



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

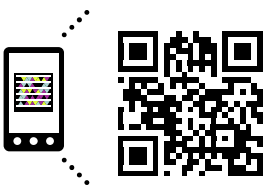
Volume 16, Issue 13 • March 25, 2021

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

Lost man in Fairhaven found unharmed



The search crew gathers in the empty lot near Cushman Park in Fairhaven, with the Southeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council trailer in the background, on 3/17/21 to search for missing person Kenny Parks, who was found unharmed sitting in a car the next morning. See story on page 16. *Photo by Jean Perry.*



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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.

Oh my God, you guys are funny. I had a good laugh: The rumors of our demise are greatly exaggerated. Yup..I get to really say that.

Someone told a clerk at one of the convenience stores that we are going out of business, that last week's issue was our last. Yet...here we ARE!!!

How petty can you get? The poor clerk sounded very nervous when I called to ask him why he was telling people we were not publishing anymore. He said a man told him. I said, well, a woman delivers our papers, so...

I had to laugh. Someone out there is getting pretty desperate to shut us up.

Good luck with that.

We have a jam-packed issue this week, with tons of election stuff. We have candidate statements for Tree Warden (see page 22); candidates night coverage for two races (see Board of Health on page 16, and Tree Warden on page 25). We still have to write up the School Committee. Sorry, there's just only so much room.

We have letters up the proverbial wazoo. We had to hold some, too. In any case, if you want to run a rah-rah-for-your-candidate letter, you'd better get it in ASAP. We will not run letters that criticize candidates next week because it's the last issue before the election, so the object of the criticism will not have a chance to respond. But we will take

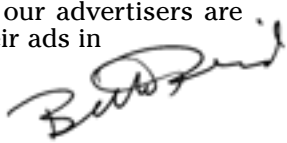
Speaking of criticism, Mr. Freitas did not show up to the Selectboard meeting on Monday (see page 13), leaving the TA decision in limbo still. SURPRISE! Yeah, right. If you believe all that, then I have a lawyer (Sidney Powell) who has a good story you'll believe, too.

We had a bit of excitement last week that, thankfully, ended up with a happy ending. A special needs man was lost after he got separated from his group at Cushman Park (see page 16). The whole region mobilized to find him including individual residents of Fairhaven who went out on their own, with flashlights in the cold to look for him. Luckily, the weather had warmed up a bit and he found shelter in a car. He was found the next morning and is okay.

There's other good stuff in here, of course, including ads from candidates. Be sure read up on their views so you can make an informed vote.

And, be sure to notice who our advertisers are and let them know you saw their ads in the *Neighb News*.

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




Beth David, Publisher

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Support local journalism

No one does local like a local newspaper. We cover events right here in your back yard. Any small amount will help. Just send check or money order to *Fairhaven Neighborhood News*, 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719. Ask for a bumper sticker that says "I Support the *Neighb News*." And thank you for reading the *little paper with a big voice*.

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Nothing this week? Really? Phew...

COVID update:

Everyone can preregister

All residents of Massachusetts can now sign up for a vaccine through the state's website. As of this week, residents 60+ are eligible to sign up for vaccines. Those who are not yet eligible, however, are able to preregister to be contacted when their time comes.

To find out if you can get vaccinated now or to sign up for a shot, visit <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine>.

Schools in Mass. are also scheduled to go back to in person learning in phases, with everyone being back to mostly in person learning by mid April.

Mass. Governor Charlie Baker has also lifted the travel restrictions, making them "advisories," such as quarantining if you have traveled out of state.

Governor Baker and public health officials on the state and national level caution residents that the threat of COVID-19 has not passed. They urge people to continue wearing masks, wash hands frequently, and use hand sanitizer.

9-1-1 dispatch center to be named

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Selectboard board voted on 3/22/21 to fulfill Police Chief Michael Meyers's request to name the 911 dispatch communications center after the late Michael "Sully" Sullivan, a former long-term dispatcher. Mr. Sullivan retired in June 2017 before he lost his battle with cancer on March 23, 2019.

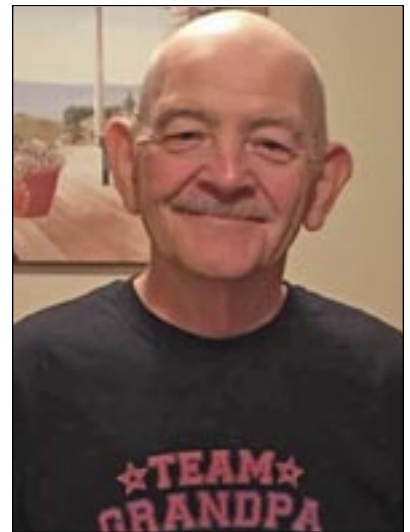
"He was the heart and soul of our dispatch center for 18 years," said Chief Meyers, adding that Mr. Sullivan worked throughout his lengthy illness up until he physically no longer could.

"His dedication was second to none," said Chief Myers.

He told the board that recently, Executive Assistant Juanna Adesso hung a photo of Mr. Sullivan on the dispatch center wall.

"As soon as the picture went up ... [we] thought it needed something more than a picture," said Chief Myers.

Dispatcher Marie Spooner looked into procuring a memorial plaque to honor Mr. Sullivan and dedicate the



Michael "Sully" Sullivan.
Submitted photo.

dispatch center in his name.

Chief Myers read a summary he prepared describing Mr. Sullivan as a professional, respectful, dedicated man with an infectious smile.

Mr. Sullivan worked "countless double shifts," said Chief Myers in his letter to the board, making him a

SULLY: cont'd on page 21

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Attention Fairhaven Resident Graduating High School Seniors

Did you know that the Fairhaven Historical Society is giving away a \$1000 scholarship?

All you need to do is put down on paper what you love about your town, Fairhaven. The application and the details can be found here: <https://www.fairhavenhistory.org/>

Don't delay — the deadline is April 1, 2021!

Last year's proud recipient of the Enrique Goytizolo Scholarship was Matt Elliott who is a rising sophomore at Worcester State University.

★ ★ **Elect** ★ ★

Don Collasius

Tree Warden

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Lisa Plante

For Selectboard


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- I'm running for the Selectboard because I love this Town. I want to preserve this town for our children and future generations.
- I have an excellent working knowledge of the town finances and the budget process.
- I am fiscally conservative and have only the best interests of the townspeople
- I respectfully ask for your vote on April 5th.

— © —

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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

COVID 19 Testing

The Fairhaven Fire Department is administering COVID-19 tests for residents on Saturday mornings, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Fairhaven Recreational Center, 227 Huttleston Ave. (near Stop & Shop). The department is providing the testing through the end of March and then will decide on a week to week basis. Residents are encouraged to check the department's website at <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/fire-department-ems-ema> or their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FhvnFire> or call 508-994-1428 to make sure testing is happening that day.

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.

Route

NORTH FAIRHAVEN

START 1:00 pm

Oxford School, East on Howland Road, North on Alden Road, South on Main Street

STOP AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH

East on Route 6, North on Adams Street, East on Howland Road, South on Alden Road to Bridge Street

EAST FAIRHAVEN

1:30 pm East on Bridge Street, South on New Boston Rd to Rt 6

STOP AT EAST FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL

East (left) on Rt 6, South on Gillette Road, West on Hill Street, South on Brook Drive, North on Brook Drive, West on Hill Street, South on Evergreen Street, West on Stephen Street to end, North on Hamlet to Rt 6

SCONTICUT NECK TO WEST ISLAND

2:00 pm from Rt 6, South on Sconticut Neck Road

STOP AT WOOD SCHOOL

East on Goulart Memorial Drive, Over the Causeway, North on Ebony Street, West on Cherrystone Street, South on Balsam Street, West over Causeway, North on Sconticut Neck

to Rt 6

CENTER/FORT

From Route 6, 2:40 pm West on Washington Street, South on Green Street

STOP AT FORT PHOENIX

North on Fort Street, West on South Street, North on Main Street, East on Center Street, North on Pleasant Street, East on Washington Street, North on Adams Street, END Oxford School 3:10 pm

Find your spot and get ready. The Easter Bunny is hopping into town!

WI Race Canceled

As we continue to fight through the COVID-19 pandemic, large group gatherings are still not authorized. Therefore, we are officially cancelling this year's West Island Road Race. We plan to be back next year on Sunday, April 24, 2022. If you registered online in 2020, we will honor your registration in 2022. We would love to have you join us.

If you or your business would like to donate to the Fairhaven High School Cross Country scholarship fund, please make your check out to "West Island 5K" and send to West Island 5K, 193 Cottonwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719. As we are able, we plan to provide scholarships to the graduating cross country seniors. Thank you for your understanding and support. Stay safe and healthy!

Eco Challenge

The Fairhaven Sustainability Committee invites all Southcoast residents to participate in the Earth Month EcoChallenge! Join Team SouthCoast and select from a list of measurable actions you will take during the month to reduce your environmental impact and educate yourself on a variety of topics.

There is a wide range of challenges including reducing plastic use, eating a vegetarian meal, spending time outdoors, planting a tree, watching educational videos, and more. You can choose as many or as few actions as you like, track your completed actions, earn points, and see the collective impact the team has as a whole. Hopefully some of the challenges will become habits to help us all towards creating a better, more sustainable world.

Hastings Middle School will be

challenging their students on their own team this April and we look forward to seeing the positive impact our Fairhaven youth will have!

Registration runs until the end of March, with the challenge taking place from April 1-30. Follow <http://bit.ly/EarthMonthEcoChallenge> to join Team SouthCoast, or to learn more go to <https://ecochallenge.org/ecochallenge-platform/how-it-works/>

Can't Garnish Stimulus Payments

Mass. Attorney General Maura Healey issued guidance to protect consumers who will receive an economic impact payment as a result of the federal government's American Rescue Plan from unfair and deceptive debt collection practices. The guidance makes clear these payments must go directly to help families and individuals, and not to debt collectors.

Any attempt to garnish, attach or otherwise seize these funds to collect or attempt to collect a debt violates the Attorney General's Debt Collection Regulations.

Visit the AG's website for more information. The AG's Consumer Protection Division encourages members of the public to call 617-727-8400 or file a complaint online if you witness or experience aggressive debt collection or predatory lending during this public health emergency.

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.

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

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

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. 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 or 774-510-0649.

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.

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, or find them on social media at [@coastalfoodshed](https://www.instagram.com/coastalfoodshed).

NBAM Learning Studio

The New Bedford Free Public Library is partnering with New Bedford Art Museum to bring you weekly stories and activities from our galleries! Tune in for songs and more in this free virtual program.

Sign up today and get your own free art kit and then join us weekly for story time and an art lesson online. Enrolled families will receive fun art activities with step-by-step instructions and a complete set of supplies, a special book, and a bookmark – this is a great way to keep the kids busy!

For more information, visit <https://newbedfordart.org/learningstudio/>

Visit NBAM Virtually

View these exhibits from the New Bedford Art Museum online

EXCELLENCE IN FIBERS VI: through March 28, 2021. Fiber Art Network/Fiber Art Now and New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! (NBAM) present Excellence in Fibers VI, an online exhibition sponsored by Fiber Optic Center. View the best of installation, sculptural, vessel, and wearable fiber arts from across the country in a new, exciting, online format. Visit <https://newbedfordart.org/fibers/>

FACES BEHIND ATROCITY: VOICES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING Works by Matilde Simas, Founder of Capture Humanity through March 28, 2021

The Faces Behind Atrocity portrait series depicts seven girls, all of whom were victims of forced labor, forced marriage, and sex trafficking. They were rescued from the horrors of the

trafficking world and are in various stages of the healing process. This portrait series provides a visual representation of their resilience, beauty, and strength, while also serving as a tool for advocacy and education around human trafficking.

Visit <https://newbedfordart.org/simas/>

RMV Expands Senior Hours

The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is pleased to announce that it is expanding designated Wednesday in-person appointment hours for seniors from those 75 years of age or older to those 65 years of age or older. Beginning March 24, 2021, customers who are 65 years of age or older will be able to book in-person transaction appointments in April during designated Wednesday senior hours online at [Mass.Gov/RMV](https://www.mass.gov/rmv). Services that are available for customers during designated senior hours include driver's license and ID renewals and registration and title transactions.

Senior appointment hours for license or ID renewals, and registration and title services appointments are offered on Wednesdays at 17 RMV Service Center locations, including Fall River and New Bedford.

To schedule in-person appointments during designated service hours and you are an AAA member, you may make a reservation now to renew your driver's license/ID or conduct certain other transactions at an AAA location. Visit aaa.com/appointments to schedule your visit.

If you are not an AAA member, visit [Mass.Gov/RMV](https://www.mass.gov/rmv) to make a reservation to renew or conduct most other transactions at an RMV Service Center. Visit the Make/Cancel a Reservation transaction tab in the myRMV Service Center and select "Senior Transaction" for all available RMV transactions. Reservations can be booked two weeks in advance.

Email the RMV for assistance: MassDOTRMVSeniors@dot.state.ma.us or call the RMV at 857-368-8005.

Anyone conducting in-person business at an RMV customer service location must wear a face-covering.

Gifts to Give Needs YOU

Gifts to Give of Acushnet is in need of donated items and volunteers. The organization has continued its mission throughout the pandemic, but with fewer volunteers. They need volunteers to sort and inspect donations, fill backpacks with school supplies, fulfill requests for gift packages, help with small maintenance tasks in the building, and lots of other tasks. We have useful work for everyone and try to make use of the unique gifts that everyone has to give.

Donations are also needed. We can always use gently used children's clothes, shoes and sneakers; new socks and underwear (in package); toys, games, puzzles, books and dictionaries, bedding and towels. Visit <https://www.giftstogive.org/donate/items/> to see what we accept, what we take used, and what must be new.

Visit <https://www.giftstogive.org>, call 508-717-8715, or email contactus@giftstogive.org to learn more. Drop items off at 1 Titleist Drive, Acushnet, MA 02743, around the back at the freight ramp on Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. from 9-5; Wed. & Sat., from 9-noon. Thrift store hours: Saturday, 9-2.

Gifts to Give is a 100% volunteer organization. No one gets paid.

Acushnet testing

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.

Bake Sale

The Our Lady of Purgatory Education Foundation is sponsoring a Bake Sale after the Palm Sunday Weekend Liturgies. Please stop by on Saturday, March 27, after the 4:30 pm Liturgy, or on Sunday, March 28, 2021, after the 10:30 am Liturgy. All proceeds benefit the OLOP Education Foundation Scholarship Fund.

OLOP Maronite Catholic Church, 14 Franklin St. (corner Pleasant), New

Bedford.

Since its creation in 1993, the OLOP Education Foundation has awarded 49 Scholarships totaling \$31,500.00. Scholarship Recipients are honored for their service to the Parish, academic achievement, and participation in extracurricular activities at school.

For more information about the Bake Sale, or the OLOP Education Foundation, please contact Fr. Vince at (508) 996-8934

Mattapoisett Check-In Program

Mattapoisett is special, with its seashores forests and community at large. We have a large number of citizens in their senior years. The COA is exceptional with offering activities and assistance with health care issues. If you need them, they are there.

Mattapoisett has 105 people over 90 years of age right now. They depend on us as we depended on them in the past. We have exceptional police and fire departments and we all depend on them. Whether it is for paramedics or help getting up from a frightening fall, they respond with patience and kindness while preserving the dignity of the person at that time of need. Too often the officers names are not known.

There is a reassurance program in town where the senior calls into the business line of the police department by 10 AM each morning and if not, the police will call them to check on their safety. Applications for this service are available at the COA.

The Friends of Mattapoisett COA want to thank our first responders. We know who you are and appreciate what you do, to help all of us keep our special generation as safe as possible.

Call the COA, 508-758-4110

Coggeshall Farm Reopens

Coggeshall Farm Museum opened its front gate admission to the public on March 20, after being closed to the public during the winter months. Costumed interpreters demonstrate early spring life on the 18th-century farm. Exhibitions include textile demonstrations and the set-up of an

historic loom, a furnished farmhouse, and piglets born earlier in the year.

Set on 48 acres of coastal farmland in Bristol, R.I., Coggeshall Farm Museum tells the story of the Coggeshall family farm in the late 18th-century.

To manage capacity in accordance with Rhode Island guidelines, Coggeshall Farm Museum will be limiting the number of visitors All visitors have the opportunity to purchase or reserve tickets in advance online at www.coggeshallfarm.org

Black History/ Women's History

A Poet in Stone: Edmonia Lewis

(1844-1905). Edmonia Lewis was born free in Upstate New York. She worked for most of her career in Rome, Italy and was the first African American sculptor to achieve international prominence. She began to gain prominence in the United States during the Civil War, incorporating themes relating to Black and indigenous peoples into Neoclassical-style sculpture, and remained the only Black woman artist who had participated in and been recognized to any extent by the American artistic mainstream.

Visit https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmonia_Lewis

Althea Gibson

(1927-2003) Althea Neale Gibson was an American tennis player and professional golfer, and one of the first Black athletes to cross the color-line of international tennis. In 1956, she became the first African American to win a Grand Slam title. To watch a brief biography, visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNk-60yRWvo>

The Black Pearl: Josephine Baker

(1906-1975) Josephine Baker was an American-born French entertainer, French Resistance agent, and civil rights activist. Her career was centered primarily in Europe, mostly in her adopted France. To read about her career, see photos and view rare film footage of her performing, visit <https://www.skysirens.com.au/josephine-baker>



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Recipe of the Week

Sour Cream Banana Bread

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 large eggs
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 cup mashed bananas
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts or pecans

Cream butter, sugar and eggs.

Combine dry ingredients and add to butter mixture. Add bananas, sour cream, vanilla and nuts. Mix until well blended.

Pour into buttered loaf pan and bake in a 350° oven for 1 hour or until done.

Cool on a wire rack.

Submitted by Jeannie Waverly

To share a recipe with your neighbors

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Dear Frankie



Sanitation and Dogs

Dear Frankie,

My name is Bernadette. My friends call me Bernie. I'm a chicken and live on Cape Cod with three siblings. We live cooped up in a crate like the one Buster the

puppy wrote to you about in an earlier column. I'm writing on behalf of my siblings because I'm the oldest and have the most experience with life. My egg cracked first. I was out and about days before the others. One of the problems we are having is we poop a lot and whenever nature calls. The other problem is we have had several close run-ins with mean neighborhood dogs. Any advice on how we can deal with either situation would very much be appreciated.

Anxious, Bernadette

Dear Bernie,

Am I to understand that you are using the term cooped up to indicate you live in tight quarters with your siblings? If that is correct, I'm assuming you guys are living up to your wings in chicken crap.

What do I advise? Call the Department of Public Health and request an inspection. From what you describe, it sounds like you are living

in downright squalor.


You say you have had run-ins with neighborhood dogs. I gather from that statement that you are running free at times, and that's where you encounter these dogs? Before I address the dog issue, I think being out of the crate might be a solution for your poop problem. When you are out of the crate, one of the first orders of business should be to use the time to poop as often and as much as you can. Pooping outside should significantly help with the crate's sanitation issue and avoid the need to involve local authorities.

Regarding encountering unsavory canines: What measures have you taken to survey the surrounding area for escape routes? I know you don't fly per se, but you do have wings, if flapped vigorously, should be sufficient to propel you to a tree branch, a fence, or a high bush. Your best chance for survival is to get to a high place dogs can't reach.

Humans have an expression: "I'm running around like a chicken with my head cut off."

It appears you may be taking this expression to its max. Are you aware this expression means chickens are airheads who run around without a thought for the consequences of their behavior? Fortunately, you can overcorrect instinctive behaviors if they involve life-death issues, like dogs looking for a chicken dinner.

FRANKIE: cont'd on page 21



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Dispatches

News from high school in the age of COVID

By Elizabeth DaCunha



Special to the Neighb News

I've given you the student perspective on the vaccine a while back, but what about teachers that are actually receiving the vaccine very soon?

As our teachers are eagerly preparing to be vaccinated, I decided to find out what their thoughts were on the vaccine and how it will affect the way they run their classrooms.

Of course, many different opinions were shared about the vaccine, but it was interesting to hear from those that have some concerns about the vaccine that they are willing to put aside for the sake of this pandemic.

One FHS teacher gave a statement on the vaccine: "I'm optimistic about the vaccine(s) that are now available to help fight infection from Covid-19. However, I guess I would say it's more of a cautious optimism, as its effectiveness counts on a few factors;

"1. That individuals actually get vaccinated. 2. That the public still practices the protocols outlined by the CDC (mask wearing, social distancing, no large gatherings, etc...). and 3. That local, state, and federal governments don't rush to reopen just because there are vaccines available. It is going to take

some time for enough people to be provided with the vaccine to truly curb the devastating effects of this virus."

There are understandably some doubts and skepticism among these several teachers, but some like Mr. Hevey have put aside their doubts and worries and have realized that this vaccine is probably the only way out of this pandemic.

Hevey stated, "I will certainly get [the vaccine] because I know this is what is needed to bring things to a sense of normalcy. I trust the science and I believe the reports that they have actually been working on a vaccine for this longer than we know."

Mr. Hevey has also gotten his first vaccine shot recently, and is hopeful

receive the vaccine mostly because I do not want to endanger anyone else."

While we all have our own opinions on the vaccine, it is clear to see that no one I spoke to has dismissed the idea of getting it, and perhaps this is because it gives our teachers an opportunity to potentially start teaching "normally" again sooner rather than later.

I've spoken a little about bringing back full-time in person school in my past article, but how comfortable is everyone with this, even with the vaccine on hand?

While discussing the vaccine topic with a teacher of mine, they stated, "I am thankful for the vaccine and the recent uptick in availability. In class during the current academic year won't change, but I look forward to having students be able to work with one another and have the ability to maneuver the classroom at their own free will."

Another teacher stated, "I will [continue] to keep all work digital, limit my exposure, but still circulate to make sure that students can get the help they need. Until further studies have been done, and it has been determined that transmission is low, I will probably stick with my current routine."

As you can see, most of the teachers I spoke to are actually quite thrilled to be getting the vaccine. But it doesn't seem to be enough to change how class is going to run, not until the school department and state feel comfortable with going back to "normal school," and it seems that this won't happen until most people are vaccinated.

Remember to stay positive and test negative,

I've spoken a little about bringing back full-time in person school in my past article, but how comfortable is everyone with this, even with the vaccine on hand?

that more people will get their vaccine as well.

On that note, I will also introduce the opinions of several teachers that are more than excited that the vaccine is now available for the staff.

Mr. McNeil shared his opinion on the vaccine after just getting it, "I think the vaccine is a positive, healthy choice for people. I will carry on with the protocols even after I



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Selectboard bumps TA discussion to unknown date

Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

Fairhaven Selectboard Chairperson Daniel Freitas was expected to arrive late to the meeting on March 22 but never did make it after nearly two hours when Vice-Chairperson Bob Espindola and board member Keith Silvia ran out of agenda items that did not need to be tabled in Mr. Freitas's absence.

As a result of his absence, the board had to table a review of Community Paradigm Associate's termination letter and the future of the town administrator search process.

Bernie Lynch of Community Paradigm Associates, the board's contracted hiring consultant, sent a letter on March 15 stating that he had fulfilled his contract requirements for the town and terminated any further engagement with the board. That same day, Mr. Lynch sent another letter stating that two of the three finalists, Jennifer Callahan and Ari Sky, had withdrawn from consideration. After Mr. Freitas and Mr. Silvia voted to prolong the process by interviewing Interim TA Wendy Graves, but before the interview took place, Mr. Silvia had to recuse himself due to a conflict of interest that had previously been overlooked, that his wife is the Council on Aging Director.

So, even if the board had been inclined to discuss the agenda items, without Mr. Freitas there and with Mr. Silvia recusing himself, that would leave only one Mr. Espindola left, and hence, not a quorum.

Mr. Espindola motioned to hold a special meeting on Thursday, 3/25, to take up the tabled agenda item as a matter of urgency, as the next regularly scheduled meeting is on 4/12. Mr. Silvia was hesitant to second the motion for another meeting, citing the requirement that he must recuse himself from anything related to the TA hiring process. He did second it after Mr. Espindola explained that a vote to schedule a meeting is not within the scope of Mr. Silvia's conflict of interest.

On Tuesday, Mr. Espindola announced on Facebook that there would be no 3/25 meeting because Mr. Freitas told him his schedule was

full this week. The agenda for the 4/12 meeting is not yet available, and the annual election will be held before then on 4/6. Mr. Espindola is up for re-election and faces a challenger.

In other business, the board discussed a recent Capital Planning Committee meeting that Ms. Graves attended to consider where the Rogers School building might fall on the priority list should the town maintain ownership. She said that when the town underwent the 2017 facilities improvement assessment, the Rogers School was not included. Without knowing the costs involved, the CPC cannot move forward with including Rogers School in any capital plan. She said Planning & Economic Development Director Paul Foley was researching two possible

On Tuesday, Mr. Espindola announced on Facebook that there would be no 3/25 meeting because Mr. Freitas told him his schedule was full this week.

grants that could be used for the old school.

Mr. Espindola said the town must look for a use for the property if the town does not receive any viable proposals from developers, and suggested the town might amend the original facility study to include Rogers School to preserve the historical building, which he said seems to be what the town and residents want. He said he hopes the Rogers School Re-Use Committee can come up with ideas for use.

Mr. Silvia, who is the board's representative on the Re-Use Committee, commented that there are already "a lot of ideas," including demolishing the newer addition and placing a dog park over the existing parking lot.

Doug Brady from the Re-Use Committee asked what the status was for any further proposals from

Lanagan & Associates and Arch Communities and a possible deadline for accepting any further proposals. He did not want the committee to be "running around in circles," coming up with new options only to have the process interrupted by another proposal.

Mr. Espindola reiterated that the Selectboard voted to reject the last proposal as submitted but left the door open for the developers to return with a scaled-down plan.

Mr. Brady said others had expressed an interest in developing a use for the site but did not specify who.

"The only thing we can control is when someone comes with something," said Mr. Espindola. "Right now, it's all speculation."

Multiple times the town has pursued potentially viable proposals, he said, adding that the town must be prepared with a plan for the old school when proposals fail.

Resident Leon Correy pointed out that previous project failures include one agreement in which the town "violated the terms" and rescinded. "Already one doesn't want to do business (with the town)," he said and questioned whether Fairhaven was violating its own RFP (request for proposals) process.

"This is not the way to do business," continued Mr. Correy, adding that Fairhaven was developing a reputation of being "[unable] to follow rules it sets forth."

Mr. Espindola suggested waiting until the full board to be present to continue the discussion.

The board also discussed the use of town counsel, with Ms. Graves reminding other boards and committees that they need to seek authorization from the Selectboard before seeking assistance from Town Counsel Tom Crotty as legal costs exceed the amount budgeted.

"Every time you ask him a question, they're charging us," said Ms. Graves.

Mr. Espindola asked Ms. Graves to prepare a summary of incurred legal costs, ask for a report from the town's insurance provider, and look for any

SELECT: cont'd on page 20

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Fairhaven Council on Aging

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Eco Challenge

*Fairhaven Sustainability Committee
2021 ECO Challenge JOIN Team
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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

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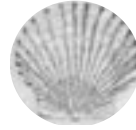
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NMLS # 422864

Missing man found unharmed

By Beth David
Editor

Fairhaven Police Chief Michael J. Myers, who activated the Southeastern Massachusetts Law Enforcement Council (SEMLEC) Search and Rescue Unit Wednesday, 3/17/21, reports that the man who was reported missing on Wednesday, Kenny Parks, 72, was found safe.

Just before noon on Thursday, Mr. Parks, a New Bedford resident, was located seated in a vehicle on Chestnut Street in Fairhaven, near the Rogers School area, .6 miles from where he was last seen. A woman spotted him in the vehicle and then flagged down two officers who were passing by on bicycles.

Chief Myers said that a woman who was visiting her mother noticed steam on the window of a car, realized the missing man was inside, and flagged down police.

Mr. Parks was evaluated by EMS on scene and later taken to an area hospital for evaluation.

Mr. Parks was reported missing from

Cushman Park in Fairhaven on 3/17; he was last seen about 1:25 p.m. He is non-verbal, with autism, and was walking with a group of people in the park when he got separated from the group.

Many Fairhaven and area residents joined the search into the night.

Around lunch time, a customer of Mac's Soda Bar ordered 10 lunches of corned beef and cabbage for the searchers, according to owner Lisa Malcolm. The restaurant delivered the food to the command center in the empty parking lot across from Cushman Park on Main Street.

In a press release, the Fairhaven Police Department thanked all of the first responders from around the region who assisted in searching Wednesday and Thursday, as well as all the members of the public who volunteered to search.

The assisting agencies included: Fairhaven Police Department, Acushnet Police Department, Mattapoisett Police Department, Fairhaven Fire Department and call firefighters, Fairhaven Harbormaster, New Bedford Police Department Marine Unit, Bristol County



A K9 officer and his canine partner search Union Wharf on Wednesday, 3/17/21, looking for missing person Kenny Parks, who was found unharmed sitting in a car the next morning. Photo by Jean Perry.

Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit, SEMLEC Search & Rescue, SEMLEC Mobile Command Center, SEMLEC Dive Team, SEMLEC Bicycle Unit, Mass State Police Special Emergency Response Team, Mass State Police Air Wing, Mass Environmental Police and the Department of Conservation & Recreation.

Board of Health candidates face the questions

By Beth David
Editor

The two candidates for Fairhaven Board of Health, vying for one open seat, participated in the candidates night on 3/15 sponsored by the North Fairhaven Improvement Association and Fairhaven Government Access TV-Channel 18. The questions were posed by Fairhaven High School student Elizabeth Edminster, and the evening was moderated by NFIA president Pauline Parker. Fairhaven votes on Monday, 4/6.

Barbara Acksen, who served on the BOH for one term some years ago, and newcomer to electoral politics Kevin Gallagher, will be on the ballot.

In her opening statement Dr. Acksen said she grew up in Fairhaven and lives in the family home, where she maintains her counseling practice, a career she has had for nearly 50 years.

She said she was "dismayed" to watch the board "come apart" this year. The BOH is central to the health and welfare of Fairhaven residents, especially when choosing a health agent. She realized there was no one qualified to ask the right questions of health agent candidates, so she asked to be on the screening committee and did serve in that role.

She said she was pleased that the town hired an experienced person.

Ms. Acksen said it would be helpful to

have someone like her on the board, that the health department is a small department with big demands.

We wish COVID would go away, she said, but we can't wish it away.

She said with the phase 4 opening of businesses, the health agent, who was pretty busy before, will have even more work to do. And there are still the beaches, sewerage, farms, etc., that all still have to be regulated.

She called the department "terribly underfunded," or it would be bigger.

Mr. Gallagher noted that he and Dr. Acksen had not officially met but he has "observed her career." and he has a great deal of respect for her service.

They still were separated, as he was in the room, and she joined the night via Zoom.

Mr. Gallagher said his wife Cindy (Pires) is a graduate of Fairhaven High School, and they have three children that all grew up in Fairhaven and attended Fairhaven public schools.

"I did not grow up in Fairhaven," said Mr. Gallagher. "I grew up in New Bedford, and I apologize for that."

He said he went to Holy Family/ Holy Name High School and graduated from UMassD. He lost an election for state representative in 1992, but serves now on the Fairhaven Finance Committee.

He has been in public safety for 30 years,

all of it with the Acushnet Fire Department, the last 17 years as chief.

He is also enrolled in courses at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard, which more than "just sounds cool," he said, adding that he tells his children "you never stop learning."

Ms. Edminster asked both candidates what they would do on day one to bring back trust to the board.

Ms. Acksen said she would publish a statement to the public telling residents that the board would be giving them all the information they need. She said she would "make a commitment to the Board of Health business being health and not the politics of the others."

She said the board should be sending out notices to the public directly, not from public access TV.

Mr. Gallagher said the fact that the question asks about trust shows that "trust has been lost."

He said his campaign has been focused on three topics: Leadership, ethics and focus. If they look at those three things as goals, he said, they can start to rebuild the trust.

He said he wanted to bring back transparency, and has put out five ideas during his campaign, including notices for occupancy loads in businesses.

Mr. Gallagher said he would strive for a

BOH: cont'd next page

BOH: cont'd from previous page

more “robust public outreach.”

He also said he would like to end the stipend for BOH members, saying “they don’t need it.”

And he wants to change the regulations, saying someone who gets elected should not be able to do inspections the next day, because it should not be done by politicians.

Mr. Gallagher also said he would like all meetings to have a public comment period, that the public has a right to comment, “particularly in the largest health emergency of our lifetime.”

Both candidates were asked about their experience with COVID-19, EEE, and other public health issues.

Dr. Acksen pointed to her eight years with a regional coalition of health and human services. She said the 738 members have been actively working on COVID issues. They are able to disperse information about resources and how other stresses affect people.

Dr. Acksen said she has dealt with the EEE threat when she was on the board last time. EEE is mostly about prevention, she said, and she has lectured about EEE.

“What we need to do is educate people,” said Dr. Acksen, adding that if you’re asking people to comply, they need to know why.

She said these are things she has worked on “for some time,” and joked that she knew nothing about chickens until she got on the board, but it was one of the things she learned about.

Mr. Gallagher said that first and foremost, he is a father. He has been dealing with COVID as all families have.

“This is new to us,” he said, adding that he is concerned about the psychological effects of the struggles of the last few months, especially in children.

In his job as fire chief, he said he has been “in the thick of COVID since day one.”

He has responded to medical emergencies and has seen the fear in the eyes of spouses.

He praised Fairhaven for administering more than 35,000 tests.

“Testing has been paramount,” he said, adding that he has been working regionally with groups to get vaccines to Fairhaven and Acushnet. He said they are ready to administer them but the state pulled the rug out from under them.

Both candidates were asked if they felt the plans put in place by the BOH during the pandemic were appropriate and implemented correctly, and if any new plans should be put in place.

Ms. Acksen said she was happy to hear the BOH was working with another town because that is a good plan. She added,

however, that she did not believe there were as many good plans as there could have been.

For instance, New Bedford has a weekly call to all residents, and Fairhaven should do the same thing.

She said she shared Mr. Gallagher’s concern about the mental health of people and the BOH can provide information on how people can get support, including on food insufficiency.

She also said they have to take into consideration that people are tired of the restrictions.

“We have to persuade people to comply,” said Dr. Acksen.

Mr. Gallagher said looking back there were very good plans with good control of public buildings that protected town employees, but still allowed government to keep working.

He noted that he is a code enforcer.

“Education, education, education, but then you can’t be afraid to enforce,” said Mr. Gallagher.

He said he records the public message every week in Acushnet that goes to the public every Friday night.

In closing Dr. Acksen said she is a “community clinician,” that the community is her patient.

She agreed with Mr. Gallagher about regulations, but said people also need to be heard and have venues to be heard.

She noted that she was on the board during a contentious time, the wind turbine controversy, and that people have to be able to speak.

She said she would find a way to include people, that the coalition of 732 members is all about sharing information.

“We are not working in silos,” she said, adding that she is an “independent candidate” who will work diligently taking care of “your welfare.”

The BOH will be there to protect you and your family, she said.

Mr. Gallagher closed by saying that Fairhaven is at a crossroads, and things have “truly unraveled.”

Stress has come from outside, such as the pandemic, but it also has come from inside our own government. There have been a lot of mistakes, a loss of decorum, a loss of respect and honor.

“Those things need to be restored,”



Dr. Barbara Acksen (ABOVE), candidate for Fairhaven Board of Health, participates via Zoom in a candidates night on 3/15/21. Kevin Gallagher (BELOW), participates in person in the banquet room at Fairhaven Town Hall. Screen shots from Fairhaven Government Cable TV by Beth David.



said Mr. Gallagher.

He said local government is where “things get fixed.”

He also made a plea to young people, telling them, “Please know that we are much better than we are right now. We are so much better as a community than we have been.”

He asked them not to give up on the old folks, saying “We can turn this around.”

See last week’s issue for the Selectboard candidates. See page 25 for Tree Warden

To watch the video, visit <https://livestream.com/fairhavenlive/events/8101110>

An advertisement for the Fairhaven Visitors Center & Historical Society Museum. It features a photograph of the museum building, which is a white, two-story structure with a prominent arched entrance and an American flag flying in front. The text provides the following information:

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

From our readers

Speak against racism

Dear Fairhaven people,

I'm asking you to speak, write, and act against the wave of anti-Asian racism our country is experiencing. Political officials, school leaders, religious leaders, all those in positions of power need to speak out publicly and clearly against this hatred.

Our Asian and Asian American residents and visitors deserve to feel unequivocally welcome, safe, and supported in our town. Disallowing bullying or implicit bias training is the bare minimum and simply not enough. We must be proactive and our role models and leaders need to step forward and be good examples.

Sara Salem, Fairhaven

In support of Marchessault

I am writing this letter in support of Cathleen Marchessault for Fairhaven School Committee. I was able to observe the meet the candidates night last Monday. I feel Cathleen Marchessault would be an excellent school committee member. She seems to have experience and perspective for all components for learning. As an educator, she understands teachers, and as a parent, she understands the perspective of what it's like to be a parent navigating the Fairhaven School System.

Cathleen Marchessault appears eager to collaborate with committee members on areas of our school system that are running well but also is able to identify areas that can continued to be strengthened, so that all our children are afforded the absolute best education and experience in the Fairhaven public school system. I strongly suggest you consider Cathleen Marchessault for your candidacy choice on April 5th.

*Lindsay Arsenault, Fairhaven resident
and parent of children in the
Fairhaven public school system*

Glaring favoritism in TA Search

When Fairhaven selectmen are sworn in they take a solemn oath to "faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon them."

Chairman Daniel Freitas and Selectman Keith Silvia have violated that oath — most recently during the Town Administrator selection process. Both have done everything in their

power to advance Ms. Wendy Graves over more qualified applicants.

First, they voted 2 to 1 to appoint her "Interim" Town Administrator attempting to give her some requisite experience for the top job. Then they insisted that she be interviewed even though she was not selected as one of the final three recommended candidates. Further, when damaging facts came to light about her checkered background — personal financial and job history problems — they continued to champion her candidacy. WHY?

They even went so far as making changes in the Interim TA contract to advantage her and make it more generous than the previous TA contract.

Along the way she had her lawyer send a threatening Cease and Desist letter to Selectman Espindola claiming, without any stated proof, that he disparaged her; apparently a blatant intimidation attempt to prevent him from taking part in her interview. (See documents: <http://www.fairhavenneighborhoodnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/02-23-21-EspindolaDisclosure.pdf>)

Ms. Graves tried to explain away her background by blaming her associates and co-workers, the software program, and that she was not a good fit. Excuses that Freitas chose to frame as Ms. Graves, the victim, even though her work history speaks for itself.

A job history should reflect that the candidate left each job in a better position than when they took the job. Yet, it seems every position Ms. Graves held was worse off as she departed. Especially concerning is the two years she omitted where that town was forced into receivership.

In fairness, Ms. Graves is experienced in accounting/finance and helped maintain Fairhaven's A+ rating. But the TA position is significantly more expansive than her functional discipline. The TA job demands executive leadership and managerial skills beyond what Ms. Graves presents. She is not qualified, especially in comparison to the other candidates who were thoroughly experienced and highly accomplished, AND all inexplicably passed over by Mr. Freitas.

Immediately after Ms. Graves' interview Mr. Freitas moved swiftly to motion that she be appointed TA! He

did not allow further discussion or questions from citizens.

The glaring favoritism exhibited by Mr. Freitas and Mr. Silvia throughout this process is an egregious example of cronyism. Promoting their favorite over better qualified candidates is a dereliction of duty to Fairhaven and a violation of their oath of office to be impartial. This cronyism, defined as a form of corruption, should be independently investigated. Citizens must act to hold Chairman Freitas accountable and remove him from office.

Cathy Delano, Fairhaven

Vote for McKenna & Veitch

I have had the immense honor of getting to know Donna and Colin from when I served as the Student Rep for the board as a senior at Fairhaven High School to now as a member of the School Committee. I am supporting both these candidates because each of them provides their own skill sets to the committee which positively help our students either through policy implementations or through their lived experiences here in the Fairhaven Public Schools district.

Donna McKenna Donna is someone who dedicates so much of her time, even after her two children graduated from high school. Since her first term, she has been involved with SMEC (Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative), the Civil Rights Task Force Team, the annual Mr. Fairhaven event for seniors and the Fairhaven High School After Prom committee. It is at these committees and our general committee meeting where she provides her input, perspective, thoughts and time on how we, as a community, can best serve our scholars.

These committees serve as essential touch points for us as a greater group to understand how our most vulnerable students are and how we can enrich the lives of our students. To still volunteer for these boards, even after having children graduate from the district, is what dedication means and that, is Donna McKenna.

Colin Veitch What I love about serving with Colin is the historical context he always provides to our group. While it is important to focus on the present, it is just as important to reflect on where we have come, to share what hasn't worked in the past,

LETTERS: cont'd on page 26

Acushnet rolls out red carpet for students...literally

By Beth David
Editor

Acushnet Public Schools rolled out the red carpet this week to welcome back their "VIP" students in third-sixth grade four days a week.

"Everyone is so thrilled to be back learning in-person all together!" they wrote on the Acushnet Public Schools Facebook Page.

Not only did they roll out the red carpet, students got to play movie star and strike a pose with a director's clapboard.



ABOVE: Students in Mrs. Hamilton's class stop to pose on the red carpet when they returned to school this week in Acushnet. ABOVE RIGHT: A student strikes a pose with the red carpet as a backdrop. BELOW RIGHT: A student strikes a pose with a director's clapboard. Photos from Acushnet Public Schools Facebook page.

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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 Planning Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
 Tuesday, April 13, 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 four Public Hearings at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday April 13, 2021, remotely from Town Hall, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA. The Planning Board Meeting will be conducted remotely for the public and will be televised live on Fairhaven TV Channel 18 and fairhaventv.com. To join the meeting from home log on to:

<https://zoom.us/j/93173407725?pwd=cUOUwTlwSXYSLOVmbWFzTmdsT1FIUT09>
 Y5LOVmbWFzTmdsT1FIUT09
 or Telephone 1-929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 931 7340 7725 ; Password: 933956

1. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive information and public comment on the updating of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) to maintain currency with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This requires amendments to the Zoning Bylaw Chapter 19B, Section 28, to replace five (5) existing map panels (25005C0391F, 25005C0392F, 25005C0394F, 25005C0411F, 25005C0413F dated July 7, 2009) with five (5) new map panels (25005C0391H, 25005C0392G, 25005C0394H, 25005C0411G, 25005C0413G dated July 6, 2021). The date of the Bristol County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report needs to be changed to July 6, 2021 and some required language from the NFIP model bylaw must be added. The location is town wide.

A copy of the application is on file for public review at the Planning Board Office, Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and all information is accessible at the Planning Board webpage: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/planning-board/webforms/national-flood-insurance-maps-new-nfip-fairhaven-map-panels-and-bylaw>

2. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive information and public comment on the updating of the minimum additions to Stormwater Management Section 198-31.1 as required by the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges jointly issued by the US EPA and MassDEP.

A copy of the application is on file for public review at the Planning Board Office, Town Hall by appointment and on the Town website. To schedule an appointment to review the application email the Planning Department at pfoley@fairhaven-ma.gov or call (508) 979-4082, Ext. 9 or go to: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/planning-board>

3 The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive information and public comment on the proposal to establish a General Bylaw Amendment, proposed by the Planning Board, for regulation of Short Term Rentals (STR) to provide for the orderly and safe operation of short-term rentals within the Town and prevent negative impacts.

3A The purpose of the second hearing will be to receive information and public comment on the proposal to establish a General Bylaw Amendment, proposed by the Planning Board, that would impose a 3

percent Community Impact Fee, per Section 3D (b) of M.G.L. Chapter 64G, to be paid monthly on the total amount of rent for each transfer of occupancy on short-term rental units located within a one or two-family or multi-family dwelling that includes the operator's primary residence.

A copy of the application (3 & 3A) is on file for public review at the Planning Board Office, Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and all information is accessible at the Planning Board webpage: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/planning-board/pages/short-term-rentals-bylaw-documents>

4 The purpose of the hearing will be to receive information and public comment on the following Special Permit application: 1) SP 2021-01 – Biju Apartments, a proposal to renovate the fifteen (15) residential apartments on the second and third floor and the three commercial units on the ground floor with new windows, paint and a fire detection system. The building has been abandoned for at least 10 years. The applicant is Julio Barbosa and the location is 350 Main Street (Map 19, Lots 257 & 259) in Fairhaven.

A copy of the application is on file for public review at the Planning Board Office, Town Hall by appointment and on the Town website. To schedule an appointment to review the application call the Planning Department at (508) 979-4082, Ext. 9 or go to: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/planning-board/pages/current-permits-being-reviewed-special-permits-definitive-subdivisions>

To schedule an appointment to review any of the applications call the Planning Department at (508) 979-4082, Ext. 9

John Farrell Jr., Chairman of the Planning Board
 FNN: 3/25/21, 4/2/21

Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

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

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/94115137952?pwd=MXp0VWpKTFBEUmluT1pWSctVzJJCQT09>
 or call 1-929-205-6099
 Meeting ID: 941 1513 7952
 Passcode: 361259

- Administrative Appeal by Fairhaven Shipyard – re: 7 Union Street. REF#:ZBA-AA 01.** 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. **Previously continued until this meeting.**
- 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**

- April 6 2021, at applicant's request.**
- REF#: ZBA 2021-11: 78 Akin Street. Arruda, Peter, Applicant.** 198-18: Variance request for 1,765 sq ft of 15,000 sq feet required in a RA District for a buildable lot.
- REF #ZBA 2021-12:198 Balsam Street.Cohen, Steven** 198-32.2: Variance request for 84' longer than the 75' allowable length for a pier dock, gangway and float.
- 198-32.2: Special Permit for a pier/dock.**
- REF#: ZBA 2021-13:18 Massasoit Ave. Foster, Brendan.** 198-16: Variance request for 11.1' on front setback for a proposed addition.
- 198-16: Special Permit for an in-law/accessory apartment.**
- REF#: ZBA 2021-14:Map 41, Lot 49 Silvershell Beach Drive. Lopes, Joyce** Administrative Appeal by Joyce Lopes for letter dated February 5, 2021 by the Town of Fairhaven's Building Commissioner for storage of a camper or utility trailer.
- 198-16: Special Permit request to park a motorhome on Map 41, Lot 49, a vacant piece of land on Silvershell Beach Drive. Postponed to May.**
- REF#: ZBA 2021-15:140 Adams Street. Marques, Raymond Jr.** 198-23: Special Permit request for a home property maintenance/landscaping business.
 Peter DeTerra, Chairman
 FNN: 3/18/21, 3/25/21

SELECT: cont'd from page 13

patterns in the use of town counsel. He asked Ms. Graves to prepare a memorandum to staff for review at the next meeting.

Also in the meeting, Ms. Graves read a section of the town's social networking policy as it relates to the way town employees and elected or appointed officials are expected to behave on platforms such as Facebook and Twitter in light of "a lot of stuff written on social media lately," she said.

The town has more stringent criteria for social media use by elected and appointed officials and town-operated social media sites featured in the Employee Handbook and the Boards and Committees Handbook.

Mr. Silvia shared that he "doesn't do Facebook," which he said is full of a lot of people who have no life.

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FRANKIE: cont'd from page 10

So, here's the plan. When the four of you are out of the crate, one of you has to stand guard, watch for the dogs and call the alarm at the first sighting. That's when all of you have to immediately stop whatever you are doing and head for the proverbial hills. Of course, a sentry rotation schedule should be set up, so everyone gets equal time watching and exercising. After all, Fair is fair.

Best, Frankie

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Comments and letters can be sent to Frankie at dearfrankiecolumn@gmail.com. The Fairhaven Neighborhood News publishes the Dear Frankie column. To receive a free online subscription, readers can email neighbnews@comcast.net, request their name be added to the email list or visit www.neighbnews.com to read the paper online or to download the latest issue.

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SULLY: cont'd from page 3

staple on the 4-12 shift. "He was proud to be here and his work ethic was admirable."

Chief Myers read from a statement, noting that Mr. Sullivan will be remembered for his "extremely hard work ethic and his support for his peers."

He also had a great sense of humor, read the chief, "but most of all he was dedicated and proud to serve and assist the officers of our department."

"His main goal each shift was making sure the officers he was working with were safe and had as much information as they possibly could at all times," said the Chief.

Mr. Sullivan was "truly proud of his service to our department and the Town of Fairhaven," continued the chief. "His willingness to come to work each and every day to help others was never unnoticed by his peers."

Mr. Sullivan served 22 years in the United States Army. He died in 2019 after a "lengthy and courageous battle with cancer," said the Chief.

"Dedicating our communication center in his honor will allow the legacy he created to be remembered by all who served with him," read the chief. "Rest peacefully our dear friend and thank you for your dedicated service to our department."

"I think this would mean an awful lot to his family and friends," said Selectboard Vice Chair Bob Espindola, who chaired the meeting.

The board voted 2-0 to approved the dedication; Selectboard chairperson Daniel Freitas was absent. A date for a formal dedication ceremony will be announced at a later time.

See page 13 for more Selectboard coverage from the 3/22 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., 4/6, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Health

Wed., 3/31, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 4/12, Arsene St., 6:15 p.m.

Broadband Study Comm

Thurs., 4/8, Remote, 6 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 4/12, Town Hall/Remote, 6:30

Finance Committee

Thurs., 3/25, Arsene St/Remote, 7 p.

Planning Board

Tues., 4/13, Town Hall/Remote, 6:30

School Committee

Wed., 4/14, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon. 4/12, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet

Board of Assessors

Tues., 3/30, Location TBD, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board

Thurs., 4/22, Remote, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Tues., 4/6, Town Hall/Remote, 4 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Mar. 2021	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	25	0612	1836	1144	2358
Friday	26	0656	1918	----	1229*
Saturday	27	0739	2001	0049*	1312*
Sunday	28	0823	2046	0139*	1356*
Monday	29	0910	2134	0231*	1444*
Tuesday	30	0959	2223	0323*	1532*
Wednesday	31	1048	2313	0411*	1617*
	Apr. 2021	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	1	1140	----	0456*	1701*
Friday	2	0008	1238	0543*	1749*
Saturday	3	0109	1341	0645	1853

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

Candidate Statements: Tree Warden



Don Collasius

My name is Don Collasius and I am running for Tree Warden.

Trees are so important for our mental and physical health. They cool us, shelter us from the elements, and they clean the air. Trees, in a natural environment, prosper and pretty much take care of themselves.

Add people and unnatural landscapes to the mix and chaos can prevail if trees are not properly taken care of and removed at the end of their lives.

Our town has many trees that have suffered neglect due to ugly and unhealthy pruning practices and many are just beyond their safe lifespans.

This is not something that has happened in the last year. This town-wide issue has been brewing for years if not decades. The current system we have, has not and cannot take care of what should be a very important asset and is turning our trees into substantial liabilities.

If you feel you as taxpayers are getting what you need from the current Tree Department then no change is required.

However, if you want something different, and hopefully

COLLASIUS: cont'd on page 24



G. Bourne Knowles

I've been involved in the tree care industry all of my life and I've been a Fairhaven resident for over 30 years. I am a certified arborist with the International Society of Arbor Culture as well as the Massachusetts Arborist Association. I also hold a Rhode Island Arborists license and a commercial pesticide

license. I am required to satisfy continuing education requirements for these certifications every year and I work diligently to keep up to date with safety and industry advancements.

I would like to say that I am aware of the dissatisfaction expressed by some residents with regard to the response to requests for tree work.

I've discussed some of the obstacles faced by the tree department with the Board of Selectmen and we are in the process of addressing them. Primarily the need for full time employees and fair wages for them.

We currently have two part time employees who work 20 hours a week at \$14 per hour which makes it difficult not only to retain good workers but also impossible to keep up with demand. It's absolutely necessary to resolve

KNOWLES: cont'd on page 24

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Candidate statements: cont'd from page 22

COLLASIUS: cont'd from page 22

better, please vote for me. I promise to respect your time by responding to your calls in a timely manner. I have the time and experience to build a better Tree Department. I promise to tell you how we can help solve your issue.

I will need your help to change the structure of the current Tree Department budget to make sure your tax dollars have the maximum impact. A longer term fix would be to move the Tree Department into the Board of Public Works. Not a trivial task, but one that can streamline resources and provide better service to the community. This is a model that many towns in the state use and it can work very well.

As your Tree Warden I know there will be trees that need to be removed and far more that will need structural pruning to improve their health, longevity, and beauty. I hope to plant many more trees than are removed, but not just any trees. We will plant trees that are selected individually to each site so they can provide the most benefit and require the least maintenance.

I ask for your vote on April 5, trusting me with the very important job of Tree Warden for the town of Fairhaven. I will take this job very seriously and work hard to make Fairhaven a greener, safer, and even more lovely place to live.

Thank you very much,

Don Carlos Collasius candidate for Tree Warden.

these issues in order to make any progress going forward.

Finally, I'd just like to say that the beauty of our streetscapes and maintaining the character and historical significance of our town is extremely important to me.

Despite the unprecedented challenges that we've faced over the past year, due to COVID, it has been my pleasure to be of service to my community and I hope to be able to continue to do so.

G. Bourne Knowles, Tree Warden, candidate for re-election

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Tree Warden candidates speak to voters

By Beth David

Editor

The two candidates for Fairhaven Tree Warden, incumbent G. Bourne Knowles and challenger Don Collasius both participated in the candidates night on 3/15 sponsored by the North Fairhaven Improvement Association and Fairhaven Government Access TV-Channel 18.

The questions were posed by Fairhaven High School student Elizabeth Edminster, and the evening was moderated by NFIA president Pauline Parker. Candidates were introduced according to their placement on the ballot. Fairhaven votes on Monday, 4/6.

Mr. Knowles started by saying he would keep his introduction "short and sweet."

He said he has been in the tree industry his whole life, and described his qualifications. He is a certified arborist in Mass. and Rhode Island, and a certified pesticide applicator. He said those qualifications require ongoing education and a code of ethics.

He said he was aware of the "dissatisfaction" with tree trimming, and "my decisions with certain trees," in town.

He said he has discussed changing the position with the Selectboard, especially to extend the hours of the part time employees and increase their wages to "make it a more desirable job."

Currently, two employees work 19 hours a week at \$14 to \$16/hour, for a dangerous job that requires a lot of training.

He said he would like to "move forward and address all of those demands and keep moving forward as your tree warden."

Mr. Collasius started by saying that the tree warden position has the "unique legal responsibility" to guarantee public resources. He noted that the state mandates that each municipality have a tree warden. Some are elected, some are appointed.

"I would make customer service my top priority," said Mr. Collasius, adding he would implement a pruning program and would make the information easily available so residents could see the progress, "or lack thereof."

Mr. Collasius said he wanted the job because he cares about the town and "trees in general."

He said he would pursue grants and the possibility of merging the position with the public works department.

Trees add beauty and help the environment, he said, adding he brings an "excellent work ethic" to the job and he has experience with trees, having cut down the trees to build a house and running a tree lot for 30 years.

"I know what a good branch collar is," said Mr. Collasius. "More importantly, I know

when to call in an expert."

As an engineer, he said he knows how to fix and design things, and the tree department is broken.

"Please give me a chance to fix it," he said.

Ms. Edminster asked both candidates what the three priorities and duties of the Tree Warden are.

Mr. Knowles said trees should be preserved and only removed for the right reasons. He said trees need to be evaluated for pests and other reasons they might be in imminent danger of falling or causing



Incumbent G. Bourne Knowles (ABOVE) and challenger Don Collasius (BELOW) participate via Zoom in the Fairhaven candidates night on 3/15/21. Screen shots from Fairhaven Government Cable TV by Beth David.



damage.

Mr. Collasius answered that public safety is first, the beauty of the town is second, and engagement with the public is third.

He said he worried about the lack of work done to trees causing a safety hazard. Pruning practices have caused oddly shaped, lopsided trees.

"Our trees are dying right now," said Mr. Collasius.

He also said he would engage with the public and "give them the service they deserve."

It is no secret that Mr. Collasius has been trying to get a tree near his house removed

and has been battling with Mr. Knowles over it, and has complained that Mr. Knowles does not call him back.

"When someone calls a public servant they deserve a call back, they deserve respect," said Mr. Collasius. "At this point in time, I don't think we're managing that. I don't know why, but we're not."

Ms. Edminster also asked them for their thoughts about the selection process for removal and replacement of town trees.

Mr. Knowles said if the town or a resident wants a tree removed, it is evaluated for health and safety of the tree. The decision is made by the tree warden, he said. If it is removed another one is planted.

"My policy is a one for one replacement," he said, adding that it will be a proper tree, properly placed and planted in the right location.

Mr. Collasius described three levels of surveying a tree: A simple drive-by; looking at it closer; and comprehensive evaluation.

He said he is in favor of three new trees for every one taken down, because they cannot replace the bulk of a large tree with a young one.

He said trees can be used to deal with storm water runoff, for shade, aesthetics, and other things, so each situation is unique.

In their closing statements, Mr. Knowles said the beauty of our treescape in maintaining the character of Fairhaven is extremely important to him.

"I'm not a tree removal guy," said Mr. Knowles, adding he tries to keep everything we have.

Despite the "unprecedented challenges of the last year, with COVID and personnel issues, he said, "It has truly been a pleasure to deal with the people I have dealt with in the town."

"It's been a pleasure to be in the community," he said and urged everyone to get out and vote.

Mr. Collasius closed by saying the town has suffered with "ugly and unhealthy pruning practices," adding it did not happen in just the last year, it has been decades in the making.

He said it was a "substantial liability for the town, and promised to make changes if he wins.

He also said he supported the tree warden being part of the public works department.

He said he would take the job "very seriously."

See last week's issue for the Selectboard candidates. See page 16 for Board of Health.

To watch the video, visit <https://livestream.com/fairhavenlive/events/8101110>

LETTERS: cont'd from page 18

and how we can learn from those past bumps to provide the best educational experience for our students.

Colin's passion for service is still alive today as he also had two children that graduated from the school system, speaks passionately about the K-2 literacy program, and has dedicated his time serving the town on the Town Administrator Search Committee, an important group that decides who the future Town Administrator will be.

It is these reasons and more why I am proud to endorse Donna McKenna and Colin Veitch for another three years on the School Committee.

Kyle Bueno, Fairhaven

Dirty politics in Fairhaven

The upcoming election is a very important one. I don't like the dirty politics going on in the Fairhaven "White House." I feel that Bob Espindola is the most qualified Selectman we have by far and should easily be re-elected to the position.

But it won't be easy due to an obvious effort being made to squeeze him off the board by his fellow board members. The effort began the day after the last election when the historically revolving chair was stripped away from him. We have had much friction and dysfunction within the board ever since, and now they are pooling their influence in town to lavish Bob's opponent with added support.

Why?? Because Bob is honest and fair? Because he goes by the book, a stickler for detail and transparency? This is about him being an obstacle to those who want to do what ever they want.

Bob Espindola is the type of person I want on the board. He works very hard, has excellent credentials, and is devoted to good clean government. He has earned our support and needs it more now than ever. If you agree, it is critical you cast your vote on April 5th.

Scott Durant, Fairhaven

Vote Marchessault

Please vote for Cathleen Marchessault for the Fairhaven School Committee.

Cathleen is capable, thoughtful, inclusive, caring, and compassionate. She has 20 years of experience teaching math in public high schools in this area, both as classroom

teacher and department chair. Cathleen has also initiated groups to improve inclusiveness in schools, and is passionately advocating for her students, making sure they have a voice and are successful.

I am fortunate to know Cathleen as a fellow Fairhaven resident and friend, and know that as a member on the School Committee, Cathleen will add the perspective of a seasoned educator. She will also ensure that agenda items are discussed and decided upon based on regulations and metrics, as well as long-term strategic goals.

Please consider giving Cathleen Marchessault your vote on April 5.

Maria Ruedlinger Walker, Fairhaven

Marchessault open minded

I am writing this letter to share my enthusiastic support for Cathleen Marchessault for School Committee. As a 23-year resident of Fairhaven with four children who are going through or have graduated from the Fairhaven Public Schools, I have volunteered in and been involved in the PTO and the School Council at all levels in the Fairhaven Public schools. As a Fairhaven resident and parent, I am thrilled to have someone with Cathleen's expertise and qualifications running for School Committee.

Cathleen is a long-time resident of Fairhaven, has two children in the Fairhaven Public Schools, and she is a public school teacher. Those three things alone make her qualified to be a School Committee member, but there is much more about her that makes me want to support and recommend her.

Cathleen is open-minded and passionate about education and about serving the students and families of Fairhaven. One of her priorities is to hear from and advocate for all of the students and families in the Fairhaven Public Schools. Cathleen recognizes that all families have unique situations and that we all have something of value to share.

Cathleen brings with her 20 years of invaluable experience as a public school teacher and is currently enrolled in a STEM Leadership Program at UMass Lowell. In the ever-changing landscape of education, including the perspective of an accomplished public school teacher on the committee is so important and can only enhance and elevate the school committee discussions and the

recommendations made by the committee.

Cathleen is an intelligent, thoughtful, and responsive candidate who is committed to advocating for Fairhaven students and families and dedicated to improving the Fairhaven Public schools. She recognizes the importance of encouraging a partnership with the community, of ensuring high-level learning for all students, and of creating a safe and welcoming school environment.

Thank you to Cathleen and to the current School Committee members for their willingness to be involved and advocate for the people of Fairhaven. Thank you also to the residents of Fairhaven for supporting the Fairhaven Public Schools and voting on April 5th. Please vote for Cathleen Marchessault for School Committee!

Rebecca Surprenant, Fairhaven

Looks Like a Pathetic Bailout By Mr. Freitas

The incompetency and corruption continues in Fairhaven's Selectboard. At the March 22 meeting a critically important action item was on the agenda to acknowledge the written termination of the Town Administrator consultant we hired from doing business with us and discuss the next steps to hire a legitimate Town Administrator.

Chairman Daniel Freitas, the guy who intentionally blew up that whole process leaving us with nothing and grim prospects, couldn't even be bothered to show up for the meeting. Again, pathetic and shameful. When the town needs leadership the most, Mr. Freitas bails. And we all see that Mr. Silvia has nothing to offer. This can't continue.

Last week I offered two suggestions for what each of you can do to help right this sinking ship. Now I offer a third of utmost importance: re-elect Bob Espindola. Mr. Espindola has been the only shining example of integrity, wisdom and selflessness on that board in years. Without him, Mr. Freitas and Mr. Silvia's corrupt, incompetent and belligerent agenda would do even more damage than has already been done. We cannot let that happen.

Please join me in supporting Mr. Espindola and vote for his re-election. I will proudly do so.

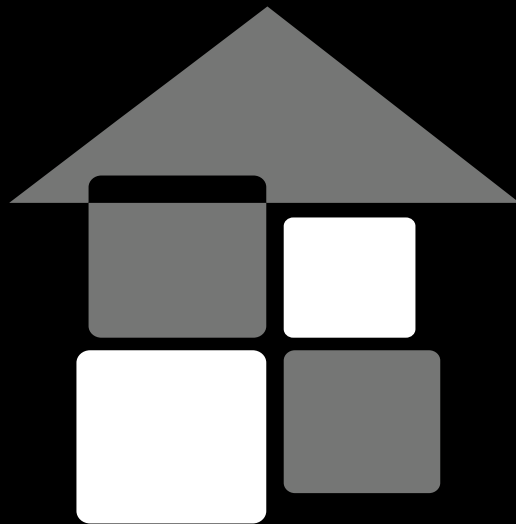
Phil Washko, Fairhaven



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Bob Espindola

SELECTMAN

CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVER

A trained engineer and project manager, life long resident who truly cares about the Fairhaven community.

Bob does the hard work to find and bring new initiatives for

A BETTER WAY OF LIFE IN FAIRHAVEN



..... **REDUCED INTERNET COSTS**

Through the Broadband Study committee to bring Community Fiber Optics to homeowners and businesses in Fairhaven.

REDUCED ENERGY COSTS

To the town with Solar projects on both East Fairhaven and Wood schools.



..... **IMPROVED SAFETY**

Through the redesign and reconstruction of the intersection of the Bike Path and Scoticut Neck Road. (Mass DOT Safe Routes to Schools grant for \$800K currently in design phase)

POSITIVE CHANGE

Bob believes in continuous improvement. If re-elected, he'll continue his dedication to bringing positive changes to Fairhaven.

