



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 16, Issue 4 • January 21, 2021

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

Youth baseball fields get a makeover



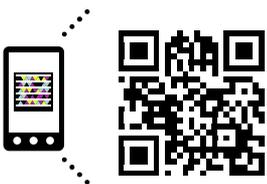
A worker from BRW Property Services works on one of the Fairhaven-Acushnet Youth Baseball fields at Shaw Road in Fairhaven to make it a 50/70 field, which means the center of the mound is 50 feet from home plate, and the bases are 70 feet apart. See page 12 for story. *Photo courtesy of FAYB.*

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."



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From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

The inauguration of Joe Biden as president and Kamala Harris as VP is less than a day away as I write this.

I just wrote a whole lot of stuff about the election and lies and the power of one man to con thousands in one fell swoop.

But then I deleted it all. All too dark and gloomy. Sure, he needs to pay for what he did. Actions have consequences, and his words on 1/6/21 caused actions that nearly toppled our democracy.

But at noon on 1/20/21, he will be gone. Our democratic republic has already risen from the carnage that he created, but it will positively soar after he is gone from Washington. He's not gone yet, as I write this. He still has hours left to do more damage. So, no celebrating yet. But soon. Very soon.

This week's issue has some fun stuff. The fields at the youth baseball complexes got some making over. I know what 50/70 means! (See page 12 if you want to know, too).

Our own Bob Baldwin was named superintendent of the year. They sent this wicked cool, air-brushy looking professional head shot with the press release. I had to rib him about it, of course. And then I pulled a picture from one of our local events and used that, too. See page 6 for that. And congratulations Dr. Baldwin.

We also have meeting coverage. BPW is on page 4. Board of Health is on page 7. Oh GAWD, here we go again. I don't have the energy tonight, really I don't. Read it yourself, you'll see what I'm talking about. Conflict of interest much? What else is new?

We also have our weekly column by high school student Elizabeth DaCunha (page 11). This week, she writes about her classmates' opinions on the vaccine.

And Rob Gonsalves is back with a new DVDevelopments on page 20, writing about the future of movies.

There's more in here, of course. As you look for it all, please take note of who our advertisers are and let them know you saw their ads in the *Neighb News*

Until next week then, see ya,



Beth David, Publisher

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Editor: Beth David

Photographers/Correspondents:

Elizabeth DaCunha, Mary Macedo, Pattie Pacella,

Jean Perry, Glenn C. Silva

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NeighbNews@comcast.net

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

COVID-19 update: Mass. opens first mass vaccination site

By Beth David
Editor

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker announced that the state's first mass COVID-19 vaccination site has opened at Gillette Stadium. The site is open for vaccinating people in the Phase 1 priority groups, which include healthcare workers and first responders.

To schedule an appointment, visit <https://www.cic-health.com/vaccines>

The site will eventually ramp up to 5,000 vaccinations a day.

Fenway Park will open as a second mass vaccination site beginning on February 1. It will administer 500 vaccines a day to people in the Phase 1 priority groups.

Walgreen's and CVS pharmacies will also be able to administer the vaccines soon, but none are ready yet.

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/where-can-i-get-the-covid-19-vaccine> to find sites as they open.

Mass. has also announced its first cases of the COVID-19 variant B.1.1.7.

Scientists believe the variant is more contagious, but not more deadly, and the vaccine should provide the same amount of protection for the variant as the original virus.

According to a press release from the governor's office on 1/17/21: "The public health risk reduction measures remain the same. Individuals must continue to wear masks or face coverings while out in public, maintain 6-foot social distancing, stay home when you are sick, and get tested if you have symptoms or are identified as a close contact."

On 1/19, there were 2,567 new, confirmed cases reported, bringing the total to 454,102 total in Mass. There were 55,565 new tests, bringing the cumulative total to 12,454,145 tests. The state's seven-day average positivity rate is 5.94%

As of 1/19, there were 2,213 patients hospitalized, 432 patients in Intensive Care Units, and 277 patients intubated.

Forty-five new, confirmed deaths were reported on 1/19, bringing the

total to 13,469 confirmed deaths in Mass. There have been 280 probably COVID deaths in total.

As of 1/12, Acushnet has a total case count of 808, with 241 reported in the last 14 days; and has a positivity rate of 14.37%

Fairhaven has a total of 1,326 cases, with 349 reported in the last 14 days, and a positivity rate of 12.86%.

Both towns are in the red zone on the state's list.

To learn more visit <https://www.mass.gov/>

Nationwide, the US has 24,247,006 total cases as of 1/19, and 401,586 total deaths according to the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center which publishes more updated information than the Centers for Disease Control. Globally, there have been 96,144,818 confirmed cases, and 2,056,300 deaths. Visit <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu> for more information.

Also visit the Centers for Disease Control website at <https://www.cdc.gov>

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BPW to ask for tree dept.; Sewer & Highway supers to retire

By Mary Macedo

Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Monday 1/11 the Fairhaven Board of Public Works hired for an open position in the Highway Department, discussed fiscal year 2022 budgets for all the BPW departments, and decided to ask Town Meeting to put the Tree Department under the jurisdiction of the BPW.

All board members were in attendance with Cameron Durant and Marcus Ferro joining via Zoom.

The board first interviewed Sean Mitchell for Heavy Motor Equipment Operator for the Highway Department. BPW Superintendent Vinnie Furtado explained that he and Highway Superintendent John Charbonneau felt that Mr. Mitchell was the best candidate for the position. Mr. Furtado said that Mr. Mitchell currently does not have his CDL license, but is in school in New Hampshire studying for it.

Mr. Furtado suggested that the board hire Mr. Mitchell with the stipulation that he gets his CDL license before the end of May.

Mr. Mitchell explained to the board via Zoom that he grew up in Fairhaven and shortly after high school joined the Marine Corps, and was deployed to Iraq two times. After the Marines he worked in general construction for 10 years. He told the board he is currently in school getting his heavy equipment license and hopefully his CDL license soon.

Mr. Mitchell said he has always wanted to return to Fairhaven and give back to the town.

Vice-Chairperson Robert "Hoppy" Hobson said he was very impressed with Mr. Mitchell being a Marine veteran and a Fairhaven resident, adding that those two attributes put Mr. Mitchell high on the list.

Mr. Hobson said he is ok with waiting until May for Mr. Mitchell to get the license.

Board member Frank Coelho thanked Mr. Mitchell for his service and said that he and Mr. Hobson are also veterans, noting that veterans have priority. Mr. Coelho said he has no problem hiring Mr. Mitchell as long as he gets his license. Board members Cameron Durant and Marcus Ferro both agreed.

The board voted unanimously to hire Mr. Mitchell with the stipulation

that he get his CDL by May 31, 2021.

In another the matter the board met with each department superintendents to discuss the FY22 budgets.

The board first met with Sewer Department Superintendent Linda Schick. She explained the budget had a few small increases with salaries, tools, and equipment repairs.

The board joked about throwing Ms. Schick a parade when she retires at the end of June 2021.

Mr. Hobson and the other board members brought up the issues and the cost of the digester. Mr. Hobson asked if Ms. Schick had any suggestions on what to do with it, since it now sits dormant.

Mr. Furtado explained that they are looking to see what can be done with the digester once the new plant is built. He said he is going to discuss options with the engineers. Ms. Schick suggested that the board have a cost benefit analysis done.

Mr. Charbonneau said he would be retiring soon, but he agreed that the Tree Department is a problem... He said he believed it would be a good idea if the Park Department took it over.

BPW Chairperson Brian Wotton said if the digester has parts they can use great, but the board was getting off topic and needed to continue discussing the budgets.

The board then met with Highway Superintendent John Charbonneau, who first discussed the Park Department which has no significant increases other than salaries.

Mr. Hobson asked Mr. Charbonneau's opinion on the Park Department taking over the Tree Department.

Mr. Charbonneau said he would be retiring soon, but he agreed that the Tree Department is a problem. He said there have been a lot of issues with things not getting done that fall under the jurisdiction of the Tree Department. He said he believed it would be a good idea if the Park Department took it over.

Mr. Hobson said he thought they should hire two employees in the Park Department to help with trees.

Mr. Furtado said the Parks Department has two projects coming up. They are asking for \$90,000 to do the first section of the bike path from Weeden Road to the Mattapoisett line. They are also asking for \$600,000 to pave the Town Beach parking lot.

Mr. Charbonneau said paving the beach parking lot is well worth the money because of how hard the parking lot is to maintain.

Mr. Charbonneau said the Highway Department budget stayed relatively the same.

Mr. Furtado said they will be asking for \$400,000 towards roadwork, and the BPW will choose the roads later in the year.

The board next met with Water Department Superintendent Jeffrey Furtado, who said the budget mostly broke even.

Mr. Hobson asked about the new automatic water meter reading system. Mr. (Jeff) Furtado explained that the employees will be trained by an outside contractor on the new system. He said the meters are only read/billed twice a year, but they will be switching to four times a year.

Mr. (Vinnie) Furtado said they are hoping to bill four times a year, but probably will not be able to do that until 2023. He said the new system will be able to detect leaks, tampering etc., daily. He said the system is very user friendly.

In another matter Mr. Furtado discussed the Sanitation Department budget. Both Mr. Wotton and Mr. Hobson had questions about leaf pickup and town barrel pickup, but they agreed to move that discussion to the next meeting.

Mr. Furtado also announced that they had to close the BPW building to the public on January 11 due to a few employees testing positive for COVID. He said he also directed the clerical staff to work from home, they had the whole building deep cleaned.

Mr. Furtado also told the board he spoke with the engineering company about the independent study of BPW that the board has discussed at several meetings. He said he told the engineer that the study needs to be scaled down and explained what exactly the board wanted. Mr.

SELECT: cont'd on page 21

AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Youth Baseball Reg.

Fairhaven Acushnet Youth Baseball registration is open. Players signing up for the Majors please keep in mind we are moving to a 50/70 format. This means in summary the mound will be 50 ft and bases 70 ft along with a few additional rule changes. (See page 12 for story)

Also if you are interested in coaching please make note of this in the comments section of the registration process.

Please visit <https://www.fayb.org>

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

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.

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., 1/23, 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-ems-ema/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 boh@fairhaven-ma.gov or 508-979-4023 ext. 125.

Scholarships Available

The SouthCoast Community Foundation, one of the largest aggregators of scholarships in the Southeastern Massachusetts region, opened its

2021 application process and will be **accepting applications until March 1st.** Approximately 60 scholarship funds will collectively award more than \$500K to eligible high school seniors and current college students. This disbursement represents more than a 35% increase over the past two years and includes four inaugural, endowed funds:

- George E. Keeler Scholarship Fund – Honors the founder of Tech-Etch, Inc. and is for Plymouth and Bristol County seniors to pursue an undergraduate engineering degree and career in manufacturing.
- John A. Conway MD Scholarship Fund – STEM-focused for Wareham and Old Rochester High School seniors.
- Leo R. and Muriel A. Lanouette Fund – Electrical engineering, computer science, or nursing focused for existing UMass Dartmouth students.
- Van Sloun Foundation Scholarship Fund – Single year scholarship for Westport or Dartmouth High School seniors.

“The pandemic has made things particularly hard for our youth to pursue an education, so scholarship season is even more important this year,” commented John Vasconcellos, President of the SouthCoast Community Foundation. “Giving deserving students the ability to further their education and enabling scholarship

SCHOLAR: cont'd on page 8

Amid the Pandemic, Fairhaven resident makes Dean's List

Press Release

Assumption University has recognized Fairhaven resident Madison Roy for earning a spot on the Dean's List during Fall 2020. She is majoring in Human Services, Concentrating in Communication Science And Disorders, minoring in Education; Assumption University, Class of 2023

Assumption University has announced that Madison Roy, of Fairhaven, Class of 2023, has been named to the University's Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester. Students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters. Due to the pandemic, this fall semester was divided into two accelerated seven-week terms.

In addition to her accomplishments in college Madison is a former Project 351 Ambassador to Fairhaven in Junior High, and on the Civil Rights Task Force at Fairhaven High.

“This semester, our students faced unprecedented challenges due to the global pandemic,” said Francesco C. Cesareo, Ph.D., president of Assumption College. “Following a rapid transition to remote learning, students adapted to the new form of education delivery amid difficult circumstances. The Assumption community is proud of these students who, despite the distractions of the COVID-19 situation, were able to remain focused and maintain a commitment to their academic programs.”

An Assumption education prepares students to succeed in a continuously changing world and for jobs that do

not yet exist. Steeped in the liberal arts tradition, students studying at Assumption are exposed to a broad range of disciplines in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences as they explore fundamental questions characteristic of the liberal arts, while also learning best-practices and developing valuable communication and critical-thinking skills, traits sought after by employers in nearly every industry. A combination of classroom theory and hands-on learning through internships, participation in community service, or one of the more than 60 on-campus clubs and organizations help students develop into leaders who will make a difference in the communities in which they live and work.

For more information, visit <https://www.assumption.edu>

Fairhaven's Bob Baldwin is School Superintendent of year

Press Release

The American Association of School Administrators (AASA) annually recognizes one superintendent in each of the 50 states who have displayed exceptional leadership in the areas of education, professional development, and community involvement. Fairhaven Public Schools was recently notified and is proud to announce that Superintendent Dr. Robert N. Baldwin has been named the Massachusetts Superintendent of the Year for 2020-21 by the AASA.

Baldwin has served as the Fairhaven Public Schools superintendent since 2005. He also currently serves as president of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (M.A.S.S.).

Before assuming the role of Superintendent, Baldwin served as the Principal at Middleborough High School from 2001-2005, and before that was the Assistant Principal at the Elizabeth I. Hastings Middle School in Fairhaven from 1998-2001.

"Dr. Baldwin established credibility for the district while continually working to establish a productive working relationship with other town departments and boards. He's led by example with professionalism and ethics, with the recruitment of excellent administrative staff — building a team, which has resulted in an ALL means ALL attitude when it comes to education," says long-time School Committee member and parent of Fairhaven graduates, Colin Veitch.

Baldwin's focus when he entered in 2005 was to immediately create an organizational structure that would bring Fairhaven Public Schools from a good school district to its current state now — a place where the best and brightest faculty and staff choose to teach, and where parents of school-aged children and future school-aged children choose to live in order to send their children to.

Dr. Baldwin has established strategic partnerships that promote collaborative opportunities for cooperation between town departments, neighboring municipalities, and community organizations to improve district effectiveness. These partnerships have served to enhance the district, the town, and the region. In the Southcoast region, he is a contributing member of the Southcoast Development Partnership (SCDP).

He continues to be a leader of leaders throughout the region and the Commonwealth. From 2010–2016 he served as the President of Old Colony Superintendents Association.

At the state level, Dr. Baldwin was elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the Massachusetts Association of School Superintendents (MASS) in 2016. He was elected as a MASS officer in 2018,



ABOVE: Dr. Robert N. Baldwin has been named Massachusetts 2020-2021 School Superintendent of the year by the American Association of School Administrators. *Submitted photo.* BELOW: Dr. Baldwin as we are more likely to see him around town, giving a big smile to the local free sheet, during the Thanksgiving Day football game in Fairhaven vs. Dartmouth on 11/28/19. *Neighb News file photo by Beth David.*



where he has testified and provided written support for several state and local initiatives. This role allowed him to actively be involved with the passage of the Student Opportunity Act. This landmark piece of legislation was the first significant revision in twenty-five years, the most recent being the Commonwealth's Education Reform Act of 1993.

As the current President of MASS, Dr. Baldwin offers support, guidance, and leadership to all superintendents and navigates the complexity that COVID-19 and the school reopening process have on all stakeholders. He

does all this while still serving as the superintendent of Fairhaven.

He previously served as an Adjunct Professor in the Educational Leadership Licensure Program at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth in the Leading for Learning K-12 principal and assistant principal licensure program.

In a phone interview with the *Neighb News*, Dr. Baldwin said he felt "blessed."

"I'm a very blessed person," said Dr. Baldwin, adding that it was an honor just to be "in the running."

"Then to be named, is kind of humbling," he said. "No words can describe it."

He immediately then gave credit to his team.

"It's truly a reflection on all the great people that are in our district. I just happen to have the title," he said. "I'm blessed to serve them. It's my job to serve them, to serve the community. Servant leadership. It's my job to lead."

Dr. Baldwin said his job gives him the opportunity to do what he loves to do. And he encouraged anyone with a passion for making a difference, to go into education or a similar public service field.

"If you love leadership and purpose and meaning, this has everything you can ask for," he said, adding that the challenges can be difficult, especially now, with the pandemic forcing so many changes to education.

"There's no manual to this one," he said, although he has said it publicly before. "You just try to do the best you can every day."

At 59 years old, Dr. Baldwin is not ready to talk about retirement yet.

"I still love what I'm doing," he said.

He encouraged people of all ages to "do something for the greater good." The world needs people to "lead, to do the right thing."

"I just want to make a difference for the greater good, for my district, for our kids, or certain kids," he said. "Everyone needs to step up and do that. That's my wish and hope for people. Anybody who feels they can lead, can set an example by their behavior, now's the time."

He said if he can use the award to get that message across, well, that would be a good thing.

The newest member of the Fairhaven

BALDWIN: cont'd on page 21

Rotary dedicates “Little Library” to Carolyn Longworth

RIGHT: Fairhaven Rotary dedicated this “Longworth Little Library” to Carolyn Longworth in commemoration of her 40 years working for the Millicent Library. Ms. Longworth has been a dedicated member of the Fairhaven Rotary Club and the first woman that began with Rotary in the 70’s. The Fairhaven Rotary Club dedicated it to her honor on Tuesday, 12/15/20 via Zoom (what else?) and they will have it installed in the Spring, place to be determined. A special heartfelt Thank You to Donald Fredette who built the “little library.” FAR RIGHT: Ms. Longworth on the occasion of being recognized by the Rotary Club on 9/24/19 for her longevity and dedication (along with Bob Mitchell, whom we cropped out...sorry Bob). Submitted photos.



Ms. Longworth on the occasion of being recognized by the Rotary Club on 9/24/19 for her longevity and dedication (along with Bob Mitchell, whom we cropped out...sorry Bob). Submitted photos.

Board of Health discusses health agent position

Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

Fairhaven Board of Health member Michael Ristuccia said on 1/13 that the board had received nine applications for the health agent position, but his tone did not indicate optimism.

“We have not made any interviews yet ... because we’ve notified several of the applicants that we don’t feel as though they have the qualifications that we’re looking for,” said Mr. Ristuccia. He said that leaves the board with just one, “maybe two” applicants to choose from.

“I don’t think the pool is large enough yet to actually start doing interviews yet,” yet.

Mr. Ristuccia added that several towns are now hiring health agents, competing from the same candidate pool.

“I’m not certain as to ... where to go to advertise to try and get applications,” said Mr. Ristuccia. “I’m not sure what to do.”

Interim Health Agent Sarah Dupont quickly reminded the board that their advertising budget had been depleted, “So please keep that in mind.”

“I think it’s essential that we get the right person ... with the right qualifications,” said BOH member Geoff Haworth. “If that means we have to extend our timeline ... so be it.”

He said it should not be a “rushed process” to fill the position.

It has been six months since the BOH hired a temporary health agent to replace Mary Freire-Kellogg. Before he leaves the board at the end of his

term in April, Mr. Haworth said his final contribution would be to find the right person.

“I’ll put my thinking cap on and come up with something because I always do,” he said. “Because I want to do what’s right.” He began to say something and then changed his mind, saying that now was not the time.

Mr. Ristuccia then announced one candidate is “very qualified” and wondered if he should act fast before that person takes a position with another town. Mr. Haworth suggested Mr. Ristuccia contact that person and move forward, and that he should also contact a second candidate he mentioned earlier. Mr. Haworth asked that the administrative assistant forward the candidates’ information to the board to avoid involving Ms. Dupont in the process.

“Sometimes, the best applicant you get is the first one,” said Mr. Ristuccia, his tone very different than before. “But if this person that we already have an application for, who I believe is qualified, if we were to look at her — or him — we may decide that it’s the perfect person.”

“Take the top three and then interview. See what happens,” said Chairperson Peter DeTerra.

“You’ll see that this person, on paper, looks fabulous — fabulous,” said Mr. Ristuccia.

Mr. Haworth said that Fairhaven should have a “platinum candidate.”

In other matters, for five years, the Health Department has apparently been undercharging for annual permits issued for keeping farm

animals and livestock.

Ms. Dupont said that when she recently began issuing animal permit renewals, residents got upset that she was charging them \$25 instead of the \$5 they usually pay.

“I don’t know when miscommunication came along, but we were charging based on the posted fee schedule that was posted in the office and on the website,” said Ms. Dupont. She asked the board if it wanted to keep the fee schedule the BOH approved in January 2016 or revisit it.

Mr. DeTerra, who was chairperson of the BOH in January 2016 when it approved the \$25 animal permit fee, commented that he feels \$25 is “maybe a little harsh,” suggesting something more “realistic” between \$5 and \$10.

“Fifteen might be a little high,” he said.

In a follow-up email with Ms. Dupont, she clarified that the annual \$25 animal permit is per property, not per animal.

“How many people in Fairhaven have livestock?” asked Mr. Ristuccia.

“Oh, quite a few,” said Mr. DeTerra.

“So, Mr. Chair, you have livestock,” said Mr. Ristuccia.

“Yes,” said Mr. DeTerra.

“So, if you feel it’s a little high, then maybe it’s a little high,” said Mr. Ristuccia.

“Well, I don’t personally, my parents — my family does,” said Mr. DeTerra.

Mr. Haworth said the board was “glossing over the real problem here,” which is that former staff failed to

BOH: cont’d on page 17

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

cont'd from page 5

fund the ability to help those students realize their dreams. It's a win-win. And each year, we see this effort grow. We are now in the very fortunate position of managing almost 60 scholarship funds, leveraging our unique position to collectively invest those funds so that we can distribute more every year. It is one of the many reasons both donors and funders turn to a Community Foundation to entrust their scholarship endowment."

The SouthCoast Community Foundation will manage the application process and ultimately facilitate the award announcements and distribution later this spring. Among the resources it will provide applicants is the uAspire Financial Aid Help Desk. The Foundation was one of the first to use this innovative and new online tool. It assists students and their families in navigating the financial aid process, such as completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, locating affordable college options, and paying tuition, room, and board.

The Foundation is a public, grant-making nonprofit serving those residing throughout Southeastern Massachusetts who share a common goal of improving the quality of life through philanthropy. Since 1995, the Community Foundation has distributed over \$39 million from more than 200 funds to humanitarian, educational, and cultural organizations in the region. To learn more about the Community Foundation, visit www.southcoastcf.org.

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/>

NBAM Needs

Donations for Show

New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! (NBAM), in collaboration with the New Bedford Historical Society, New Bedford Free Public Library, New Bedford Whaling

National Historical Park, UMass Dartmouth CVPA, and Massachusetts-based archivists Rememory Consulting, is proud to announce *Uncommon Threads: The Work of Ruth E. Carter*, a solo exhibition celebrating Massachusetts-born Ruth E. Carter's 30-year career as an Academy Award-winning (Black Panther, 2018) costume designer.

This retrospective will open at NBAM on May 1, 2021, and run through November 14, 2021; featuring costumes from *Dolemite Is My Name* (2019), *Roots* (2016 reboot), *Selma* (2014), *Do The Right Thing* (1989), and *Malcolm X* (1992). The exhibit will follow Carter's creative process and include sketches, mood boards, iconic costumes, and other ephemera from her Los Angeles studio.

NBAM needs your support to bring this extraordinary exhibition to our community as our charge of impactful programs and experiences is in your hands. Your donation will allow our community to experience a little Hollywood magic first hand and help develop educational programs that highlight iconic Black heroes and heroines from Massachusetts and beyond.

To donate, visit <https://71785.blackbaudhosting.com/71785/Ruth-E-Carter-Exhibition>

LGBTQ Film Series

The New Bedford LGBTQ Winter Film Series is back with the same great content and a new virtual format! *Bessie*, starring the Emmy-nominated Queen Latifah, is first up on January 31. For more information on the whole program of events, follow The New Bedford LGBTQ Winter Film Series on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/nblgbtqfilmseries>

To learn more about the LGBTQ+ Network SouthCoast Mass., visit <https://www.sclgbtqnetwork.org>

Book Club

The next South Coast Almanac Walking Book Club, which has moved online due to Covid, is **Mon., 1/25, at 7 p.m.**, featuring *Paul Cuffe: His Purpose, Partners, and Properties* by David Cole, Richard Gifford, Betty Slade and Raymond Shaw, and published by New Bedford's Spinner

Publications.

Paul Cuffe is one of the most famous men whom you've probably never heard of before. At the time of his death, he was most likely the wealthiest man of color in the country. In 1817, he built the first integrated school in the country. He was the first Black man to enter the White House through the front door and spoke with President Madison, the story goes, like Friends do: on a first-name basis. Yes, he was also one of the first Black Quakers. He was largely responsible for establishing voting rights for Black men in Massachusetts (the first state to do so), and built up a shipping empire, often sailing the waters with an all-Black crew.

David C. Cole, one of the authors of the book, will be interviewed by the organizers while minding the chat box during the interview, along with asking him questions that you send along beforehand either by email (info@southcoastalmanac.com) or on the Book Club's Facebook page (Southcoast Almanac Walking Book Club)

Due to Covid, the discussion is online but there will be a suggested local tour to take place following the virtual discussion.

The book is now available at Spinner Publications, although you don't need to read the book beforehand to enjoy the discussion. This event is free thanks to sponsors Partners Village Store and the New Bedford Whaling Museum.

NBAM Artmobile

Operating much like a bookmobile, our purple vans and experienced art educators, engage children with fun educational art activities at community sites across New Bedford and the SouthCoast.

Visit us at select New Bedford Public Schools from 3-4:30 PM: 1/22 Keith Middle School; 1/25 & 1/29 Normandin Middle School

Help us keep the artMOBILE running into 2021 and beyond. To donate, visit <https://newbedfordart.org/artmobile/>

To learn more about New Bedford Art Museum/Artworks, visit <https://newbedfordart.org>

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

MLK Videos

Listen to Our 2020 MLK Concert, Let Freedom Roll, Produced with The First Baptist Church in America and Wilson Consulting, LLC: <https://vimeo.com/399947978/bd821cde57>

Mayflower Passenger

An Audience with Susanna White Winslow 2 p.m. Sat., 1/23

Meet Mayflower passenger Susanna 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. Susanna was the great grandmother of William White who settled in Westport and lived in the Cadman-White-Handy House. This first-person living history program is presented by Plimoth-Patuxet (formerly Plimoth Plantation), a living history museum in Plymouth, Mass.

Susanna and her husband, William White, and their young son Resolved were passengers on the Mayflower. Susanna gave birth to another son, Peregrine, in December of 1620 while the Mayflower was anchored in Provincetown Harbor. Peregrine was the first child born to the Pilgrims in New England. Following the death of William White, Susanna married Edward Winslow. This was the first wedding in the new colony. This program is offered via Zoom by the Westport Historical Society.

Register for this program at www.wpthistory.org/events.

Volunteers

Buzzards Bay Area Habitat for Humanity needs lunch and coffee break volunteers for our Mattapoissett

Home Build. Our volunteers are almost done with the Mattapoissett home. They will be working each Saturday through the end of February to finish.

Coffee Break: 9:00/9:30

Lunch Break: 12:00/12:30

Please email if you or your group will be available to volunteer for a time slot for any Saturday through the end of February.

If you are unable to come out to the build, please consider supporting a local restaurant and Habitat, by donating a gift card to supply coffee break or lunch. (Local restaurants for to go...Dunkin Donuts, 143 Market Deli, On the Go, Nick's Pizza, etc.)

In accordance with state requirements, all volunteers will be required to bring and wear a face covering/mask of some kind, and of course, if you are not feeling well, we ask you to please stay home.

Email Christine Lacourse at BuzzardsBayAreaHabitat@yahoo.com or call 508.758.4517

Marine Fisheries

The Marine Fisheries Advisory Commission (MFAC) **meeting is 1/28/21 at 9AM and will be held by Zoom webinar.**

DMF and the MFAC have also scheduled business meetings for the first half of 2021. In addition, to the January 28 meeting, the MFAC will meeting on February 18, March 18, April 15, May 13, and June 17. Unless otherwise notified, MFAC business meetings begin at 9AM and will be held virtually by Zoom webinar. Meeting agendas, informational materials, and webinar login information are posted to the MFAC's website approximately one-week before a scheduled meeting. Please contact Jared Silva via e-mail (jared.silva@mass.gov) if you have any additional questions.

silva@mass.gov) if you have any additional questions.

For more information regarding the management of marine fisheries in Massachusetts, please visit www.mass.gov/marinefisheries.

Fish Council Mtg.

The New England Fishery Management Council will hold a three-day meeting by webinar from Tuesday, 1/26 through 1/28, beginning at 9 a.m. all three days The public is invited to listen live and provide input during designated opportunities for public comment. The Council still cannot hold a large, in-person meeting due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Here's how you can let the Council know what you think.

- **WRITE:** The deadline for submitting written comments for consideration at this meeting is Thursday, January 21, at 8:00 a.m.
- **TALK:** You'll be able to address the Council directly through two different avenues: one by commenting on motions at the discretion of the Council chair (raise your hand on the webinar and unmute yourself when called upon) and, second, you can speak during the open period for public comment.
- **PUBLIC COMMENT** On Thurs., 1/28, at 10:45 a.m., the Council will offer the public an opportunity to provide comments on issues relevant to Council business but not listed on this agenda. Given the Council's busy meeting schedule, we ask that you limit remarks to 3-5 minutes. Interested in speaking? Email Janice Plante at jplante@nefmc.org to get on the list.

For more information including meeting materials, visit <https://www.nefmc.org>

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Recipe of the Week

Pop-a-rif-ic Popcorn Balls

3 quarts popped popcorn,
unsalted
1 (1-pound) package
marshmallows

1/4 cup butter or margarine

Place popped popcorn in a large bowl. In a large saucepan, cook marshmallows and butter or margarine over low heat until melted and smooth.

Pour over popcorn, tossing gently to mix well. Cool 5 minutes.

Butter hands well and form 2 1/2 inch balls. Makes about 14 balls.

Variations:

To color the popcorn balls, add a few drops of food coloring to the smooth marshmallow mixture. Mix well to distribute color evenly, then pour over popcorn as instructed.

Mix in candies, nuts or dried fruit after mixing popcorn and melted marshmallows mixture. Stir to distribute, then form into balls.

Place nonpareils in a shallow bowl or plate. Roll popcorn balls in nonpareils after forming.

From the Popcorn Board,
<https://www.popcorn.org>

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)

Charter Commission petitions available

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

Visit <https://fairhavencharter.wixsite.com/fairhavenforward> to find locations near you to sign the petition.

Specifically for West Island residents who are registered voters, the petition will be available at the Free Library stand on the grounds of the West Island Improvement Association. Pens and hand sanitizer will be available.

Visit www.fairhavenforward.org or email fairhavencharter@gmail.com to learn more.



Fairhaven Forward volunteer David Braga hands a petition and pen to a voter while collecting signatures for a Charter Commission to go on the ballot at Stop & Shop on Sunday, 1/17/21. Submitted photo.

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DaCunha's

Dispatches

News from high school in the age of COVID

By Elizabeth DaCunha



Special to the Neigh News

As the pandemic continues, research and development of a COVID vaccine have been advancing quickly.

With that being said, there are many different opinions on the vaccine from doctors, adults, and elders, but I have decided to shift my focus onto the opinions of young students.

First of all, I think it's important to inform those that are not yet fully educated about the COVID vaccine.

There are two vaccines available right now. developed and produced by Moderna and Pfizer. Both require two shots: a priming dose with a booster shot afterwards.

The Moderna shots are 28 days apart, and Pfizer has a shorter break in between of 21 days.

So far, the two immunizations have shown similar side effects which include pain where the shot was taken, headaches, muscle and joint pain, and fatigue.

Doctors have noted that these are symptoms similar to other vaccines, such as the seasonal flu shot, and they are merely signs that the immune system is activated and working.

Some allergic reactions have been reported, but statistically, it seems to be a rare occasion.

Now that you re all educated and

up to date on the COVID vaccine, it's time to hear what several of the Fairhaven High School students think about it, despite being some of the last ones to have it available to them.

Freshman Christina Pimental shared her thoughts saying, "I think this vaccine may be a start to ease up COVID and eventually go away," which I think is what students are looking forward to most: going back to some sort of normal.

Sadie Hubert, a junior at FHS who says she has gotten the virus before thinks "that it's amazing that scientists were able to come up with a vaccine in the amount of time they did, [and] more people should look into getting the vaccine... to help protect themselves and the spread of the disease."

Overall, it seems that most high-schoolers I spoke with would want to get the COVID vaccine, especially if it means going back to how things used to be before the pandemic.

She also said: "I personally would be willing to get the vaccine, but after some more research and results come out."

Others like Olivia Turgeon, believe it was "way too rushed to be perfect, and could probably use a bit more research and time to make sure everything is working the way it should. But once there is more evidence to back up the vaccine, I will definitely be willing to get it."

Gretchen Kohler, a full remote student at FHS, also shared her opinion on the vaccine saying, "If you are a doctor or nurse, or work anywhere where there is a high risk of COVID, then I think you should get the vaccine."

It is important to know that no one really knows how well these vaccines are going to work and how much of a benefit they will be, but Hugo Surprenant justifies this perfectly by saying that, "It doesn't really seem like COVID is going anywhere, which means we need to find a solution. If that solution is a vaccine, I'm all for it, even if all of the effects of the vaccine have not yet been fully explored."

On the contrary, Eric Zhao felt, "That we should still wait and be careful... because being cautious is best and there should be a 100% success rate before we actually use it."

Thinking about the safety of his loved ones and those that surround him, freshman Barrett Becotte stated: "I think that the vaccine will be a very big help to the community as a whole, and I would consider getting it sometime in the future."

Overall, it seems that most high-schoolers I spoke with would want to get the COVID vaccine, especially if it means going back to how things used to be before the pandemic.

But, they would definitely feel more comfortable with more research and evidence of success behind the vaccines before making that decision.

What are your thoughts on the COVID vaccine?

Well, hopefully this article provided you with the insight you were looking for, as well as helped educate you on the topic.

Remember to stay happy, healthy, and safe!



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FAYB fields get a makeover

By Beth David
Editor

Major league baseball players in the Fairhaven Acushnet Youth Baseball League will have a new option this season: 50/70 fields. That means that the 10-12 year olds will be playing on fields that are a step closer to their next level: a field that is the same size as the professionals.

The 50 means that the rubber (center) on the pitcher's mound is 50 feet from home plate (instead of 46); the 70 means that there is 70 feet between the bases (instead of 60). The longer distances are in between the distances from the regular little league and the professional fields, which are 60.6/90.

"The league decided to do this as way to help those kids from 10-12 to transition from regular little league to the big field. So this is a stepping stone," said Matt Ponte, Vice President of the FAYB, adding that a 12-year-old player suddenly goes from 60 feet between bases to 90 feet between.

The project required increasing the depth of the infield, so the grass of the outfield had to be stripped away and replaced with stone dust.

Three fields at the Shaw Road complex in Fairhaven (Veterans, Red, Blue) and two fields at the Pope Park complex in Acushnet (Joey Jason and White), have been resized completely pro-bono by BRW Property Services, owned by Brian Wotton of Fairhaven.

Mr. Ponte said the BRW did the work completely for free, so the league only had some incidental costs, such as new bases, stone dust, and a few other things.

Mr. Ponte said that other area leagues have already gone to the 50/70 field size.

"We think this is a great way for them to transition to the next level and then into high school," said Mr. Ponte.

He said there are a few other changes that go with the new field.

"A couple of rule changes now that you have 50/70, and things that we have to teach our kids differently how

to play," said Mr. Ponte. "So it will be a learning experience for the kids."

The pandemic hampered the league last year, he said. Although they were able to play a condensed season, they lost about 50 players who did not want to play because of the pandemic.

Mr. Ponte said he was glad they have the money to buy the things they need, considering the condensed season. He estimates the fields would have cost around \$15,000 if they had to pay for all of it.

He said the league had a "really successful fund-raiser" selling Christmas trees this year.

"It was a really great way to help out our community," he said. "And we made some money, too."

Registration for next season is open until February 27, and is open to all students that live in or attend school in Fairhaven or Acushnet. Five divisions accommodate students from five to 16 years old.

To learn more about the league or to register, visit <https://www.fayb.org>



ABOVE: BRW Property Services converts two Fairhaven Acushnet Youth Baseball league fields at Pope Park in Acushnet to 50/70, which means the center of the mound is 50 feet from home plate, and the bases are 70 feet apart. *Photos courtesy of FAYB.*

FAYB: more photos



ABOVE & BELOW: BRW Property Services converts three Fairhaven Acushnet Youth Baseball league fields at Shaw Road in Fairhaven to 50/70, which means the center of the mound is 50 feet from home plate, and the bases are 70 feet apart. (See page 12 for story.)
Photo courtesy of FAYB.



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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

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- Members must wear masks upon entering and exiting building
- Members must sanitize equipment after use
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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.

Hygienist.

Please call 508-827-6725 to set up an appointment or with any questions. Smiles@mobiledentalhygiene.com

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

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Martin Luther King, Jr.

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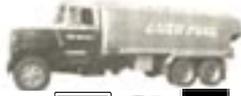
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NMLS # 422864

Acushnet Town Planner resigns

By Pattie Pacella

Neighb News Correspondent

The first order of business for the Acushnet Selectboard on 1/12/21 was to discuss the resignation of town planner Henry Young

Chairperson Kevin Gaspar stated that Mr. Young submitted a letter of resignation effective January 11, 2021, which included a list of 19 bullet points of projects he had been working on in a status departure report.

Mr. Gaspar thanked Mr. Young for his years of service and especially noting the projects that were currently pending with the Planning Board. Selectboard members Dave Desroches and Mr. Wojnar both thanked Mr. Young for his service to the Town and wished him continued success.

Among the projects still open, Mr. Gaspar stated, was a site plan review for a 4200 square foot gas station. The Zoning Board of Appeals said the plans were not in compliance with the Town's bylaws and Mr. Gaspar stated that he had heard there was a lot of back and forth with this project with ZBA, Planning Board and the developer.

"It's not fair to the developer," Mr. Gaspar stated, adding that the Planning Board needs to get together for a plan site review and take the reins on the project.

"There seems to be some confusion on where the project should go first," Mr. Gaspar said

He stated that he was concerned about the project, and it is a big development project for the Town. He also warned if the timeline was not followed, it is a project that could go through without public opinion or a sub plan review.

"We can't allow that," Mr. Gaspar said. "We need clarity for the developer as well as for the residents on this project."

Mr. Gaspar stated that it was in the Town's bylaw that the Planning Board was responsible for hiring a part-time planner.

"I'll bring up the elephant in the room," said Mr. Wojnar, noting that there had been a lot of discussion at Town Meeting about Mr. Young's position, including whether it was truly part-time with his work load, and adding the special projects manager to his title, with that part of

his job and extra stipend coming from the Selectboard line item budget.

Mr. Wojnar stated he would like the Selectboard to discuss whether or not the position should be shared between the Selectboard and the Planning Board.

"It's too grey of an area," Mr. Wojnar said. "It only confuses things further."

He suggested a discussion with the Planning Board on how best to move forward.

Mr. Gaspar stated he agreed one hundred percent: "It's never been about the person who held the Planning Director title. Planning Board needs a part-time planner at 19.5 hours a week."

Mr. Wojnar disagreed, stating that he feels the town planner needs to be a full-time position, and there are a lot of issues and projects happening that require attention.

Mr. Wojnar stated he would like the Selectboard to discuss whether or not the position should be shared between the Selectboard and the Planning Board.

There's a lot going on in the town of Acushnet, and I don't think 19.5 hours is enough time for a Planning Director," Mr. Wojnar stated.

Mr. Gaspar said the position would need to be vetted out through the budget season and the Planning Board.

"We'll look into it," he said. "To be determined, I guess."

Mr. Desroches stated he was concerned about the town's immediate needs and the impending 19 projects that are open per Mr. Young's letter.

Mr. Gaspar stated that Pat Hannon, currently the part-time board of health inspector has expressed interest in the Special Projects Manager position. He explained that

position relates to going after grants.

Town Administrator Julie Hebert stated the Selectboard's purview is that it could hire a Special Projects manager. She said she has had communication with the Planning Board chairperson and he has stated they are okay with hiring an interim planner, but that is up to them to hire that person. She stated on the Selectboard side of things, the board could elect to hire an interim Special Projects Manager and that Mr. Hannon was interested.

Mr. Gaspar said he did not care if Mr. Hannon did both the Special Projects manager position as well as the interim Planning Board position until the end of the fiscal year, "as it is only a few months away."

Mr. Desroches made a motion to hire an interim Special Projects Manager.

However, Mr. Wojnar stated this was the first time he was hearing of it in a public forum and wanted to give it some thought. He said he did not think it was vetted probably to just put someone in that position so quickly.

Mr. Gaspar stated that the Special Projects Manager goes after grants and Mr. Young was in the process of doing that. He did not want to see that lapsed.

Mr. Wojnar argued that this was the first discussion and he was not prepared to vote on the hiring. He asked the board to table the discussion until they were able to discuss it further.

"I don't think it has to be done this quickly," Mr. Wojnar said.

Mr. Desroches stated he was willing to table the discussion until they were all prepared to vote on the position. He said his main concern was that they do not fall behind on projects.

Mr. Gaspar stated he would allow the discussion to continue to their next meeting in two weeks and asked Mr. Wojnar to discuss his concerns with Ms. Hebert.

In other business, civil engineer, Dave Davignon was appointed to the Lake Street Improvement Committee, and a \$2,000 transfer from the reserve fund was approved for a secretary for the committee.

The board also started a preliminary discussion of the FY22

BOH: cont'd from page 7

follow the fee schedule.

"I'm sorry, I think accountability is important," said, adding he wondered why some people were unfairly paying \$5 and, perhaps, others might have been paying \$25.

"These things keep popping up," said Mr. Haworth. "It's every week that something new just pops up that doesn't make sense...."

Mr. Haworth said he thought the fee should be \$25, but the board should look at the fees of surrounding towns and possibly modify it.

Ms. Dupont said most residents have already reapplied and paid the \$25 renewal fee, although she sent out five renewal notices to some "stragglers."

"We should hold it for \$25 this year," said Mr. Haworth. "The town was losing money; the town was losing \$20...."

Mr. Ristuccia said the board should waive the \$25 renewal fee because of the pandemic.

"People need ... a little something that they feel good about, and I don't think that's going to hurt this town or it's going hurt this department...."

Mr. Haworth proposed charging the \$25 this year and \$0 for 2022.

"I'm good with that," said Mr. Ristuccia. "It sends a message that —"

"We're here to help," said Mr. DeTerra, whose immediate family will be affected by the 3-0 vote in which Mr. DeTerra participated.

Also during the meeting, the president of a food safety and inspection software company reintroduced the FoodCode-Pro platform to the board and explained why Fairhaven should reactivate its subscription after canceling it several months ago.

Michael Hicks described the comprehensive yet convenient nature of the software, emphasizing how the Health Department already had roughly a year of valuable food establishment data stored in the system when it canceled.

"Everything [the Health Department and inspectors] need to meet your public health mandate is already in place ... and you don't want to lose that," Mr. Hicks said.

The town obtained the software in June 2019 and has the history from 296 inspections of 157 food establishments stored on the platform. Reports are identical to the FDA's model report: The data is stored in

the cloud, and the inspector can send electronic copies of reports to the "PIC" (person in charge) at the site. Mr. Hicks said it helps the board keep track of whether it meets its state inspection mandate.

"You would hate to lose that [data] because there was an extraordinary amount of work that went into that," said Mr. Hicks, adding that inspection details accumulate over time, and the software is "a very powerful analytic tool."

DeTerra said several restaurant owners claim the former inspector did not provide them with a copy of their inspection reports. Mr. Hicks said the inspector can email or text a copy to the PIC from their iPad documenting the date, time, GPS location, and receipt of the report.

"It makes the inspection report legally defensible," said Mr. Hicks.

"We're here to help," said Mr. DeTerra, whose immediate family will be affected by the 3-0 vote in which Mr. DeTerra participated.

Haworth advocated for having paper copies of the reports available for restaurant owners who prefer paper, which Mr. Hicks said could be done via a mobile printer; however, he said, other health departments that tried this method have "quickly ditched them" because they are cumbersome and redundant since the report is available electronically.

"We kind of stopped using it because of the funding and stuff, and we ran out of some grants, and ... now we found a little bit more money to continue this," said Mr. DeTerra.

The cost for one license to use the software is \$2,400 annually, which includes unlimited training and support. The price drops to \$1,800 per license when more than two are ordered.

"I'm excited about the whole venture," said newly hired Health Inspector Tom Hemingway.

Earlier, the board voted to require

that restaurants display a poster stating the maximum state-mandated 25% capacity at their entrances by Monday, 1/18.

In another matter, the board ordered the residents of 10 Charity Stevens Lane to get rid of their donkey that they acquired without a BOH permit and has been annoying some neighbors with its braying.

The discussion with Alison and Christopher Olson turned contentious, concluding with Mr. Olsen vowing that the board would be hearing from his lawyer.

The Olsons also admitted that they are keeping more sheep at their property than are allowed under their current permit, and the board issued a follow-up decision to have the Olsons promptly rectify the matter.

Director of Tourism Chris Richard asked the board to confirm whether vendors at the 2021 Huttleston Marketplace, a farmers' market held outside the Academy Building during the summer, would be able to prepare and serve food this year. Mr. Hemingway said he was against allowing food other than prepared and pre-packaged due to the ongoing pandemic.

Mr. Richard pointed out that the governor deemed farmers' markets "essential," and the state's guidelines have allowed food to be served throughout 2020, although Fairhaven did not allow it.

Ms. Dupont said she needed to revisit the farmers' markets guidelines, and Mr. Ristuccia emphasized the word "guidelines."

"They are 'guidelines'.... We want to be a little bit safer than that," Mr. Ristuccia said. "The people in ... Fairhaven should be happy that we're taking that decision because we're really doing it for one reason ... to try and protect the health of the people of Fairhaven. That's our job."

Right, said Mr. Richard, but if you look closely in the "Q&A" section, one will read that, for example, if the state allows supermarkets to be open, a local authority cannot order supermarkets to close, Mr. Richard explained. If the state allows outside dining for restaurants, a town cannot say no to outdoor dining, he said.

Ms. Dupont then said the board was on a "time crunch" due to another meeting scheduled for the room, so the matter was continued until the next meeting.

From our readers

Rogers School Proposal Too Massive

This letter was sent to the Fairhaven Selectboard

The proposal for the Rogers School property is far too massive for that residential area. This is not an urban area and should not be treated as such.

This is a historical area and needs to be on the National Register of Historic Places.

A building that size would be better served at the G. Bourne Knowles site, almost across from the project on the north side, on Route 6 east of Stop & Shop not at the Rogers School property.

Don't be eager to dispose of this historic property, the first gift from the Town benefactor, Henry Huttleston Rogers, which really needs to be retained by the Town of Fairhaven.

Put your Town Planner to work to seek grants for historic property to renovate it and use it for Town offices.

Thank you.

Karen Vilandry, Fairhaven

Fairhaven Needs Diversity Committee

There's a group of people who have been working hard to bring a committee to the town of Fairhaven whose focus would be giving a voice to the voiceless. The Diversity Equity and Inclusion committee has been in the works for the better part of a year.

We started as a subcommittee to explore whether this was worthwhile, as people within the town reached out and suggested its creation. After several meetings, we decided it was worth putting together

To shorten this story, after months of research, discussion, and exploration we asked to be considered to become an official town committee. Finally I was told that it would be explored in a "few" weeks after selecting a new Town Administrator. I didn't agree with this suggestion but a "few weeks" isn't long to wait, so I demonstrated patience.

Well the clock on a "few" weeks started December 3, 2020. By my definition of few, that has come and gone...several times over. This is obviously not an important issue so I

am going to demonstrate a few matters that could have been helped by this committee

Example 1:

Recently the town put together a committee to evaluate candidates for town administrator. The town quickly recognized this committee was made up of all men from similar racial backgrounds. This was not received well by the majority of the vocal members of the town. The primary focus of this negative energy was in fact the lack of gender diversity within this team of people despite the presence of gender diversity within the various town committees.

How would a DEI committee have helped that situation? Upon receiving the list of names for consideration in the committee we could have pointed out the lack of diversity and make the suggestion that an additional inquiry be sent to give the committees the option to suggest a different member be their representative on the committee. The suggestion could have also been made to simply appoint someone to the committee instead of

LETTERS: cont'd on page 19

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LETTERS: cont'd from previous page

appointing oneself to the committee only to miss the first meeting.

Example 2:

As a town we are fractured. Everybody has taken a side. This has spilled over into families, friends, etc. As someone seeking to take on more responsibility as a public servant I would like to be able to represent everybody. However I've had the liberty of watching the division become even greater. This is the wrong direction.

If there was a group whose purpose it was to give a voice to the voiceless there could have been a town forum. Even in a virtual era this is possible. People of varying viewpoints could have spoken or even had a playful debate. The town could have viewed and gained an understanding of why one might take it personally that although you are voting for one side because of the perceived economic benefit, a person of color could be hurt that you prioritize your bank account over their ability to feel safe walking down the street.

Example 3:

Through a great deal of research and reporting, it has been brought to the attention of the townspeople, that the sitting Finance Director/Treasurer/Collector/Town Administrator has some matters in her background that make her a questionable candidate for any of the positions, but particularly the first 3, as these questions involve money and one's ability to handle it. It brings into question whether this person is not only fit to be in the role of Town Administrator, even if in a temporary nature, but also whether she is fit to hold the job for which she is hired.

This person is one of only a very

few females in management. In an environment that lacks the presence of gender inclusion, there are many variables that play into the handling of this matter. However if there was an organization dedicated to ensuring the inclusion of people of varying gender identities, they could serve as an impartial entity to review, evaluate, or oversee the process to make sure this person was not treated unfairly.

Oftentimes when people think of diversity they think of it as a black issue. It's an everybody issue. Diversity Equity and Inclusion is important. It should be important to all of us.

Leon Correy, Fairhaven

New Year, New Idea: Part 2

I am a firm believer in keeping the public as informed as possible. Except for sensitive material (security, personnel based), I think the public has a right and a need to know what its local government knows.

Sharing information takes many forms. In the community in which I work, a program through an internet based provider allows for recorded messages to go out via phone calls on topics ranging from street closures to trash pick-up.

As a Fairhaven resident I routinely receive recorded calls regarding school issues, water concerns and in the last few months, testing provided by the Fire Department. Each of these calls is appreciated.

But what about Covid generally? I remember receiving one call in the early days but nothing since. To be fair, I may have missed them but I do know there is no regular sharing of information via the reverse call system because my phone never rings. The town's website does provide very basic Covid information but unless you know

where to look it could be easily overlooked.

Some communities, Acushnet and New Bedford for example, send weekly messages on a particular day at a particular time. This allows the residents to get accustomed to receiving calls. Updated information is provided on the total number of new positive cases identified that week, changes in the state data, advice on personal protection practices, testing schedules and locations, as well as other Covid specific information. I am personally aware of one such community's efforts as I am the person given the responsibility of co-writing and recording the weekly message.

A recent informal survey found most of the responding residents in a neighboring town appreciate these calls. They commented on these calls being "useful," as well as helping "keep families informed." One comment received stated that the weekly calls made them "feel connected," as a community.

To be fair, not all comments were positive as some respondents stated that the information shared can be found elsewhere or it wasn't detailed enough (number of deaths, hospitalizations, repeat test numbers, false positives).

These types of calls are passive in nature. You don't need to listen. You can hang up if you want. But if you are like me and appreciate information, like knowing if things are getting better or getting worse, wonder what the game plan is regarding public access to vaccine then these calls are indeed "useful," will help "keep your family informed," and may make you "feel connected," as a community.

A new idea: weekly phone recorded messages from the town to all Fairhaven residents providing Covid related updates.

I know it is easy to do and I know most will appreciate the effort.

*Kevin Gallagher, Fairhaven,
Candidate for Board of Health.*



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DVDevelopments: Future of Movies?

Vs. *Kong*; the shrouded-in-mystery *Matrix 4*).

Some filmmakers were not happy. Villeneuve penned an indignant piece for *Variety* blaming AT&T (which owns WarnerMedia). Judd Apatow (*The King of Staten Island*) and Christopher Nolan (*Tenet*) also piped up. The consensus is that AT&T is throwing the theatrical experience under the bus in order to bail out HBO Max, which has not been performing as well as competing services like Disney+ or Peacock. As I write this, no other studio has joined Warner in this decision, at least not on this level. United Artists, for instance, is not yet considering

lower than they are now. And for all we know, the vaccine will be everyone's golden parachute and it won't even be necessary to release *Dune* on HBO Max. At the moment, *Dune* is scheduled for October 1, 2021. That's ten months away.

Matrix 4, assuming production goes as planned (never a safe assumption), has been pencilled in for December 22, 2021 — that's almost a year out. A lot can happen in a year; look at the one we've just been through.

A calmer way to look at this is that Warner has left its options open. If things are still bad, Warner has HBO Max as a back-up. If things get better, they won't need the back-up.

A lot of the objection to Warner's call boils down to a rigid fealty to seeing movies on the big screen with an audience. Sure, that's a nice way to see movies. And yeah, catching *Dune* on a large screen with booming sound is probably the optimal way to experience it.

The inconvenient truth, though, is that more and more people are watching movies in other ways: DVD, Blu-ray, streaming; on their 50-inch digital TV, or on their phones. Here's a

bitter little factoid filmmakers don't like: in 2019, theatrical attendance was down 4.6 percent.

The "theatrical experience" in recent years has meant paying far more (ticket inflation, concession, babysitter) for far less (obliviously rude and talky audiences; outmoded sound and lighting systems). When you can get Netflix or Hulu or Disney+ for less per month than a single movie ticket costs, the writing is on the wall. Warner, just read the writing.

First came *Wonder Woman*. Always the trailblazer, she led the way. If 2020 had been a normal year, *Wonder Woman 1984* — the sequel to 2017's *Wonder Woman* — would have opened last June. After several COVID-related delays, the movie's distributor Warner Bros. announced that it would premiere on the streaming service HBO Max on the same day (Christmas) that it opens in theaters. For a while, onlookers were surprised, but not shocked; *WW84*, after all, had been bumped numerous times already (its original release date was actually December 13, 2019).

But then Warner made another announcement. This time there was shock, as well as anger from some quarters. Sixteen major Warner films were going to follow *Wonder Woman's* lead and hit HBO Max the same day they hit theaters.

The releases would be spread out over the course of 2021; the slate would be a mix of smaller dramas (*The Little Things* with Denzel Washington; the *Sopranos* prequel *The Many Saints of Newark*; the Fred Hampton biopic *Judas and the Black Messiah*) and blockbusters (Denis Villeneuve's massive new adaptation of *Dune*; the self-explanatory *Godzilla*

When you can get Netflix or Hulu or Disney+ for less per month than a single movie ticket costs, the writing is on the wall.

putting the new Bond film (*No Time to Die*, to be released in April) on any streaming service day-and-date with its theatrical bow. Marvel hasn't yet said it would throw *Black Widow* on Disney+ in May along with its run in theaters.

I can tell you two things. (1) I don't subscribe to HBO Max, and I'm not going to start now; (2) I'm not seeing any of Warner's films (or anyone else's) in theaters until there's a vaccine and the COVID stats are way

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BPW: cont'd from page 4

Furtado said he though the study would still cost around \$4000 or \$5000. He will have the proposal for the next meeting.

Mr. Furtado also reported that an engineering study was done on Blue Point Road because there were a lot of accidents. He said they were approved to put stop signs there.

Mr. Furtado also informed the board that they have received a one million dollar grant from the state to repair Bridge Street from Route 6 to Mill Road.

Back to the Tree Department, Mr. Hobson asked if they would be putting in an article at Town meeting to take it over.

Administrative Assistant Becky Vento noted that they would be talking about the Tree Department in executive session, which was noted on the agenda.

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BALDWIN: cont'd from page 6

Public Schools administrative team, Dr. Yolanda Burnett, Principal of Leroy L. Wood Elementary School, says, "Dr. Baldwin has been a supportive mentor, innovative and a visionary leader. He empowers his leadership team to be dynamic and reflective leaders."

He is active at the regional and national level with his association with the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

In 2015, his work with the Commission led him to receive the Jacob Ludes III Leadership Award. He has matriculated to a role as the Chair of the Commission on Public Schools and the Board of Trustees. Currently, he is serving as the chair of the Task Force of the Center for Educational Excellence and Innovation. Dr. Baldwin was recently awarded the 2020 NEASC Service Award, an award that honors individuals who have demonstrated their commitment to promoting high-quality education for all students through consistent and generous involvement as a volunteer with NEASC.

"Dr. Baldwin has been a steadfast leader for the Fairhaven Public Schools and has made the district one of the best in the Southcoast. Having great integrity and mental fortitude, he has never shrunk from difficult decisions and has successfully led the school community through building projects, budget crises, and now a pandemic. He has done this by surrounding himself with quality leaders and creating an environment of collaboration that genuinely puts the students' needs first. I can think of no one more deserving of this award, and I am proud that Dr. Baldwin is our school district's leader," said current chairman of the Fairhaven Public Schools School Committee, Brian Monroe.

Dr. Baldwin received his Bachelor of Science from Springfield College in 1984. He received a Master of Arts from the University of Maryland in 1986 and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University in 2003. Dr. Baldwin remains grounded and balanced in his role as a father of five children, grandfather of six, and is happily married to his wife Jane of over 36 years. The Baldwin family lives in Fairhaven, Massachusetts.

Additional information by Beth David, Editor.

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 Appeals

Tues., 2/2, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Health

Wed., 1/27, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Economic Develop. Comm

Thurs., 1/21, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 1/27, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 1/25, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Sustainability Comm

Tues., 1/26, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

TA Screening Committee

Thurs., 1/21, Remote, 4 p.m.

Acushnet

Old Colony School Council

Wed., 1/20, Remote, 3 p.m.

Planning Board

Thurs., 1/21, Remote, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Tues., 1/26, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

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 | 21 | 0148 | 1408 | 0727 | 1922 |
| Friday | 22 | 0239 | 1503 | 1029 | 2012 |
| Saturday | 23 | 0337 | 1607 | 1122 | 2103 |
| Sunday | 24 | 0436 | 1703 | ---- | 1200 |
| | | | | ---- | 2158 |
| Monday | 25 | 0525 | 1748 | 1151 | 2249 |
| Tuesday | 26 | 0607 | 1828 | 1156 | 2334 |
| Wednesday | 27 | 0646 | 1909 | ---- | 1229 |
| Thursday | 28 | 0727 | 1952 | 0019* | 1309* |
| Friday | 29 | 0811 | 2037 | 0107* | 1353* |
| Saturday | 30 | 0856 | 2123 | 0159* | 1436* |
| Sunday | 31 | 0941 | 2209 | 0249* | 1516* |

*= 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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Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

uesday, February 2, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall Banquet Room, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/91852217577?pwd=R1RuUjRUCnp sMWNjdzBUQ25XWnJFQT09>
Or Join by Phone: 1-914-586-3471; PIN 496926416

- 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. **Continued to February 2, 2021.**
- 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.) **Continued to March 2021, at applicant's request.**
- 18 Point Street. Owner: Antonio & Doreen Albuquerque. 198-21:** Special Permit request for an extension of a legally pre-existing non-conforming (front, rear and lot size) structure to raze existing house and construct a new home with variance request for front and rear setbacks on flood zone-compliant foundation on non conforming existing lot size.
- 15 James Street. Owner: Kyle Costa. 198-21:** Special permit request for an extension of a legally pre-existing non-conforming for front, rear, and lot sizes. Propose to raze existing house and construct a new residence on flood zone complaint foundation. 198-18: Variance needed for 10' front setback in a required 20'; 10' rear setback, whereas 30' is

required.

- 294 Huttleston Avenue. Owners: Robert & Judith Tubbs.** To request an extension of a previous Zoning Variance granted for frontage and lot size that was issued on January 8, 2019. See original variance approval attached.
- 3 Winter Street. Owner: Sanjiv A Patel. 198-18:** Variance request for 15.2' short of a 30' rear setback for a proposed 2-stall attached garage in a RA District.

Peter DeTerra, Chairman
FNN: 1/21/21, 1/28/21

Fairhaven Planning Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at 6:30 pm
Banquet Room, Town Hall, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Notice is hereby given that the Fairhaven Planning Board will conduct a Public Hearing at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday February 9, 2021, remotely from Town Hall, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA. The Planning Board Meeting will be conducted remotely for the public and will be televised live on Fairhaven TV Channel 18 and fairhaventv.com. To Join the Meeting from home log on to:

<https://zoom.us/j/99529770820?pwd=VEJiTkxQU08 wZTZzLOZyde1GZEVxUT09>
or Telephone 1-929-205-6099;

Meeting ID: 995 2977 0820; Password: 209015

The purpose of the hearing will be to receive information and public comment on the following Definitive Subdivision application: 1) **DS21-01-46** Sconticut Neck Road, an 8-Lot Subdivision. The applicants, Joshua Alves and Antonio Alves of Alexander Gray Development LLC, are requesting approval through the Definitive

Subdivision review process to demolish a house and create an 8-lot subdivision. The location is 46 Sconticut Neck Road, Map 28 Lot 24, Fairhaven (28.13 acres). The proposal includes establishing frontage for the proposed 8-lot subdivision by creating a new street with a cul-de-sac turnaround and associated landscaping and stormwater controls.

A copy of the application is on file at the Department of Planning and Economic Development, Town Hall. The Department is currently by Appointment Only. To make an appointment call the Planning Department at (508) 979-4082, Ext. 122 or email pfoley@fairhaven-ma.gov.

For information on the project go to: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/planning-board/pages/current-permits-being-reviewed-special-permits-definitive-subdivisions>

John Farrell Jr., Chairman of the Planning Board
FNN: 1/21/21, 1/28/21

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Martin Luther King, Jr.



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