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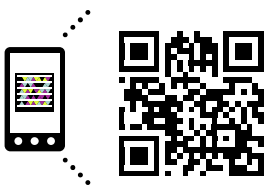
Volume 16, Issue 11 • March 11, 2021

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

## Acushnet's testing trailer gets hometown look



Acushnet's COVID testing trailer shed its former University of Rhode Island moniker and was painted with the Town Of Acushnet seal sporting a mask (see photo on page 12). The town hopes to use the mobile unit for vaccinations if it can get approval from state and federal officials. ABOVE: Acushnet town officials, state Rep. Christopher Hendricks (D)/11th Bristol (far right), town employees, and recipients of official citations of appreciation pose in front of the newly painted trailer used for COVID-19 testing at a ceremony of inauguration and appreciation on the school grounds on 3/6/21. See story on page 12. Photo by Beth David.



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### First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

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#### 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, this is getting old. We misquoted someone again. I guess someone else's voice just sounds like him (see below next column).

This is one of the annoying limitations of remote meetings. Even in person it can be difficult to know who's talking, unless you have a good and competent chairperson who makes sure people identify themselves. Yeah...like that's about to happen in a Fairhaven Selectboard meeting, right? LOL indeed.

Meanwhile, it's almost DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME! Woohoo! It's already staying lighter at night, and we even had a couple of warm days. But after Saturday, we go head first into spring. So...I changed my picture to a warm weather activity. I know, kind of pushing it, but... oh, are we ready or what?

Looks like the Selectboard is going to go through with the extra interview for the non-finalist for the top job in town government. For the record, I have no problem giving the in-house candidate an interview, even if she didn't make the finalist list on her own merits. But it should've been done with all the other interviews. One of the qualified candidates has already accepted another job offer. We might lose the other two as well. Oh, gee, what am I doing? I'm acting as if it'll be a fair process with a real interview and the other two have more than a snowball's chance in hell.

Silly me. The fix is in, I fear. But...who knows. These guys change their minds mid-sentence.

See page 4 for that.

There's plenty of other good stuff in here, of course, including an introduction to Fairhaven's new Youth Librarian (see page 7).

Well, out of room. Be sure to tell our advertisers you saw their ads in the *Neighb News*.

Until next week then



Beth David, Publisher

# Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Volume 16, Issue 11

Thursday, March 11, 2021

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Editor: Beth David

Photographers/Correspondents:

Elizabeth DaCunha, Mary Macedo, Pattie Pacella,

Jean Perry, Glenn C. Silva

Published weekly on Thursday by

Fairhaven Neighborhood News, LLC, at

166 Dogwood Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

NeighbNews@comcast.net

www.NeighbNews.com

508-979-5593 • Fax: 508-991-5580

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## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our article on the Rogers School project in last week's issue, some quotes were misattributed to Doug Brady, who sits on the Rogers School Re-use Committee. Mr. Brady was not the person who said the height of the project would "black out the entire block," or use the term "sun out." He also did not say "If you want to build that kind of a project, then I say find another place." There

is no doubt those words were spoken, but by another person. We attribute the error to the forced use of remote means to cover meetings and the failure of the chairperson to have people identify themselves when they speak. We apologize for any confusion our error may have caused. And we apologize to Mr. Brady in particular.

# COVID-19 update: Schools going back

By Beth David  
Editor

Most students in Massachusetts will be back in school full time by the end of April. Commissioner Education Jeffrey Riley said on Tuesday, 3/9, that all students must be back in school full time by the end of April.

Elementary school students need to be back in the classroom full time by April 5; middle schools by April 28. A date for high schools to return has not been announced.

After the target dates, remote and hybrid-learning will no longer count towards student learning days.

All students will be required to wear masks in schools, and adhere to other measures to fight the spread of COVID-19.

Teachers unions have pushed back saying that teachers should be vaccinated before being forced back into the classroom. Teachers are now eligible to receive the vaccine, but they must go through the same difficulties of trying to schedule a time at a variety of sites. Teachers unions are pushing to have teachers vaccinated in their schools by local

fire departments.

Families can opt out and keep students learning remotely until the end of the year. Districts are also allowed to apply for waivers.

The state is also on track to continue loosening restrictions on businesses. On March 22, the state will enter Step 1 of Phase IV of the reopening plan. The state is currently in Step 2 of Phase III. To learn more about the steps, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/reopening-massachusetts>

On Tuesday, 3/9, the state reported 1,006 COVID-19 cases from 3/8, for a total of 561,981 total confirmed cases in Mass.; 20 new deaths were recorded, bringing the total confirmed deaths in Mass. to 16,123.

As of March 2, Acushnet had moved into the yellow (from red the week before). It had 1152 total cases, with 46 active (within the last 14 days), and a 4.66% positivity rate. Fairhaven remained in the yellow with 1742 total cases, 55 active; and a 2.74% positivity rate.

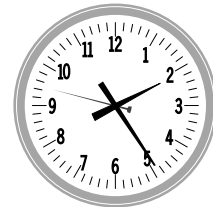
To learn more visit <https://www.mass.gov>



## Two Days to DST

Only **TWO** days before Daylight Saving Time begins, when we re-set our clocks and spring forward, to get an additional hour of sunlight. Get ready!

Be sure to push your clocks ahead one hour this weekend, at 2 a.m. on Sunday, 3/14, or before you go night-night on Saturday.



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# Rogers project out; TM postponed; Graves interview scheduled

Jean Perry

## Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Selectboard on 3/8 voted to reject the Arch Community, LLC proposal for a 62-unit affordable housing development at the old Rogers School site, but left the door open for proposals for a smaller-scale development.

Selectboard member Bob Espindola initially wanted to abstain from a decision until receiving feedback from the Capital Planning Committee about where the Rogers School could potentially place in the prioritization of future projects should the town explore another use for the building. Ultimately, though, the board concluded that regardless of any plausible alternative, Community Arch's current proposal was unsuitable.

"People have spoken up pretty heavily about it," said Selectboard member Keith Silvia. "I'd like to mothball this building and see what we can do."

The board discussed a 2018 town facility assessment and the speculation that the School Department would be seeking roughly \$8 million to renovate the Tripp School currently leased to SMEC, and move its administration there.

Selectboard Chairperson Daniel Freitas recapitulated the possibility of using that money to renovate Rogers School for town use instead of the Tripp School and mentioned that Town Hall is getting cluttered with document storage and could use Rogers School as an annex of sorts.

School Committee Chairperson Brian Munroe interjected to negate that the school administration had ever planned to renovate Tripp School as administrative space. He added that, despite the town's facility assessment that classified the school's current location on Washington Street as in a state of disrepair and recommended the Tripp School as an alternative, the present admin building only needs painting and some work, but not \$8 million worth.

Mr. Silvia suggested the town could explore grants or add Rogers School to the National Register of Historic Places, but should fairly inform the developer that his proposal is unacceptable as is.

In other matters, the board voted to postpone the Annual Town Meeting until June 12 in a 2-1 vote, with Mr. Espindola dissenting.

According to Interim Town Adminis-

trator Wendy Graves, a number of other towns in Massachusetts are postponing their annual TM until after the governor releases his final state aid figures.

Town Moderator Mark Sylvia, however, did not agree that a postponement would be helpful. He said TM would still likely have to be held remotely in June rather than the first Saturday in May, the traditional date, but said he would defer to the board.

Ms. Graves said if she had the state aid figures before TM, "Maybe we don't need to cut the budget too much."

Mr. Silvia said he was inclined to follow Ms. Graves's lead.

"If that's what she thinks, I'd have to back her on that," he said.

Mr. Espindola disagreed, and suggested the board keep public safety concerns and budgetary concerns separate. Regarding the pandemic, the town should err on the side of caution. He disagreed with postponing so that TM could possibly meet in person outside at the high school field.





Furthermore, Mr. Espindola said, he called the Massachusetts Municipal Association and spoke with the Senior Legislative Analyst Brittney Franklin

SELECT: cont'd to page 13

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# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## Ringing the bells

On March 11 the Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven (UUSF) will join grassroots people of diverse religions from around the world in sounding the alarm about the climate crisis. This multi-faith, global day of action organized by @GreenFaith is called Sacred People, Sacred Earth.

The Unitarian Memorial Church on Green Street (#CathedralByTheSea) will ring its bells 100 times at 11 am on March 11 to signal that it's the 11th hour for local climate action. UUSF urges local organizations to follow its lead and switch to 100-percent renewable electricity by 2030 by signing on to The Climate Reality Project's 100% Committed campaign, as the church community did in November.

People of all faiths are invited to sign the @GreenFaith statement here: <https://bit.ly/32TmXw3>.

## Candidates night

Fairhaven Government Access TV-Channel 18 along with the North Fairhaven Improvement Association will be hosting a Meet the Candidates Night for candidates on the ballot in the April 5, 2021 Annual Town Election, on Mon., 3/15, at 7 p.m via Zoom Webinar. It will also be broadcast live on Comcast Government Access Channel 18 and on [www.fairhavenTV.com](http://www.fairhavenTV.com).

## Chess program

Learn the Basics of Playing Chess: A Millicent Library Free Zoom Event

Caught up in "The Queen's Gambit" hype and want to learn chess? On Wednesday, March 17 at 7:00 PM on Zoom, join the Millicent Library and Nolan DeMott as he takes you on the beginning of your chess journey. Learn the basics of chess as well as fundamental chess principles. This one-time session will get you started on what you need to know in order to start playing chess and checkmating your opponents.

This Zoom event is free and requires advanced registration. To register go to <https://millicentlibrary.org/Events>.

Millicent Library has a limited number of chess game boards available for Fairhaven residents to checkout. To request a game set to pick up and take-home log onto

[SailsInc.Org](http://SailsInc.Org) with your library card and search for "classic chess" or call or email the library at 508-992-5342, [Millicent@SailsInc.Org](mailto:Millicent@SailsInc.Org).

## Safe Boating Courses

If you are interested in learning how to be safe while boating, sign up for our online, exciting, in-depth, popular, beginning boating course taking place:

Tuesdays, from 7 pm to 9pm ... April 13, 20, 27 & May 4. Final exam to be arranged (Covid-safely) in-person.

Course costs \$40, which covers the cost of the course manual.

Upon completion, you will receive a MA boat license good for discounts with many insurance companies.

Register/sign-up at: <http://flotilla65.com/public-education/>

Topics include: Introduction to Boating, Boating Law, Boat Safety Equipment, Safe Boating, Navigation, Boating Problems, Trailing, Storing and Protecting Your Boat, Hunting and Fishing, Water-skiing and River Boating

## Dollars for Scholars

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

Create profile/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. Scholarships are awarded for a variety of reasons, including academics, sports, community service, chosen major, and more.

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.

## Fhvn 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.**

For more information or a scholarship application contact historical [societyfairhaven@gmail.com](mailto:societyfairhaven@gmail.com).

## SAVE THE DATES:

### Easter Bunny Drive Through Sat., 4/3 (raindate 4/4), 1 p.m.

Due to Covid, the North Fairhaven Improvement Association will not be hosting the Easter Egg Hunt this year. However, NFIA will host the Easter Bunny. Come Out to Welcome the Easter Bunny & friends as they drive through town! Beginning and ending at Benoit Square/Oxford School.

Complete route posted soon.

### Pump Track Cleanup

Fairhaven BMX Pump Track spring cleanup, Bernese St., Fairhaven, on Sat., 4/10, 10 a.m. Bring a shovel, no experience necessary. PLEASE wear a mask. 2020 was a bust but looking to bring the good times back to our track. After a year of very little maintenance we could use your help to bring it back to life. No track building experience necessary. Just positive attitudes and a willingness to offer a little good old fashioned manual labor. Please spread the word and hope to see you there.

Find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/fairhavenBMXpumptrack/>

## Permits Online

The Fairhaven Building Department will be going online on March 1, 2021 and will no longer be accepting paper applications. There will be a kiosk in the Building Department for those without a computer who would like to apply at the Town Hall. Visit <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/building-department>

Please contact the Building Department at 508-979-4023 ext. 7.



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# Millicent welcomes new Youth Librarian

By Beth David  
Editor

Allie Thiel loves her new town and her new job at the Millicent Library, although she has yet to meet, in person, any of the patrons she was hired to work with. The new Youth Librarian moved to Fairhaven during the pandemic and got hired for her job during the pandemic.

She has tried virtual programs to introduce herself to the community, and said she is “really surprised” at how easy it has been to meet people over the phone or curbside when they pick up their items.

Her path to Youth Librarian was a bit by accident, although she has fond memories of her hometown library growing up in Townsend, Mass., and, she said she has “always worked in libraries.”

When she graduated from college, with a BA in Studio Art, there was a job for a library tech in Townsend, and she got the job.

“The director was excited I could relate to teenagers,” she said, but admitted to being a “little intimidated” when she started, being only 22 herself.

“I found out that i loved it,” said Ms. Thiel, 26. The library was right across from the middle school and students would visit the library often.

“It was just a great experience, getting to know everyone,” she said. “I love hearing about their interests. It’s great to be able to connect them

with what they’re really passionate about.”

Right now, she feels anticipation.

“To actually meet people in person, I’m really looking forward to it.”

She anticipates a phased reopening, with limited services at first. But as the weather warms up, Fairhaven residents can expect to see her outside using “really big story books that you can see from far away.”

Holding story times outside will allow for more people with social distancing. She will also put her art skills to work with a variety of art programs.

“I especially have a lot of fun with elementary age students,” said Ms. Thiel, adding that she is looking forward to the summer program which is entitled “Sails and Tails” this year, and will, as you may have guessed, include animal based programming.

Yes, she admits in our phone interview on a cold March day: “I’m dreaming of summer today.”

She’s not the only who is looking forward to in-person programs.

“So many patrons have called us



Millicent Library Youth Librarian Allie Thiel reads "Cat Nap" by Toni Yuly during a virtual Story Time. Submitted photo.

and said how much they missed it,” she said. “I’m so excited to meet the kids.”

Ms. Thiel found out about the job when she met former Library Director Carolyn Longworth as they were both birding on Egypt Lane, behind Atlas Tack, a spot now called “Carolyn’s Pond” because Ms. Longworth is an avid birder and that is one of her favorites spots.

Ms. Thiel has since moved to the center of town and can walk to work.

“It’s better getting to know a community when you’re living in it,” she said.

To see her storytime and craft videos, and learn about other programs visit <https://millicentlibrary.org>; call 508-992-5342; or email [athiel@sailsinc.org](mailto:athiel@sailsinc.org); Millicent Library 45 Center Street, Fairhaven, 02719.

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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: Mar. 13, 20, April 3, 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](mailto: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. 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 DVDs available at the New Bedford Free Public Library with a SAILS library card (call in advance to reserve).

• Sun., 3/14 at 3 p.m. *Tucked* (2018) is a raw, heartfelt drama about Jackie, an aging 80-year-old drag queen, and her unlikely friendship with a younger queen Faith. They both struggle with gender and, along the way, they realize how to truly be themselves.

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/> or visit The South Coast LGBTQ+ Network at <https://www.sclgbtqnetwork.org/winter-film-series.html>

## Art Reception

Celebrate Fluid States: New England Wax/New England Waters! Join us for a reception on Saturday, March 13 from 12-2 PM Timed-Tickets Required. For ticket info, visit <https://newbedfordart.org/on-view/>

Featuring: Willa Vennema, Stephanie Roberts-Camello, Pamela Dorris DeJong, Lola Baltzell, Nancy Whitcomb, Lia Rothstein, Deborah Peeples, Kay Hartung, Marina Thompson, Angel Dean, Lelia Stokes Weinstein, Ruth Sack, Sarah Springer, Charyl Weissbach and Camille Davidson

Fluid States: New England Wax/New England Waters highlights encaustic artworks inspired by New England's historic and awe-inspiring coasts. Themed around the fluidity seen in both wax and water, Fluid States explores New England's ecological richness and fragility. Protecting our water and the life that depends on it is an urgent necessity. In this exhibition, the artists address this urgency as they work to express water's sheer beauty through innovative approaches to an ancient medium.

## Winter Farmers Market

Fans of farmers markets can continue purchasing local food throughout the winter at Coastal Foodshed's New Bedford Winter Farmers' Market. The Market is open every **Saturday from 10am - 2pm at the Buttonwood Park Warming House (1 Oneida St, New Bedford, MA 02740) from now until April 24**

The Winter Market has several vendors offering a variety of local products, including fresh baked breads from Renegades Rising, delicious cookies and hand-pies from Rosie's Sweets, local honey from Buzzards Bay Bee Company, and local potatoes and other vegetables from Sampson Farms.

Coastal Foodshed also sells a great variety of locally grown products sourced from nearby farms and local food makers, including local veggies, eggs, salsa, jam, maple syrup, coffee and more!

There is plenty of parking at the Warming House, and all forms of payment are accepted: cash,

Mastercard, Visa, SNAP benefits, and pEBT. All SNAP customers can also earn HIP benefits at the Winter Market when they purchase locally grown produce.

To ensure the safety of customers and vendors, Coastal Foodshed works closely with the New Bedford Health Department and follows all COVID-19 safety regulations. Customers must wear a face covering and social distance while at the market.

Coastal Foodshed's mission is to strengthen the local food economy by making it easier for growers to sell, and consumers to buy, healthy, affordable, local foods. Coastal Foodshed works to increase public awareness and knowledge of health, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture, and to improve access.

To learn more about Coastal Foodshed and all of the different ways you can shop local, you can visit their website at [coastalfoodshed.org](http://coastalfoodshed.org), or find them on social media at [@coastalfoodshed](https://www.instagram.com/coastalfoodshed).

## At the Fishing Ctr

The following events take place at the New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center, 35 Bethel St., New Bedford. For more info visit: <https://fishingheritagecenter.org/programs/calendar/> or call 508-993-8894.

### Women's Work

New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center launches its new project, *Women's Work: At Sea, On Shore, At Home, In the Community*, this March with two public programs. This project will shine a light on the many roles women play in commercial fishing communities.

**On Thursday, March 11th at 7:00pm** the Center will host a virtual concert and presentation, *Women and the Sea*, by musician Debra Cowan. This program offers an engaging and informative look at the often overlooked and varied roles and experiences of women and the sea through the lens of Maritime songs and ballads. Debra emphasizes that women can overcome adversity and in some of these songs and stories, take charge and win the day. The program will be live-streamed on the Center's Facebook page, [facebook.com/NBFishingHeritageCenter](https://www.facebook.com/NBFishingHeritageCenter).



# HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

## Acushnet COVID testing CHANGES

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

- Saturdays from 9 a.m.–noon in the parking lot behind the Council on Aging (59 South Main Street) using our trailer We have witnessed a decline in the Saturday attendance and this change allows us to adjust our staffing level.

We will no longer be testing inside the gym at the Elementary School. We thank the Acushnet School Committee and the School Department for being wonderful hosts.

## Celtic Sojourn

A Virtual St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn with Brian O'Donovan, March 12, 7:30 - 8:00 PM

WGBH's A St. Patrick's Day Celtic Sojourn with Brian O'Donovan is making its return virtually this year! Enjoy a light-hearted and lively series of concerts and dance that explore the various connections of Irish music and culture around the world. The internationally-acclaimed artists from both sides of the Atlantic include Keith Murphy, Matthew Byrne, Nathan Gourley, Laura Feddersons, Hanneke Cassel, Yann Falquet, Joey Abarta, Ciaran O'Maonaigh, Caitlin nic Gabhann, Emma O'Sullivan, the Rasa Quartet, and more! Tickets: <https://www.showclix.com/tickets/theshalinliutheatre>

Rockport Music. (978) 546-7391 <https://rockportmusic.org>

## Black History/ Women's History Three Iconic Women

*Norma Jean Darden, 3/15 at noon*

*Mildred Nichols, 3/19 at noon*

*Rose Weaver, 3/22 at noon*

Be our guest as these remarkable women share their stories and the unique gifts they've used to touch and transform thousands of lives. Norma Jean Darden, groundbreaking fashion model, cookbook author and food stylist, caters to an A-list of Fortune 500 and celebrity clientele in her NYC restaurants. Rose Weaver, award-winning star of stage and screen, entertains and educates audiences with her special brand of

theatrical magic and musical marvel. Mildred Nichols, at 92, continues to shape the social, political and cultural landscape of Rhode Island through her mentorship of young women and her vision and optimism for a brighter future.

To register: <https://form.jotform.com/210638591935059>

## Kennedy Institute

On Monday, March 15, at 2:00 p.m., the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate will convene with the Consulate General of Ireland for a virtual 2021 St. Patrick's Day celebration with honored guest Taoiseach Micheál Martin, the leader of the Government of Ireland.

This lively and comprehensive program will: honor the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Friends of Ireland in Congress by Senator Edward M. Kennedy and others; celebrate the launch of "From Whence I Came: The Kennedy Legacy, Ireland and America," a new collection of essays edited by Brian Murphy and Donnacha Ó Beacháin; feature a conversation on the current state of Irish affairs and Ireland-U.S. relations with Taoiseach Micheál Martin and Dr. Robert Mauro, Executive Director of the Irish Institute at Boston College; feature a second conversation on the rich legacy of the Kennedy Family's connection with Ireland.

This program will be held on Zoom and registrants for the program will receive a webinar link via email. This program is made possible by the generous support of the Irish Government Emigrant Support Programme.

To register visit <https://www.emkinstitute.org>

## Short films

FirstWorks, a Rhode Island non-profit dedicated to building community through world-class arts, continues to bring performances to the community and lead thoughtful conversations around topics of social justice and stewardship of the earth. The FirstWorks Spring 2021 lineup of programming centers around two key themes. RAISE YOUR VOICE programs amplify diverse voices and celebrate differences through the performing arts; and EARTH FIRST

programs explore environmental stewardship, sustainability, and promote youth learning about science and climate change through the arts. Programs are accessible on the FirstWorks Virtual Stage. Tickets are free with pre-registration required at <http://first-works.org>.

## Our Country: Art and Activism in Conversation

Film Screenings and Artist Talk with Daniel Bernard Roumain and Drew Dollaz. **March 11, 8:00 p.m.**

FirstWorks screens two short films: "Our Country," a film commission created by composer Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR) and flexing dance pioneer Drew Dollaz, reflects on the history and recent visibility of police brutality against black and brown bodies in the U.S. "About Face" is the first installment in a short film trilogy that puts a different spin on the school-to-prison pipeline, and the role of fathers of black and brown children in the disruption of that paradigm. "About Face" is based on the evening-length stage work "The Just and The Blind" by collaborators Marc Bamuthi Joseph, DBR, Drew Dollaz, Yak Films, and Yoram Savion. In a conversation hosted by FirstWorks Executive Artistic Director Kathleen Pletcher, DBR and Dollaz share their perspectives on the activism needed to achieve racial justice and true democracy.

## CONTRA-TIEMPO: "joyUS justUS"

Public Livestream: **March 18, 7:30 p.m.** On Demand: March 19-21, 2021. Public Residency Activities: March 20-25, 2021

CONTRA-TIEMPO Urban Latin Dance Theater explores joy as the ultimate expression of resistance. Their performance "joyUS justUS" reclaims the narrative of people of color in the U.S. and flips it on its head with stories of joy collected from communities of color in South Los Angeles. Public community engagement events include radical joy sessions, a community "get-down" dance party, and workshops for students and educators.

## Miwa Matreyek: "Infinitely Yours"

Public Livestream and Artist Up Close: **April 22, 7:00 p.m.** Available for On Demand Viewing: April 23-24, 2021

Using animation, projections, and her own moving shadow. Followed by an Artist Up Close conversation

# Recipe of the Week

## Spicy Grilled Shrimp

- 1 large clove garlic
- 1 teaspoon coarse salt
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- 2 pounds large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 8 wedges lemon, for garnish

Preheat grill for medium heat.

In a small bowl, crush the garlic with the salt. Mix in cayenne pepper and paprika, and then stir in olive oil and lemon juice to form a paste. In a large bowl, toss shrimp with garlic paste until evenly coated.

Lightly oil grill grate. Cook shrimp for 2 to 3 minutes per side, or until opaque. Transfer to a serving dish, garnish with lemon wedges, and serve.

*From allrecipes.com*

## To share a recipe with your neighbors

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

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Or send check or money order to FNN, 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719. Thank you for reading the *Neighb News!*



# Dear Frankie

## Coping With Loss

*Dear Frankie,*  
Last week my brother Bodhi went to the vet. He was very sick and weak. When my Mom came home, he wasn't with her. She told me she had to have him put down.

She explained that the vet gave him a shot that made him go to sleep forever. My Mom said she promised both of us, when we were puppies, that we would never have to live in pain or be so sick that we couldn't eat or stand up.

I guess that was the best thing to do for Bodhi. But my heart is just broken. I can't stop feeling sad. I have no one to play with or share my thoughts.

Can you tell me how I can stop missing him so much?

Best Regards,

*Dali*

*Dear Dali,*

Losing a close family member is very hard. What you are experiencing is grief and loss for your brother. Grieving is a natural process we all go through when someone we love leaves us. What you need now is comfort and time to say goodbye. Here are some things other dogs have

done that comforted them. These are just suggestions. Understand everyone grieves in their own way.

Perhaps you could wear Bodhi's collar to feel something that touched him every day and also has his scent. You might even sleep in the bed where he slept. Sitting close to your Mom and being with someone who loved him as much as you did might also offer you some comfort.

It's essential to stay healthy and physically strong. Even if you don't feel hungry, eat your meals. You must keep up your strength, go for walks even when you don't feel like it. I know you go to the dog park, so talk to your friends. Reminisce with them about the times that Bodhi was goofy and funny. Humans are big believers in sharing thoughts and feelings as a way to feel better. In this case, they may be right.

But here's the thing, Dali, even though he is gone, when you think of him, it will be of times he was alive, and the two of you were together. These are memories you will have and cherish forever. I know it's hard to believe, but thoughts of him won't hurt as much as time goes by. There will even be a time in the future when you think of him that will make you smile or maybe even laugh. I promise.

*Best, Frankie*

© 2021, Geneva Woodruff  
*Frankie is an eight-year-old schnauzer poodle and a rescue. She is a*

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

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# DaCunha's

## Dispatches

News from high school in the age of COVID

By Elizabeth DaCunha



Special to the Neighb News

### Time to Go Back Full Time?

As the COVID numbers in Massachusetts regarding cases and deaths are improving, our state leaders such as Governor Baker are starting to initiate the plan of having students fully back in school by the end of spring.

Now, it is clear that most people, if not all, are looking forward to getting back to normal, but is it too soon?

Let's find out how FHS students are feeling about this news of possibly being fully back in school very soon.

Junior Rylee Botelho feels that, "starting full time school back up so late in the year is a bad idea. Everyone has gotten used to the flow of things this year... and changing it again would just cause chaos. Also, I think that if we try to start up again, the spread would just get bigger and cause us to have another hybrid year for 2022."

Emerson Bourgault reflected on past years and how tough it would be to go back fully in school after such an odd year: "It would definitely be difficult to adapt to full time school again since I only go in every other week and get out of school almost two hours earlier than I did last year.

It's crazy looking back at the very busy schedule I endured my sophomore year with honors and AP classes along with sports."

Based on this, Ms. Bourgault stated, "I believe our best choice would be to finish how we are and wait until next year so we start the new school year fresh."

Many students I spoke with felt similarly to Ms. Botelho and Ms. Bourgault as they do not know how easy it will be to go from essentially spending half of the school year at home to the full 180 days in school.

Although we have been fully in school for the majority of our lives prior to the pandemic, it seems to be a hard idea to grasp for some as the

Although we have been fully in school for the majority of our lives prior to the pandemic, it seems to be a hard idea to grasp for some as the pandemic has affected our lives greatly.

pandemic has affected our lives greatly.

On the flip side, some students are very eager to return back to school full time.

For example, Ireland Nordstrom stated, "It would obviously be a drastic change but I believe I am ready for this because I learn best on my in person weeks anyway. After being hybrid for almost a year now, it would definitely take time getting used to, but I'm sure we will all be able to successfully handle the full

time in school by the end of spring."

Many like Ms. Nordstrom finds the in school weeks much easier to learn. So, if anything, going back to school full time may benefit students as they will be able to receive more learning time and opportunities than the hybrid plan has to offer.

Looking forward to the MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) and future standardized testing, freshman Sophia Fleurent is anything but apprehensive about starting full time school so soon.

"I think we should go back full time ASAP, and that it wouldn't be hard to adjust because for the past year we've been adjusting so much, so we are practically used to it at this point," she said. "It will benefit our grades and help us to catch up and better prepare for the MCAS."

Based on how students feel about the Governor's statement on being back in school full time, I've been able to conclude several things.

First of all, I think that being back in school full time is something that most people are excited about, but I also understand the nervousness that surrounds this idea. Of course, with COVID, there are endless possibilities and changes that can occur within the snap of a finger, but it is safe to say that sooner or later we are going to have to face this and adjust accordingly.

What are your thoughts on bringing back a full in-school schedule back for the end of this school year? Do you think students will be ready to make an adjustment like this within such a short amount of time, or do you think it's worth waiting to go back to full time school?



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# Acushnet weekly testing a “labor of love”

By Beth David

Editor

Acushnet’s new testing trailer has a new look. The town has been using the COVID-19 Mobile Unit for weeks, while it still had the markings of the University of Rhode Island. Now it is undisputably Acushnet’s, sporting new graphics, including a mask over the town seal.

Town officials, joined by state Rep. Christopher Hendricks (D), 11th Bristol, town employees, and volunteers, held an inauguration ceremony on Saturday, 3/6/21, in frigid temperatures on the school grounds. They used the occasion to hand out 25 citations to individuals who have volunteered to help with weekly testing of Acushnet residents and school staff.

The citations extend the Selectboard’s “Thankfulness” in recognition for “selfless dedication and commitment to the Town of Acushnet and its residents during the COVID 19 pandemic. Your efforts kept our residents safe and for that we are most grateful! We commend you for your hard work.”

Fire chief Kevin Gallagher led the group of about 30 people in a moment of silence for those who have died from the virus.

He told the crowd that the mobile unit has been true benefit to the community as they work their way out of the crisis. It has made it possible to go to different sites for testing, reaching more people, including town employees and school staff.



TOP: Acushnet’s COVID-19 testing trailer sports new graphics, including a mask over the town seal as it awaits being the star attraction at a ceremony of inauguration on the school grounds on 3/6/21. The town hopes to use the mobile unit for vaccinations if it can get approval from state and federal officials. LEFT: Selectboard chairperson Kevin Gaspar speaks while Selectboard member David Wojnar listens. RIGHT: One of two rooms inside the trailer is set up to test residents. Photos by Beth David.

The town has administered a total of 9,073 tests since September, including PCR, antibody, and rapid tests, a “truly a remarkable feat,” said Chief Gallagher, since the town has about 10,000 residents.

One more thing: “This has been kind of fun.”

The volunteers have gotten to know their fellow residents, many who return every week to be tested.

“If we don’t see them, we get worried,” he said. “This has been a labor of love.”

Selectboard chairperson Kevin Gaspar said the effort by the fire department, other town departments, and volunteers has been extraordinary.

“Thank you all for protecting this community,” he said. “It’s nice to be a small town where everybody comes together.”

Selectboard member David Desroches touted “Team Acushnet” and noted that during the summer the Council on Aging handed out food to more than 200 families.

Selectboard member David Wojnar said the best part of the job was being able to say “thank you.”

He noted the different departments that supported the effort, saying it was a “all hands on deck approach.”

Officials handed out citations to 25 people, including Chief Gallagher, who, presumably did not know he was also a recipient.

When he got to Heather Sylvia, the director of the Council on Aging, Chief Gallagher said she has built the COA/Senior Center into the “gem that it is.”

He said he was going to call her the “mom” of Acushnet, but decided it was better to call her its big sister.

Superintendent of Schools Paula J. Bailey expressed her “sincere appreciation” for the support to the schools, which includes weekly testing of staff. It gives



teachers peace of mind, she said.

“And when teachers feel good, it trickles down to our students,” said Dr. Bailey.

She said she was happy to see light at the end of the tunnel, as some students were scheduled to go back into the classroom four days starting next week, then full time next month, and credited the support of the community for that.

Chief Gallagher introduced Rep. Hendricks, calling him a “true champion,” and saying he “gets it,” and helped with everything the town asked for.

Mr. Hendricks said for Acushnet to get the infrastructure in place was remarkable. He noted the difference between towns and cities.

“You can get things done in towns,” he said. “This is a great example of the town and the chief doing so much with so little...in a hell on earth pandemic.”

He said the focus on Beacon Hill has been to prioritize people for receiving vaccines, including teachers. When they do become available for local municipalities to administer them, he will “fight tooth and nail” to make sure Acushnet gets some doses, since they have the infrastructure in place.

“I’m so impressed with everything that’s going on here in Acushnet. I just wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart,” said Rep. Hendricks, and for the people of the 11th Bristol District.

Chief Gallagher closed out the ceremony reading a note from a resident thanking them and saying not to give up.

“We’re not going to give up. We would not give up on anybody in this town,” said Chief Gallagher and added that the fight to get vaccines was next.

To see the ceremony visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnPBQM OzMSk>

## SELECT: cont'd from page4

who told him the governor would be increasing his state aid budget by 3.5%.

"From their perspective, it's not unlike any other year prior to COVID," said Mr. Espindola. "We never get the budget numbers solidified from the governor before we make the budget."

He said only a handful of towns have considered delaying TM, and none of them did it because of the budget, rather it is because of COVID, and wanting to hold the meeting in person outside..

Mr. Espindola said Ms. Franklin reported that the governor has been aware of municipal anxiety over state aid and worked to "make local municipalities feel more comfortable going into the budget season."

Mr. Freitas said he disliked the remote TM and Mr. Silvia claimed that most people did not like it.

Mr. Sylvia, the town moderator, said that although a few towns may hold theirs outdoors, the vast majority will remain remote amidst the ongoing risk of the pandemic and the logistics involved in pandemic-related requirements such as social distancing. He reminded the board that Fairhaven has the largest representative TM in the state, with 400 elected members and cited the "logistical nightmare" of trying to conduct TM on a football field.

He said remote was the "safest way to conduct business for the town." The town has already done it twice now, successfully, he added.

"My very strong recommendation is that we continue to do it remotely," said Mr. Sylvia.

Mr. Freitas pivoted back to the budgetary matter to support postponing to wait for solid state aid numbers, but Mr. Espindola again referred to what Ms. Franklin recommended.

"I think she knows what she's talking about," said Mr. Espindola. "I don't really understand the rationale (of postponing)."

Planning Board Chairperson John Farrell spoke via Zoom about the time-sensitive nature of FEMA's amended flood maps that need to be approved by TM by July 12. He asked whether Ms. Graves had looked into any other time-sensitive matters that could be affected by postponing TM. She said she did not contact the Planning Board, if that was what Mr. Farrell was implying. Mr. Farrell asked if she had contacted anybody, and Mr. Freitas said if there was a conflict of any kind that people would be letting them know.

Mr. Freitas motioned to postpone until June 12, and it passed 2-1 with Mr.

Espindola voting "no."

Later in the meeting, the board scheduled Ms. Graves's interview for the town administrator position for Thursday, 3/11, at 4:30 p.m., but not before Mr. Espindola pointed out the apparent advantage Ms. Graves has by knowing which questions would be asked ahead of time, an amenity not available to the three finalists picked by the TA Screening Committee and interviewed on 2/16.

One finalist, Ari Sky, has since withdrawn from consideration after accepting an offer by Lakeville during the three weeks Mr. Freitas and Mr. Silvia have taken to accommodate Ms. Graves's interview. Her 2/23 interview was postponed after her attorney issued Mr. Espindola a Cease and Desist letter alleging that he had made defamatory remarks about her, remarks which Mr. Espindola denied (*See "TA candidate sends cease & desist to Selectboard*

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..it's not unlike any other year prior to COVID. We never get the budget numbers solidified from the governor before we make the budget.

[Bob Espindola]

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*member" Neighb News 2/25 issue).*

Prior to the 2/16 interviews, the board had taken measures to uphold fairness by withholding the live broadcast of the meeting and the recording's release until after the interviews were over. At the end of that meeting, Mr. Silvia motioned to grant Ms. Graves an interview, despite her having been passed over as a finalist in the screening process. The vote was 2-1, with Mr. Espindola dissenting. His motion to appoint Jennifer Callahan as TA went unseconded.

Before calling for measures to impart some degree of fairmindedness for the finalists already interviewed, Mr. Espindola said he received a call from Gary Carter, a Fairhaven resident who applied for the position and claimed he was told that he would be a finalist and would receive an invitation for a final interview but never did. Mr. Espindola said he was interested in knowing why Mr. Carter was not considered since the board opened up interviews to a

candidate beyond those recommended by the screening committee.

Mr. Espindola also pointed out that Mr. Silvia did not disclose his interest in interviewing another candidate until after the other three candidates were interviewed.\*\*

Mr. Espindola also suggested Ms. Graves should be interviewed remotely via Zoom as the other candidates were, and each Selectboard member should ask Ms. Graves the same number of questions limited to the same subjects.

Ms. Graves asked if she should leave the room, and as she did, Mr. Espindola commented, "I mean this meeting is being recorded, anybody can watch it... this is where we are."

Mr. Espindola gave a summary of which questions were asked by whom.

Mr. Freitas took offense to Mr. Espindola's mention of Mr. Carter, referring to it as having "dropped a bomb" and said he did not recall Mr. Carter's name while sitting as a self-appointed member of the Screening Committee. He asked Mr. Espindola why he had to wait until the meeting to ask about Mr. Carter and asked, "You couldn't ask me in private?"

"No, because we can't talk about this stuff outside of our meetings," said Mr. Espindola.

"You sure? You can't talk about stuff outside of meetings?" asked Mr. Freitas.

"We cannot, you and I cannot talk about these things outside of meetings and I think you know that," said Mr. Espindola.\* "My point was just that if other candidates are coming forward and asking to be interviewed, I just feel like we need to be, you know, we opened a can of worms and we need to be sure that we are able to address them."

Mr. Freitas and Mr. Silvia agreed that they would ask Ms. Graves the same questions that they asked the three finalists, as would Bernie Lynch, the town's hiring consultant.

When Ms. Graves returned to the room Mr. Freitas told her, "You will be asked the same questions that were asked — that we were — that's part of the thing."

*\*Editor's Note: It is a violation of Open Meeting Law for a quorum of members to communicate directly about matters within the jurisdiction of the Selectboard outside of a noticed meeting (G.L. c. 30A, § 18). Fairhaven has a three member board, therefore two constitutes a quorum.*

*\*\*Corrects error from previous versions. Mr. Espindola did not mention a conflict of interest involving Mr. Silvia.*

# 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>**

## Next Level Volleyball Co-ed Clinics

Coach Jacob Girard has designed the next level volleyball clinic for young athletes who want to take their volleyball game to the next level. Coach Girard has volleyball coaching experience in New England's professional Women's Volleyball team, division three NCAA Collegiate volleyball, and Junior Olympic club volleyball.

The next level volleyball clinics are drill and workout based to focus on improving the skills used to play volleyball. Days : Tuesdays Time: 6-7:30 p.m. Cost: \$75 Members; \$100 Non-Members. Starts March 23rd, Ends April 27th. Ages: 10-14 years old

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[http://fairhavenma.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA\\_COA/index](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.

### Eco Challenge

*Fairhaven Sustainability Committee  
2021 ECO Challenge JOIN Team  
Southcoast April 1-30.*

The Fairhaven Sustainability Committee is sponsoring Team Southcoast in the ECO Challenge outdoor time, in April. Teams are created and each team member is responsible for tracking their own ECO Challenge activities which include reducing plastic use, saving water, eating vegetarian, planting, increasing time, contacting officials regarding environmental issues, among many other actions.

The following link will explain how the challenge works. <https://ecochallenge.org/ecochallenge-platform/hoe-it-works/> Registration runs through the month of March and the challenge begins in April.

If you are interested in participating in this fun challenge, go to <http://bit.ly/EarthMonthEcochallenge> or call the Fairhaven Senior Center at 508-979-4029

### Tax Assistance

The Senior Center will be offering tax assistance every Tuesday and Thursday to low income seniors. Please call the Center at 508-979-4029 to set up an appointment. You will be given a list of items to bring to your appointment and a form to fill out. It is mandatory that you bring the forms and your 2019 tax return.

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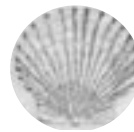
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NMLS # 422864

# Time to renew dog licenses in Acushnet

It is time to renew dog licenses in Acushnet. Deadline is March 31, 2021. A \$15 late fee plus a \$50 citation per dog may be imposed after March 31.

Due to COVID-19, town hall buildings are closed to the public until further notice, however, the Town Clerk's office staff is still available to serve the public.

Please call the town clerk's office at 508-998-0215 for assistance.

Dog licensing payments are accepted by

- Dropping them in the payment mail slot located on the Parting Ways building front door

- Mailing to Acushnet Town Clerk, 130 Main St., Acushnet, MA 02743.

Be sure to include updated proof of rabies vaccination.

Fees for individual dogs: \$10 for spayed/neutered; \$15 for unaltered.

Kennel license fees: \$20 for 3-4 dogs; \$50 for 5-15 dogs; \$100 for 15+ dogs.

NOTE: State law requires a valid

rabies vaccination certificate of dogs six months and prior to licensing.

The real cost of corruption in government, whether it is local, state, or federal, is a loss of the public trust.

Mike Quigley



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# Department budgets taking big hits for FY22

Jean Perry

## Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Finance Committee has so far reviewed the Fiscal Year 2022 budgets of most town departments, including the “Big Four”—Fire/EMS, Police, Schools the Department of Public Works—on 2/25 & 3/4.

The School Department, like all departments, was instructed to cut 10% off the bat. Its \$400,000 cut to its requested operating budget, including the \$200,000 that Interim Town Administrator and Finance Director/Treasurer/Collector Wendy Graves told them to also factor in due to a decline in school choice income, will be deeply felt.

The proposed \$22,789,000 budget is a 3.89% increase over FY21, which, said Superintendent DR. Robert Baldwin, combined with the 1.1% increase of FY20, is only about a 5% increase over two years.

“Our hope is to maintain, expand, and enhance the educational program... as we get back to a more normal next year,” said Dr. Baldwin. “And we hope to be as open as we can in the process.”

The district’s main concerns this upcoming year are pandemic-related learning gaps and social/emotional wellbeing issues and restoring things to what students and teachers knew pre-pandemic. But as it stands now, the district is down 89 students, which is typical across the state today, said Dr. Baldwin. Some students left the

public school setting to pass the pandemic home-schooled, but Dr. Baldwin anticipates that most, if not all, will return. The Acushnet student population is down after relative consistency over the last five or so years.

Nonetheless, it is a level-service budget Dr. Baldwin presented, but he reminded the FinCom that the town used several one-time-spending funding sources to balance the school budget last year, including CARES Act funding, of over \$1 million to fund the hybrid and remote-learning programs, personal protective equipment, and other mitigating measures to control the spread of COVID-19.

For Dr. Baldwin, this is not the year to make significant cuts to schools: “My heart breaks for our kids... and I’m not settling for a dime less for those (level) services....”

He said they would plan for level services and hope for federal relief and increased town revenue this year.

Last year, the town used \$400,000 in free cash to balance the town budget, said FinCom chair Padraic Elliott.

“And we all held our breath and said hopefully this is a one-time thing,” he said, adding that six months later the town was dipping into free cash again, this time for \$285K.

Mr. Elliott wanted to know the precise impacts of the cut, and Dr. Baldwin said he would present that to FinCom ahead of its votes to recommend budgets to Town Meeting.

Mr. Elliott said the \$400K would

have to come from somewhere, either free cash or other departments.

“We just can’t take money out of the air,” said Mr. Elliott. “There’s a lot of cutting across a lot of departments, and everybody’s going to be running pretty close to the bone.”

FinCom member Kevin Gallagher reminded the committee that during its meeting with the police and fire chiefs, FinCom said it would prioritize public safety should revenue increase.

“We can’t be promising that to everyone,” cautioned Mr. Gallagher.

When School Committee member Pam Kuechler asked for an explanation of the \$400K cut, Ms. Graves said that while working on the budget and making cuts relative to revenue reductions, she discovered the school district’s \$200K decrease in revenue. Dr. Baldwin called the additional \$200K cut “an extra whack” and asked whether other town departments with revenue decreases had to make the same relative cuts.

School Committee member Brian Munroe said he understood the need for cuts amid decreasing revenues, but noted that in the past, when school revenues increased, the schools did not get a “bonus.”

“We do have a hard time swallowing the additional cut that the other departments aren’t be asking to take,” said Mr. Monroe.

Town Accountant Anne Carreiro said she would work with Dr. Baldwin

FINCOM: cont’d on page 21

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# Candidate Statements: Board of Health



**Barbara  
Acksen**

I am asking for your consideration as a candidate for the Board of Health. I previously served on the Board and thus am well aware of how it functions.

The board has experienced considerable unrest this year and is currently welcoming a new Health agent, David Flaherty.

The presence of someone on the Board already familiar with its processes would help the Board get up to speed more rapidly. There are many concerns at this time with the Covid being the most important...Facilitating access to vaccinations for all citizens and managing compliance with regulations to keep us all safe are central.

Also important is providing information and education to our citizens of resources to help them cope with the many stressors that the Covid virus has brought on. These are in addition to the regulation of farms, businesses sewage, animals ,etc. that the Board deals with daily.

I feel it is essential to have a health care professional on the board during the Pandemic to facilitate response planning, outreach and consideration of the social determinants of health that are being impacted, as well as providing understanding of the emotional stressors affecting us. I have a near 50 year career as a health care professional having worked with both my masters and doctorate in psychology. I have had a practice in town for 40 years where I work with all ages. My work also included running clinics. serving as a longtime professor, and conducting research in varied settings.

These experiences gave me relevant skills for the Board.

Currently I chair Greater New Bedford Allies for Health and Wellness, a coalition of 738 members made up of health, human service, government workers, and community members who work together to improve the health and welfare of the nine surrounding communities including Fairhaven. A focus of the Coalition has been to get daily updates about Covid team meetings and resources to its members. Rapid provision of information allows workers and community members timely access to resources. It also provides me with broad affiliations and knowledge of health issues and resources to bring to our Board.

As someone who grew up in Fairhaven, I feel I have a sense of people's hopes and concerns. I have been active in town committees and organizations. As the Chair of the Homecoming Committee I know we all look forward to the time when we can come together and celebrate. I want to work to get us there.

As a Board member, I would keep you informed, enforce regulations to keep you safe, and provide a respectful hearing to all people and businesses that come before the Board.

I will work diligently for you and respectfully ask for your vote on April 5.



**Kevin Gallagher**

My name is Kevin Gallagher and I am a candidate for the vacant seat on the Fairhaven Board of Health. I would like to thank Beth David and the *Fairhaven Neighborhood News* for this opportunity to introduce myself to the community.

I am a 25 year resident of Fairhaven and, along with my wife Cindy, have

teenage twins (Jake and Sydney) as well as an adult son (Eric Reilly) who is a new father and Fairhaven homeowner. I serve on the Fairhaven Finance committee and I am a first time candidate for local office.

For the past 35 years, I have been employed by the Town of Acushnet; first as a call firefighter, next as a fulltime firefighter/paramedic and, for the last 17 years, as Fire Chief. Throughout the years, I have worked with numerous local, state and national government entities and officials. I have served on various boards and committees, from writing the state Building Code to presiding over the regional EMS Council.

I wouldn't be running for the Board of Health if I didn't firmly believe that my experience and training wouldn't be of value to the residents of my community, particularly during this crucial time. The Covid 19 pandemic has upended all of our lives. We have all been forced to make significant changes, to make sacrifices and to individually, and collectively, step up so together we can step out of this crisis.

I have played a major role in Acushnet's response to the pandemic. I have worked closely with health officials, other public safety departments, as well as town administration to craft a local level response. Out of necessity we fought, unsuccessfully in this instance, to bring state sponsored testing to the suburbs of New Bedford. From that defeat we fought back by doing it on our own. Since September 2020, I have been involved in the weekly testing of teachers and town employees and, on 16 separate occasions, conducted community wide testing clinics. We are closing in on 10,000 tests administered in just five months.

I have learned several lessons from this nearly daily involvement in local government's response to the pandemic. This crisis is terribly real. Its impact on the lives of our families, friends and neighbors has been unlike any other emergency in our lifetimes. Its impacts will be felt for years to come. While the federal government provides funding and the state government provides guidance, the local level needs to provide the leadership and focus. Residents expect local leaders to be engaged, to enforce the rules fairly, equitably and without outside influence. In my career I have learned that in order for leaders to lead there must be trust. Unfortunately, trust in elected officials has been broken at every level of government at a time when it is needed the most, in this time of crisis.

No candidate should claim to have all the answers. I

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



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# Public Hearings/Legal Notices

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

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2021 FAIRHAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS REGISTRATION INFORMATION 2021-2022 Academic Year

Children who are expected to enter Kindergarten or First Grade in the Fairhaven Public Schools next September must be registered at their neighborhood school the week of March 8-12, 2021. Parents must call the school during registration week (March 8 - 12) between 9:00 am and until 3:00 pm and give the secretary information on their incoming kindergarten student. The secretary will email/mail the paperwork required to register their child. Please return the completed packet by March 31, 2021.

Entrance age Kindergarten: Any child, resident of Fairhaven, who turns age five (5) on or before **August 31, 2021 is eligible to register for Kindergarten.**  
Entrance age First Grade: Any child, resident of Fairhaven, who is six (6) years of age on or before **August 31, 2021 is eligible for first grade.**

Children already attending Kindergarten in the Fairhaven Public Schools do not need to register for first grade.

Items that must be provided at the time of registration are:

- Birth Certificate
- Immunization records
- Residency Statement
- Proof of Identity
- Registration Form

Certified copy of probate court order or judgment relative to the custody of the child. In the event of a restraining order or other legal decree, please ensure that up-to-date information is on file in the school office.

For additional information please visit [www.fairhavenps.org](http://www.fairhavenps.org)

The Fairhaven Public Schools offers all programs, activities and employment opportunities without regard to gender, sexual orientation, race, color, marital status, disability, religion, homelessness, or national origin.

Questions can be answered by contacting your neighborhood school.

East Fairhaven School 508-979-4058  
LeRoy L. Wood School 508-979-4073

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Monday, March 22, 2021 at 6:30pm  
Town Hall, 40 Center Street  
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

<https://zoom.us/j/93235001083?pwd=ZCtnNUirRDFWUnJOUm1yT2lZTzFOdz09>  
or CALL 1-929-205-6099  
Meeting ID: 932 3500 1083  
Passcode: 564525

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing pursuant to Code of the Town of Fairhaven Chapter 192, Wetlands, to seek public comment on the proposed regulations on the Buffer Zone and Winter Delineation and Certificates of Compliance Requests associated with the Fairhaven Wetlands Bylaw (Chapter 192):

a. In order to protect and preserve the public interests and values of the wetlands and waterways of the Town of Fairhaven, activities in Buffer Zone Resource Areas should be avoided to the fullest extent practicable. Based on available science and information, the Conservation Commission has determined that, generally, maintenance of an undisturbed vegetative buffer zone and associated setbacks will serve to protect most wetland resource areas from adverse impacts related to development elsewhere within the Buffer Zone.

b. Delineating or verifying resource area boundaries during the winter months is difficult and under extreme conditions virtually impossible. Vegetation and other indicators of hydrology that are used to determine wetland boundaries are not readily observable or may be misleading during these times.

Any persons or organizations interested in providing comments and/or asking questions will be given the opportunity to be heard. If unable to attend this public hearing, please direct questions and comments to Whitney McClees, Conservation Agent at either [conservation@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:conservation@fairhaven-ma.gov) or (508) 979-4023, ext. 128.

The draft language for the proposed regulations may be viewed electronically at: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/conservation-commission/pages/proposed-draft-regulations>

Public participation will be via virtual means only: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting

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

Geoff Haworth, Chair, Fairhaven  
Conservation Commission  
FNN: 3/11/21

## Fairhaven Planning Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at 6:30 pm  
Banquet Room, Town Hall, 40 Center Street  
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Notice is hereby given that the Fairhaven Planning Board will conduct two Public Hearings at 6:30 PM on Tuesday March 23, 2021, remotely and from Town Hall. The Planning Board Meeting will be conducted remotely for the public and will be televised live on Fairhaven TV Channel 18 and [fairhaventv.com](http://fairhaventv.com). To Join the Meeting from home Log on to:

<https://zoom.us/j/9222560167?pwd=T0pnSHpmajRlNUdTeGVUV1dTdEh6dz09>  
or Telephone 1-929-205-6099;  
Meeting ID: 922 2256 0167; Password: 934287

1. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive information and public comment on the following *Definitive Subdivision* application: 1) **DS 2021-03-Beach Street Masse**, a proposal for a one-lot subdivision. The applicants, Daniel E. and Jillian A. Masse, are requesting approval through the Definitive Subdivision review process to develop an unaccepted paper street to create frontage to build a house. The location is Map 19 Lot 19 (35,025 square feet) on Beach Street between Alpine and Newbury Streets.

2. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive information and public comment on the following *Definitive Subdivision* application: 1) **DS21-02-Hermeneau Frederick Avenue**, a proposal for a one-lot subdivision. The applicants, Steven M. & Sandra J. Hermeneau, are requesting approval through the Definitive Subdivision review process to develop what is currently an unaccepted paper street to connect to an undersized lot which they feel is "grandfathered" in order to build a house. The location is Map 29A Lots

168 and 169 (10,000 square feet between 2 lots) on a paper road listed as Frederick Avenue off of Scoticut Neck Road in Fairhaven.

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

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

John Farrell Jr., Chairman of the Planning Board  
FNN: 3/4/21, 3/11/21

## Acushnet Planning Commission

Acushnet Planning Commission  
Notice of Zoom Public Hearings  
March 18, 2021 – 6:30 pm

Notice is hereby given that the Acushnet Planning Commission will meet at 6:30 p.m. on March 18, 2021 to hear the following applications:

1. **Site Plan Review, 158 Main St., 166 Main St., and 17 Wing Rd. Acushnet, MA. At 6:45 p.m.**, the application proposed by Delta Realty, LLC (site owner) and New England Retail Development, LLC (proposed site operator) for Site Plan Review concerning property at 158 Main Street, 166 Main Street and 17 Wing Road. The proposal is for a 3,995 square foot gas station and convenience store within the Business Village District.

2. **Site Plan Review and Solar Special Permit, 14-47 Park Drive Acushnet MA. At 7:35 pm** via Zoom Meetings in accordance with Acushnet General Bylaws, Zoning Article VIII, Sections 3.4 and 3.5, and the Acushnet Subdivision Rules and Regulations, Article III, Section 313, to process an application for a site plan review and a special permit for a 7.5 MW solar array proposed by Syncarpha Park Drive LLC. The engineer is Weston & Sampson.

3. **Site Plan Review and Solar Special Permit, 1052 Main Street, Acushnet MA. At 8:00 pm** via Zoom Meetings in accordance with Acushnet General Bylaws, Zoning Article VIII, Sections 3.4 and 3.5, and the Acushnet Subdivision Rules and Regulations, Article III, Section 313, to process an application for a site plan review and a special permit for a 1 MW solar array proposed by Woodridge Renewables, LLC. The engineer is SITEC, Inc.

4. **Site Plan Review and Solar Special Permit, Cushing Lane – Assessors Map 7 – Lot 26, Acushnet MA. At 8:25 pm** via Zoom Meetings in accordance with Acushnet General Bylaws, Zoning Article VIII, Sections 3.4 and 3.5, and the Acushnet Subdivision Rules and Regulations, Article III, Section 313, to process an application for a site plan review and a special permit for a 2 MW solar array proposed by White's Farm, Inc. The engineer is SITEC, Inc.

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84483138468?pwd=YVZ2OGFBQmpMRm1tUFBkNlIpeno4dz09>  
Meeting ID: 844 8313 8468  
Passcode: 020942  
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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)  
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)  
Meeting ID: 844 8313 8468  
Passcode: 020942

Find your local number:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84483138468?pwd=ZCtnNUirRDFWUnJOUm1yT2lZTzFOdz09>  
The plans and accompanying documentation for the above hearings are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office by appointment only, Parting Ways Building, 130 Main St. 1st Floor.

Marc Cenerizio, Chairman  
FNN: 3/4/21, 3/11/21

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**WANTED TO BUY** in Fairhaven: 2+BR/2+Bath house, 1,250-2,250 sq. ft. If you have plans to sell in the next 2-4 months, we'd love a heads up. Would consider mixed use property. We are not investors. Looking to relocate. No agents, please (already have one). Thanks! [ajj108@yahoo.com](mailto:ajj108@yahoo.com)

**FRANKIE: cont'd from page 10**  
*certified emotional support animal for a single retired educator.*

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

**GALLAGHER: cont'd from page 18**  
don't. My simple pledge to the voters of Fairhaven is that I will bring the lessons of leadership, the laser like focus that these times demand, and the willingness to go the extra mile to rebuild the trust lost in the Fairhaven Board of Health.

I ask for your vote on April 5th.

**ALL PHASES OF CARPENTRY** Roofs, decks, siding. Small jobs, big jobs. Free estimates. Call Dave, 508-971-0929.

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**FINCOM: cont'd from page 17**  
looking at special funds and revolving funds to potentially mitigate the cuts.

In contrast to school choice revenue, the town's school choice expense went up an additional \$100,000 to send approximately 20 more Fairhaven students out of the district.

During the 3/4 meeting, Highway Superintendent John Charbonneau said he did not know how the department will function with the drastic cuts.

Beginning with the tools line item, \$2,000 was cut from a budget of only \$2,500.

"I don't see how we're going to be able to do it," said Mr. Charbonneau. "\$500 will only get us a couple of months into the fiscal year for tools for mechanics."

Maintenance line items for buildings and equipment were cut to \$0 by \$10,000 and \$6,000, respectively. He said they would not be able to function without those funds.

"I'm hoping that [Ms. Graves] is going to allow us to look at this a little further and address some of these items," said public works Superintendent Vincent Furtado.

For example, he said, Ms. Graves initially took \$30,000 from repair and maintenance of vehicles, a 50% cut from the FY21 budget of \$60,000.

"She was nice enough after I asked to take \$15,000 each (from curbing and from street resurfacing) minimizing the [\$30K] from the vehicle repair because our vehicles take a beating..."

"The whole [building maintenance budget] was cut," added Mr. Furtado. "I mean, we have a lot of garage doors in the BPW and if one goes off the track ... or awry, which happens more often than I wish, we're calling the door folks in and we have no budget for the buildings."

## 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](http://FairhavenTV.com)*

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

### Fairhaven

#### Board of Health

Wed., 3/17, Town Hall/Remote, 5 p.m

#### Cable Advisory

Tues., 3/16, Town Hall/Remote, 6 p.

#### Conservation Commission

Mon., 3/22, Town Hall/Remote, 6:30

#### Economic Development

Thurs., 3/18, Remote, 6:30 p.m.

#### Finance Committee

Thurs., 3/11, Remote, 7 p.m.

Thurs., 3/18, Remote, 7 p.m.

#### Planning Board

Thurs., 3/11, With Selectbd, 4:30

Tues., 3/23, Town Hall/Remote, 6:30

#### School Committee

Wed., 3/24, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

#### Selectboard

Thurs., 3/11, Town Hall/Remote, 4:30

#### TA Interview

Mon. 3/22, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

#### Sustainability Comm

Tues., 3/16, Remote, 6:30 p.m.

### Acushnet

#### Housing Authority/ Proposed annual plan

Wed., 3/17, Remote, 11:30 a.m.

#### Planning Board

Thurs., 3/18, Remote, 6:30 p.m.

#### Selectboard

Tues., 3/9, Town Hall/Remote, 4 p.m.

### TIDE TABLE

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

	Mar. 2021	HIGH a.m. p.m.		LOW a.m. p.m.	
Thursday	11	0624	1846	0100	1338*
Friday	12	0705	1927	0149	1416*
Saturday	13	0746	2008	0226	1435
Sunday	14	0926	2147	0335	1522
Monday	15	1006	2226	0339	1538
Tuesday	16	1044	2304	0401	1604*
Wednesday	17	1124	2346	0430	1634*

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

## From our readers

### To My Republican Friends

Now that the Covid Relief bill has passed the Senate I want to make sure all my Republican friends know that not a single Republican voted for this legislation. So no one who identifies themselves as a Republican or voted for these Republicans should accept the \$1400 stimulus check. They also should not accept the added \$300 unemployment insurance, if they happen to be unemployed. They also should forgo the added child tax credit that is now available to them.

Once again, their Republican party who can find 1.4 trillion dollars for tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires, so that Amazon and others pay NO FEDERAL TAX, did nothing for the common man.

Yet those who identify as Republicans will surely cash those checks and yet still decry the very DEMOCRATS who put money in their pockets and provided for them a safety net.

If these Republicans really care about deficit spending (Republicans in Congress only care about that during Democratic administrations

not when there are Republican Presidents doling out money to millionaires) they will return this money to the Treasury. They will not cash the checks or take the child tax credit.

In the category of, you can't fix stupid, no one votes more against their own best interest than common folks who vote for the Republican party. The party that proves again and again, they couldn't care less about you. This is yet another example.

*Adam Abelha, Fairhaven*

### Another Week Failure

So it's been another week of failure by our Selectboard partners Mr. Freitas and Mr. Silvia. We have no permanent (or qualified) Town Administrator, and Mr. Freitas can't even get himself together enough to even schedule a meeting to discuss the next steps. Pathetic.

This looks more and more like a corrupt attempt to usher in an unqualified insider as a Town Administrator when you have fully qualified, interviewed and screening committee-approved applicants waiting to step in. This is quite possibly the most

important responsibility the Selectboard has on their plate, and we watch Mr. Freitas and Mr. Silvia completely railroad the screening committee hiring process they voted to create.

That screening committee, and the professional recruiter Mr. Bernie Lynch, deserve the town's deepest apologies for the inexcusable ineptitude and incompetence Mr. Freitas and Mr. Silvia continue to show them. This should not be tolerated, Fairhaven.

*Phil Washko, Fairhaven*

### Collasius Will Take Job "Very Seriously"

Fairhaven voters, I would like to add my support to the previous letters for Don Collasius for the new tree warden of Fairhaven.

I have known Don for many years and know he will take his job as tree warden very seriously. He certainly loves his town of Fairhaven and, as it states in his advertisement, "customer service is number one priority."

I urge you to vote on April 6th for Don Collasius. He will do a very good job.

*Sonya Sovik, Fairhaven*



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2018-2016:	3.24%** APR 5 YRS
2015-2014:	3.74%** APR 4 YRS
2013-2011:	3.99%** APR 4 YRS



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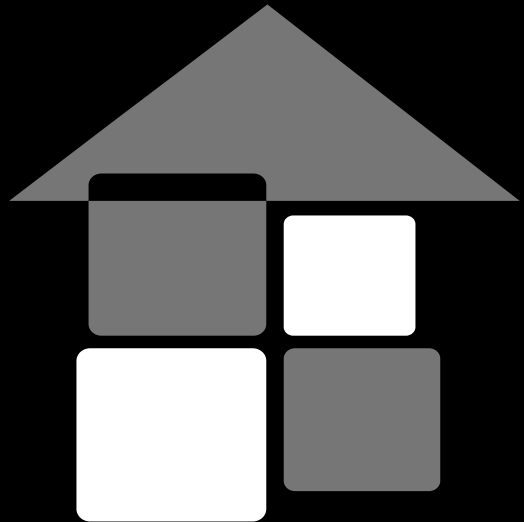




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## Education, Experience and Dedication



I believe education and experience can make a very significant difference in strong leadership. My professional background is in the Engineering field. I earned Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees locally, at Mass Maritime Academy and graduated from Leadership South Coast. Engineers are



trained to solve problems and that is what I like to do and I have brought that mentality to my work as your Selectman in Fairhaven. I have looked for problems, or at least opportunities for improvement, and found ways to use my leadership skills to implement solutions and truly make a difference.



Throughout my professional engineering career, with companies like General Dynamics, Raytheon and, most recently Acushnet Company (Titleist) I have had the



opportunity to work with many great leaders and problem solvers and I have always tried to use what I have learned from them in my own work



I have researched ways to help the Town of Fairhaven make substantial improvements, I have attended Training sessions and conferences at the Mass. Municipal Association to learn where there are resources for our Town draw on. It was through the MMA that I learned about two resources that I brought back to Town Administration for implementation that I am very proud of.



In my first year as your Selectman, I turned to the Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services. They provided a no cost Financial Management Review for the Town that highlighted best practices the Town should be employing. Back in 2012, the DOR pointed to concerns that free cash in Fairhaven was trending downward over the prior five years and had dropped by 40%. The DOR also highlighted the

importance of both Free Cash and Stabilization Fund Balance on the “financial flexibility” of a community.

I recognized back in 2012 that there were major capital needs in Fairhaven and the only way we were going to be able to address them was to establish policies that would bring that financial flexibility to Fairhaven. Thanks to the support of my fellow board members at that time and the leadership of Town Administrator, Mark Rees, we drafted and adopted financial policies that **increased** our combination of Free Cash and Stabilization Fund Balance (two “Key Financial Indicators” according to the DOR) by 117%. **That translated to nearly \$8M in funds the Town did not have in 2012.** I am proud of the leadership I provided in helping to initiate these changes in Financial Policies that created the Financial Flexibility to help us weather the COVID-19 storm and which will, as long as we continue to follow the established, Fiscally Conservative financial policies, allow the Town to chip away at much needed capital improvements.

Fiscal Year	Certified Free Cash	Stabilization Fund Balance	Combined Sources
2012	2,013,301	4,750,620	6,763,921
2020	4,393,392	10,273,403	14,666,795
Increase by Source	118%	116%	117%
Total Increase	2,380,091	5,522,783	7,902,874

importance of both Free Cash and Stabilization Fund Balance on the “financial flexibility” of a community. I recognized back in 2012 that there were major capital needs in Fairhaven and the only way we were going to be able to address them was to establish policies that would bring that financial flexibility to Fairhaven. Thanks to the support of my fellow board members at that time and the leadership of Town Administrator, Mark Rees, we drafted and adopted financial policies that **increased** our combination of Free Cash and Stabilization Fund Balance (two “Key Financial Indicators” according to the DOR) by 117%. **That translated to nearly \$8M in funds the Town did not have in 2012.** I am proud of the leadership I provided in helping to initiate these changes in Financial Policies that created the Financial Flexibility to help us weather the COVID-19 storm and which will, as long as we continue to follow the established, Fiscally Conservative financial policies, allow the Town to chip away at much needed capital improvements.



While keeping abreast of Mass Municipal Association newsletters I found a major Grant Opportunity for the Town, a grant opportunity created by the Baker-Polito Administration called the Community Compact Cabinet (CCC) and worked through



Town Administration to apply for three initial grants, awarded back in 2017 with a visit to Town Hall by Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. These grants resulted in creation of an Economic Development Plan, an Employee Policies and Procedures Document and a Municipal IT Consolidation Strategy. Since then, the Town has applied for and received other CCC Grants. Implementing these efficiency measures saves the Town money year after year.

**I hope you will cast your vote for me on April 5<sup>th</sup> so I can continue to represent you for another 3 years!**

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Bob Espindola