



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



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with a big voice!

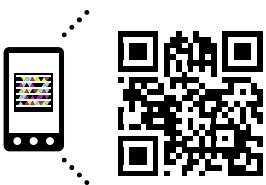
Volume 16, Issue 8 • February 18, 2021

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

Deep freeze gives way to melting this week



Water freezes from the downspout of a house on West Island on 2/13/21 when temperatures dropped into the 20s for several consecutive days. By Tuesday, 2/16, the warm weather arrived, melting the ice and snow, and ushering in some rain that was able to flow freely out of gutter systems. *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.

Well that was a slap in the face, huh?

The Town Administrator Screening Committee made a good faith effort to pick finalists for the TA position. They narrowed the field from 39 applicants to three finalists. The consultant asked good questions, showing a good faith effort, too. Bob Espindola asked several questions of each candidate. Dan Freitas asked a couple of questions, one that he attributed to Keith Silvia. And Mr. Silvia only asked when each candidate could start the job. One would hope he is not hinging his decision about the most important position in town on whether or not a top candidate can start right away or in two months.

That is so short sighted.

But, alas, it appears it will for naught. Because after all that, and by "that" I mean the Screening Committee's months of work, the consultant's work, the 3+ hour meeting, Mr. Silvia insisted that interim TA Wendy Graves be granted an interview. Why Mr. Silvia waited until the end of the meeting is a mystery (it was too late to call him). But, it seems to me he could've said something at the last meeting when they first mentioned the three names. He knew then that she was not on the list.

This is getting so tiresome.

See page 13 for the story, and a summary of what each candidate said. It was a long meeting, though, so if you want all the questions and all the details, you'll have to watch it.

We have races! (See page 12.) It appears we will have four contested races this year. But, there's still some time for candidates to change their minds, so, until 3/3, it's not for-sure for-sure, y'know?

So, that reminds me. Candidates, get your statements in ASAP. This Friday, 2/19, is the deadline for your free PR. See page 3 for details.

There's more good stuff in here, of course. Please thumb through slowly and notice who our advertisers are so you can tell them you saw their ads in the Neighb News.

Until next week then...see ya,



Beth David, Publisher

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Volume 16, Issue 8

Thursday, February 18, 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

Nothing? Really? Phew! That's one in a row.

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COVID-19 update:

By Beth David
Editor

Massachusetts is planning to open more mass vaccination sites and some pharmacies also have the vaccine. According to the state's website, Dartmouth High School and Fairhaven Walgreen's are the closest locations. Only people 75+ are eligible to receive the vaccines.

The state has seen steady declines in the number of cases and hospitalizations, but numbers are still higher than they were in the spring. Visit <https://www.mass.gov/> for details.

Call Center for Vaccine Appointments for 75+

The line can be accessed by dialing 211 and selecting the prompt for "help scheduling a vaccine appointment." The line is open 8:30

a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The center is staffed with more than 500 representatives who can provide life phone support to assist with booking appointments.

Call workers will be available in English and Spanish, and 100 additional languages will be available through translators.

Only those 75 and older and unable to use the website are eligible to use the call center at this time.

Call center workers will have the same access to appointments that users will see on the public website, so if you have access to the internet, visit <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine> to book your appointment.

To find a vaccination site, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-vaccination-locations>

Free Political PR

The *Neighb News* will give all candidates for townwide public office in Fairhaven and Acushnet a chance to get their message out. You may submit an article of approximately 500 words, with a picture, and we will publish at no charge before the election.

Please contact the *Neighb News* as soon as possible so we can plan for space allocation in the issues leading up to the election.

DEADLINE: Friday, 2/26, for Fairhaven (4/6 election); Friday, 4/16, for Acushnet (5/15 election)

Send by email (preferred) at NeighbNews@comcast.net, or by fax, 508-991-5580, or mail to 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719.

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BPW discusses adding new sewer hook-up to West Isl. property

By Beth David

Editor

At its meeting on Monday 2/8 the Fairhaven Board of Public Works met with a resident about a sewer tie in issue. The board also discussed roadwork for fiscal year 2022, as well as permit prices for West Island Town Beach for summer 2021.

The board first met with Steve Hickox via zoom about a property on 14 Cherrystone Road. Mr. Hickox informed the board that the Board of Health approved the property to tie into the sewer.

Mr. Hickox explained that in 1996 when the town of Fairhaven tied in 366 properties into the sewer they missed this property on Cherrystone Road. Mr. Hickox said they made a mistake and forgot to tie it in.

Mr. Hickox said the Board of Health approved the tie-in and he was asking the BPW to approve a construction permit to start the process.

Vice Chairperson Robert "Hoppy" Hobson said that the Board of Health and building inspector in previous years has said that the property is not buildable and has no stub to tie into the sewer and no septic system.

Mr. Hobson said that after 25 years they are trying to tie into the sewer on a technicality, and he noted that Mr. Hickox did not even own the property. Mr. Hobson said the property owner should be there and should have fought for the issue 25 years ago.

"Now you bring up a technicality because you know someone on that Board of Health to approve it," Mr. Hobson said.

Mr. Hickox said there is no sewer stub because of the town's mistake. He said someone did not do their job and missed the property.

Mr. Hickox asked Mr. Hobson if he has ever made an offer on that property?

Mr. Hobson explained that he never made an offer because the Board of Health and the building inspector said it was unbuildable.

Mr. Hickox said that he is just telling them the facts and that it is a numbered property and someone made a mistake 25 years ago.

"Did you go to the Board of Health," Mr. Hobson asked.

"Yes," Mr. Hickox said, adding that obviously Mr. Hobson did not read

the Board of Health minutes or watch the meeting. On January 27th the Board of Health voted to approve the tie in.

"You're best bet is to take the town to court," Mr. Hobson said. "I'm done."

BPW Superintendent Vinnie Furtado said that he got information from the town's attorney, who said that the state paid for the sewer project in 1996 and the state limited the number of tie-ins to the treatment plant. Mr. Furtado said if the property on Cherrystone Road was abandoned in 1996 then the state rejected it to be tied into the sewer.

Mr. Hickox said that in 1956 a building permit was taken out for that property, Nstar installed electricity there, and the property was assigned

Mr. Hobson said that after 25 years they are trying to tie into the sewer on a technicality, and he noted that Mr. Hickox did not even own the property.

a number.

Mr. Hickox said as a taxpayer he does not want to get into a power struggle between the Board of Health and the Board of Public Works. Mr. Hickox said if they say "yes" and you all say "no" that is a problem. He said then they would need a judge to decide.

"I'm embarrassed of the power struggle," Mr. Hickox said.

"I'm going to stop you there," BPW Chairperson Brian Wotton said. "There is no such thing as a power struggle on this board and I take offense to that."

He said all they did was ask town counsel to give the board advice on the issue. He said he feels like the board does not have the right to make this decision, and they need approval from the state to move forward with it.

Board member Cameron Durant explained the reason the board cannot proceed is because the FDA

gave \$5 million to the town towards construction of the sewer treatment plant on the back of West Island with the stipulation that the town could not add any tie ins to prevent future overdevelopment into state land.

Mr. Hobson said he thought the BOH screwed up by approving the new tie-in.

Mr. Wotton said he thought the BOH passed it off. He explained that he would love to allow the property to tie in and would love to for a lot of residents on West Island, but the state told 366 properties could tie in.

Mr. Wotton said the Board of Health said "yes," but the state did not.

Mr. Furtado said in fairness to Mr. Hickox he had no idea if the property was missed or not, but the state said they cannot add more stubs. If Mr. Hickox can get approval from the state or prove that the property was missed by mistake, then the board should allow him to tie in.

Mr. Wotton said the board cannot approve it because the FDA said no and the town attorney said no.

Mr. Hickox said he understood and asked if he should have his lawyer and the town attorney speak.

Mr. Wotton agreed that would be a good start. He suggested contacting the FDA and getting their approval.

Mr. Hickox asked the board to vote to approve the construction permit with the stipulation that it gets approved by the FDA and town attorney first.

Mr. Wotton said the board could not do that, adding that the board will not vote until all the facts are in front of them.

In another matter the board met with resident Christine Gelinis about paving Roberts Street.

Mr. Furtado said the street was approved to be paved at town meeting a year ago, but it never got done because the abutters did not want it. Because the street is a private way the abutters needed to grant an easement, but they refused.

Ms. Gelinis said she wanted the street paved because the dirt flies everywhere and they cannot open their windows or have company over. In the winter there are huge potholes. She said when she bought the property the previous owners said there was already a petition to pave

BPW: cont'd on page 21

AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Marine Art Contest

Teachers: Celebrate Endangered Species Day (May 21) by having your classroom participate in the 2021 NOAA Marine Endangered Species Art Contest! Endangered and threatened species need our help. Students' artwork will showcase their knowledge and commitment to protecting these animals. We invite Massachusetts schools as well as schools from anywhere in the U.S. and beyond to submit entries.

Artwork should highlight one or more marine endangered or threatened species from the New England/Mid-Atlantic region. Text highlighting why the animals are important and what people can do to protect them may also be included. Younger students, in grades K-2, who may not understand the threats to endangered species (i.e., pollution, fishing, etc.) are encouraged to portray the animals in their natural habitat instead.

Get the details on entry requirements, entry submissions, prizes, and more at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/event/2021-marine-endangered-species-art-contest>

Contact Edith Carson-Supino, Regional Office, at edith.carson-supino@noaa.gov, or 978-282-8490

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.

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> to register by Feb. 27.

Fairhaven Scholarship

A \$1000 scholarship recognizing a graduating Fairhaven-resident high school senior planning to pursue post-secondary education at an accredited institution of higher learning will be awarded by the Fairhaven Historical Society. The scholarship honors Enrique Goytizolo's dedication to preserving the history of the

Town of Fairhaven and his vital and long-time leadership role with the Fairhaven Historical Society, a 501C3 organization.

The Enrique Goytizolo Scholarship is open to any graduating high school senior whose primary residence is in Fairhaven, Massachusetts and plans to matriculate to an accredited institution of higher learning in the fall of 2021. **Deadline for scholarship applications is April 1, 2021.**

To obtain an application form students can contact the Fairhaven Historical Society at historicalsocietyfairhaven@gmail.com. In addition to the application, students must submit an essay of no more than 400 words focusing on Fairhaven, what the town means to the applicant, and how that has impacted the applicant's interest in future studies. Three references as specified on the application are also required.

Applications and essays must be submitted via email to historicalsocietyfairhaven@gmail.com. The scholarship award recipient will be notified via email on or before May 1.

Recognition of receipt of the scholarship will be made at graduation and at the Annual Fairhaven Historical Society Annual Meeting.

A minimum of three hours of volunteer time at the Fairhaven Historical Society Museum or Fairhaven Historical Society events/activities within one year of scholarship award notification is required of each annual scholarship recipient.

For more information or a scholarship application contact historicalsocietyfairhaven@gmail.com.

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.

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. 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.

Call2Talk Mental Health Hotline

Every year on February 11, United Ways in Massachusetts and across the country celebrate 2-1-1 Day to raise awareness of this important public service. Everyone knows the three-digit number to call in an emergency, but some Bay Staters may not be aware of the simple number they can dial for health and human service assistance.

Mass2-1-1 provides telephone and web information and referral service for residents of the Commonwealth 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Trained 2-1-1 Information and Referral Specialists connect callers to thousands of human service organizations. This includes providers for food programs, housing and emergency shelter, elder care, physical and mental health services, childcare resources, drug and alcohol services, utility assistance, victim services, and at times, is activated when needed for emergencies and disasters.

The 2-1-1 line also serves as the call-in registration site for those 75 years and older to register for the COVID-19 vaccine.

To learn more about the United Way of Greater New Bedford, Mass2-1-1, or Call2Talk, please visit unitedwayofgnb.org and Mass211.org.

Fairhaven resident takes 2nd place in statewide student contest

Press Release

Edward Gonet IV of Fairhaven was awarded second place in the annual Massachusetts VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition sponsored by the State Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Auxiliary. State winners were announced during a Zoom event on Sunday, January 31, 2021. The National theme for this year's competition was "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?"

Edward, a Junior at Old Rochester Regional High School, took first place at the local level and was sponsored by Fort Phoenix VFW No. 2892 and its Auxiliary, Fairhaven.

His audio-essay was then entered into the District (Bristol County) contest, where he earned first place honors. As the District winner, he qualified for the State competition, with the judging being held this past January.

He is an honor student, active in school activities, including the co-founding of its DECA Club in 2019 and being accepted into the South

Eastern Massachusetts Music Educators Association (SEMMEA) District and All-State Choruses.

Established in 1947, the VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship competition provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves regarding a democratic and patriotic theme.

Nearly 64,000 9-12 grade students from across the country enter each year, where more than \$2 million in educational scholarships and incentives are awarded through

the program. The National winner receives a \$30,000 scholarship.



Edward Gonet IV of Fairhaven holds up the award he won for second place in the annual Mass. VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship Competition, which was announced on 1/31/21. Submitted photo.

Charter Comm. group turns to Town Meeting, instead of ballot

Press Release

Fairhaven voters, it is surreal to realize how one individual can ignite an idea and unite a group of volunteers together towards a cause to create positive change for our community.

Fairhaven Forward has always been about our town and being open, transparent and apolitical since its inception to engage as many residents as possible to become politically engaged in our local governance whether through serving on boards/committees or helping foster productive conversations on what is best for our town. With this mission in mind, as a group we decided meeting you at Stop & Shop, our post office, and within our own neighborhoods with masks on and hand sanitizer readily available was the best route to take in discussing with you why a Charter Commission should be formed now.

We knew with the challenges COVID19 brings, collecting 1,725 signatures to add onto this April town election ballot would not be easy. However, we worked hard every day

through our weekly Zoom meetings and at these in-person events to make sure we would meet our goal of 1,725 signatures. Unfortunately, we want to let you know we have not met the threshold to pursue it on the ballot this election cycle, only collecting 700+ signatures.

The good news is we can hold the signed petitions we currently have and collect the remainder of signatures needed for as long as we want until we reach the threshold for a future town election. Therefore, we are pausing all signature gatherings at this time until further notice and pursuing the creation of a charter commission through Town Meeting.

In consultation with KP Law, we have submitted the following citizen petition to the Town Meeting. It states as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to create a new nine-member committee, to be known as the Fairhaven Charter Committee, to be appointed by the Moderator, which committee shall be charged with the review of all aspects of local government organization and

structure, including, without limitation, regional relationships and the operation of all Town departments, boards, committees and commissions, elected and appointed, and make a report or recommendations to the 2022 Annual Town Meeting, or such later town meeting as the Moderator may approve, with the goal of presenting a proposed charter at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting, which special legislation would be forwarded to the General Court for review and approval, in accordance with the Home Rule Amendment, Section 8, and further to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds a sum of \$10,000.00 to pay for the expenses of such Committee, or take any other action relative thereto.

As we await to hear confirmation that this citizen petition will be added to the town meeting warrant, we are confident it will and will speak at the Town Meeting for your representatives to vote in favor of this petition to start the process.

Thank you all for your support!

Kyle Bueno. Fairhaven

Fairhaven Finance Committee tightening department belts

Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

The anticipation of a significant drop in revenue over last year has Fairhaven tightening its belt for Fiscal Year 2022. Fairhaven Finance Director and Interim Town Administrator Wendy Graves presented the Fairhaven Finance Committee with the progress of her recommended FY22 budget on 2/11, which featured a compulsory 10% cut from each town department's requested FY22 budget.

The departments' original requested budgets exceeded the expected revenue by \$2.3 million, with the bulk of budget increases stemming from five specific budgets — \$407,000 for Police, \$184,000 for Fire, \$833,000 for the School Department, \$303,000 in retirement, and \$434,000 in group insurance — before Ms. Graves applied the 10% in cuts she asked department heads to submit.

According to Ms. Graves, the Board of Assessors estimates \$133,000 in new growth revenue based on building permits issued throughout FY21. Bask, Fairhaven's only medical cannabis dispensary, is also poised to begin recreational cannabis sales this year. The

dispensary is predicting a \$720,000 increase in sales from its expansion into the recreational realm, but Ms. Graves took a more conservative approach.

"We felt that that was a little bit aggressive, so we [factored in an estimate] on the lower side," she said. "But we'll be looking very closely at those to see if he's going to be hitting his marks on his estimates."

Ms. Graves said she cut \$65,000 from the human resources director position, currently vacant and not likely to be restored as a full-time position under this particular budget.

FinCom Chairperson Padraic Elliot asked Ms. Graves which revenue sources this year got hit the hardest.

"It's almost all the revenues," she replied. "Our room tax, our restaurant tax, even motor vehicle excise is down"

The result is an FY22 budget that will reflect an increase that is "just a little bit

more than it was last year," Ms. Graves said.

She later commented, "The worst possible thing you can do is overestimate what you're going to get for revenue."

The School Department lost \$200,000 in Acushnet tuition income, Ms. Graves reported, based on the department's estimate.

"I guess they've lost a few people because of ... COVID, so I had to decrease that by \$200,000."

As for overlay surplus, she said, the Board of Assessors reported \$150,000 from FY21 based on remaining abatements.

To balance the proposed FY22 budget, Ms. Graves took \$285,000 from surplus revenue, despite it being "not popular, she said; however, it is two-thirds of what the Town used in surplus revenue last year.

"But I needed to use it to balance the budget," she said. "Since we're not out of the woods with COVID, and our revenues are still trending low compared to prior years...."

The Recreation Department went from \$233,000 in revenue down to \$50,000 in FY21 due to programs being suspended,

FINCOM cont'd on page 17

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HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Free Food Boxes

The New Bedford Police Department is partnering with the Mass. Military Support Foundation (MMSF) and New Life Church to provide FREE FOOD BOXES to New Bedford residents. The Farmers to Families Food Boxes contain 32 pounds of perishable and nonperishable food items including fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products and meat products.

Distribution will be on Saturdays: Feb. 20, 27, Mar. 6, from 10 a.m.–Noon, at New Life Church (behind the church), 1331 Cove Rd. his program will be held once a week for the foreseeable future.

COVID-19 health guidelines will be followed.

Families must register by visiting <https://mmsfi.org/farmers-to-families/> (and scroll down to find New Bedford). For information, please contact Sargent Samuel Ortega of the New Bedford Police Department at Samuel.ortega@newbedfordpd.com or 774-510-0649.

LGBTQ Film Series

The New Bedford LGBTQ Winter Film Series returns in 2021 in a new virtual format, with a slate of popular movies chosen to inspire conversation about relationships and other topics relevant to the LGBTQ community. The event is made possible by funding and support from Mass Humanities.

This year, fans are asked to watch the films prior to joining a Zoom conversation moderated by members of the Film Series. The movies are available either through online streaming platforms or on DVD, with DVDs available to check out from the New Bedford Free Public Library with a SAILS library card (call in advance to reserve).

Next up on Sun., 2/28 at 3 p.m., *Brother to Brother* (2004). Directed by the critically acclaimed filmmaker Rodney Evans, the film shows the parallel lives of Perry, a Black gay man in the 21st century, and Bruce Nugent, who was part of the Harlem Renaissance.

For more information about The New Bedford LGBTQ Winter Film Series and to access the Zoom links, follow the organization on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/>

[nblgbtqfilmseries/events/](https://www.sclgbtqnetwork.org/winter-film-series.html) or visit The South Coast LGBTQ+ Network at <https://www.sclgbtqnetwork.org/winter-film-series.html>

Moby-Dick Institute

The New Bedford Whaling Museum, in association with Melville Society Cultural Project, will welcome 25 teachers from around the country for a two-week, virtual institute “Teaching Melville: Moby-Dick & the World of Whaling in the Digital Age.” The institute will be a two-part, virtual series June 21 through July 1, and July 6 through 9, 2021. The program will illuminate Herman Melville’s famous 19th-century American novel and help educators interpret the book for 21st-century students. The institute is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and is free for the teachers who are selected. **The application period is open until March 1, 2021.**

Teachers who are interested in learning more or applying should visit www.teachmelville.org.

DockUmentary

The Port of New Bedford — Then and Now, Fri., 2/19, 7 p.m.

Tune in for a virtual presentation about the Port of New Bedford—then and now! First, we will share a recently digitized slideshow made in the 1960s about the port. After, photographer Phil Mello will share his own updated version featuring contemporary images of the working waterfront. Join the ZOOM meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87935255416#success>

Visit the Center’s website at fishingheritagecenter.org or email programs@fishingheritagecenter.org.

Book Talk

“Stormy Isles: An Azorean Tale” Translating Literary Heterolingualism and Coastal Whaling with Francisco Cota Fagundes PhD, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Thurs., 2/25, 7 p.m.–8 p.m. Free, but registration is required. Visit <https://www.umassd.edu/portuguese-studies-center/events/>

The Portuguese-language novel *Mau Tempo no Canal*, published in 1944, is set in the Azores between

1917–1919. It tells the story of a member of a noble yet financially declining family and her struggles with the secular fatalism of her culture as she anxiously attempts to overcome it.

In 1998, Francisco Cota Fagundes translated the novel into English and retitled it *Stormy Isles: An Azorean Tale*. Join Francisco as he shares the story and explores the relationship between the U.S. and the Azores. He will discuss the important role the novel plays in American literature as well as the theory and practice of translation (known as traductology). The book’s original writing included the use of several foreign languages (known as heterolingualism), from Latin to French to Spanish, as well as unique whaling terminology. Francisco will talk about the challenges he faced during the translation process and how he navigated them.

This program is brought to you by the Department of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies at Brown University, with support from the Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture/Tagus Press, University of Mass. Dartmouth, and Gávea-Brown Publications.

Grant Match

New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center has been approved for a \$15,000 Grants for Arts Projects award from the National Endowment for the Arts to support *Women’s Work: At Sea, On Shore, At Home, In the Community*. This project will shine a light on the many roles women play in commercial fishing communities. New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center’s project is among 1,073 projects across America totaling nearly \$25 million that were selected.

Women’s Work will use the arts of photography, film, music, poetry, and storytelling to highlight the often-untold stories of women in commercial fishing communities. From March through December 2021.

This grant requires the Fishing Heritage Center to raise a match. We invite local businesses that may wish to sponsor this project to help us raise the match to contact info@fishingheritagecenter.org.

For more information on projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit arts.gov/news.

Acushnet COVID testing

We are very pleased to announce a regular schedule of Covid testing in Acushnet.

- Fridays from 10 a.m.–noon in the parking lot behind the Council on Aging (59 South Main Street) using our trailer (see page 12)
- Saturdays from 9 a.m.–noon at the elementary school gym

This schedule will be used through the end of February and may be delayed or cancelled due to possible snow/weather conditions. We will post updates during the week on our Facebook page/Acushnet Fire & EMS.

Visit the Holyland ONLINE ZOOM EVENT

If you would have the opportunity, would you stay 10 weeks in the Holy Land to read the Gospels in their context and to follow Jesus of Nazareth in the places where he lived, ministered, died and was resurrected?

If yes, visit <https://www.lasaletteretreatcenter.org/virtual-pilgrimage-holy-land> to find out more info and the week-by-week virtual itinerary of “Virtual Pilgrimage to the Holy Land: Pathways of Discipleship in the Footprints of the Gospels.”

To watch, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DupOP-Dautw&feature=youtu.be>

Live Performance

Hub Theatre Company of Boston is excited to return to the virtual stage this winter with the world premier of Trent England’s *Solitaire Suite*, directed by local favorite Daniel Bourque. The show will be performed live online on Saturday, Feb. 20, Friday, Feb. 26, and Saturday, Feb 27 at 7:30 pm and also on Sunday, Feb 21 at 4:00 pm. All performances are Pay-What-You-Can. For tickets and information please visit our webpage at www.hubtheatreboston.org

Black Hist. Month Concert

This program features four generations of leading African American composers, opening with Jessie Montgomery’s brilliant rendition of the National Anthem

interwoven with “Lift Every Voice and Sing” – often called the Black National Anthem.

Tickets are \$20 per household. The concert will premiere at 7:30 p.m. but you can watch the concert any time (and as many times as) you like for 30 days. We recommend linking your phone, tablet, or computer to your TV to enjoy the full visual-audio quality of the performance!

Sat., 3/20, 7:30 p.m. Jessie Montgomery: Banner; Florence Price: Andante Cantabile; Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson: Grass: Poem for Piano, Strings and Percussion; mAdolphus Hailstork: Sonata da Chiesa; Joseph Joubert, piano; Yaniv Dinur, conductor

Visit <https://nbsymphony.org/celebrating-black-culture/>

Black Photographers

The exhibit considers the role of both photographer and subject in representing Blackness. The nature of many of the photographs as private artifacts—mementos created to preserve community history or pass on to loved ones—suggests the power that positive photographic representation held for these Black Americans, even as they survived the violent racism of the US. Photographs allowed them control over their appearance, which also meant control over their dignity and selfhood; they offered a space where Black people could be themselves, or any particular version of themselves. Though the white gaze might eventually fall on the photograph, the work of photographer and subject together created a representation of Blackness that even an adversarial white gaze could not pervert.

Visit https://nonprofitquarterly.org/new-photography-exhibit-highlights-black-self-representation/?mc_cid=93757bfc66&mc_eid=bec9a92e00

Meet Will Liverman

Will Liverman is a young baritone and a new, exciting voice in the opera world. His new album, “Dreams of a New Day: Songs by Black Composers,” is a collection of just some of the pieces that he was really drawn to, and highlights Black composers who are significant.

Visit <https://www.classicalwcrb.org/post/will-liverman-dreams-new->

[day-black-composers#stream/0](https://www.classicalwcrb.org/post/will-liverman-dreams-new-day-black-composers#stream/0)

Meet Rudolph Fisher

Rhode Island’s Own Harlem Renaissance Author! Rudolph Fisher, an exemplary student, attended Classical High and Brown University, and went on to a career in medicine and to invent the Black detective novel. Visit <https://motifri.com/rudolphfisher/>

Hist of Black Church

A History of the Black Church in Rhode Island, a two-part virtual program. Mon. & Tues., 2/22 & 23, 7 p.m. Learn more and register at <https://www.stagesoffreedom.org>

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>

Discover Black Past

This 6,000 page reference center is dedicated to providing information to the general public on African American history and the history of more than one billion people of African ancestry around the world. We invite you to explore and use all the resources of BlackPast. Visit <https://www.blackpast.org>

Habitat Info Mtg

The Buzzards Bay Area Habitat for Humanity (BBAHFH) will hold a virtual public information session on Wednesday, Feb. 24 to advise the community of its plans to construct two affordable condominium units in a duplex building on a parcel of land on Sodom Road purchased from the Westport Affordable Housing Trust.

The Trust conveyed the 5.3 acre parcel on Sodom Road to BBAHFH, a non-profit organization that helps working families buy their own homes at an affordable price.

To get the ZOOM meeting access code, contact Housing Specialist Leonardi Aray, AIA, via email to Leonardi@larayarchitects.com or WestportHousing@outlook.com.

For questions or more information, call BBAHFH at (508) 758-4517 or email BuzzardsBayAreaHabitat@yahoo.com.

Recipe of the Week

Coffee Cake

- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 4 cups flour
- 2 tps baking soda
- 2 tps baking powder
- 4 large eggs
- 1 cup oil
- 1 pint sour cream
- 2 tps vanilla

Filling

- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 tps cinnamon
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease and flour bundt cake pan or 2 loaf pans.

In a large bowl mix together dry ingredients; add wet ingredients and mix until well blended.

Combine together filling ingredients and mix well.

Layer batter, filling, batter, etc., ending with batter. Bake in a 350° oven 50-60 minutes or until done. Cool in pan 10 minutes, then invert into desired plate

Submitted by Irene Souza

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)



Dear Frankie

Hungry all the time

Dear Frankie,
I'm hungry all the time. I only get two meals a day. In the afternoon, I do get two Kongs that are stuffed with peanut butter. But I never get them on a regular schedule.

So, I'm always on the look-out for the first and then the second Kong. It is very annoying. It takes a lot of my time, that could be much better spent, if you're asking me, watching the squirrels and napping on the couch. What I don't get, is why can't my human just give me the jumbo jar of peanut butter and let me eat what I want, when I want?

Sincerely, Bridget

Dear Bridget,

Your human, as you call her, thinks she is your mother. I keep telling all you canines that parenting is the most competitive sport in America. She needs you to look good, so people will admire her for how well she takes care of you.

Typically, I don't write about personal matters, but I'm going to make an exception in this case. Over the last few years, I have put on a few

extra pounds. When I went for my annual physical, the vet was furious with my Mom for my weight gain.

By the time we got back to the car, she was hysterical and a total wreck. The next day she started taking me to the dog park, but after a week of body shaming from a Greyhound and another scrawny type breed, it was more than I could take. I became seriously depressed and had to be dragged by my collar to go out. The next thing you know, she hired a dog walker. Now I have to walk 40 minutes a day, in all kinds of weather, with a three-year-old hyperactive lab.

I suggest you take this as a lesson learned. If I were you, I would stick to improving your skills in your agility class and less on beefing up your diet.

Best, Frankie

© 2021, Geneva Woodruff

Frankie is an eight-year-old schnaluzer poodle and a rescue. She is a certified emotional support animal for a single retired educator.

Letters and comments can be sent to dearfrankiecolumn@gmail.com. The column is available through the Fairhaven Neighborhood News. Readers can request a free subscription, by emailing Neighbnews@comcast.net and asking to be put on the email list; or visit www.neighbnews.com to read online or download the latest issue.

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DaCunha's Dispatches



News from high school in the age of COVID

By Elizabeth DaCunha

Special to the Neighb News

School is hard. School during a pandemic is even harder.

I think it's important for my readers to know about the struggles of students during the COVID-19 pandemic. That's why I decided to find out what subjects and courses have been the most difficult for students to learn with a hybrid schedule.

Regardless of the pandemic, school has consistently proven to challenge students, but then, when you have to completely change the learning environment, it adds on the additional challenge of adapting to this unconventional form of education.

For example, Kate Ferland explained how her personal experience with AP classes has proven to be far more perplexing during a pandemic.

"My AP Calculus and AP Statistics math classes have been the hardest to do remotely. Learning it through videos is much more different than with your teacher right in front of you to answer questions or more thoroughly explain the subject."

Another point made by Ms. Ferland is how math builds off from one unit to another, so if you struggled during an online week where you're practically teaching yourself aside from videos made by the teacher, you can easily fall behind.

Even from my own experience

taking geometry, I realize how much more I'm struggling purely because I cannot learn without a teacher there to break down the lesson and answer questions.

The State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has ordered all schools in the state to add additional instructional time during the remote weeks. I most definitely feel that this will help students like myself and Ms. Ferland to get a better grasp on the material, even if we're learning from our own homes.

Kendell Chase explained how math, her least favorite subject has been even tougher to get through

Many teachers are making pre-recorded videos to teach students through the screen.

nowadays, learning half of the time out of school.

"We have to work a lot more independently and teach ourselves a good amount of the material," she said.

Building off of this, I'd also like to mention Senior Shanti Furtado's take on how learning so much independently has shown to have some sort of positive impact.

"As a senior, this added time to work on our own has in a way, better equipped us for a taste of the ambiance of college — allowing the opportunity to improve our time management skills," she said.

Furtado also mentioned her own struggles learning Statistics as well as AP Literature, and how without her teachers, she wouldn't be able to successfully complete these courses.

"Being only in the building for half the year has limited the in-person instruction so needed for visual learners like myself," said Ms. Furtado. "AP Literature has also been a struggle for me at times this school year. Though anything reading and writing related has been my favorite throughout the years, being submerged into so much individual work has been cumbersome at times."

She also discussed how her teachers Dr. Boucher and Mrs. Pittsley have been, "extremely accommodating and attentive; trying to make the curriculum as fun as possible, and are always an email away for questions, whilst taking the time to record videos of themselves teaching the lessons during our remote weeks."

As these students have mentioned, what many teachers are doing is making pre-recorded videos to teach students through the screen. Recently, a teacher from the District of Columbia Public Schools, Jonte Lee, had some of his videos teaching chemistry go viral.

Especially now, people appreciate those that are taking the extra step to support others, and that is exactly what Mr. Lee is doing with his non-traditional ways of teaching, filming experiments right from his kitchen, in order to be able to successfully teach his students.

To find out more about this award-winning science teacher, you can visit <https://www.nsta.org/science-teacher/science-teacher-march-2020/teacher-spotlight-jonte-lee> Make sure to watch some of his videos as well through his YouTube series: Try This At Home



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Election update: We have a race (or four)

By Beth David
Editor

Fairhaven's annual election is slated for April 5, 2021 (COVID permitting) and nomination papers should have been turned in by 12/12. There are four contested races as of 2/16, but candidates have until 3/3 to change their minds and withdraw.

Up for re-election this year is Bob Espindola for Selectboard. He will face challenger Lisa Plante.

School Committee has two seats up and three candidates. Incumbents Donna McKenna and Colin Veitch have both returned papers, along with challenger Cathleen Marchessault.

The Board of Health has one vacant seat up for election. The seat is currently held by Geoffrey Haworth who was appointed to fill the vacancy when Michael Silvia quit abruptly last

year. Mr. Haworth did not take out papers for the seat. Barbara Acksen, who held a seat on the board for one term in the past, and Kevin Gallagher will face off in that race.

Tree Warden also has a surprise contested rate. Incumbent G. Bourne Knowles will face Don Carlos Callasius for that seat.

The Board of Public Works also has two seats up for election, with incumbents Robert "Hoppy" Hobson and Marcus Ferro on the ballot. Neither one will face an opponent on the ballot.

On the Planning Board, incumbent Cathy Melanson will run for her seat, and David Braga will run for the second full term seat up for re-election. Incumbent Jay Malaspino did not take out papers for this seat.

Jessica Fidalgo will also run

unopposed for the unexpired term of the seat she has been appointed to fill.

Housing Authority has one slot up for re-election, and one unexpired term on the ballot. Both slots were filled by appointment in December due to vacancies. Ronnie Manzone and Marc Scanlon will each run unopposed for their seats.

Town Moderator Mark Sylvia will also be unopposed in his re-election bid.

Colleen Silvia did not did not return papers for her seat as Commissioner of Trust Funds, leaving a vacancy, as no one else will be on the ballot for that position.

Voters have until Tuesday, 3/16, to register to vote in the town election. The clerk's office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. that day.

Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars Scholarships open until 4/20

Press Release

Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars announces the following scholarships now available for 2021. **Application period is open until April 20, 2021.**

Apply online at <https://fairhaven.dollarsforscholars.org>

NEW scholarships are being added constantly. Check your profile weekly to see what NEW scholarships you qualify for both at the local and national level. The following scholarships are available to area students:

Barton B. Leach Memorial Scholarship: Awarded to a Fairhaven High School (FHS) student who best exemplifies the integrity, honesty, sportsmanship and citizenship of the late Barton B. Leach.

Carl Lee Pacheco Memorial All Athletic Scholarship for FHS The Carl Lee Pacheco Memorial All Sports Scholarship will be awarded to two FHS graduating/graduated students who have participated in any athletic sports/activities and have participated/volunteered in community service activities. Emphasis will be on the custom essay question and references. Additionally this is a renewable scholarship for past recipients of the Carl Lee Pacheco Memorial Scholarship.

Carl Lee Pacheco Memorial Scholarship The Carl Lee Pacheco Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a graduating high school

three or more years. Student must be in good standing. There is one award. Students who attend the following schools are eligible to apply if their profile criteria is linked. Schools include: Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School, Old Rochester Regional High School, Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School, Bishop Stang High School, Tabor Academy, New Bedford High School, Dartmouth High School. Emphasis will be on the custom essay question and references. Additionally this is a renewable scholarship for past recipients of the Carl Lee Pacheco Memorial Scholarship.

Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars Curtis L. Lopes Memorial Scholarship Awarded to a Fairhaven High School graduating senior who will be pursuing a degree in chemistry or the sciences and who will be attending UMASS Amherst. Student must be in good standing and have participated in community service.

Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars Scholarship Fund in Memory of Myra A. Lopes Awarded to a Fairhaven High School senior who has demonstrated character, leadership and has been an active participant in community service.

FDS Fairhaven Improvement Association Jean Campbell Scholarship Awarded to a Fairhaven resident who

attends either Fairhaven High School, Greater New Bedford Regional Technical Vocational HS, Bishop Stang HS, Tabor Academy or Bristol County Agricultural High School. The scholarship will be awarded to a senior student who exhibits good citizenship and especially shows involvement in community service.

FDS Fairhaven Improvement Association 2021 Scholarship in Memory of Sylvia Brunette Established in 2008 to honor a college bound senior who exemplifies character, leadership and especially participates in community service. The recipient must be a well-rounded individual who has shown pride in our town, performed community service throughout his or her four years of high school and is a well-respected student. Awarded to a Fairhaven resident who attends either Fairhaven High School, Greater New Bedford Regional Technical Vocational HS, Bishop Stang HS, Tabor Academy or Bristol County Agricultural High School.

FDS Fairhaven High School Class of 1959 Scholarship \$1000.00 scholarship to be awarded to a graduating 2021 senior student. The recipient of this scholarship will have performed community service, been involved in school activities, well respected, shown leadership qualities and demonstrates a financial need.

DOLLARS: cont'd on page 19

Selectboard fails to choose TA, will wait to interview Graves

By Beth David
Editor

After a meeting that lasted more than three hours on 2/16/21, the Fairhaven Selectboard voted 2-1 not to choose any of the three candidates they had just interviewed for Town Administrator. Instead, at the urging of board member Keith Silvia, the board decided to hold another meeting on Tuesday, 2/23, to interview Finance Director/Treasurer Wendy Graves, who has been acting as Interim TA during the search.

Ms. Graves did not make it onto the list after the screening committee narrowed the field from 39 applicants to three finalists.

Selectboard chairperson Daniel Freitas had revealed at the 12/21/20 Selectboard meeting that Ms. Graves was a candidate for Town Administrator. It was during the same meeting that she was chosen to be Interim TA. Mr. Freitas had already nominated himself to the screening committee at the 11/10/20 meeting, and was appointed on a 2-3 vote, with Mr. Silvia joining Mr. Freitas to appoint him, and board member Bob Espindola voting “no.”

At the meeting this week, three finalists were interviewed for about one hour each: Jennifer Callahan, currently the Town Manager of Oxford, Mass.; Thomas Hutka, of Palm Beach, FL, who is now consulting, and previously served as City Manager of Port Huron, Mich.; Ari Sky of New Bedford, currently the Chief Financial Officer for the City of New Bedford.

During the interviews consultant Bernie Lynch of Community Paradigm Associates, asked each candidate the same questions. Selectboard members also asked questions.

Questions included how the candidates would increase employee morale; what their management style is; their approach/philosophy to creating a town budget, especially noting that this year, due to COVID-19, the town had to use free cash to balance the budget; how they would keep a good relationship with the school department, which is about half the town's \$52 million budget; handle the upcoming infrastructure projects totalling in the millions; if they had experience with additional revenue sources, such as grants; and their ability to advance the Master Plan initiatives; how they would communicate issues and routine activities to the board. Mr. Silvia asked each candidate when they could start.

Ms. Callahan told the board that Fairhaven was “truly a unique community” that piqued her interest in a variety of ways. She noted the history, architecture and the “majesty of the ocean at your doorstep,” that make the town a special place.

She also said she has a brother-in-law who is from Fairhaven and fished commercially for years.

The town is on the cusp of a transitional phase, she said, and noted that she has a diverse background and has used all of it to work for municipalities.

“I truly love working for municipal government,” said Ms. Callahan, who has earned a Doctorate of Education, Master of Public Health, is a Registered Nurse; and served as a state representative for eight years. She was also the TA of Millville, and served on the Selectboard and other committees in Sutton, Mass.

Ms. Callahan said she believes in an open door policy and is “very actively engaged in the community.”

She said she would work with her department heads to “make them shine,” and will make sure employees are recognized for their good work.

As for the budget, Ms. Callahan said she has been very successful getting grant money, and cautioned against using one

Mr Espindola said there was a process in place and they all agreed to the process, and he pointed out that Mr. Freitas was on the screening committee.

time money for ongoing expenses.

If capital improvements require debt exclusions or overrides, she said she makes sure the community knows what it means to the average household.

Ms. Callahan also said she is experienced in economic development and getting businesses into a town. She was a chamber of commerce director.

“This pandemic has turned everything on its head,” she said, but noted that she was very quick to act when the governor allowed outdoor dining to make sure the restaurants could start right away.

Ms. Callahan also had a caution about tax programs for businesses, saying the companies have to deliver on their end to “make sure the community does get its benefit.”

Ms. Callahan said she would like to get a residence in Fairhaven, but also noted she is not “afraid of commuting,” and realizes she will probably have to commute at first.

“But obviously you want to be as close as possible to the community,” she said, adding that she wants to be part of the “fabric” of Fairhaven.

Mr. Hutka told the board that he had

dedicated his whole life to public service in local communities. He said he came from a blue collar family, but he was able to go to college.

His “wild idea” to bring technical skills to local government led him to a degree in civil engineering, a Master in Public Administration; and a certified Public Manager program. He has held a number of public leadership positions in economic development, housing, and civic organizations. He has also served as a Director of Public Works; director of Municipal Program Management; Deputy County Manager; and associate county administrator. He also had a career in finance.

Mr. Hutka told the board his strength is leading other people and managing staff.

“The whole mission of a town administrator is to harness the troops,” said Mr. Hutka, which means having the right people in the right places and giving them the resources to do the job.

He said he is proud to get people to “rekindle their careers,” and get them excited about their jobs and the projects they are working on.

The key is treating people with respect and kindness.

“I’m not a desk jockey,” said Mr. Hutka.

He said he has an open door policy, but he does not stop there, he asks employees what they need to make their jobs better.

Mr. Hutka said he has “built some of the very best teams you’ll find in the country.”

As for the budget, Mr. Hutka said the town might have to look at layoffs; and maintenance programs can usually skip a year.

Grant money is more available in hard times he said, and municipalities can expect money from Washington this year.

Mr. Hutka stressed his blue collar background, and said collective bargaining is good for the town and employees when handled properly.

“Motivation is based...on respect,” said Mr. Hutka. “Professional respect for their chosen profession.”

He also outlined practical ways he would work with people and departments to build trust, including that he would return calls and emails; eat at local establishments to meet people; and ask what people need.

“And take it very seriously,” said Mr. Hutka. “Don’t ask a question if you can’t respond and follow up.”

Mr. Sky told the board that he has been in local government his whole career of 20+ years. He has worked in several budget positions in Virginia, as a Borough Manager in Pennsylvania, and a legislative assistant in the US House of Representatives in

SELECT: cont’d on page 17

Fairhaven Recreation Center

Open Mon-Thurs, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fri., 6 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; Closed Sunday • 227 Huttleston Ave, 508-993-9269 <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/recreation-department>

The Gym is Open!

We have socially distanced!

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

- Locker rooms will not be open
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- 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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Visit our website at:
http://fairhavenma.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA_COA/index

Fairhaven Council on Aging

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

Hygienist.

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

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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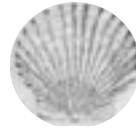
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NMLS # 422864

Acushnet employees back in the office this week

By Pattie Pacella

Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on 2/9/21, the Acushnet Selectboard voted to suspend the "Remote Action Plan" and require employees to be back in their offices effective February 16.

"Covid is not going anywhere, we are going to have to learn to live with it," said chairperson Kevin Gaspar.

He said he did not see any reason why employees could not be back in the office especially with the office protocols they have in place, such as sanitizing stations, plexi-glass, etc.

"It's time to get our people back in the building," Mr. Gaspar said.

Selectboard member David Desroches agreed, adding, "I think it's time to suspend the remote action plan and have people back at work."

Selectboard member David Wojnar also agreed, but suggested that they "give people time to acclimate."

He asked that they consider the return date of February 22. However, Mr. Gaspar and Mr. Desroches did not agree. In the end the board voted unanimously for Tuesday, 2/16, as Monday, is a holiday.

The Selectboard also heard from consultant Don Jacobs to review the union wage and classification plan study.

Mr. Jacobs stated that the number one issue with classification studies is communication. He said it was important to hear the thoughts from the employees on what their job really entails. He stated he has asked employees to return a job description survey back to him within a week.

Mr. Jacobs did advise the Selectboard that the first thought he had was that the job descriptions were not accurate, as they did not have enough information in them.

Mr. Gaspar stated that when comparing other towns to Acushnet he wanted to see more similar towns being used versus towns that did not even compare, "like the last study", he stated.

Mr. Wojnar suggested considering a tier system of minimum qualifications and then how effectively an employee does the job.

"A tier system would recognize achievement and professional growth," Mr. Wojnar said.

The Selectboard agreed to continue the conversation at another meeting.

The board also briefly discussed holding a separate meeting to start discussions on the budget.

Mr. Gaspar stated they need to look at anticipated revenue and anticipated expenses to start the review process.

In other business, the Selectboard approved a Victualer license for Acushnet Coffee on Main Street.

They also accepted a \$700 in-kind donation from a couple of Acushnet residents for the Fire/EMS; and thanked those who made the donations.

Town Administrator Julie Hebert, in her report to the board, commended the FIRE/EMS department for their tremendous effort with COVID-19 testing. She read a memo from Fire Chief Kevin Gallagher who stated they have administered 5,069 nasal swab tests since September. Ms. Hebert stated they are looking into being able to administer vaccinations.

Mr. Gaspar said he wanted to make sure that Acushnet would not be held liable if they give vaccinations.

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SELECT: cont'd from page 13

Washington DC.

Mr. Sky said he likes to “lead by example.”

He has used a number of techniques to build morale and build teams.

“I’m a detail oriented guy,” said Mr. Sky. “I get data, I get numbers.”

He said to lead, it is important to make expectations clear and define goals.

He said he helped improve communications in New Bedford to improve employee morale. He said employees felt that policy makers and employees did not understand where each was coming from and they turned that around.

They did it with follow-through, no surprises, he said.

“You should never ask a question if you don’t really want to hear the answer,” said Mr. Sky.

He explained how New Bedford builds its budget from the ground up, and said he would look at joint services, calling Fairhaven’s IT arrangement between the school department and other town departments “ingenious.”

He also said he had a public works background and had been at the helm of projects, including one where the city saved nearly \$20 million.

He said the upgrades to the treatment plant are a “similarly daunting task.”

“The key is figuring out which bits of the apple you need to take,” said Mr. Sky.

For economic development, Mr. Sky said Fairhaven does not have lot of space for new development, but it does have a lot of

opportunity for redevelopment.

He said he was familiar with grant and loan programs, and noted that projects in New Bedford also affect Fairhaven.

Mr. Sky said he would start with team building, and find ways to include everybody in informal gatherings and fun events.

The worst thing a manager can do is see a situation and try to avoid it,” saying you have to “lance the boil before it becomes too big.”

“I’m pretty well known for being approachable and accessible,” said Mr. Sky, adding that if he’s the kind of person who can’t deal with a citizen who has a problem then, “I’m in the wrong job.”

All three candidates stressed the importance of the human resources director position, which has been vacant for several months, and is not funded in the next budget.

After the interviews, the board discussed the next steps. Mr. Freitas said it was a late night, pointing to agenda item B1, which called for the board to make a decision. Mr. Lynch said it was a “placeholder” and the board was not bound to decide that night. Mr. Espindola stated he was “ready.”

But Mr. Silvia said that Ms. Graves had a “resume in,” and wanted to know why she was not a finalist.

“How much can I speak to this,” Mr. Freitas asked the consultant, but Mr. Lynch said he would not speak to it.

Mr. Freitas confirmed that Ms. Graves had submitted her resume.

Mr. Silva said she was “running it” now, and “she’s doing a great job,” and that she

deserved an interview and he wondered why she did not get on the finalist list.

Mr. Freitas said he was not sure if he could “get into why” she was not on the list.

Mr. Espindola said there was a process in place and they all agreed to the process, and he pointed out that Mr. Freitas was on the screening committee.

“I definitely want to interview her,” said Mr. Silvia. “I think she deserves one.”

Mr. Freitas said he had no problem with that and “there’s a little more to this,” adding, “I don’t know if that’s something we can put in writing...the whole story that happened.”

Mr. Silvia made the motion to interview Ms. Graves and Mr. Freitas seconded the motion, which passed 2-1, with Mr. Espindola voting “no.”

Mr. Freitas said that the meeting, therefore, could not be broadcast, so she could not see the questions. During the meeting, the candidates not being interviewed were put in a Zoom waiting room where they could not hear the proceedings. Mr. Freitas said Mr. Lynch would have to set up different questions. The meeting, however, did start running on Channel 18 on Tuesday night and was available on www.FairhavenTV.com early Wednesday morning.

“There is a bit of a back story to this,” said Mr. Freitas. “Not that it will change my mind.”

Mr. Espindola made the motion to choose Ms. Callahan for TA anyway, but it was not seconded. Still Mr. Freitas called for a vote, which was, again, 2-1.

FINCOM: cont'd from page 7

including the after-school programs. Those should ramp back up as pandemic restrictions lift.

There are no surprises on the latest FY22 budget, said Ms. Graves, as department heads specified the areas they prefer the 10% cuts come from, apart from anywhere. Ms. Graves did say she felt the office supplies line item was too high.

“The budget feels like it’s tighter than last year,” said Mr. Elliot. “Last year, the basis was kind of like, ‘hold ground’ versus FY20. This seems to be, now, ‘go the other way’ [and] back ourselves up, because 10% is quite a bit.”

Ms. Graves said she cut \$65,000 from the human resources director position, currently vacant and not likely to be restored as a full-time position under this particular budget.

Any requests for added staff were crossed off first, including the Conservation Department’s request for an administrative assistant and stipend (\$37,896); the Police Department’s

request for an additional dispatcher, part-time custodian, and social worker (\$131,619); a part-time custodian for the Fire Department (\$22,532); and contracted services for Marine Resources (\$5,000).

Recreation Department programming was cut by \$50,000, as was \$100,000 from the workers’ compensation insurance line item, which resulted from a decrease in claims over the last couple of years, Ms. Graves reported. She also removed \$25,000 from being deposited into the Reserve Fund and \$100,000 from the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Fund.

Overall there was \$1,352,941 in cuts from departments’ requested budgets. State aid, so far, appears stable, said Ms. Graves, estimated at \$11.53 million.

“It wasn’t an easy budget, just because the revenues being so low,” said Ms. Graves.

She later commented: “People are going to be very surprised when there’s not that many capital items approved this year because they spent \$1.4 million of

our free cash last year [on the turf field at the high school], so, of course, it’s going to trickle down and affect this year.”

She fixed the amount of available free cash at \$1.6 million with the FY22 spending already deducted. She said there is \$3.1 million in the Stabilization Fund and \$5.6 million in the Capital Stabilization Fund.

The Fairhaven Finance Committee will meet again on 2/18 for an in-depth review of the police and fire budgets, followed by the school budget on 2/25 and the public works department on 3/5. The tree warden, wire inspector, and Marine Resources will be invited to review their budgets for the 3/11 meeting.

“We’re definitely going to go through the biggies like we normally do,” said Mr. Elliot, adding “We’re not always ‘cut, cut, cut, cut’ — we always want to know the back and forth on that because, if we’re cutting, we want to know what we’re losing. We don’t want to lose a service along the way.”

From our readers

Public service should not be about the money

It's a shame I feel I have to say this but if the money matters, you shouldn't serve.

When I decided to enter life as a public servant, I made this decision because I know I can help people. When I decided to enter life as a public servant, I made this decision because I know I can help the town. When I decided to enter life as a public servant, I made this decision because you deserve better. This list can continue, but understand at no point on the list would anything about money appear.

My point is that public service isn't about money. I've made it clear that I intend to use the stipend given to members of the Selectboard to create a scholarship for a Fairhaven High School student. As I've watched and followed along the various meetings and social media posts I've seen or heard money mentioned a few times.

Whether you're tree warden, selectman, board of health, etc money should not be the reason you do it. Quite frankly if your motivation to serve me and my fellow Fairhaven citizens is financial I kindly ask you to step down.

Nobody has mentioned that they are serving for money, however they have mentioned how little they are compensated for their time. Is this supposed to serve as justification for the lackluster job you do? Were you aware of the money before you chose to run for the position? Were you hopeful that somehow it would change when you took over the position? Maybe you got in, realized how much work it is and said "this small amount of money isn't worth the effort."

I don't care how much you're compensated and if you have to mention how small the amount then you care.

I currently serve as a member of the Sustainability Committee which has no pay. I hope that some day the Board of Selectmen decides diversity equity and inclusion matters enough to allow us to get on the agenda to create that committee and that will have no pay.

If I am chosen to serve you as Selectman, I will accept the pay only to give it to a deserving student. However I will serve with great

passion because I love Fairhaven and the people deserve that. I will serve with great intensity because my family should be able to hold their head high knowing their father/husband serves the right way for the right reason. I will serve in this fashion with a smile, because I love what I do and if I didn't love it, I wouldn't do it.

*Leon Correy, Fairhaven, 2022
Candidate for Selectman,
www.leoncorrey.com*

Gallagher's New Idea #3: end BOH stipend

NEW YEAR, NEW IDEA (Part 3): The current town budget appropriates \$5,273 to pay a stipend to the three members of the Fairhaven Board of Health. Each member is eligible to be paid \$1,757 each and, while I have learned that two current members forgo the stipend, one still accepts and the funds are annually appropriated in full.

At the October 20th Town Meeting, a resident made a motion to reduce the total amount allocated to \$3.00, effectively reducing the individual stipends to \$1.00 per member. The motion required a two-thirds vote to pass. The final vote was 80 in favor and 51 in opposition. While easily winning a majority of Town Meeting members votes (61%) the motion failed by just 8 votes to secure the two-thirds majority required for passage.

I think it was pretty obvious that Town Meeting was sending a clear message. I've included a link to the video of the October meeting below. The discussion on this topic begins at the 28:00 minute mark and ends at the 35:00 minute mark. You can watch the video, listen to the comments and take away from it what you will.

When trust and confidence is shaken it takes deliberate effort and consistency for it to be rebuilt. I commend the two current Board of Health members who do not accept the annual stipend and respect whatever brought them to that decision. If elected in April, I too will not accept the annual stipend. Serving on the Board representing the people of Fairhaven would be, in my opinion, an honor in and of itself.

NEW IDEA: I would go even one step further and move that the \$5,273 not be included in the next Board of Health budget, effectively ending the

stipend for all members. No other Board in Fairhaven is paid, except for the Selectmen. Given their workload with meetings, committee meetings and other town related activities it is reasonable, in my opinion, for those members to receive a stipend. While the \$1,757 set aside for the members of the Board of Health may be small to some, removing it would be a clear signal by the Board that they both heard and understood the message telegraphed to them at Town Meeting.

*Kevin Gallagher, Fairhaven
Candidate for Board of Health*

Link: <https://livestream.com/fairhavenlive/events/7358225/videos/212424492>

Take down barriers around the Capitol building

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To paraphrase President Reagan: Congress! Tear down this wall!

As a Massachusetts taxpayer, the Congressional Wall around the people's property in Washington, DC is disturbing on many levels. Razor wire!

"C'mon, man!" Using National Guard troops and a wall to protect Congress during an unconstitutional impeachment trial from unknown threats of interference is paranoia at its finest. The "threat", defined as coming from the more than half of voters who supported candidates other than Democrats, is unsubstantiated. Meanwhile, Antifa and BLM, Inc. (true anarchists/domestic terrorists) harass people in Washington, DC and elsewhere through so-called "peaceful" protests, violating the rights of citizens not aligned with their ideology. This appears, with your tacit support, designed to keep people in fear and prop up the kangaroo court convening February 9, 2021.

A wall protecting the country's borders is unacceptable but spending millions for a wall around the Capitol protecting the very law makers who cannot or will not get immigration, spending, taxes or anything else under control is fine?

I am most disturbed by the fact that our Massachusetts Senate and House members, elected to work for our best interests, support the Congressional Wall and the activities of the openly terrorist organizations around the country.

LETTERS: cont'd on page 22

DOLLARS: cont'd from page 12

FDS Fort Phoenix 5k Road Race Scholarship in Memory of Curtis L. Lopes II Awarded to a senior at Fairhaven High School who has shown and demonstrated the importance of community service through participation during their high school years.

FDS Fort Phoenix Polar Plunge Scholarship Given in memory of all domestic violence victims in the town of Fairhaven. Scholarship will be awarded to a student who is in good standing and pursuing a degree in criminal justice or law enforcement.

FDS Fort Phoenix Polar Plunge Scholarship II Given in memory of all domestic violence victims in the town of Fairhaven. Awarded to a student who is in good standing and pursuing a degree in criminal justice or law enforcement.

FDS Fort Phoenix Polar Plunge Scholarship Honoring Firefighters and Emergency Medical Responders Awarded to a senior student who is in good standing, pursuing a degree/certificate in Fire Science and/or as an Emergency Medical Responder. Student must be a Fairhaven resident who either attends Fairhaven High

School or Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School. Student must be in good standing and participated in extra-curricular activities.

FDS Kathleen M. Rocha Scholarship Mrs. Rocha gave of herself to help others, had a good sense of humor, and also was unselfish and hardworking. She loved the Rogers School community and was involved in activities and clubs both within the school and the town of Fairhaven. The recipient of the scholarship should embody the qualities for which the scholarship is named and must also be a graduate of the Rogers School.

FDS Leroy L. Wood-Victoria Pilling Aguiar Scholarship Established in memory of Victoria Pilling Aguiar by the Leroy L. Wood School PTO. To be eligible you must have graduated from the Leroy L. Wood School and have participated in community service activities

FDS Paul Powers and Kathleen Murphy MOLIFE Scholarship Awarded to student from Fairhaven High School and Greater New Bedford

exemplifies selfless dedication to others, genuine friendship and honesty. Rob Shields donated his time coaching, volunteering and leaving a positive impact everywhere he went. Awarded to a student who attends Fairhaven High School, Greater New Bedford Regional Technical Vocational High School, Old Rochester Regional High School.

FDS Rob Shields Memorial Scholarship Awarded to student who participates in community service, shows selfless dedication to others, genuine friendship and honesty. Rob Shields donated his time coaching and volunteering, leaving a positive impact everywhere he went.

FDS Rogers School Alumni Scholarship Rogers School was a neighborhood elementary school that served the area of the center of Fairhaven. To be eligible student must have attended and been a graduate of Rogers School. Criteria are based on overall academic achievement, character, financial need and community involvement.

FDS Ronald J. Tavares Scholarship Awarded to senior student who has overcome an obstacle in life, performed community service and may have participated in hockey and football.

ALL MUST BE COMPLETED ONLINE by 4/20/2021

Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars chapter is a nonprofit foundation that supports academic success in our community. As part of Scholarship America's national network of locally based, volunteer-driven Dollars for Scholars chapters, our mission is to mobilize our community on behalf of postsecondary education success for our students.

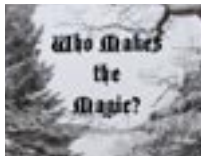
Regional Vocational Technical High School. Awarded by M.O.LIFE, Inc., in memory of Paul Powers Murphy and Kathleen Murphy, to a senior who has shown the ability to overcome a challenge in life.

FDS Rob Shields Kindness Award Awarded to student who

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Public Hearings/Legal Notices

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

Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

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

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/94575834075?pwd=VnRxdEhKL0ROUTh0NGxBVzJ3L0Udz09> or call 1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 945 7583 4075 Passcode: 448243

- Administrative Appeal by Fairhaven Shipyard – re: 7 Union Street. REF#: ZBA-AA 01.** 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 April 6, 2021.**
- Administrative Appeal by A1 Crane – re: 86-88 Middle Street. REF#: ZBA-AA-02.** Administrative Appeal from a letter dated April 7, 2020 from the Building Commissioner stating that the operation on the site is in violation of the Mixed Use zoning regulations. (see attached-Exhibit 3) (continued per applicant's request to September 2, 2020 Meeting, see attached.) **Previously continued. Continued to March 2021, at applicant's request.**
- REF#: ZBA 2021-08: 130 Shaw Road. Owner: Michael Oliveira. 198-16: Special Permit request for an in-law apartment above garage in an AG District.
- REF #: ZBA 2021-09: 28 Oliver Street. Owner: Souza, Adam. 198-16: Variance request to extend the current non-conforming setbacks for a proposed attached addition. Variance for 6'10" from rear setback line and 4'4" from front setback line.
- REF #: ZBA 2021-10: 10 Littleneck Road. Owner: Paul & Francesca Frederico. 198-16: Variance request to extend existing non-conforming west side setback of 13.1' by a maximum of 7' to align with existing north side wall for a proposed addition.

Peter DeTerra, Chairman
FNN: 2/18/21, 2/25/21

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, February 23rd, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom

Meetings:

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84644786957?pwd=jE1K1ZZWGRQLQ0c5bm9Xc2tLUHpsQT09>
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Dial by your location
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+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 846 4478 6957
Passcode: 780464

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 Mickey Higgins). This request is being made under the provisions of Section 3.6 (E)
- Case #2021.02.23A** 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, making the 9 Kendrick Street lot more non-conforming. This request is being made under the provisions of Section 3.3.1 E: Development Standards.
- Case #2021.02.23B** A case of Charles and Lisa Leonard, of 764 Main Street, Acushnet who are petitioning for a Variance for relief of side set back to be able to center construction of a new proposed dwelling. This request is being made under the

Provisions of Section 3.3.9 (C) 3.

Plans are available for Public view in the Town Clerk's office during their normal business hours.
FNN, 2/11/21, 2/18/21

Town of Acushnet Board of Selectmen Public Hearing/Delta Realty

Notice is hereby given under Chapter 148, Section 13 of the Massachusetts General Laws that Delta Realty, of 280 Ayer Road, Harvard, MA, has applied for a fuel storage license of 35,000 gallons at 158-166 Main Street, Acushnet, MA. The application for this license is for the storage of (2) underground fuel storage tanks; (1) 20,000-gallon gasoline and (1) 15,000-gallon compartmentalized: 6K premium gasoline/9K diesel fuel.

A public hearing on the above referenced fuel storage license application has been set at a date & time certain for Tuesday, February 23, 2021, beginning at 6:00 p.m., via zoom. Info can be found on the Acushnet Website, www.acushnet.ma.us

Topic: Board of Selectmen/New England Farms
Time: Feb 23, 2021 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

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Board of Selectmen: Kevin A. Gaspar, Sr., Chairman, David Desroches, David E. Wojnar
FNN, 1/28/21, 2/11/21, 2/18/21

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BPW: cont'd from page 4
the road, so that made her hopeful when buying.

Mr. Wotton suggested that if Ms. Gelin's house is the first house on the street why not just pave that first portion.

Mr. Furtado said they have never done a portion of the street, but it is a good idea since there are only three houses on the street and the neighbors do not want the town to take ownership of their private way.

Mr. Wotton suggested Mr. Furtado contact the abutters and make sure they still do not want their street paved and make sure they know if they do not want it paved now there will be no opportunity in the future for it to be paved.

Mr. Wotton said the board does not want to take anyone's property and if Ms. Gelin gives an easement for her portion of the road they can pave just that portion.

Mr. Furtado said he would recheck with the neighbors to make sure they are not interested and go from there.

In another matter the board opened their discussion about roadwork for fiscal year 2022. Mr. Furtado said that he and Highway Superintendent John Charbonneau recommend roadwork for Little Neck Road from Balsam to Ebony Street, Pleasant Street from Washington to South Street, and Eaton Street.

Mr. Furtado said he also suggests they do roadwork on Cove Street for the resident who came to the last BPW meeting to petition for it.

Mr. Furtado said to do roadwork on

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FOUND

PVC FITTINGS Found in Fairhaven, PVC piping and fittings, and other small items that probably belong to a plumber. If you lost them, please call Linda at 508-493-1177.

those four streets it will cost \$451,000, and he can use Chapter 90 money to cover the excess cost.

The board voted to accept Mr. Furtado's recommendations for FY22 roadwork.

In another matter the board discussed West Island Town Beach season pass prices.

Mr. Furtado said that last year they lost money and this year they should raise the permit prices. He suggested they increase the season pass from \$30 to \$40, increase the seniors' season pass from \$5 to \$20, and increase the transferable pass for home owners that rent their properties from \$75 to \$150.

Mr. Wotton explained that he asked residents on Facebook for their thoughts about the prices. The majority of residents said they would like to keep town beach strictly for Fairhaven residents only. Mr. Wotton said with that residents have to understand that permit prices have to go up in order to compensate for banning non-residents.

Mr. Wotton also suggested no longer issuing bike passes or walk in passes and have those included in the season pass. He said if residents want to bike or walk in they will need to buy season passes and show I.D.

The board voted to adopt the new rates for the three different kinds of season passes.

They will discuss and finalize new rules and regulations for Town Beach at the next meeting.

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., 3/2, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Health

Wed., 2/17, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 2/22, Arsene St., 6:15 p.m.

Economic Development

Thurs., 2/18, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 2/18, Remote, 7 p.m.

Thurs., 2/25, Remote, 7 p.m.

Planning Board

Tues., 2/23, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 2/24, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 2/22, Town Hall/Remote, 6:30

Acushnet

Board of Appeals

Tues., 2/23, Remote, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Fri., 2/19, Town Hall/Remote 1 p.m.

Tues., 2/23, Town Hall/Remote, 4 p.

Selectboard/Delta Realty-Tony's Serv. Sta. Hearing

Tues., 2/23, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Street Naming Comm

Tues., 2/23, Remote, 9 a.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Feb. 2021	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	18	0016	1238	0516	1726
Friday	19	0107	1329	0615	1822
Saturday	20	0157	1421	0722	1923
Sunday	21	0252	1522	0824	2020
Monday	22	0356	1628	0931	2119
Tuesday	23	0454	1720	1042	2222
Wednesday	24	0541	1804	1124	2316

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

LETTERS: cont'd from page19

Congress ignored the insurrection of groups such as Antifa and Black Lives Matter. Inc when they committed “open revolt against civil authority or a constitutional government” in Seattle, Portland and, yes, Washington, DC for weeks and months.

Murders, deaths and rapes occurred [inside Seattle’s so-called autonomous zone]* yet, yet offers of support and assistance from then President Trump were ignored and the “revolutions” allowed to continue, even encouraged, by members of Congress and the predominately Democrat local administrations.

Joseph Biden commented that Antifa is just an idea, not an organization.

Maxine Waters’ stirring up a crowd with “get in their faces”, “let them know they are not welcome”, “impeach, impeach, impeach...”.

Gerald Nadler when queried about occupations in Portland, Seattle and elsewhere that was causing the destruction of lives and business responded that they were just “a myth”.

Kamala Harris – support and encouragement for bail fund in

Minnesota allowing rioters to be released from jail. Quotes such as BLM and others must continue to fight. “...they’re not going to stop ... nor should they...” are not constructive.

Nancy Pelosi – “If you’re in an arena you have to be ready to take a punch and you’ve got to be ready to throw a punch...”

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez won’t support simple voter ID laws but wants to collect names of Trump supporters and target them for retribution in violation of First Amendment rights.

Maura Healey (MA Attorney General) in support of protests: “Yes, America is burning. But that’s how forests grow”.

Do you support the insurrections and anarchy happening around the country? Will the current Congress and administration continue fomenting hate and discontent instead of reasonably doing their jobs? Is the intent to finally tear up the Constitution that you swore to uphold? recognize a number of you started with insurrection and hate in your mind and hearts but it seems others have migrated there for political survival.

In the interest of unifying the

country again, consider that you took an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution against ALL enemies, both foreign and domestic. This includes all sides of the political spectrum not just one. You are also there to represent the interests of your constituents. This includes getting control of your own inflammatory rhetoric and considering that there is more than one idea that could work. Start with balancing budgets instead of continuing into greater debt, Wuhan virus relief from the bottom up for American citizens and not mismanaged states, not spending billions overseas for ridiculous projects or U.S. corporate interests that have nothing to do with the virus and getting people back to work and helping to rebuild the small business backbone of the country.

Again, I ask -

Congress! Tear down this wall!

Marsby E Wartens, Fairhaven

**Editor’s note: Although a murder and rape occurred inside Seattle’s so-called autonomous zone, it has not been not attributed to the protesters, but lack of police presence is being blamed for the violence in the zone.*

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