general public.

The interactive COVID-19 Dashboard is receiving some upgrades to allow users to more easily select specific timeframes, among other features to enhance user-friendliness. The state is continuing to add further enhancements to the Dashboard.

On January 1, Governor Baker signed legislation expanding access to quality healthcare, affordable care, promoting Telehealth access, and protecting access to COVID-19 testing

and treatment. It also expands the scope of practice for nurse practitioners and other specialized nurses to prevent consumers from receiving unexpected medical bills.

"Massachusetts has long been a leader in ensuring health care quality and access, and with this new law, we are making further progress in building a strong, accessible, and affordable health care system, a goal that is more important now than ever," said Gov. Baker on Monday.

There were 4,358 new cases confirmed on January 4 for a total of 375,455 since the start of the pandemic. There were 81,449 estimated active cases as of press time; 2,339 COVID-19 patients hospitalized, with 423 in Intensive Care and 258 intubated.

Sixty new deaths were reported on January 4 for a total of 12,401 since the pandemic began.

Fairhaven had a two-week total of 179 new active cases as of Thursday, December 31, for a total of 931 cases.

In Acushnet, there were 93 new cases in two weeks for a total of 574.

Both towns remain in the red on the state's color-coded map.

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# Wendy Graves appointed interim Town Administrator

By Jean Perry

## Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Selectboard on 12/21/20 took steps to appoint Finance Director/Treasurer/Tax Collector Wendy Graves as the interim town administrator, but the 2-1 vote reflected Selectboard member Bob Espindola's concern about overburdening the workload of an internal candidate, especially one whose position is essential to the fiscal year 2022 budget season.

When Selectboard Chairperson Daniel Freitas asked the board if either member had anyone in mind, Selectboard member Keith Silvia said, "I would love to see Wendy Graves. She's been working with you for five years. I think she's involved in the budget all the time; she knows what's going on in here, and I think she'd be a perfect fit...."

While Ms. Graves would be "a great person to help someone who fills in as the interim person," said Mr. Espindola, "If you think about it, she has a job that she has to do now...."

Ms. Graves was hired in 2013 as the treasurer/finance director, and the position was eventually expanded to encompass the tax collector position, a consolidation recommended by the Department of Revenue after a 2012 Financial Management Review.

"Are we loading her up?" Mr. Espindola continued. "It just doesn't make sense to me when we have [enough money in the TA salary budget] to get an outside person."

Current Town Administrator Mark Rees will leave on 1/8. The town's professional search consultant, Bernie Lynch, estimates the town could need an interim TA from three weeks up to two and a half months.

Mr. Espindola said Mr. Lynch could likely provide the board with potential external interim TA candidates and asked if Mr. Lynch would unmute himself and talk about it.

But first, Mr. Freitas objected to hiring an outside candidate that "may not know anything," citing a learning curve, taking the first two weeks on the job just "figuring out the streets" and "who's who." He said he hopes the new TA could start early February and voiced his support for hiring Ms. Graves.

"If it was Wendy that was offered this position ... I'd like to see Anne Carreiro (the town accountant) beneath her to help her out," Mr. Freitas said. "If her and Anne would like to do this," then

Mr. Freitas believes the two could manage the additional full-time workload. He called the two women "phenomenal employees," and Mr. Silvia added, "Very qualified, very qualified."

In response to Mr. Espindola's plea for input, Mr. Lynch was reticent. "This really is outside of my scope entirely, but there are retired [town administrators] in the area that are available," said Mr. Lynch. "Communities go a range of different ways," some looking in-house while others look for outside experienced TAs.

He said it was a "judgment call" for the board and it was "tough" to involve himself in the decision. He later told Mr. Freitas the average rate for an external interim TA is about \$75 an hour, which Mr. Freitas found too high.

Mr. Freitas said Mr. Rees should approach Ms. Graves and Ms. Carreiro the following day with the proposal and then "figure out how to slide people around."

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Are we loading her up? It just doesn't make sense to me when we have [enough money in the TA salary budget] to get an outside person. [Bob Espindola]

---

Sensing how an ensuing vote would result, Mr. Espindola then asserted that there would be sufficient money in the TA salary budget line to cover the cost of an experienced interim TA. He again emphasized that the town was well into the FY22 budget season.

"It's a critical time for all of that process," said Mr. Espindola. "The town deserves full resources available during that process [and Mr. Rees] relies heavily on [Ms. Graves and Ms. Carreiro]."

He said he supports having them both involved in the transition process but urged the board to "take advantage of the resources while we have funding in the budget." He then motioned to hire an external interim TA, which was not seconded.

Mr. Freitas then motioned to have Mr. Rees approach Ms. Graves for the position, with Ms. Carreiro as an assistant, and said the board could meet again for a brief meeting for a formal appointment.

"I'll gladly second that," said Mr. Silvia. "I think they're very confident. I think they're real good people. I think

they'll take us in the right direction."

"Let's see what they can do," said Mr. Freitas. "One of the names is already on there." Earlier in the meeting, Mr. Freitas stated that Ms. Graves' name was already on the list.

The *Neighb News* contacted Mr. Rees to confirm whether Ms. Graves is an applicant for the permanent TA position, but he did not respond.

Immediately after, the board accepted Ms. Carreiro's resignation from the TA Search Committee. In her letter to the Selectboard, she gave no reason for her resignation.

Ms. Carreiro was appointed to the town employee seat on the committee and was the only woman among the seven members.

The Selectboard was slated to appoint Department of Public Works Superintendent Vincent Furtado but changed its mind to keep a woman on the committee.

Mr. Freitas said he received "a lot of emails," as did Mr. Silvia, and said the two "got beat up about this." He defended the original plan to appoint Mr. Furtado, saying that it was Mr. Rees's suggestion. He pointed out that the boards and committees that appointed a member to the search committee each chose their own representative — all of which were men. The Selectboard then each appointed a representative, all of which were men, with Mr. Freitas appointing himself instead of choosing a member of the community at large.

The Selectboard's choice for the town employee seat, Mr. Freitas said, was Ms. Carreiro, "a female," which he claimed, "was done prior to any of this being brought up." He then alluded to "an email or two emails" he received from committees or boards with appointees on the search committee that conveyed "that we've done something wrong."

"I think you need to look inner at yourselves and figure out why you didn't send us over a female," said Mr. Freitas. He said one email was "offensive" and suggested that the sender himself "step aside and allow a female" to sit on the search committee.

He then lauded himself and Mr. Silvia for advancing two women to fill the one interim TA position and claimed that he maintained from the start that he would like to see 50% of the TA candidates be women and is "not against a woman taking the job."

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

# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## Last ride home

Fire Chief Tim Francis is retiring and his last ride home will be on Friday, 1/8. **From 10 a.m. to noon**, the fire apparatus floor will be open for visitors. **MASKS REQUIRED.** Due to COVID limitations, personnel in the station will be limited. Please keep your visit brief to allow others to visit.

**12:45 p.m.:** Vehicles will assemble for parade route.

**1 p.m.:** Parade begins, west along Washington St., turn south (left) onto Green St. to Center St., turn west (right) and **pause in front of town hall for a presentation** by the Select-board (outside). Turn north onto Main Street (right) and proceed to Rte. 6. Turn east (right) onto Rte. 6 to Alden Road to Oliver Street and take right on Oliver St., to 25 Rivard Lane. Masks required on Rivard Lane.

## 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 east\* 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.

## Cmas Tree pickup

Town of Fairhaven Christmas tree pickup, **Jan. 12-15.** Christmas tree pick up is one day after regular rubbish day. Place trees curbside by 7:00 am on day of pick up

Remove all ornaments and tinsel  
**DO NOT PUT IN PLASTIC BAGS**

Reg. Trash Day	CMas Tree Pick Up Day
Monday	Tuesday, Jan. 12
Tuesday	Wednesday, Jan. 13
Wednesday	Thursday, Jan. 14
Thursday	Friday, Jan. 15

Missed trees may be dropped off at the gate at the Recycle Center, 5 Arsene Street

## 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 Dates: **Sat., 1/9, 16, 23, 30, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Fairhaven Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Ave. WALK-IN ONLY, NO appointments.** Visit <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/fire-department-emergency/news/free-covid-19-testing-fairhaven> to get the form and fill it out ahead of time to expedite your visit.

Please contact the Health Department with questions at [bh@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:bh@fairhaven-ma.gov) or 508-979-4023 ext. 125.

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## Moby-Dick Marathon goes remote

### Press Release

The best known literary event centered on Herman Melville's iconic American novel *Moby-Dick* is moving online in 2021. The New Bedford Whaling Museum's annual Moby-Dick Marathon attracts thousands of people of all ages from around the world, who share a fascination with the sweeping story.

The 25th anniversary of this remarkable read-a-thon falls in the middle of a pandemic, so organizers have moved the event online. The Moby-Dick Marathon runs **from Jan. 8 to Jan. 10, 2021.** Details are at [www.whalingmuseum.org](http://www.whalingmuseum.org).

Every winter, the Whaling Museum's Moby-Dick Marathon marks the anniversary of Melville's January 1841 departure from the Port of New Bedford, aboard the whaleship *Acushnet*. Melville would later pen *Moby-Dick*, publishing the famous novel in 1851.

Although the marathon will be virtual in 2021, Whaling Museum

President and CEO Amanda McMullen is confident that participants "will still be drawn in by the drama and excitement of the hunt for the white whale. As always, there will be plenty of opportunities to have fun and to dive deeper into the content in our hosted talks with experts on zoom."

Hundreds of readers from across the country recorded themselves reading passages from the book and sent them in to the Museum to be stitched together as a full cover-to-cover reading of *Moby-Dick*. The final product will be played **beginning Saturday, January 9 at 11:30 a.m.** and run through Sunday ending around noon.

Activities begin on Friday, January 8 at 7 p.m. with a lively online presentation "A Wonder, a Grandeur, and a Woe": Melville and Human Progress," with Steven Olsen-Smith. A past president of The Melville Society, Olsen-Smith is Professor at Boise State University and General Editor of Melville's Marginalia Online. Tickets

for the Friday event must be purchased in advance and cost \$10 for Whaling Museum members and \$15 for non-members.

All weekend long, people living in Dartmouth, New Bedford, Acushnet, or Fairhaven, Massachusetts can have warm chowder, delicious brews, or a full meal well-suited for a hungry sailor delivered to their homes, thanks to the Museum's event partners Moby-Dick Brewing Co. and Gotchew delivery service. Go to the Museum's website for details on how to order.

A virtual chat with Melville Scholars takes place at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 9 via Zoom. Whaling Museum Curator of Maritime History Michael Dyer will pair artworks with Melville's writings during "Visualizing Melville: An Exhibition of Words, Ideas, Images, and Objects," an online presentation on Sunday beginning at 10 a.m. These events and activities as well as the

**MOBY: cont'd on page 8**

# Santa adapts to COVID-19 reality

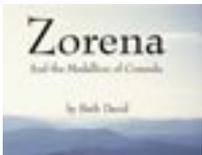


Santa made many trips to the area at Christmas time, but had to adapt to the reality of COVID-9 restrictions. He rode around on the antique fire truck in Fairhaven, waving to children of all ages. He was not able to stop and let the little ones sit on his lap, but he still let everyone know that although many events had been canceled due to the pandemic, Christmas was not canceled. ABOVE: Santa and Mrs. Claus pass by Fairhaven High School in an antique fire truck during their Santa parade on 12/19/20. Photos courtesy of Kelly Smith Studios.



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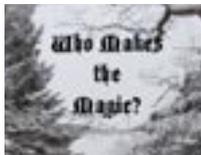
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NMLS # 422864

# BPW discusses beach changes, banning dogs

By Mary Macedo

Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Monday 12/14 the Fairhaven Board of Public Works discussed changes in town beach regulations for the 2021 season, and continued their discussion about the BPW independent study.

The board met with Gary Lavalette and Brett Silva who worked at the town beach last summer, to discuss changes for the 2021 season that will, hopefully, help make everything run more smoothly.

BPW Superintendent Vinnie Furtado said he invited them so the board could get a head start on what needs to be done for the 2021 season.

Mr. Lavalette explained that two issues they had last year were with residents bringing their dogs and floatation devices into the water. He said that no other public beaches in the area allow dogs or floatation devices, both can be a liability.

If a dog bites someone that is a liability. They also have a lot of issues with people leaving dog poop on the ground.

Mr. Lavalette said that they also

noticed issues with floatation devices such as rafts, tubes, floaties, and even life vests. The big floatation devices get blown away by the wind; as for floaties and life vests, parents put them on the children and let them go into the ocean by themselves, which is still very dangerous.

He suggested they install signs banning dogs and floatation devices on the lifeguarded section of the beach. He said if people want to bring their dogs and floatation devices they can go on the other side of the beach.

Mr. Lavalette also informed the board that most residents at the beach was between 750-800 people at a time. The beach can hold around 1200 people with distancing limits. He said the beach would probably never reach capacity because people are in and out all day. He suggested that they allow non-residents to purchase passes again, specifically Acushnet residents.

Board member Cameron Durant suggested that they wait until spring to look at the COVID numbers and then decide about beach passes.

Mr. Lavalette also said the board

should consider raising the prices of the beach passes. He said many residents told him that \$30 for a season pass was a bargain. Even the senior citizens said that \$10 for a senior season pass was a great deal. He said he felt like it costs more money to pay the employees and maintain the cleanliness of the beach.

Vice-Chairperson Robert "Hoppy" Hobson also suggested that they start hiring employees and lifeguards earlier this year.

Mr. Furtado said the problem with the lifeguards is that every year they are asked to work until Labor Day and they agree, but then in mid-august they often have to take time off to go to college orientations or they start college before Labor Day.

Chairperson Brian Wotton suggested that they reach out to the YMCA earlier this year.

Mr. Silva said this year he had issues with the lifeguards not wanting to swim or get in the water. He said he also had issues with the lifeguards not wanting to wear their bathing suit uniform. They would sit in a sweat-

BPW: cont'd on page 10

# #Kevin2021

f KEVIN GALLAGHER FOR FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF HEALTH

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**MOBY: cont'd from page 5**

reading itself are all free and open to the public.

Although participants will not be able to gather for the traditional "Stump the Scholars" session, scholars from The Melville Society have created a Moby-Dick quiz, so everyone can test their Melville knowledge. The quiz will be available online during the Moby-Dick Marathon on the Museum's website.

The Whaling Museum, in collaboration with The Melville Society, is the

established home of the Melville Society Cultural Project and the Melville Society Archive, which is housed in the Museum's Research Library. The archive constitutes one of the best collections of Melville scholarship and resources anywhere in the world.

Visit [www.whalingmuseum.org](http://www.whalingmuseum.org) for the full schedule of events and details on how to participate.

The New Bedford Whaling Museum ignites learning through explorations of art, history, science and culture rooted in the stories of people, the

region and an international seaport. The cornerstone of New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, the Museum is located at 18 Johnny Cake Hill in the heart of the city's historic downtown. Whaling Museum hours are Mondays (members only), and Wednesday through Sunday (open to all), 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free for Museum members and children ages three and under; adults \$19, seniors (65+) \$17, students (19+) \$12, child and youth \$9.

For more information visit [www.whalingmuseum.org](http://www.whalingmuseum.org).

## 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 (appointment is required), 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/>

### Moby-Dick Marathon

See page 5

### EPA Meeting

In an effort to keep community members informed, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be hosting a Virtual Public Informational Meeting via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, January 13th, 2021 at 6PM to 7:30PM. Instructions on how to join and the agenda are available soon at: [www.epa.gov/superfund/newbedford](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/newbedford) under 'Stay Updated' and 'What's New'.

In addition, all lines will be muted during the presentation and will open up during the Q & A portion at the end so please refrain from unmuting your mic to avoid any background noise during the meeting. Also, if you feel comfortable we encourage participants to utilize/turn on their cameras to increase engagement during the meeting. Please feel free to reach out with any questions, special needs or assistance you may need prior to joining.

NOTE: This meeting will be recorded and shared on local cable access stations.

We look forward to providing you a Site update!

New Bedford Harbor Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

For a link to join by MS Teams, email [purnell.zanetta@epa.gov](mailto:purnell.zanetta@epa.gov)

To join by phone: 857-299-6148 Conference ID: 76165581#

NOTE: If you have any technical issues, visit: [www.epa.gov/superfund/newbedford](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/newbedford) as the presentation will be on the website

The link for closed captioning will be posted prior to the presentation in the chat box, please contact me at [purnell.zanetta@epa.gov](mailto:purnell.zanetta@epa.gov) or (617) 918-1306 with any issues you have prior to the start of the meeting.

AGENDA: Review of 2020 Accomplishments and Summary of Upcoming 2021 Remedial Actions

NOTE: By participating in EPA hosted virtual meetings and events, you are consenting to abide by the agency's terms of use. In addition, you acknowledge that content you post may be collected and used in support of FOIA and eDiscovery activities.

### Dock-U-Mentary

New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center's Dock-u-mentaries series continues with the virtual event, *Swimming Upstream: A Book Talk by Mike Foley*.

This program will take place over ZOOM at 7:00pm on Friday, January 15th. The event is free and open to the public. To join the ZOOM Meeting, use the link, [bit.ly/JanuaryBookTalk](http://bit.ly/JanuaryBookTalk).

*Swimming Upstream* is the story of four generations of Foley fish-mongers, their successes and failures, their talents and foibles. Hear the story of Michael Foley who immigrated to the United States from Ireland in the late 19th Century and eventually started Foley Fish

Company. Author Mike Foley will speak about his family's history as well as the process of writing the book. Learn more about Mike Foley and *Swimming Upstream* at [mike-foley.com](http://mike-foley.com).

Please contact Hannah at [programs@fishingheritagecenter.org](mailto:programs@fishingheritagecenter.org) with any questions.

Dock-u-mentaries are presented by New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center and New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park. Thank you to BankFive for supporting our film series.

New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center is dedicated to preserving and presenting the story of the commercial fishing industry past, present, and future through exhibits, programs, and archives. For more information, visit the Center's website at [fishingheritagecenter.org](http://fishingheritagecenter.org), email [programs@fishingheritagecenter.org](mailto:programs@fishingheritagecenter.org), or call (508) 993-8894.

The Center is open Thursday-Saturday, 10:00am- 4:00pm. Admission is free.

### Patrons of the Arts

Each year New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! has been privileged to recognize individuals and organizations that have helped the arts succeed through their generous support and work in the community. Because of them, the arts flourish here in New Bedford.

It is our privilege to shine a light on Irene and Norman Buck and the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra. Each has played a pivotal role in supporting the arts for many years. In recognition of their support, we will be presenting each with a specially commissioned hand-carved wooden

**HAPPS NB: cont'd next page**

**HAPPS NB: cont'd from previous page**

bird whistle made by New Bedford artist Bill White.

2020 Patrons of the Arts Honorees Irene and Norman Buck & New Bedford Symphony Orchestra are longtime supporters of the arts. The Bucks moved the south coast's creative culture forward through the

amazing work done at ArtWorks! Partners for the Art by Irene and Norm's development of Ropeworks! Artist Condominium project to name a few.

The Bucks and the NBSO are longtime friends and supporters of the Museum. From collaborative programming to supporting events, to advancing educational opportuni-

ties they epitomize the honor of Patrons of the Arts.

Watch the Awards Here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZ9-4fArFuDRmZrxWLOfa5A>

Thank you to this year's sponsors! Timothy Mahoney and Pamela Donnelly, Allan and Priscilla Ditchfield, Margaret and Michael Nash

## HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

### 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*

### Family Activities

*Family Activities along the Handy House Heritage Trail*

(A friendly family of log deer will greet visitors to the trail this winter!)

#### Archaeology Scavenger Hunt

Archaeologists look for clues on the surface to help them find sites and artifacts that are buried underground, and to understand what people did in the past. Be an archaeologist for a day and help figure out what happened along the Handy House Trail!

Download your scavenger hunt here: <https://wpthistory.org/handy-house-heritage-trail/family-activities-on-the-trail/>

#### Paul Cuffe: His Purpose, Partners and Properties

**Sat., 1/9, at 2 p.m.** A new book about Paul Cuffe, written by David Cole, Richard Gifford and Betty Slade, with illustrations by Ray Shaw, has recently been published by Spinner Publications of New Bedford. *Paul Cuffe: His Purpose, Partners and Properties* focuses on clarifying or resolving uncertainties about three aspects of Paul Cuffe's remarkable life: the purpose of his travels to

Africa; the nature of his relationships with several important persons who contributed significantly to his success, namely his father, Cuff Slocum, his business partners, William Rotch Sr. and Jr. and Michael Wainer; and the various properties that Paul and Michael owned in and around the town of Westport — including their locations, how and why they were acquired, and the purposes for which they were used.

The three authors will be joined by Joseph Thomas, the head of Spinner Publications, in a discussion of this publication both in terms of what's new and how this book complements the forthcoming book by Lamont Thomas about Paul Cuffe that will soon be published by Spinner.

Click here to register in advance for this webinar: [https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_9D-PH0poTiuKV9ndRr03Fw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9D-PH0poTiuKV9ndRr03Fw)

#### SAVE THE DATE

#### An Audience with

#### Susannah White Winslow

**Sat., 1/22, 2 p.m.** Join Mayflower passenger Susannah White Winslow and discover the harrowing stories about her life in England and the challenges of building a new life in a world unknown to her. This first-person living history program is presented by Plimoth-Patuxet (formerly Plimoth Plantation), a living history museum in Plymouth, Mass.

Registration details coming soon!

#### Annual Appeal

We would like to thank those of you who have already responded generously to our annual appeal. We are closing in on our goal but still have a way to go!

If you are a previous donor — Thank You! Would you consider a move to a higher gift level? If you are a new donor, please understand that your participation is critical to our success. Whatever level you choose, you have our heartfelt thanks for the support and confidence you have placed in us.

We offer a convenient, secure donation form via our website: <https://wpthistory.org/join-support/donate/> Westport Historical Society, 508-636-6011, [westporthistory@westporthistory.net](mailto:westporthistory@westporthistory.net); [www.wpthistory.org](http://www.wpthistory.org)

### Meet Thomas Howland

When Thomas Howland applied for his passport, the Providence Journal reported on the response he received, and the story was picked up by the *New York Times*, where it ran on October 23, 1857. Howland had applied through a Providence notary, Mr. Martin, who received the following reply: "Mr. Martin must certainly be aware that passports are not issued to persons of African extraction. Such persons are not deemed citizens of the United States."

This response came in the wake of the Dred Scott decision of March 6, 1857. Howland's expression is all the more resonant given that he was a citizen with voting rights in his home state of Rhode Island, and was elected warden of Providence's Third Ward in 1857, the first African American elected official in the city. After Dred Scott, is it any wonder Howland left for Liberia?

The *New York Times* reported that he was leaving with his wife and daughter, who intended to "engage in teaching" in Liberia, a task for which she had qualified herself in Providence's public schools.

~ Kirsten Hammerstrom, Former Director of Collections (at RIHS 2000-2017)

Visit The Rhode Island Historical Society, <https://www.rihs.org/faith-freedom-friday-thomas-howland/>

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# Recipe of the Week

## Crockpot Meatballs

- 1 pound hamburger
- 1/2 cup Italian bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup spaghetti sauce
- 1/4 cup parmesan cheese
- 1 egg

Mix together and make 8 balls  
Place in crock pot with rest of sauce.

Cook 6 hours on low

### To share a recipe with your neighbors

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BPW: cont'd from page 7

shirt and sweatpants all day and no one could tell they were a lifeguard.

Mr. Furtado said at their kickoff meeting he will go over the rules and uniform policy.

Mr. Lavalette said that the biggest problem they had in the 2020 beach season was residents refusing to put their beach pass sticker on their vehicles. The attendants were constantly being yelled at by residents who refused to put their stickers on their cars. The police had to be call 2-3 times because of it. Mr. Lavalette said most residents who did not want to put their beach stickers on their car said they wanted to use the sticker on multiple cars.

Mr. Furtado said that will not happen next year and that they are looking into getting different stickers.

Mr. Lavalette said they also had a problem with parasailers getting too close to the shore, and over people's heads, which can be dangerous.

Mr. Hobson said he really likes the parasailers and people like to watch them. He asked if they could designate a section of the beach for them.

Mr. Lavalette's last suggestion was that the town hire a police detail for

the 4th of July. He said the trash left behind from the holiday was overwhelming, with fireworks debris and liquor bottles all over the beach. Mr. Hobson agreed that they should have police monitoring the area for the holiday.

In another matter the board reopened their discussion regarding an independent study of BPW spending to see if there are any areas where the BPW can save money.

At the last meeting Mr. Furtado presented the board with an example of a study Tighe and Bond that would

cost around \$20,000. Mr. Furtado said he had no problem with a study being done, but it needs to be on specific areas because there are no problems regarding the BPW finances because all financial items go through a lengthy process of approval.

Mr. Wotton agreed, saying that the BPW does not make a lot of financial decisions; most go through the Town Administrator or Town Meeting or the Finance Committee.

Board member Frank Coelho agreed that most things in the study are not necessary, but added that he would like the company to look at things that are wasting money such as the digester they do not use and the lack of planning for the recycling center. He said maybe the company would know better ways to use them.

Mr. Furtado said they cannot do anything with the recycling center until they approve of an area to build a new facility. He said the problem with the digester is that the town of Fairhaven does not make enough waste for it to work properly. The digester requires live microbes that eat the solid waste; the critters burp methane gas that is used to make electricity or generate renewable energy credits. The process does not work because the town just does not make enough waste.

He said he was hoping when the new nitrogen plant is built they may be able to resurrect the digester.

Mr. Coelho said maybe the engineering company can give the board ideas on what to do with the digester.

Mr. Furtado said the digester should have never been a project for this town.

Mr. Durant said he is only okay with the engineering company doing a study if the company just comes in and suggests ways they can save time or money or make things more efficient.

Mr. Hobson said he is against the whole study, there is no need to spend thousands on a study to save very little.

Mr. Furtado suggested having Tighe and Bond interview staff in each BPW department to see if there are any indications that certain departments can save time or money or make things more efficient. He said he can ask the company to give the board a proposal and costs.

The board tabled the proposal until Mr. Furtado receives the costs.

# DaCunha's

## Dispatches

News from high school in the age of COVID

By Elizabeth DaCunha



### Special to the Neighb News

Dacunha's Dispatches here, back again with another article. As promised, I have done my research, and am prepared to deliver with all of the new info on high school extracurriculars.

Let's start off with sports. This year, we didn't know if sports were going to happen, but the high school is happy to announce that they will be starting up winter sports. These include basketball, winter cheer, track, and hockey. Track is being delayed into the Fall II season, because GNBVRT (Greater New Bedford Regional Voc-Tech) has not agreed to start track. Fall sports and others that are being delayed are being put into this new season called Fall II which will happen after the winter sport season. Hockey is TBD, with ORR (Old Rochester Regional) making this final decision.

The new and improved rules that have been instilled because of COVID, revolve around mask-wearing, social distancing, and sanitization. Athletes are essentially mandated to wear masks at all times, aside from scheduled mask breaks. Some of the social distancing precautions include assigned seats on the bus, distancing markers on the bench, and staying the suggested six feet apart at all times before, during, and after

practices/games. Sanitizing will be a part of the athletes' routine, washing their hands constantly.

The Athletic Director at FHS summed up the new rules in a recent email saying, "We only have one gym and a lot of restrictions on how to use it."

The athletics department will be giving this COVID-safe version of sports a try, and only time will tell if it ends up being a success.

I also spoke with the Drama Club director, Mr. Young, who spoke about the challenges he has faced in getting the the drama club bak up.

"Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we had to think outside of the box. Instead of a fully staged show, we are going to be producing small 10-15

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The school spirit, Blue-Devil, carpe diem culture is what keeps FHS alive, and as a student there myself, I truly do hope that our students and staff will keep their spirits up, and make the most of what we ve got.

---

minute variety shows...then share with the public digitally," said Mr. Young.

Just like sports, drama club members will have to keep these new regulations in mind while rehearsing and performing.

Speaking on the new struggles he's had to face because of COVID, Mr. Young stated, "The hardest part about restarting this year is letting go of the traditional format of a staged production while trying to maintain all of the elements that make the drama club special. There is something magical about the creative energy of 75+ students working on the

same project at one time. The bonds that are formed, the lessons that are learned, and the memories that are made are priceless. Our goal is to make sure that these elements still exist without the traditionally staged production."

I am hopeful that despite the modifications having been made, the drama club will continue to amaze us with their magnificent productions.

Lastly, I wanted to capture what exactly is happening with the student council at FHS. I spoke with Mr. Hevey, the student council advisor, who shared the struggles student council has faced so far.

"Currently there are no plans for student council since most extra-curricular activities are not taking place," said Mr. Hevey. "But I'm hoping this will change as it seems like sports are slowly being allowed."

However, the school council has been working with administration to provide "questions of the week" as well as sell their "Dinner for Two" books, one of the school's most successful fundraisers, that are currently on sale.

Recently, the election for class officers was held, and Mr. Hevey shared how COVID affected it.

"Voter turnout is much lower because students have to log on to vote," he said, since voting was done electronically rather than the traditional ballot.

Meeting together as a group has also been a challenge, but meeting through Zoom may become an option very soon.

The school spirit, Blue-Devil, carpe diem culture is what keeps FHS alive, and as a student there myself, I truly do hope that our students and staff will keep their spirits up, and make the most of what we ve got.

Happy New Year!



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# Not official...but still cool

By Beth David

Editor

The annual Fort Phoenix Polar Plunge, usually held on New Year's day, was canceled due to the pandemic. But that did not stop a handful of hardy souls from jumping into the 45'sh degree water.

Kate Donovan of Freetown and Steve Gleason of Fairhaven said they did not know the plunge had been canceled. They decided to jump in anyway.

"Just to wash off 2020 and start 2021 fresh and clean," said Mr. Gleason, who has plunged a few times. "It's been a rough year for everyone."

Ms. Donovan agreed with the

sentiment, saying she was "starting fresh," for the new year. And, she noted, she was a first time plunger.

"That was unreal," said Ms. Donovan after the little dip, adding she would "absolutely" do it again.

She said she had heard of polar plunges, but it was never on her "radar."

"It was cool," she said, which is fitting because the official t-shirt usually says "Be Cool — Plunge."

"Refreshing," said Mr. Gleason. "2020 is out of our system."

"The feet are the first to go," said Ms. Perry. "I need to thaw."

After a minute or two, she decided it was all good.

"As soon as I got my feet warm, the

rest of the body followed," said Ms. Perry. "It feels good."

A group of cousins decided with their uncle and dad to brave the cold waters.

"I did know [it was canceled], but we still decided we were going to do it no matter what," said Lucas. "It's a great way to start 2020."

The official plunge is free, but the organizers usually sell T-shirts to raise money for scholarships for high school students. They will still be awarding scholarships and are asking for donations. If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to DFS Polar Plunge, 100 Cedar St., Fairhaven, MA 02719.



ABOVE LEFT: A group of family members/cousins jump in the water at Fort Phoenix on 1/1/21 even though the annual polar plunge was canceled due to the pandemic. ABOVE RIGHT, L-R, FRONT: Ryder, Jameson, dad/uncle Gary, Slade; L-R, BACK: Lucas, Vance, try to pose for the local free sheet after jumping into the 45'sh degree water at Fort Phoenix on 1/1/21, although the annual polar plunge was canceled due to the pandemic. BELOW L-R: Kate Donovan, Steve Gleason, and Jean Perry react to the cold water as they head back from their plunge into the 45'sh degree water at Fort Phoenix on 1/1/21 even though the annual polar plunge was canceled due to the pandemic. *Photos by Beth David.*



# Fire Chief Timothy Francis retires after 42 years with dept.

By Beth David

Editor

Tim Francis has had a good run... well, lots of runs, fire and ambulance runs to be exact. After 42 years in the Fairhaven Fire Department, 22 as chief, Mr. Francis is retiring.

His tenure saw lots of changes, including the move of the ambulance service from the police department to the fire department. Firefighters had to be trained as paramedics, the whole shebang had to be outfitted. He negotiated with the hospital ambulance service for equipment, the union for the new job requirements, and town officials for everything else.

Mr. Francis started with the department as a call firefighter in 1979, was appointed as a permanent firefighter in 1982, rose to the rank of lieutenant in 1993, was appointed deputy chief in 1995, and replaced Chief David Crowley in 1999.

"Dave Crowley taught me a lot," said Chief Francis.

By far, the biggest thing was taking over the ambulance service. Chief Francis said for firefighters to become paramedics is "all part of rescue," and being first responders.

"It goes hand in hand," he said.

The department now runs three ambulances, and they are "going constantly."

Department personnel are also training constantly, allowing them to branch out with things like COVID testing.

Of course, not all days are filled with training. Some days, you have to use that training. It can be extremely rewarding, and it can be extremely



Fairhaven Fire Chief Timothy Francis gives a big smile to the local free sheet on 10/6/19 at the department's annual fire safety demonstration. *Neighb News file photo by Beth David.*

difficult. The worst days are the ones where a life is lost, or someone is injured.

"No chief likes to lose a building or a life," said Chief Francis.

One of the worst was when he had to notify a friend, a co-worker, of a family member's death in a car accident. It was deputy chief Donn Fletcher's sister who was killed, and he was on the scene. They did not know who it was until



Fairhaven Fire Chief Timothy Francis sits behind his desk at the Fire Station on 12/29/20, one of his last days on the job before he retires on 1/8/21 after 42 years with the department, 22 as chief. *Photo by Beth David.*

later.

"Then we realized it was her. That was one of the worst days," he said.

Another tough day was the Oxford Pub fire, which resulted in one man's death and one man severely burned.

Chief Francis said he was the first one to pull up in the ladder truck because everyone else was out on a call. That made it harder, being alone for those first minutes. And, he had to drive the ladder truck, something he had not done in a long time.

"But the good days outweigh the bad," said the chief. "There were a lot of good days."

He enjoyed going to work every day, enjoyed the people he worked with, enjoyed the challenge of meeting the needs of Fairhaven and the wider public, too, through his membership in a couple of state and regional organizations.

"I'm a guy that needs a challenge every day," he said. "You never know what you're going to run into every day. It could be a false alarm, or a working house fire."

"It's been a very fulfilling career,

plus I have great people behind me."

He sang the praises of the office staff, the firefighters, and especially the administrative assistant Kristine Austin: "She keeps me out of trouble."

So does Todd Correia, who is deputy chief, but will take over as interim chief now, and then chief.

No one is "an island," said Chief Francis, they all have to rely on each other. "I trust them with everything I do."

He said he wants everyone to know what a great place Fairhaven is, a town he was born and raised in, and can't imagine living away from. He loves living in town, he loves seeing people at the grocery store and they know his name.

"I want people to realize what a gem we have in this town," said Chief Francis, with good people, a great place to raise children. "Everybody knows everybody."

"If you fall in the street, somebody's going to pick you up, and no one's going to walk over you," he said.

The chief is looking forward to spending time with his first grandchild, an activity that COVID-19 has restricted so far.

The chief also disclosed that he had the virus, had pneumonia. He was worried, but did not have severe symptoms.

The best part of the job was "just knowing that you're helping people," he said, adding that people call the fire department for all kinds of reasons. He's proud that they always try to help.

"It's the best feeling to have helped," he said.

He recalled helping a woman whose parakeet got out and they rescued it.

"She was so grateful, we got it and put it in the cage."

He said people call when they have water in their basements, and they pump out when they can.

"We don't just put out fires," he said. Call, ask, you'd be surprised what they can help with.

People show their appreciation, too, he said, by dropping by the station with baked goods and other goodies.

He tells his firefighters: "Treat them like you would treat your family. Open up your heart."

Not everyone can do it.

"You learn from it," he said, adding that the worst part of the job is disciplining someone.

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

# Fairhaven Recreation Center

**Open Mon-Thurs, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.;  
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[https://www.fairhaven-  
ma.gov/recreation-department](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
- All members must stop to wash hands or receive sanitizer upon entering the building

# Fairhaven Senior Center

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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.

the van. The van will be thoroughly sanitized after each use. Volunteer Medical transportation has not yet been resumed.

### 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 Dental Hygienist

Preventive dental services are being offered by Mobile Dental Hygienist.

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### Fuel Assistance Recertifications

For new applications, call Maria Grace at PACE at 508-999-4473. If you have any Questions, please call Phyllis at the Senior Center at 508-979-4029.

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# Acushnet swears in new police officer, promotes two others

By Beth David  
Editor

The town of Acushnet welcomed Travis Ferreira to the ranks of the police department as a part time officer in on 12/9.

Mr. Ferreira, 23, is a lifelong Acushnet resident and a graduate of Fairhaven High School. He holds an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice from Bristol Community College and graduated in September, 2020, from the Southeastern Massachusetts Police Training Academy (SEMPTA) permanent intermittent police academy hosted in part at the Acushnet Police Department.

Mr. Ferreira will be working as a part time officer once he has completed his field training program with the department, wrote Acushnet Police Chief Christopher Richmond in an email. He said Mr. Ferreira will significant additional training in all areas including firearms and dispatching.

"When a full time position opens up for him, Travis will have to attend a full time academy," said Chief Richmond.

Also on 12/9, the Selectboard appointed two part time officers to full time status. Nathaniel Turgeon has already completed a full time academy and began his full time employment on 12/13/20.

Part time police officer Dominik Sullivan-Souza was scheduled to begin the full time Cape Cod



ABOVE: Travis Ferreira is sworn in as a part-time police officer by Acushnet town clerk Pamela Labonte on 12/9/20. LEFT: Travis Ferreira poses in front of the big sign at the Acushnet Police Department after he is sworn in as a part-time police officer on 12/9/20.

Submitted photos.

Municipal Police Academy this month. He will achieve full time status upon graduation in May, 2021.

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# Electric aggregation program renewed

## Press Release

The town of Fairhaven announces that it has renewed its electricity aggregation program for another 35 months starting in January 2021. **No action is required on the part of the current program participants** as they will continue their electricity service automatically with the new supplier, Constellation.

The Fairhaven CEA program is part of a larger electricity purchasing group, providing Fairhaven residents and businesses with competitive choice and longer-term price stability.

The new default program rate includes 10% more renewable electricity than required by state law. The new default rate is \$0.10865 per kilowatt hour (kWh) from January 2021 through December 2023. The Eversource Residential Basic Service electricity rate is \$0.11882/kWh for the six-month period January through June 2021. In addition, the program also offers two options with even more renewable electricity than required by state law and an option

Eversource rate	Fairhaven default rate Local Green 10%	CEA optional rates		
		Fairhaven Local Green 50%	Fairhaven Local Green 100%	Fairhaven Basic
Basic service (residential customers)				
Meets state renewable electricity standards	10% in addition to state renewable electricity standards	50% in addition to state renewable electricity standards	100% in addition to state renewable electricity standards	Meets state renewable electricity standards
\$0.11882/kWh	<b>\$0.10865</b>	\$0.12445/kWh	\$0.14420/kWh	\$0.10470/kWh
<b>Duration</b> January - June 2021	<b>Duration: January 2021 - December 2023</b>			
Products described as <b>Green</b> contain renewable electricity above that required by state law. The additional renewable electricity qualifies for MA Class I designation and comes only from solar, wind, anaerobic digestion and low-impact hydro located within New England. <b>Local</b> refers to New England.				

**Disclaimer: Savings cannot be guaranteed** as compared to Basic Service rates which change every six months for residential and commercial accounts and every three months for industrial accounts.

Current Fairhaven residents and businesses who are participating in the CEA program will be automatically transitioned to the new default electricity rate as of their January 2021 meter read date.

that contains no additional renewable electricity beyond the state standards. More information about the program and all the options can be found on the program website [masscea.com/Fairhaven](http://masscea.com/Fairhaven)

**Disclaimer: Savings cannot be guaranteed** as compared to Basic Service rates which change every six months for residential and commercial accounts and every three months for industrial accounts.

The program rates, resulting from a competitive bid, are fixed over the 35 months of the electric supply agreement (ESA) from January 2021 through December 2023. The Fairhaven CEA product offerings and rates are noted in the chart (above).

Current Fairhaven residents and businesses who are participating in the CEA program will be automatically transitioned to the new default electricity rate as of their January 2021 meter read date.

Those who do not want to participate in Fairhaven CEA can opt out without penalty or change to a different program option at any time on the program website [masscea.com/Fairhaven](http://masscea.com/Fairhaven) or by calling the supplier Constellation at 833-461-0813.

For more information about the program, go to [masscea.com/Fairhaven](http://masscea.com/Fairhaven)




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<p><b>1/16 page</b> One week run: \$26.00 4+ weeks: <b>\$21.00/week</b> (\$84/month) Color: \$144/mo.</p> <p><b>1/8 page</b> One week run: \$45.00 4+ weeks: <b>\$31.00/week</b> (\$124/month) Color: \$184/mo.</p> <p><b>1/6 page vertical (only)</b> One week run: \$77.00 4+ weeks: <b>\$55.00/week</b> (\$220/month) Color: \$340/mo.</p> <p><b>1/4 page</b> One week run: \$77.00 4+ weeks: <b>\$52.00/week</b> (\$208/month) Color: \$328/mo.</p>	<p><b>1/3 page vertical (only)</b> One week run: \$130.00 4+ weeks: <b>\$120.00/week</b> (\$460/month) Color: \$620/mo.</p> <p><b>1/2 page vert. or hor.</b> One week run: \$125.00 4+ weeks: <b>\$105.00/week</b> (\$460/month) Color: \$620/mo.</p> <p><b>Full Page</b> One week run: \$230.00 4+ weeks: <b>\$178.00/week</b> (\$712/month) Color: \$952/mo.</p> <p><b>Classified: \$7/first 3 lines, \$1.00 each additional line 3,200 copies every week</b></p>
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## From our readers

### Pantry says "thank you"

This letter of thanks goes out to all the generous people who contributed money and/or non-perishable food to our 18th annual Shepherd's Pantry holiday fundraiser. With a monthly expenditure of over \$7,000.00 used to purchase food that is either running low or out completely, monetary donations are necessary to keep the pantry running smoothly. Blanche Pepin, the pantry's administrator, and all of the hard working and dedicated volunteers, handed out thousands of food items during this past year. And with the pandemic that ravaged our world this past year, we continued to hand out much needed food every week as safely as we could, each Saturday between the hours of 9 and 11 a.m.

"We've been impressed and gratified by how many contributions made to the pantry were from an extremely generous group of first-time donors," said Ms. Pepin. "In these unprecedented times, so many have stepped up to help the less fortunate."

A BIG thank you for this years

success goes to the much needed and appreciated newspaper articles from The Standard-Times and the Fairhaven Neighborhood News. Also, a BIG thank you to some of the area's businesses, churches, schools and non-profit groups and organizations that have donated their time and money towards our yearly venture. I'd also like to acknowledge the donors who have visited our web site, shepherdspace.org, and felt inspired to help our cause.

Another big contributor this year was thanks to the The Greater New Bedford Track Club and Union Running from Fairhaven for their hard work of promoting and running our annual Turkey Trot road race. However, this annual Thanksgiving event went virtually this year because of covid19.

Also, I need to thank Skip's Marine Inc., who donate their time and much needed truck to transport the food that is delivered to the pantry throughout the year. A big thank you goes to the Raymond Canastra family who donated over 200 turkeys and the Hawthorn Medical workers who

donated over 100 turkeys that were handed out the week before Thanksgiving. Thanks to the Long Plain United Methodist Church, located at 1215 Main St. Acushnet, for housing the Shepherd's Pantry. Without this church, we would not have a home. Also, thanks to the Fairhaven Stop & Shop bakery department for handing out day old bread and pastries each Friday that are ultimately handed out on Saturday mornings at the pantry.

And finally, the food bins located at the Stop & Shop Supermarket, located in Fairhaven and the area's 7 Churches, where generous people have dropped off thousands of pounds of non-perishable food this past year, will continue. If you have any questions about the pantry or need help, please call 508-763-9289.

Gerry Payette, Holiday fund raiser coordinator and Executive Director

### Mattapoisett Rail Trail work continues

To Our Supporters: Thanks to your generosity, we have accomplished so much together during this challeng-

LETTERS: cont'd next page

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## LETTERS: cont'd from previous page

ing year. The Shining Tides construction continued with minimal delay, our Fall Fundraiser for the Marion Connector was a huge success, and our regional biking and walking paths provided a bit of solace for us all.

WISHING YOU A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND A HEALTHY NEW YEAR!

*The Friends of the Mattapoissett Rail Trail*

### A new year, a new idea

Fighting the Covid 19 pandemic needs to be job #1 for every public health official. While the federal government provides funding and the state provides regulations, I believe there are several steps our local government can take that might help slow the spread of this persistent virus.

Here is one new idea.

Every place of public assembly has an established maximum capacity, referred to as the "occupancy load." Typically, the certificate that shows that number is posted on a wall. You would be hard pressed to find it in most locations. Effective on December 26th, the state reduced the capacity of certain places in order to reduce the threat of community spread of Covid 19. This change lasts until at least January 10th and, if things don't get better, will probably be extended.

Given that we, the general public, don't know the original occupancy number, how do we determine when we walk through the door if a facility is in compliance with the reduced number?

For example, my wife Cindy and I decide to catch a quick bite at a local restaurant. We enter wearing masks, are shown to our seats and read the menu off our cellphones. We look around and see several other patrons doing the same. The staff is keeping busy. Is this scenario in compliance with the December 26th regulation? We don't know. Are we at risk? We don't know.

If we are going to turn the corner away from Covid it is important for

everyone to follow the rules. It is also important for every business to follow the rules. The vast majority of local businesses are stepping up and ensuring a safe place to enter and stay for a while. Those that aren't are achieving an unfair advantage over those that do and I, for one, want to be able to reward those who are watching out for me and my loved ones by visiting their establishments.

A solution: the posting of the temporary occupant load at a place of high visibility by the entrance of an establishment. That way, we can see what the rules say the number should be, take a quick look around and make a decision, based on facts. To some it won't matter but for those who want to make an informed decision it would be helpful.

I've done some research. Go to a restaurant in Reno, Nevada or a cafeteria at the University of Tennessee and you will see a prominent sign stating the number of people who should be in that facility in these Covid times. If the occupant load changes, the number on the sign changes. Seems sort of simple. Seems pretty informative. Seems like a new idea for Fairhaven.

*Kevin A. Gallagher, Fairhaven  
(Kevin Gallagher is a candidate for the Fairhaven Board of Health)*

### Public servant means you choose to serve

The great thing about being a public servant is that you choose to be a public servant. People don't choose their race, gender, orientation, etc. However you make the decision to serve others. In the event that you're unsure of this desire, there are steps and hoops to jump through. There are signatures you have to gather, there's a campaign to run and there are votes to earn.

As you go through a campaign, you tell people the type of servant you'll be and why you're the one for the job. You ask each person for their vote and upon winning the election, you

owe it to those people to give your best.

We all understand things come up in life. I have children. I have family. I have a career. However I have commitments. Your commitment is to give the town your presence once per week plus whatever committees you choose to oversee.

Meetings are typically on a calendar well ahead of time and it is your job to plan. I have missed meetings but I have never complained and begged for sympathy because I was simply too busy. We're adults and we are responsible for our actions.

Mr Chairman (of the Selectboard) you should be ashamed of yourself. You sat in front of the town and talked about how tough it is to be you. You told us how difficult it is to do the job you asked us to choose you to do.

This is obviously too much for you. Your temperament has told us this for some time. Your lack of professionalism has told us. Your immaturity has told us. Your handling of debate has told us. Your response to disagreement has told us. Your whining has told us. Your bickering has told us. Your flirting with resignation has told us.

Maybe there was a time when you had the love for the job, the town, and/or the people. However, today you don't have that love and on behalf of the people we tell you simply we don't want to be in a relationship with someone who isn't going to love us the way we deserve.

You made a suggestion to a woman who asked you a question that people need to get involved. Her track record speaks for itself. That woman has volunteered her time to making this town better and fights to do so. That woman's name is Ann Richard.

If any good has come from the abusive relationship you have with the town, is that there is someone willing to love the people and love the town waiting to serve the people.

*Leon Correy, Fairhaven*



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## SELECT: cont'd from page 4

Mr. Furtado said he had “zero problems” stepping aside. “Honestly, I won’t be offended whatsoever.”

Mr. Freitas said he preferred to avoid appointing a department head to the committee “because it could be considered later on that ‘you owe me one.’”

Mr. Furtado pointed out that the Board of Public Works oversees those positions, not the TA.

When Mr. Freitas asked if anyone on the Selectboard had a suggestion for an appointee, Mr. Espindola said that he was surprised to see Mr. Furtado’s name on the agenda since the board had not met to discuss Ms. Carreiro’s resignation or a candidate to replace her.

“It [is] a joint appointment of our board,” and the community’s response called for a woman appointee,” said Mr. Espindola. “This committee deserves to have a woman on it.”

Mr. Espindola said he reached out to Sewer Superintendent Linda Schick to ask her if she would be interested, adding that she holds a bachelor’s degree in science, two master’s degrees — one in marine biology and one in business administration — and has been a town employee since 1987.

“I thought that concept was a good one to tie Public Works in,” said Mr. Espindola. “I feel strongly that a woman should be that person, and I feel that Linda Schick is very qualified to be in that role....”

His motion to appoint her was not seconded.

Mr. Silvia then suggested Cathy Melanson for the seat, adding that she had been a member of the first search committee when Mr. Rees was hired. Ms. Melanson, however, is not a town employee, Mr. Espindola pointed out, but she does sit on the Planning Board, which has an appointment on the committee.

“The [appointment] was supposed to be for town staff,” said Mr. Espindola.

“It doesn’t have to be,” said Mr. Freitas. “It’s the three [Selectboard members] who choose.”

Resident Ann Richard asked to speak and pointed out that the first TA Search Committee meeting was that prior Monday and that while Mr. Freitas appointed himself, he did not attend the meeting. Mr. Freitas said he could not avoid a work-related conflict and would be present at the next meeting. He said he is busy between his job and his role on the Selectboard, but Ms. Richard replied, “You chose yourself, knowing you were busy....”

Mr. Freitas said it is “tiresome” getting “beaten up” and said he wished people knew “the full aspect of what’s going on” and that people shouldn’t judge him for putting his livelihood ahead of his town obligations.

At a meeting on 1/4/21, Ms. Graves was formerly appointed as interim TA. She will get her regular salary (approximately \$114K) plus a stipend of \$25/hour for 40 hours/week for a total of \$1000/week. Mr. Espindola tried to get the other board members to pay a smaller amount, saying she cannot possibly spend 40 hours a week at her job and 40 hours a week at the TA job. He also noted that if she were to get the TA job permanently, they would either have to increase that salary by tens of thousands of dollars, or she would take a pay cut.

Ms. Graves started getting the stipend the next day, 1/5. Mr. Rees’s last day is Friday, 1/8.

The board discussed at length the hourly rate, the termination clause in

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In that regard it may be useful to consider that the governor’s list of essential workers which was in effect last spring did include news reporters [Town Counsel Thomas Crotty email]

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the contract, and the vacation policy, deciding Ms. Graves would get paid the stipend in addition to her regular salary for holidays.

Also during the 12/21 meeting, Mr. Espindola asked to address emails that resident and local activist Diane Hahn had sent the board about alleged selective editing of government meetings posted to the Fairhaven public access channel. Ms. Hahn was specifically concerned about the recording of the 12/2 Board of Health meeting, during which BOH member Michael Ristuccia called her a “jerk” a split second after the gavel sounded adjournment. The comment could be heard when it ran live, but was subsequently cut out on the town’s website.

Director of Public Access Derek Frates said there has never been any intentional editing of anything recorded during public session, except for the occasional recess mid-meeting. Sometimes “things come out in human error,” he said. “Everything in session is

what ends up on the broadcast.”

The *Neighb News* has requested several times that boards end the practice of muting the sound of Zoom virtual meetings during recesses, arguing that the press and the public would be able to hear the conversations that take place during a recess with a quorum present in the room if there were no pandemic restrictions.

“You’ve done an awesome job,” Mr. Freitas told Mr. Frates. “I think some people are going to complain no matter what happens....”

Mr. Freitas then addressed the practice of not allowing members of the press to physically attend board meetings throughout the pandemic, a development that the *Neighb News* has attempted in vain to rectify multiple times.

According to Mr. Freitas, Governor Charlie Baker announced that “press wasn’t allowed” to attend meetings physically.

“[We are] not telling them they can’t; the governor basically said we can’t,” stated Mr. Freitas.

However, in an email from town counsel Thomas Crotty on 11/2/20 that went to all three board members, Mr. Rees, and the *Neighb News*, Mr. Crotty disputed that claim, writing: “Unless the court rules otherwise, my understanding of the governor’s orders is that it is up to the local board to determine whose physical presence is essential, and who can otherwise attend remotely. I am not aware of any legal requirement that the press be allowed to physically attend public meetings when the public in general is not. That is left to local discretion.

“In that regard it may be useful to consider that the governor’s list of essential workers which was in effect last spring did include news reporters.”

Mr. Freitas further stated that “You rarely saw [members of the press] here,” and added, “You say ‘no,’ they want it even more.”\*

He again claimed that allowing the press to attend is “not really our decision.” He said if the press were allowed to attend, then there could be upwards of “ten press members,” which would interfere with the board’s ability to allow people on the agenda to attend.

\*A *Neighb News reporter has physically attended nearly every regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting for the last 16 years; and during the last few years, our reporter has often been the only reporter in the room.*

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## Upcoming Meetings

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

### Fairhaven

#### Board of Health

Wed., 1/13, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

#### Broadband Study Comm

Thurs., 1/14, Remote, 6 p.m.

#### EPA Harbor Update

Wed., 1/13, Remote, 6 p.m.

#### School Committee

Wed., 1/13, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

#### Selectboard

Mon., 1/11, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

#### Town Admin. Screening

Thurs., 1/7, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

### Acushnet

#### Board of Appeals

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

#### Conservation Comm

Tues., 1/12, Remote, 6 p.m.

**CHIEF: cont'd from page 13**

"But it's a necessity of the job," he said.

"I've had a good run of 22 years as chief," with good men and women he worked with, and he got to see the department "come a long way."

"We came out of the dark ages in 30 years," said Chief Francis, noting that now they respond to all kinds of disasters and hazards such as oil spills in the harbor, marine rescues. "And people call us for everything."

He also said he is leaving the department in good hands, with Mr. Correia set to take the reins, and Joy Nichols appointed as deputy chief, the first woman in that job.

"Todd will do an awesome job as chief," said Mr. Francis, adding that he will take the department into the future.

"I've worked under him my whole career," said Mr. Correia, adding that when he started as a call firefighter, Mr. Francis was lieutenant, and then appointed him the first EMS training officer in 2005. "And from there he's been a real great mentor."

"He's a very smart individual," said Mr. Correia. "He's very politically smart and business smart."

He said they went to the state house and everyone seemed to know Mr. Francis by name.

Through his work politically and through organizations, he has "dispersed" a lot of money, maybe tens of millions of dollars, to the southcoast.

"I don't think people know that," said Mr. Correia.

But it wasn't always easy.

"He's a tough boss," said Mr. Correia. "He's always been pretty tough, but fair."

"He's been a great mentor to me, and has prepared me for the next step," said Mr. Correia. "I can't wait to get started."

Josh Benoit will be the new lieutenant, and Ms. Nichols the new deputy chief.

"We never like 'yes people,'" said Mr. Correia, adding that Ms. Nichols was never afraid to speak her mind. "We like people to challenge the decision we are making so we look at all avenues."

She's very dedicated, he said and "very union," but she also understands her next role is a management role.

"But she'll also be bringing that to the office," he said, adding that she has a master's degree in fire management and is "more than capable, and we're excited. It doesn't matter that she's a female, she's a qualified individual."

He said they've been "watching the

community" and they are happy they picked a woman, but made it clear that is not why they picked her.

"It's not about her being female, it's about her being qualified," said Mr. Correia.

Ms. Nichols said she could see the opening was coming up and started studying for the exam about a year and a half ago. Others took the test, too, but she passed it.

She said she has plans for the new role, but it was "premature" to be talking about them, but, "I have my own ideas I want to bring forward."

She downplayed the significance of being the first woman in the job.

"I'm just happy to be given the opportunity," she said. "If you can do the job I really don't see why it makes a difference one way or the other."

She said she never had trouble with the men in the department: "Once you establish you can do what anyone else can do you really don't have any issues."

In an email statement, Selectboard chairperson Daniel Freitas said he worked under Chief Francis as a call firefighter and the chief always wanted "nothing but the best for his firefighters and in turn his hometown."

He said the chief earned the respect of the residents and they in turn gave the department what it needed.

"As a Selectman I have worked with the Chief on many occasions and it was always a privilege to be able to work with him. I've known Tim since I was a kid and my dad worked for the Fire Department. I'm going to miss seeing him heading to calls and knowing his guys would be [all right] because he was a great Fire Chief. I wish him much relaxation in his retirement!"

Town Administrator Mark Rees, who is also retiring this week, also had nothing but praise for Chief Francis, saying it was "nothing but a pleasure" to work with him over the last five years.

"He's a consummate team player. He loves the fire department and the services it provides," said Mr. Rees, adding that he has "seldom seen someone as dedicated as he is."

Mr. Rees said it takes a "special type of person get in situations and have the calmness and capability and training to deal with some pretty anguishing stuff sometimes."

He said the chief leaves his department in good shape.

"He should be greatly appreciated for his work," said Mr. Rees. ●●●

# Public Hearings/Legal Notices

NOTE: All legal notices are available on the Neighb News website, [www.NeighbNews.com](http://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=k4rUk5pY0loQXUveXBCSjJOMzB3UT09>

Meeting ID: 832 9798 6217

Passcode: 480063

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### 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

**3. 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.

**4. 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

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## TIDE TABLE

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

	Jan. 2021	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	7	0212	1435	0758	2006*
Friday	8	0312	1541	0911	2107*
Saturday	9	0418	1647	1042*	2213*
Sunday	10	0516	1742	1151*	2315*
Monday	11	0606	1831	----	1249*
Tuesday	12	0654	1919	0009*	1352*
Wednesday	13	0742	2009	0102*	1440*
Thursday	14	0830	2058	0200*	1510*
Friday	15	0917	2145	0245*	1529*
Saturday	16	1002	2231	0321*	1549*
Saturday	16	1002	2231	0321*	1549*
Sunday	17	1048	2319	0354	1616*
Monday	18	1137	----	0429	1649
Tuesday	19	0010	1228	0513	1730
Wednesday	20	0100	1318	0614	1825
Thursday	21	0148	1408	0727	1922
Friday	22	0239	1503	1029	2012
Saturday	23	0337	1607	1122	2103
Sunday	24	0436	1703	----	1200

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



## Submission of Town Meeting Articles

Pursuant to Chapter 50, Section 2 of the Town of Fairhaven By-Laws, all citizen petition articles for the May 1, 2021 annual town meeting, including street acceptance articles, must be submitted in writing with the signatures of not less than

10 voters to the Board of Selectmen,  
Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Center Street,

Fairhaven, MA by February 8, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Petitions can be found on the town webpage at

<https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/board-selectmen/pages/licenses-and-permits>

Fairhaven Board of Selectmen



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\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate.

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Well... That was crazy!

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