



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 16, Issue 16 • April 15, 2021

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

BMX pump track gets spruced up for season



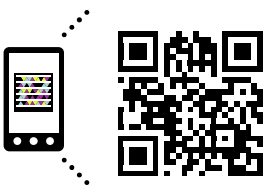
After a community effort on Saturday, April 10, the BMX pump track at Pimental & Macomber Park on Bernese Street has been resurrected from the dust after months of erosion during the pandemic that forced us all indoors and restricted us from gathering in groups in public. A crew of Fairhaven firefighters assisted the group of BMX bike enthusiasts, and by the afternoon kids were already enjoying the fresh edge of the jumps and rolls of the pump track. ABOVE: Wyatt Rotondo tests out the pump track on Bernese Street in Fairhaven while (L-R) Shajn Raines, Chip Hawthorne and Mat Bolton work well into the afternoon on Saturday, 4/10/21. See story on page 12. Photo by Jean Perry for the Fairhaven Neighborhood News.

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:

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From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

Okay, where do I begin this week? The Town Administrator search is still at a stalemate (see page 4). Mr. Espindola came up with a way to break the stalemate if they do another TA search and the vote is tied again: have the Screening Committee break the tie. Pretty good idea, huh? But, yeah, right, as if good ideas have a snowball's chance in hell of getting in place in Fairhaven.

Oh, and the final election numbers are in (see page 3): Mr. Espindola beat Mr. Freitas's preferred candidate 1781 to 494. Take a hint much? Nah!

Mr. Freitas also disparaged letters of complaint because, he says, they seem to have been shared or written by the same person, or colluded, or some such thing. So what? Why should we care if they were shared and grouped and even if they are all from a single form letter? The point is that people took the time to put their names to those letters. Not everyone is comfortable with writing. Many, many, many groups...hell ALL political groups send out suggested wording for advocacy letters. There is nothing wrong with that, and it does not diminish the importance of those letters. The lack of understanding of our how process works is worse and worse.

Oh, one more thing. No one shared anyone's personnel file with us. That would be cool if they did, but they didn't. See our story and read exactly what we got, a couple of emails/letters. Honestly, the stuff this guy comes up with. The personnel file. Geesh.

We have lots of other stuff in here of course. Acting Fire Chief Todd Correia is acting no longer. He's the read deal, got sworn in on Monday (see page 7). Congratulations, Todd, you've worked for it, you deserve it, you'll be a great chief.

Our cover story is sign of spring for sure (see page 12). The kids are jumping the jumps and racing around the BMX track. Boats are getting launched, and spring is marching towards us. I know, I know, it's still pretty cold (I have my wood stove lit), but spring will win out!

Oh...shoot...did I forget to mention the recall effort? Tsk, tsk...the old brain just ain't what it used to be, I guess. See letters on page 22, and the ad on the back cover. Yes, that would be to recall Mr. Freitas.

That's another way to break the stalemate, huh?

Be sure to support our advertisers, okay?

Until next week then...see ya,



Beth David, Publisher

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

We made an error in our story about the Easter Bunny last week. The North Fairhaven Improvement Association meets the third Thursday of the month. We apologize for any confusion our error may have caused.

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*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth David".

COVID update

By Beth David
Editor

Vaccinations in Massachusetts for COVID-19 continue at a rapid pace and have been opened up to individuals 55+ and individuals with one qualifying medical condition, but the use of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine has been paused due to a federal alert about possible blood clots.

Six women between the ages of 18 and 48 developed blood clots. One died, another is in critical condition. The J&J vaccine has been administered to 6.85 million people. It is still unclear if the blood clots were due to the vaccine. The pause will give officials a chance to review the cases and make a determination as to whether or not the vaccine played a role in the development of the blood clots.

In Massachusetts, about 181,000 J&J doses have been administered. It is a single dose vaccine, unlike the other two, which require two shots about three weeks apart.

Massachusetts continues to reopen businesses, but many are still

operating at very limited capacities.

The state operates nine mass vaccination sites, including one at the former Circuit City location on Faunce Corner Road in Dartmouth.

Residents can preregister to be notified when there are appointments available at one of those sites.

Southcoast Hospital Group also administers a site on Faunce Corner Road (visit www.southcoast.org).

Walgreen's and CVS Pharmacies across the state are also vaccinating residents.

To find a site that may have slots available, visit <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov>, call 211,

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

Fairhaven has had 1,884 cases of COVID-19, with 56 in the last two weeks (active); and a positivity rate of 3.92%; 38,914 tests have been administered to Fairhaven residents.

Acushnet has had a total of 1,236 cases, with 36 active; and a positivity rate of 4.62; and a total of 20,263 tests.

Mass. has had 17,068 confirmed COVID-19 deaths, and 345 probable deaths.

Election official

By Beth David
Editor

The final numbers from the Fairhaven election on 4/5/21 are in. Voter turnout was 19.2%, with 2290 voters of 11,290 casting ballots. Differences in the following totals are due to blanks.

In the Selectboard race, incumbent Bob Espindola received 1781 votes to challenger Lisa Plante's 494. School Committee: Donna McKenna, 1301; Colin Veitch, 1297; Cathleen Marchesault, 941. Board of Health: Kevin Gallagher, 1620; Barbara Acksen, 558. Commissioner of Trust Funds, Colleen Silvia with 8 write-in votes. Board of Public Works: Marcus Ferro, 1263; Robert "Hoppy" Hobson, 1182. Planning Board: Cathy Melanson, 1081; David Braga, 1275; Jessica Fidalgo (3 year unexpired term), 1394; Wayne Hayward (2 year unexpired term), 60 write-in votes. Housing Authority: Ronnie Manzone, 1514; Marc Scanlon (1 year unexpired term), 1421. Town Moderator, Mark Sylvia, 1610. Tree Warden, challenger Don Collasius, 1076; incumbent G. Bourne Knowles IV, 1037.

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Stay tuned for more info coming soon!



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Selectboard TA decision still at a stalemate

Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

Fairhaven Selectboard Chairperson Daniel Freitas said during the board's 4/12 meeting that he did not understand why Selectboard member Bob Espindola wants to initiate a new town administrator search instead of simply appointing the current interim town administrator, Finance Director/Treasurer/Collector Wendy Graves.

Once Selectboard member Keith Silvia left the room due to a conflict of interest, the board took up the matter after weeks of inaction after Mr. Freitas did not attend the board's last meeting on 3/23. Mr. Freitas began by saying that Ms. Graves has been acting as interim TA for three months and, since he has not heard any complaints about her performance, he needed Mr. Espindola to explain why the board should not appoint Ms. Graves.

"I don't see where the problem lies," said Mr. Freitas, adding that a second TA search would be a waste of taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Espindola said the board had received "several dozen" emails from

the public expressing disagreement over Mr. Freitas and Mr. Silvia's side-stepping of the TA hiring process by including Ms. Graves as a fourth candidate after the TA Screening Committee's final decision to exclude her as a finalist.

Ms. Graves was interviewed on 3/11, three weeks after interviews of the three finalists chosen by TA Screening Committee. Mr. Silvia recused himself after an eleventh-hour realization of a conflict of interest, which led to a stalemate between Mr. Freitas, who wanted Ms. Graves, and Mr. Espindola, who preferred Jennifer Callahan, the current town manager of Oxford (see the 3/18/21 *Neighb News*).


"People were appalled," said Mr. Espindola, about how the TA hiring process unfolded.

Mr. Freitas discounted the significance of the emails because they all said "basically the same thing" and were likely "set up by somebody" and therefore could not represent any legitimate concerns. He alleged that there was a rumor that the TA Screening Committee never

chose Ms. Graves as a finalist, but having served as a (self-appointed) member on that committee, Mr. Freitas said the approved executive session minutes would prove that Ms. Graves was originally one of the three finalists. He said the committee later rescinded its vote for Ms. Graves after the *Neighb News* published an article about Ms. Graves' prior work history, which included several resignations and Department of Revenue reports implicating financial mismanagement and incompetency (see the 1/14/21 *Neighb News*).

Mr. Freitas also noted that said *Neighb News* article featured detrimental information about Ms. Graves' job performance in Fairhaven that was not readily available for public review. He repeated his mistaken assumption that someone had given Ms. Graves' confidential personnel file to the *Neighb News*. He said the board would continue to investigate who was responsible for sharing the information with the newspaper but conceded that they would likely never find out.

SELECT: cont'd to page 13




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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

COVID 19 Testing

The Fairhaven Fire Department has been administering FREE COVID-19 tests on Saturdays, but they are deciding on a week to week basis, usually past press time. The testing is at the Emergency Management Building, 150 Sconticut Neck Rd., from 10–noon

Residents are encouraged to check the department's website at <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/covid-testing> or their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FhvnFire>. Please contact the Health Department with questions at boh@fairhaven-ma.gov or 508-979-4023 ext. 125.

Testing is for residents and Town employees, on a first come, first serve basis, no appointment necessary. Please bring a form of ID to prove residency. Masks required.

Commy Garden

Have you ever wanted to try gardening but didn't know where to start? Perhaps you're interested in saving money by growing your own organic vegetables? Maybe your yard is too small or too shady for a garden? Or maybe, you just want to be part of a "growing green" community?

If you've answered yes to any of these questions, you're in luck. The Fairhaven Community Garden has garden beds available at three locations in town: East Fairhaven Elementary School, Hastings Middle School and Wood Elementary School. The annual fee is \$10 per 4x8 foot bed. All gardeners agree to use organic practices only.

If you are interested or have a question, visit our website at fairhavencommunitygarden.org where you'll find more information and the 2021 gardening application, or you can email the site coordinator at sitecoordinator@fairhavencommunitygarden.org.

Seeds for Seniors

We are pleased to announce Seeds for Seniors. The Fairhaven Sustainability Committee is donating small peat pellet greenhouses and seeds to interested seniors in Fairhaven. We hope that everyone will enjoy planting and growing something to eat and enjoy for the year. Our goal is to encourage gardening, and grow

your own produce. Each greenhouse comes with instructions for planting. We would love to expand the program if it is popular next year. The greenhouses can be reused or recycled for another season.

We are working with both the Senior Center and the Housing Authority to distribute these to seniors in town. Anyone interested in the program can call the Fairhaven Senior Center to sign up at 508-979-4029. There is a limited supply so please call if you are interested to have your name on the list.

For more information about the "Seeds for Seniors" program you can email fairhavensustainability@gmail.com or call Ann Richad, 508-287-2831.

Rogers cleanup

Join us for a Rogers School Spruce Up Day on Sat. 4/17 (rain date 4/18) at 10 a.m., 100 Pleasant St., Fairhaven. All ages are encouraged to join us. Bring your rake and gloves and help us clean up sticks, trim some shrubs, do some weeding and rake some leaves. Trash bags will be provided. Please wear a mask.

Bingo Night

Virtual Bingo Night and Raffle 2021 on Friday, 4/16, from 6:30 – 8 pm. You can log on as early as 6 pm. There is a suggested donation of \$25/person to participate. Every participant will get 2 bingo cards to play for the evening.

Once you register online at communitynurse.com/bingo everything you need to participate will be sent by email prior to the event.

A raffle featuring a Paddleboard, a Brahmin Bag and many gift baskets is also taking place online.

For more details visit, <http://www.communitynurse.com/bingo/>.

Computers Open

The Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven, will be welcoming back patrons in person by appointment for computer use only beginning Friday, April 16. Computer use is limited to 45 minutes per day per person. Library staff will not be available to assist you in using the computer. If you need assistance, you may bring a guest with you. Your guest must remain with you as you use the computer.

To register for an appointment, call

508-992-5342 or email Millicent@SailsInc.Org. You may also register on a mobile device at <https://millicentlibrary.simplybook.me/>

All people in the library are required to wear a mask and maintain six feet of distance between staff and other visitors.

The library is not yet open for browsing or other activities. To request materials or schedule curbside pickup please contact us at Millicent@SailsInc.Org or 508-992-5342.

Homecoming canceled

Barbara Acksen, Chair of the Fairhaven Homecoming Day Fair, on behalf of the Fairhaven Improvement Association which sponsors the Fair, announced that the Fair will be rescheduled until June 25, 2022.

She noted that the well-being of the general public, our vendors, and our town employees remains our number one priority. Despite gradual opening of the state, health advisories indicate that the public would still not be safe at a large-scale event such as this. Street Festivals are currently prohibited and no significant change in this prohibition is indicated in the near future. We therefore believe that postponement is the responsible course of action.

The Homecoming Day Fair has been Fairhaven's largest and most popular event for many years. Thousands of people of all ages come together to enjoy our 175 booths of artisans and crafters from all over New England, live entertainment, art show, children's activities, fire engine rides and great food.

We look forward to next year when we can all come together again and share the special connections and fun that the Fair has brought for years to people of all ages.

Our committee is already at work planning for different requirements that may be needed for the Fair to take place next year. We look forward to welcoming the public then.

For future information about rescheduled event please email fairhavenhomecoming@gmail.com, visit <http://www.fairhavenimprovement.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/FairhavenImprovementAssociation/>.



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Todd Correia sworn in as Fairhaven Fire Chief

By Beth David
Editor

Todd Correia made the transition from acting Fire Chief in Fairhaven to permanent chief during the Selectboard meeting on 4/12/21, when he was officially sworn in upstairs in the Town Hall auditorium.

Surrounded by family, friends, lots of firefighters and police personnel, Chief Correia took his oath and thanked the many people who helped him along the way.

"I am deeply humbled and honored to see you all be here today," said Chief Correia, and thanked Interim Town Administrator Wendy Graves and the Selectboard for the opportunity to serve as the next fire chief in Fairhaven.

He thanked his family, saying they have been with him throughout his journey, noting it has been a "tough struggle" going through the ranks of civil service exams, to lieutenant, then deputy chief, and now chief.

"I'm honored and blessed to have you all as my family," said Chief Correia. "So thank you for being here."

He made special note of thanking former chief Timothy Francis for giving him the opportunities that led him to

his position.

"So, Chief Francis, thank you for everything you've done for me throughout my career," said Chief Correia. "To the men and women of the Fire Department: I am blessed. I am really honored to see you all here today, and I look forward to working with each and every one of you."

He said they will take what Chief Francis has left us, "and build upon it and make it a stronger, more beneficial department."

He also thanked police chief Michael Myers for also being a mentor, calling him the senior chief of public safety.

Chief Correia said the town was unique in the good relationship that the two departments have, and that is why they want to continue to share a public

safety facility. He said he would strive to maintain that relationship.

The citizens of Fairhaven he said, "I will strive to represent you and maintain the legacy that Chief Francis has left us," of being a professional department.

Chief Correia also promised to spend taxpayer dollars wisely, and to train and be "better equipped for the emergencies of tomorrow."



Fairhaven Fire Chief Todd Correia poses with his family after he is sworn in on Monday, 4/12/21 in the Town Hall auditorium. L-R: His daughter Cassidy, his wife Heather, Chief Correia, his son Chase. Photo courtesy of Fairhaven Fire Department/EMS by Kristine Austin.

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HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Earth Day Cleanup

Join us for two beach cleanups on Sat., 4/24. Gloves and tools provided, but bring your own if you have them.

Wear gloves, masks and closed-toed shoes. Keep socially distanced and limit group size. Use a trash grabbing tool, if possible. If you find a needle, syringes, or sharps, DO NOT TOUCH.

- **Palmer's Island:** 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Meet at the bottom of Gifford Street (off Rte 18).

- **West Beach:** 11:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Organized by Operation Clean Sweep, Community Boating Center, Be The Solution to Pollution.

Vaccines Available

New Bedford's Waterfront Vaccination Center on Hervey Tichon Avenue will offer COVID-19 vaccine appointments at its clinic, which will be administered by CIC Health as a FEMA vaccination clinic for the following dates:

- Sat., 4/17 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Sun., 4/18 from 9:00 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More FEMA vaccination clinic dates will be announced once scheduled. This past Saturday, the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center administered a clinic at the Waterfront Vaccination Center that vaccinated more than 1,000 people, with a focus on essential seafood industry workers.

Those eligible for vaccination under the state's guidelines may make an appointment for the FEMA vaccination clinic on Hervey Tichon Avenue by contacting the New Bedford vaccination call center at 508-984-2661 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Spanish and Portuguese speakers may make appointments through the Immigrants' Assistance Center at 508-996-8113.

Additional dates for FEMA vaccination clinics at the Waterfront Vaccination Center on Hervey Tichon Avenue will be announced as soon as they are scheduled.

Free Museum

April Vacation Week (April 19 – April 23) will be kicked off this year at the New Bedford Whaling Museum with a Free Admission Day! Thanks to the Highland Street Foundation and the Patriots Foundation, families can

come visit for free on Monday, April 19. Reservations for free admission tickets can be made online beginning Thursday, April 15.

April Vacation Week will also be the start of expanded Museum hours. After more than a year of reduced hours, the Museum will be open again daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets can be reserved for morning (9 a.m. – 1 p.m.) or afternoon (1 p.m. – 5 p.m.) sessions at www.whalingmuseum.org.

Visit www.whalingmuseum.org for more details.

Fish Ctr Open

The Fishing Heritage Center, 38 Bethel St., New Bedford, will reopen to the public on April 15th! Stop by to explore our new, permanent exhibit, *More than a Job: Work and Community in New Bedford's Fishing Industry*. This exhibit will feature a replica working deck, scallop dredge, galley table, bunks, historic images and footage, and more than sixty audio clips sharing the many voices of the fishing community. The new exhibit will provide visitors with an introduction to the workings of the fishing industry as well as explore themes including labor history, immigration, sustainability, and the changing nature of work and community.

Beginning April 15th, New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center will be open Thursday-Sunday, 10:00am-4:00pm. Admission is free. Learn more about visiting the Fishing Heritage Center by clicking here.

For health and safety reasons, visitors, volunteers, and staff will be required to masks while in the Center and to practice social distancing. Visitation will be limited to 50% capacity in accordance with Massachusetts safety standards.

For more information, please contact Hannah at programs@fishingheritagecenter.org, 508-993-8894

Earth Month

SouthCoast Earth Month Coalition announces many all-age friendly, in-person and virtual, activities to engage and celebrate a 100% sustainable future this month.

For updates and events, visit: www.ClimateRealitySouthcoast.com

Virtual Town Hall

With US Sen. Edward Markey, Wed.,

4/21, 1 p.m. via Zoom, presented by One SouthCoast Chamber.

Visit <https://members.onesouthcoast.com/events/>

YTI Performances

Your Theatre Inc. presents two short plays by David Ives. April 23-24, 7:30 p.m.; April 25, 2:30 p.m. \$5, all performances.

Sure Thing. Two people meet in a cafe and find their way through a conversational minefield as an offstage bell interrupts their false starts, gaffes, and faux pas on the way to falling in love.

Variations On The Death Of Trotsky This play explores the Russian revolutionary on the day of his demise, desperately trying to cope with the mountain-climbers axe he's discovered in his head.

For additional information visit <https://yourtheatre.org/yti/index.php?page=event&evtid=385>

Grant Applications

United Way of Greater New Bedford is now accepting proposals from non-profit organizations and public entities for Community Impact funding. Community Impact grants are aimed to support the most effective existing programs and services in United Way's target areas of health, education, financial stability, and basic needs.

Organizations are eligible to apply for \$10,000–\$25,000 for operational support to continue, maintain, or expand already existing high quality programs and services. Proposals must directly align with UWGNB's priority areas and target issues and must have the existing infrastructure to track specific program indicators. Programs and services must be available to residents in United Way

To read the full RFP and learn more about United Way's priority areas, visit unitedwayofgnb.org/community-impact-grants. **Applications are due on Friday April 23rd at noon.**

Community Impact proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by a Citizen Review Volunteer Committee made up of community members from Greater New Bedford.

Contact Michelle N. Hantman with any questions regarding the Community Impact grants at 508-994-9625 ext. 212. To learn more visit <https://unitedwayofgnb.org>.

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

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

April Vacation Programs

Spend your vacation week discovering all the amazing things happening in spring! Children ages six to ten will engage in an exciting week of hands-on activities, experiments, games, crafts and trail walks.

April Vacation Week Adventures will be led by Lloyd Center educators who will take children through the Center's ponds, woods, and fields, to discover what animals and plants are reappearing as the weather warms and seasons change. Each day of the week will have exciting new activities to explore the world around us.

This is a four-day program that will take place from **Tuesday, April 20, through Friday, April 23**. Check in is at 9:40 a.m. and program time runs from 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. daily. Participants are to meet at the Lloyd Center Bond Building classroom. The price for Lloyd Center members is \$225 and for non-members \$275. **This program is limited to eight children, ages six to ten years old.**

Pre-registration is required by Thursday, April 15, 3:00pm.

To pre-register online, visit <https://lloydcenter.org/form-event-registration/>. If you have specific questions regarding the program, please contact Ashley Gesner at 774-628-9241 or ashley@lloydcenter.org.

Note: To prevent the spread of COVID-19, masks and social distancing will be required.

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.

Bird Group

Birds: The Epic Adventures of a Massachusetts Bird Photographer

Wed., 4/21, from 6:30 pm–7:30 pm, via Zoom, the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, in conjunction with the Fairhaven Nasketucket Bird Club, will be hosting a Zoom presentation by photographer Peter Christoph, who will narrate a slideshow of his favorite bird photographs all taken right here in Massachusetts where he lives. His program is both entertaining and informative as he shares stories of his photographic adventures and the techniques he uses to capture his images as well as shares his favorite places to take photos of birds in their natural habitat.

Immediately after his talk, Peter will have copies of his signed companion book *Birds* available at a discount for purchase by attendees.

Registration is required for you to receive the Zoom meeting information. Register by sending an email to rsmith@sailsinc.org, 508-758-4171.

Stone Walls

Westport's Stone Walls, 2 p.m., Sa., 4/17. Professional land surveyor Sean Leach will explore the evolution of stone walls and highlight their important role as endangered historical landmarks. These persistent remnants of the past are found throughout Westport's landscape. They

remain one of the most symbolic reminders of the changing landscape. Built by farmers as they attempted to clear their fields of glacial erratics, stone walls marked boundaries and served to safeguard livestock and crops. Many stone walls in Westport date from the early eighteenth century and delineate the original boundaries established at that time.

Pre-register to attend this program via Zoom. https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_lpGI5jFhT2WNLgR0nuRWWg

Gravestone Cleaning

Sat., 4/17, 10 a.m.–noon. Westport Gravestone Cleaning Group

The Westport Historical Society invites you to join our effort to preserve Westport's cemeteries. It is a rewarding and therapeutic activity! We will host a series of regular gravestone cleaning events on Saturday mornings.

Pre-registration is required. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f4aa8a92cabfd0-gravestone>

Poetry Reading

Cape Cod Community College's Intentional Critical Conversations and Bigger Boat Writers Series are excited to present internationally renowned Latino poet, Martin Espada in celebration of National Poetry Month. Mr. Espada will hold a virtual reading on **Thurs., 4/22 at 2 p.m.** Please register at https://capecod.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYtceCorz4iE9xHfOL_cffN0_h_BRxUiaRz

A Brooklyn-born history graduate from the University of Wisconsin, with a Juris Doctor degree from Northeastern University, Mr. Espada has published almost 20 books as a poet, editor, essayist, translator, and attorney. He has been a lifetime political activist and a leader in the Puerto Rican Community since childhood following in his father, Frank Espada's legacy.

Mr. Espada's prestigious writing paints with words to imagine images of truths and insights of socially, economically, and racially marginalized individuals and groups.

You certainly don't want to miss this event.

Recipe of the Week

Good Old Fashioned Pancakes

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon white sugar
- 1 1/4 cups milk
- 1 egg
- 3 tablespoons butter, melted

In a large bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, salt and sugar. Make a well in the center and pour in the milk, egg and melted butter; mix until smooth.

Heat a lightly oiled griddle or frying pan over medium-high heat. Pour or scoop the batter onto the griddle, using approximately 1/4 cup for each pancake. Brown on both sides and serve hot.

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Dear Frankie



Dog Park Dilemma

When COVID began, my Dad decided to work from home and stop socializing. When the dog park opened, he felt it was a safe way to get out of the house and see other people.

Initially, we went a couple of times a week and stayed for twenty minutes. Now we go four times a week for over an hour. My Dad has met several people whose company he enjoys.

I'm happy that he has found a safe social outlet. I am not happy however, being locked in with a bunch of rough and unruly dogs five hours a week. I am afraid of one dog, a boxer/shepherd named Champ. He is a bully. Whenever I walk through the park gate, Champ is waiting for me.

My Dad thinks Champ is being friendly and wants to say hello. Little does my Dad know that Champ growls and bares his teeth at me when he is not looking. I feel it's only a matter of time before he bites me. I'm a wreck. How can I let my Dad know how frightened I am when I'm at the park and don't want to go anymore?

*Grateful, Davy
Dear Davy,*

You are not the first dog to write about their fear of dog parks. Many humans don't understand that dog parks are not

for every canine. Dogs who were not socialized with other dogs in their formative years or had a bad dog park experience are not good dog park candidates. Then there are dogs like yourself who are dog friendly, only to discover that not all dogs can be trusted.

Living in fear for five hours a week is not good for your mental health. It frosts me when I see dog owners drinking their ice coffees, blabbing away with their friends, and not paying any attention to what's going on in the park, that is until it's too late and a dog gets hurt.

Here's a few things you might do to show your Dad the park is not for you. When he parks the car and opens your door, refuse to get out. If he pulls your leash and says, come, look the other way and dig your nails into the upholstery. If by chance he does succeed in getting you through the gate, stay by his side and start gagging. Gagging never fails to get a human's attention. If at this point, he doesn't take you home, collapse, shake and screech like you are having a seizure.

Your goal is to alert as many dog owners as possible in hopes they will rush to your rescue. After this incident, if your Dad has the gall to take you back to the park; your only option is to repeat the above steps. Eventually, he will become so embarrassed by your behavior he will stop taking you to the park. Don't worry that you are preventing him from socializing. There are oodles of outdoor cafes where he can meet up with his new friends.

Best, Frankie

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Comments and letters can be sent

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

In my past columns I have been able to cover the struggles of students overall at FHS, but what about the portion of students participating in AP (Advanced Placement) classes?

Taking AP Courses is quite difficult as it is, but throwing the pandemic into the mix has proven to be a challenge for many students this year.

Some students claim that some of the content has had to be rushed due to the late start to the school year. Others say it's hard to get the help they need during their remote weeks. These are just some of the struggles that students in these harder classes are facing.

Others that I've spoken to like Sabrina Zheng feel that, "It's more difficult to pay attention and to take the class seriously," comparing how students usually take an AP class which usually has more of a serious, focused energy that perhaps has lessened because of the pandemic.

Freshman Kiana Coppa stated, "We've had to rely a ton on our textbooks to learn as opposed to in-person learning, which makes it a lot harder for clarification or asking questions and overall a lot harder to learn and understand the content."

Including myself and Ms. Coppa, there are several freshmen taking an AP course their first year of high

school because the school has opened up the courses to 9th graders for the first time this year. Not only are these students getting used to high school, but also adjusting to higher placement classes during a pandemic.

In addition to freshmen, many upperclassmen take these courses as well, and some that I've spoken to like Colin Pacheco found a different experience in his AP classes this year.

"I think the AP classes have been much easier than they were said to be prior to the pandemic. The workload is less intense and it gives us more freedom on when to do things."

Aside from taking the class, there is an AP Exam at the end of the year

Along with these cons, there seem to be a few pros of the digital test that students pointed out.

that students are to take and potentially earn college credit if their scores permit.

This year, Fairhaven High students are taking the AP Exam digitally, at home due to COVID-19 and safety precautions.

First, it's important to note some of the potential key differences between the paper and digital exam put in place by the College Board.

For example, Kiana Coppa explained some of the differences on her AP World History Exam that she will be taking in May: "There are a few

things different. First off, we cannot go back to previous questions on multiple choice questions. Once we answer it, we cannot change our answers. Also, there is no Long Essay Question, and it is replaced with two more Short Answer questions in addition to the three that we already get. The college board was going to require cameras, however since then they have said they haven't, so that's still up in the air."

Since there is a major difference this year compared to past exams, I decided to find out whether or not students think the test will be more difficult taking it on the computer and at home, rather than paper and pencil at school.

One student said, "I think the AP test will be much harder to take online because of how distracting a home environment is. It is much easier to do work at school without getting distracted, so I think our grades may suffer taking the test at home because we will have trouble staying on task."

Many students who gave me their input felt the same way in regards to the distractions that may take away from their testing time.

Along with these cons, there seem to be a few pros of the digital test that students pointed out.

A freshman student stated, "I think taking the test virtually will definitely have its challenges with the distractions at home but not having to write everything out and have to physically flip between pages will be much easier."

Grace Dupre added, "I think taking the AP test digitally will be easier because we are so used to using technology for school, it would just be more convenient."

What are your thoughts on taking the AP Exam digitally?



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BMS pump track gets spruced up

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

As we crawl our way out the COVID-19 pandemic and back into the community, one particular group is shoveling its way back to pre-pandemic fun.

On Saturday, April 10, some BMX bike enthusiasts with plenty of help from the community converged at the Macomber & Pimental Park pump track to restore that essential edge to the mounds and berms of earth left smooth and eroded over the past year.

Mike Rotondo and Chip Hawthorne have been involved in the formation and maintenance of the pump track since its inception in 2018. And although the town has always supported the project, the two men said they were amazed on Saturday when at one point there were as many as 20 people on the scene, including a crew of Fairhaven firefighters, who within a couple hours had entirely

resurrected the BMX bike track.

"I'm blown away at how much they helped us today," said Mr. Rotondo. He added that Kia of Dartmouth also provided some funding for sprucing up the track while Igreen Landscaping helped out with some heavy machinery work ahead of the labor the group performed that day.

The months in lockdown and the restrictions on public gatherings and events took their toll on the dirt hills and sculpted berms that need regular use and maintenance to keep the earth packed down to retain their crisp shape.

In the afternoon, the adults continued their work while the kids on their bikes helped out simply by packing in the dirt with the momentum of their bike tires across jumps and rollers and around the elevated turns.

The group increased the flow of the pump track by adding a few new design features while they were at it,



ABOVE: (L-R) Mat Bolton sculpts a dirt mound as Shajn Raines assists, with Chip Hawthorne and Mike Rotondo on hand to get the BMX pump track at Macomber & Pimental Park on Bernese Street in Fairhaven ready for the season on Saturday, 4/10/21. Photo by Jean Perry for the Fairhaven Neighborhood News.

and plan to maintain the track by establishing a once-a-week workday to keep the track just damp enough to keep it from getting too dusty and vulnerable to erosion.



ABOVE, L-R: Luke Rodrigues builds the momentum and makes the jump on the BMX pump track at Pimental & Macomber Park on Bernese Street in Fairhaven on Saturday, 4/10/21, when the track was restored for use this season. BELOW LEFT: Shajn Raines (center) breaks from hosing down the dirt to give some direction to Mat Bolton (on top of mound), with Mike Rotondo on hand. BELOW RIGHT: A shovel waits, ready for work as the group gets ready to spruce up track. Photos by Jean Perry for the Fairhaven Neighborhood News.



SELECT: cont'd from page 4

As for the ensuing emails from the public, which Mr. Espindola said should be posted to the Town's website for all to read, Mr. Freitas said he found them "unfair" in how some people accused him and Mr. Silvia of being "bad guys" and Ms. Graves unqualified for the job.

Mr. Espindola said he found Mr. Freitas's response to the public's emails and concerns "highly insulting," but Mr. Freitas, "not trying to be a jerk," maintained his suspicion of so many emails "saying the same thing."

Mr. Espindola specified that the emails were from unrelated people expressing disappointment, dissatisfaction with the side-stepping of the TA search process and the resulting waste of time and money, and the disrespect shown to the search committee and its chosen finalists.

Mr. Freitas said every email called for restarting the TA search process, furthering his suspicion.

"We're in a stalemate," said Mr. Espindola. "We owe it to the community to work together, you and I, to solve the problem."

The town has an interim TA, but it still needs a permanent TA, he continued, and Mr. Freitas interrupted him to again ask him what would be wrong with choosing Ms. Graves. Mr. Espindola said if Mr. Freitas kept interrupting him, then he would cease the discussion and go straight to a motion.

Mr. Espindola continued, "We had a process—"

"I was part of the process, and I know how the process went," Mr. Freitas said, interrupting again.

But Mr. Freitas did not follow the process, said Mr. Espindola, and he read through his motion to restart the TA search process with measures in place to ensure a "fair process" this time.

First, he called for soliciting quotes from Community Paradigm Associates, the consultant the town hired for the previous search, and another consultant, the Collins Center for Public Management. He later said a new TA search might cost slightly less if the town uses the same position statement it did last time. Next, he called for seven volunteers to serve on a new TA Search Committee — one from the same three committees as before (School Committee, Planning Board, and Finance Committee), the

town moderator who would act as the chair of the committee, one at-large member from the community, and two Selectboard appointees from the community, with no Selectboard member allowed to sit on the committee this time.

His motion included a three-day public posting for letters of interest in serving on the committee, which the Selectboard would rank before an appointment. He added that the screening committee would forward at least two but no more than four finalists. And should there be another stalemate, the two Selectboard's choices would be forwarded to the screening committee for a final vote during an open session to break the tie.

"That is a process that I believe will get us out of a stalemate position," said Mr. Espindola. It will cost money,

Mr. Espindola said he found Mr. Freitas's response to the public's emails and concerns "highly insulting,"

he said, but it is the "only fair way to do this."

Mr. Freitas, again, wondered why Ms. Graves should not just be appointed since she is apparently doing a "great job."

He said he would agree to solicit bids for a consultant but said he would not be inclined to use Community Paradigm Associates again, alluding to some perceived notion that the firm had worked with at least one of the candidates in the past, which should have been disclosed. He alleged that it was, perhaps, why "some of these candidates were pushed ahead."

Ultimately, Mr. Freitas seconded Mr. Espindola's motion to authorize Ms. Graves to solicit bids from the two firms.

He then revisited how the *Neighb News* wrote an article that he maintains resulted in Ms. Graves losing her status as a finalist for the job and

how he plans to find out how the newspaper received the information.

"The town and the townspeople would love to know how that happened," he said. To whoever was responsible for leaking the documents to the *Neighb News*, he said, "That's wrong."

Also during the meeting, Susan Loo from the Rogers School Re-Use Committee presented the board with a "very serious inquiry" from the Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative (SMEC), which is interested in renovating and leasing the 1960s addition of the Rogers School building.

Ms. Loo said SMEC toured the building and was "thrilled with the space available," offering to lease the building to service programs for about 40 students and rehabilitate the bathrooms and do other work such as painting and electrical wiring. Other aspects that need work include a new roof and asbestos removal, and the board voted to enter into negotiations with SMEC about impending costs and who would pay for what.

Mr. Espindola noted that SMEC's goal to have the building ready for use by September presents a tight timetable and expressed concern about what leasing the building to SMEC would mean for any future proposals that could come in for the main historical school building. He did vote in favor of allowing for an assessment of the costs and possible ensuing negotiations.

Also at the meeting, Mr. Silvia nominated Mr. Freitas to serve another year as chairperson during the annual reorganization of the board. The motion passed 2-1, with Mr. Espindola in opposition. Mr. Silvia then nominated Mr. Espindola to serve again as vice-chairperson, which passed 3-0.

The board selected its preference for the outside display for the restored Paul Revere bell from the old Oxford school, which will be on display on the Town Hall lawn near the flagpole, presumably by the end of the summer.

The board also approved a list of 45 Fairhaven properties seized for unpaid taxes to auction off at a date yet to be determined. The board awarded the auctioneer bid to Zekos Group. The Town will advertise for the auction once a date is set.

Fairhaven Recreation Center

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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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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.

Transportation

Volunteer Medical Transportation will be available to any Fairhaven senior 60 years old and older who have been fully vaccinated to local doctors appointments. The volunteer driver has been fully vaccinated. We are asking that both continue to wear masks during the transportation. A donation of \$10.00 can be made directly to the volunteer driver.

DO YOU QUALIFY FOR FREE FOOD

The Fairhaven COA participates in the Greater Boston Food Bank distribution. The Greater Boston Food

Bank provides free non-perishable groceries and fresh fruit and vegetables to financially eligible seniors over 60 years old. Call the Fairhaven COA at 508-979-4029 and ask for Anne Silvia to see if you qualify financially to participate in this program.

Volunteer Medical Transportation

The COA van will run Monday through Friday beginning at 8:00 a.m. for in town shopping and errands as well as daily trips to Market Basket. All passengers will have their temperature taken before entering the van and must wear a mask while on the van. The van will be thoroughly sanitized after each use. Volunteer Medical transportation has not yet been resumed.

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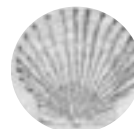
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Acushnet Fire Department receives grant for safety equipment

From Acushnet Fire & EMS
Department Facebook Page

The Acushnet Fire & EMS Department has received notification of a grant award totaling \$15,000 for the purchase of equipment focusing on firefighter safety.

The funds come from the Fiscal Year 2021 "Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program" administered by the Department of Fire Services. A total of \$5 million was distributed to fire departments across the state.

The amount each department was eligible for was based on the population of the community.

This grant will be used to purchase five thermal imaging cameras which will be carried on each of the fire department's apparatus. In addition, funds will be used to replace aging fire nozzles and hose.

"We are thankful the state approved our grant request," stated Acushnet Fire Chief Kevin Gallagher. "These funds will allow us to continue to

upgrade equipment that is so very important to the safety of our firefighters. I want to commend our senior members, especially Firefighter/Paramedic Thomas Farland, for playing a leading role in writing our successful grant proposal."

"We constantly are looking for grant opportunities in order to take the cost of equipment purchases and replacement off the backs of the Acushnet taxpayer. Our folks did a great job," stated Chief Gallagher

Nomination papers available in Acushnet

Nomination papers are available for those wishing to run for office in Acushnet.

The annual election is scheduled for Saturday, May 15, 2021. Polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on election day.

The last day to take out nomination papers is Thursday, March 25, at 5 p.m.

Candidates must submit at least 42 signatures that will be certified as registered voters who have signed in person. The last day and hour to

submit nomination papers to the Board of Registrars for certification of signatures in Saturday, March 27, at 5 p.m.

The last day to register to vote in Acushnet is Saturday, April 24, at 8 p.m.

Offices that will be on the ballot, all for three year terms are: Selectboard, Kevin Gaspar, incumbent; Assessor, Matthew Lopes, incumbent; Board of Health, David Davignon, incumbent; School Committee, Craig Sumner, incumbent; Commissioner of Trust

Funds, Tommy Lipsett, incumbent; Cemetery Board, Paul Fortin, incumbent; Trustee of Library (two seats), Jennifer Alves and Diane Ferreira, incumbents; Park Commissioner, Chad Leclair, incumbent; Tree Warden, vacant.

Offices on the ballot for five year terms are: Planning Commissioner, Mark DeSilva, Sr., incumbent; Housing Authority, Rene Racine, incumbent.

For more information contact the Town Clerk's office at 508-998-0215.




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Oxford project receives \$10.5 million loan

Press Release

Rockland Trust announced they provided a \$10.5 million loan to SCG Development to facilitate the revitalization of the Oxford School Residences located in Fairhaven, Massachusetts. The funds, which include a commitment to both construction and permanent loan financing, will go toward the creation of 54 affordable units of senior housing at the historic property. In addition to the \$10.5 million loan, Rockland Trust will be purchasing the state tax credits and has partnered with Stratford Capital, to acquire the federal tax credits associated with the project.

"We are very pleased to have Rockland Trust act as a significant financial participant in this transaction. They have proven to be accessible and solution-oriented, and we're grateful for their partnership," said Steve Wilson, President and Principal of SCG Development.

The Oxford School Residences is an adaptive reuse of an 1896 schoolhouse and mid-century addition that was last used by the Fairhaven school

department in 2012. Upon completion, the project will include affordable housing for residents 62 years of age or older. Ten of the 54 units will be from the renovation of the historic schoolhouse while the remaining 44 units will be through the construction of a new three story building.

"Rockland Trust is pleased to support the Oxford School Residences and to work closely with Keith McDonald of SCG Development who has steered this project forward from the beginning," said John Quintal, First Vice President and Boston Lending Center Manager at Rockland Trust. "The project will serve Fairhaven and the surrounding area's senior community, providing them with housing security which continues to be a critical issue in this region."

In addition to the loan provided by Rockland Trust, the project will benefit from substantial financial contributions from the Mass. Department of Housing and Community Development, CEDAC, MassHousing, and the Town of Fairhaven, in the form of state and federal tax credits and low-interest loans. Construction

completion is expected in the spring of 2022.

SCG Development and its affiliated company Stratford Capital Group are committed to developing high quality affordable and workforce housing to support healthy and diverse communities. The companies have participated in the capitalization and development of over 250 properties comprising 27,400 apartment units across 27 states. SCG Development has active development projects in 12 states and maintains offices in Tysons, Virginia and Peabody, Massachusetts.

Independent Bank Corp. (NASDAQ Global Select Market: INDB) is the holding company for Rockland Trust Company, a full-service commercial bank headquartered in Massachusetts. Rockland Trust was named The Boston Globe's "Top Places to Work" 2020 list, an honor earned for the 12th consecutive year. Rockland Trust is deeply committed to the communities it serves, as reflected in the overall "Outstanding" rating received in its most recent Community Reinvestment Act performance evaluation.

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Obituary



Joan Marie (Beazley) Bullock

Middlebury, VT - Joan Bullock, 84, died March 10th, 2021 of natural causes related to late-stage dementia.

Joan was born in Lancaster, PA, the daughter of the late Russell Beazley and Marie (Schlegel) Beazley. Joan grew up in Allentown, PA, graduating from Allentown High School.

After high school Joan was employed at the Morning Call newspaper, which also was the Evening Chronicle and Sunday Call Chronicle, selling advertising. She then became a teller at the Bell Telephone Company prior to having her family. She moved to Bridgewater, NJ after her marriage. She divorced and worked as a teller at Somerset Trust Company in Somerset, NJ. She became the Director of Public Relations at the Somerset Community Action Program (SCAP) in Franklin Township, NJ and then the Executive Director of Mobilization of Resources, Somerville NJ. Joan would continue to fight for equal rights, justice for the poor and disenfranchised, and for the widening of the social safety net her entire life. While in New Jersey, Joan managed the local Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program. She served on the board of the Day Care and Child Development Council of America in Washington, DC, and testified on childcare before Senate sub-committee hearings in Washington. Joan served as adjunct professor at Rutgers' Graduate School of Social Work.

Joan's ability to organize and

communicate served her well in both her directors' positions and her future rolls in hospitality and retail. In 1978 she purchased The Chipman Inn, in Ripton, VT. The consummate innkeeper, Joan welcomed travelers, Bread Loaf Writers Conference attendees, and locals to her establishment until 1985, when she decided to sell the business. Joan then moved to the New Hampshire seacoast, purchasing the Bow Street Candle and Mug shop in Portsmouth, and then opened a second store, The Square Rigger in 1987.

Joan eventually moved to Maine, working at The Black Point Inn on Prout's Neck in Scarborough, taking jobs in the off season at the Foreside Company and working as an advertising representative for Country Inns magazine before working full time at The Norumbega Inn in Camden until her retirement. Joan was a member of the Outreach Commission at the Camden Congregational Church, a member of its Subcommittee of Heavenly Threads, and a member of its Christian Education Committee. She also was on the Board of Home Counselors, a nonprofit agency working with counseling troubled youth and their families in the home. She also participated in Maine's "Stop the Hate" campaign and was active in the Camden Rockport Animal Shelter. Joan was also a volunteer at the Restorative Justice Project in Rockland, ME.

Joan moved to New Bedford, MA in 2009 after the death of her daughter Susan. She attended the Congregational Church in Fairhaven, and volunteered at the local soup kitchen through the church. Her retirement did not last; in 2012 Joan and her son Chris purchased the Chipman Inn back from the owners to whom she'd sold it in 1985. The community welcomed Joan back with open arms, especially her old friend Tony Clark of the Blueberry Hill Inn in Goshen. Joan continued to regale her guests with

stories, from Robert Frost's displayed snowshoes over the inn's fireplace, to the blowpipe she traded for a peace necklace from a headhunter in Peru in 1968, to the jazz cruise to Cuba where she became friends with Ry Cooder, to her 75th birthday trip to Machu Picchu. The inn was filled with family and friends for Joan's 80th birthday celebration in 2016. Joan was an avid reader and news watcher; her children always teased her about the news clippings she'd send to them with her cheerful notes between visits. Proud of her Pennsylvania Dutch roots, Joan's famous shoo fly cake was a favorite of the inn's guests.

Joan moved to Helen Porter Nursing and Rehabilitation Center as her health began to fail.

Joan is survived by her son Stephen Bullock and his wife Deborah of Fairhaven, MA; son Christopher Bullock of Ripton, VT; beloved granddaughters Dr. Ashley Bullock and her fiancé Dean Coughlin and Dr. Alysha Bullock and her fiancé Rick Harrison of CT; brother David Beazley and his wife Dorothy and brother John Beazley and his wife Linda, all of PA; niece Karen McFaul and nephew Mark Beazley and their families, of NY and Michigan. Joan leaves friends nationwide, especially Ronald Copeland of Metuchen, NJ who was Executive Director at SCAP and a lifelong friend. Joan was predeceased by Ron's wife, the late Kate Ertz-Berger who was a VISTA volunteer and another lifelong friend. Joan was the mother of the late Susan Bullock.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Southern Poverty Law Center. Memorial Service will be held Saturday, June 19th 2021 at 10:30 AM at the Ripton Community Church, with burial to follow at Cook Cemetery. Please be advised that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there are strict guidelines that must be adhered to for the safety of everyone. You MUST wear a mask to be allowed entry to the services.



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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"

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS INVITATION TO BID



Separate sealed bids marked for items listed below, will be received at the Board of Public Works Office, 5 Arsene Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719 not later than 2:00 p.m., May 6, 2021.

On May 6, 2021 at 2:00 p.m., these bids will be publicly opened and read in the BPW Office, 5 Arsene Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719.

- 13 – 29: Equipment – Rental & Hired
- 31 – 38: Road Materials – Sand, Stone & Gravel
- 39 – 44: Road Materials – Asphalt
- 45: Rock Salt
- 46: Liquid Magnesium Chloride
- 47: Gasoline & Diesel Fuel
- 48: Pavement Markings
- 49 – 57: Highway Castings
- 58: Reinforced Concrete Pipe
- 59: Ductile Iron Pipe
- 60: Hydrants
- 61 – 66: Water Castings
- 67 – 73: Water Brass
- 74: Wastewater Testing

The BPW reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.
FNN: 4/15/21

Acushnet

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals is hereby giving notice that a meeting will be held by the Board on Tuesday, April 20th, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom Meetings:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89803513754?pwd=VzJLVFub3JBbTZ4dkhJc2M0cFJJZz09>

Meeting ID: 898 0351 3754

Passcode: 963602

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Meeting ID: 898 0351 3754

Passcode: 963602

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89803513754?pwd=VzJLVFub3JBbTZ4dkhJc2M0cFJJZz09>

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. **Case #2021.04.20A** A case of Vertex Towers LLC, represented by Parisi Law Associates, who is petitioning the Board for a Special Permit and Variance for construction of a Wireless Communications Facility located at 112 Quaker Lane, Acushnet; owned by Threlfall Family Trust. This request is being made under the provisions of Section 3.3 "C" (10) and 3.3.1 "E" (4).
2. **Case#2021.04.20B** A case of Daniel Furtado who is requesting two Variances from the Board for construction of a two-car garage with living space above located at 22 Ludlow Street, Acushnet; owned by Barbara Piche. This request is being made under the provisions of Section 3.3.1 "E" (3) and 3.3.1 "E" (5).
Plans are available for Public view in the Town Clerk's office during their normal business hours.
FNN: 4/8/21, 4/15/21

Acushnet Planning Commission

Notice of Zoom Public Hearing
Site Plan Review and Solar Special Permit
540R Main St, Acushnet, MA
April 22, 2021 – 8:15 pm

Notice is hereby given that the Acushnet Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 22, 2021 at 8:15 pm, via Zoom, 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 solar array proposed by TJA Clean Energy. The engineer is Atlantic Design Engineers, Inc. The plans and accompanying documentation are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office by appointment only, Parting Ways Building, 130 Main St. 1st Floor.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83628669874?pwd=E1LMVzS2tEblEUFDnVDBMMHRtdz09>

Meeting ID: 836 2866 9874

Passcode: 217916

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+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 836 2866 9874

Passcode: 217916

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/khz6XDpl4>

Marc Cenerizio, Chairman

FNN: 4/8/21, 4/15/21

Fairhaven Planning Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Tuesday, April 27, 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 three Public Hearings at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday April 27, 2021, n the Town Hall, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA and online via Zoom:

To access remotely log onto:

<https://zoom.us/j/93163358101?pwd=NXg5WnUxZ3lLK3drSVBjM2JPTXh0Q0T09>
or call 1-929-205-6099, Meeting ID: 931 6335 8101 -
Password: 740257.

The meeting will also be televised live on Fairhaven TV channel 18 and streamed live on Fairhaventv.com.

1. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive information and public comment on possible Text Amendments to the Fairhaven Code, proposed by the Planning Board that would make changes to §198-16, the Use Regulation Table, and §198-33, Definitions and word use. These changes would be made relative to possible new bylaws the Town is considering as well as to update and improve consistency. The potential new bylaws include a General Bylaw on Short-Term Rentals and a Text Amendment to Zoning Bylaw §198-29.6 to allow Solar Canopies in the B & I Districts as accessory units.

2. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive information and public comment on a possible Text Amendment to the Fairhaven Code, proposed by the Planning Board, that would make changes to §198.29.6, Solar Photovoltaic Energy Facilities (SPEF). The potential new bylaw is to see whether the Town will allow Solar Canopies in the Business and Industrial Districts to export power as accessory uses by Special Permit.

3. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive information and public comment on the following Rezone application: RZ 2021-01 – G. Bourne Knowles RC to B. The applicant, G. Bourne Knowles Co., Inc. and Leslie P. Knowles is requesting a recommendation from the Planning Board to Town Meeting through the Rezoning public hearing review process to rezone their property, from a Multifamily/Apartment zoned district (RC) to Business (B). The location is 267-270 Huttleston Avenue, Map 31B Lots 302, 302A and 302C (22.12 acres).

Copies of the application 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. For information on the project go to: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/planning-board/>

John Farrell Jr., Chairman of the Planning Board
FNN: 4/8/21, 4/15/21

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Monday, April 26, 2021 at 6:30pm

Town Hall, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

To Access Meeting Remotely:

<https://zoom.us/j/94616432615?pwd=cGZ3TVk2ZnJka2ZkMTBwVUYyaCt0Zz09>

or CALL 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 946 1643 2615

Passcode: 202118

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold the following Public Hearings pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, s. 40) and the Code of the Town of Fairhaven Chapter 192, Wetlands:

1. CON 023-214: **37 Balsam Street** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Thomas and Donna Kirk to increase the size of the existing porch at the property located at 37 Balsam Street, Assessors Map 43C, Lot 105. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage.
2. CON 023-216: **29 James Street** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Carrie Butler for the installation of a fence, removal of trees and briars, loam and seed, and planting of native vegetation at the property located at 29 James Street, Assessors Map 2, Lots 210-214. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage and the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland.
3. CON 023-217: **7 Mill Road** Request for Determination filed by Holger Dippel for the construction of a deck at the property located at 7 Mill Road, Assessors Map 30, Lots 51 & 29A. Work to take place in Riverfront Area, Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, and the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland.
4. CON 023-218: **33 Whisper Lane** Notice of Intent filed by Scott and Patricia Nickerson to upgrade the failed septic system to a Title V-compliant system at the property located at 33 Whisper Lane, Assessors Map 42A, Lot 196. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage and the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland.
5. CON 023-219: **10 Littleneck Road** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Paul Federico to add a small addition and a deck to the existing house at the property located at 10 Littleneck Road, Assessors Map 43A, Lot 86. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage.

Copies of the applications listed in this hearing notice may be viewed electronically at: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/conservation-commission/pages/current-filings>

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will also 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):

1. 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.
2. 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

LEGALS: cont'd on page 21

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LEGALS: cont'd from page 20

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 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.

Copies of the applications listed in this hearing notice may be viewed electronically at: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/conservation-commission/pages/current-filings>

Geoff Haworth, Chair, Fairhaven Conservation Commission
FNN: 4/15/21

FRANKIE: cont'd from page 10

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

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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., 5/4, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Health

Wed., 4/28, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Tues., 4/20, Remote, 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 4/26, Town Hall/Remote, 6:30

Economic Devel. Comm

Thurs., 4/15, Town Hall/Remote, 6:30

Finance Committee

Thurs., 4/15, Arsene St/Remote, 7 p.

Planning Board

Tues., 4/27, Town Hall/Remote, 6:30

School Committee

Wed., 4/28, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon. 4/26, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet

Board of Appeals

Tues., 4/20, Remote, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board

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

Stormwater Review Board

Thurs., 4/15, Remote, 6:30 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Apr. 2021	HIGH a.m. p.m.	LOW a.m. p.m.		
Thursday	15	1055 2313	0403 1602		
Friday	16	1138 2358	0436 1638		
Saturday	17	---- 1227	0512 1716		
Sunday	18	0050 1323	0555 1802		
Monday	19	0146 1418	0652 1904		
Tuesday	20	0240 1511	0802 2018		
Wednesday	21	0335 1610	0905 2124		
Thursday	22	0437 1712	1003 2231		
Friday	23	0538 1806	1102 2337		
Saturday	24	0629 1852	1154* ----		
Sunday	25	0714 1936	0031* 1241*		

*= 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

Thank you to kind neighbor

I hope this letter finds its way to the correct person. This week while walking with my mother-in-law at Fort Phoenix, she fell down. As I was trying to sit her up and see what happened, I heard a voice call, "Do you need any help?" and then right there, a lovely retired nurse appeared. She was so gracious and kind to us, helped us right back to the car as slowly as we needed to go. Another gentleman took my dog back to the car as well.

We are new to Fairhaven and this is just another good sign that we made the right choice. A HUGE thank you to those good samaritans, and if they read this, she is doing all right and luckily only broke her wrist. We are grateful to have great neighbors here, in Fairhaven

Lacy Berman, Fairhaven

New Tree Warden says "thank you"

My name is Don Collasius and I am your new Tree Warden

I would like to thank all the folks who supported and voted for me.

I will work diligently to insure you do not regret your support for me. I will do all I can to make Fairhaven greener and safer for all who dwell and pass through our lovely town.

One Friday April 9th I was officially sworn in. But that is not to say I have not spent the days before that coming up to speed on the challenges ahead and ways to work through them.

I have met with numerous town officials in both the town hall and the BPW. I have met with representatives of Eversource. I have found them all to be both professional and supportive. I believe we all have the common desire to make Fairhaven the best it can be.

The official Tree Department phone number is 508-922-1222. Anyone requesting services I urge to call or text. Please leave me your full name, address, and a brief description of the issue you would like me to address. Be it pruning, planting or removing a tree. I will get back to you and I will do all I can to address your issue in a timely manner. Please note the tree can be anywhere in town, not just in front of your house.

There is also a page on the town website that has a request for

services. You can use that but I do not yet have a town email address and that mode entails someone forward it to me. It's better to call at this time.

I have a short list of backlogged requests for service. I would encourage anyone who has requested services in the past and not received them to request again. I'm sorry about that.

I am hoping to have an Arbor Day event on April 30 to jump start my term. I hope you can be there to lend a hand planting trees, or be there in spirit hoping for a new and better year ahead of us. I will update you on this when plans are solidified.

Thanks so much,

*Don C. Collasius,
Fairhaven Tree Warden*

Coming soon to your door

Dear Fairhaven Citizens,

A recall petition of Board of Selectmen, Chairman Dan Freitas, is underway.

It will be a massive undertaking to get over 2,400 signatures (20% of registered voters in Fairhaven) in 14 consecutive days once the town clerk starts the clock. Should this effort succeed in getting enough certified signatures, Mr. Freitas will have 5 days to resign or be recalled and a new special election will be triggered.

Volunteers will be canvassing in each of the 6 precincts and outside the Post Office and Stop & Shop. If you wish to participate in collecting signatures from your family and friends or going door-to-door in your neighborhood, please contact:

website: RecallDanFreitas.com

call or text: (508) 306-1669; email: RecallDanFreitas@gmail.com

There will be designated leaders for each precinct and you will be connected with them. Any small effort will be a big step in the right direction. Every safety protocol will be strictly adhered to (masks, disinfectant wipes, etc.)

One has only to watch the BOS meetings on FairhavenTV to see that Mr. Freitas is out-of-control and is a clear and present danger to Fairhaven's reputation and values.

Thomas Jefferson said, "you get the government you deserve" but Fairhaven doesn't deserve this escalating incompetence and dysfunction.

We can't be bystanders any longer and YOU can help restore Fairhaven's

reputation. It is time for citizens to declare Fairhaven deserves better by signing the recall petition.*

Cathy Delano, Fairhaven

Fairhaven can't wait any longer

Fairhaven, we can't wait any longer to right this sinking ship of a Selectboard. Real damage is being done by Mr. Freitas and Mr. Silvia's obvious incompetence, corruption and the abandonment of their duties; especially as it pertains to our still not having a legitimate Town Administrator.

Mr. Silvia and Mr. Freitas have had over six months to hire a qualified Town Administrator and they have completely failed at the most important and urgent task on their plate. It's outrageous and inexcusable. If this had happened in a company, they'd have long since been fired.

Remember that the Town Administrator Screening Committee did their job in good faith and presented three fully qualified applicants. Mr. Espindola honored their good work and was ready to appoint a legitimate candidate when Mr. Silvia and Mr. Freitas intentionally undermined the process. So here we are with nothing.

This is in our hands now. I believe Mr. Espindola's overwhelming reelection win symbolized two important sentiments: that our town appreciates the honesty and integrity that Mr. Espindola has shown throughout his tenure on the Selectboard; and that this Town realizes the destruction that Mr. Freitas and his silent conspirator Mr. Silvia have brought upon us. Now is the time to bring that to an end.

A recall effort is underway to remove Mr. Freitas from office and open that seat up to someone who can restore the integrity to that seat that Mr. Freitas lacks. Please sign that petition, help any way you can and spread the word. The time is now.*

Phil Washko, Fairhaven

**See ad on back cover.*

When you don't take a stand against corruption you tacitly support it.

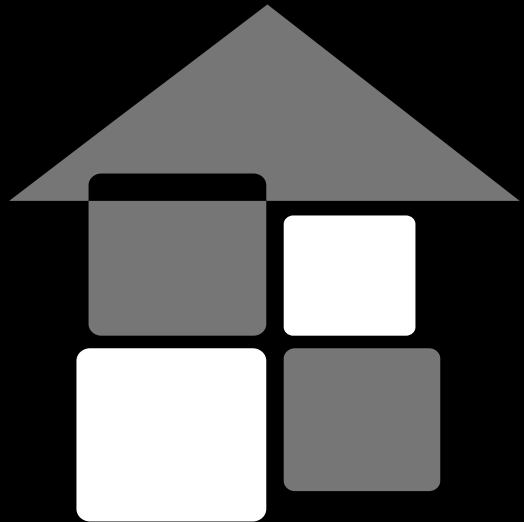
Kamal Haasan



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FREITAS

RecallDanFreitas.com

- For conduct unbecoming of an elected official (i.e. abusive treatment of fellow board members, constituents, and employees)
- For behavior that is disruptive to meetings (i.e. abandoning meetings). For placing personal relationships and agenda over public interest (i.e. Town Administrator hiring)
- For behavior that prompted consideration of criminal charges (i.e. July 1, 2020 incident regarding alleged assault and battery.)

This recall effort has officially begun!

**If you'd like to sign the petition or help with this critical effort,
please call/text 508-306-1669
or visit <https://www.facebook.com/recalldanfreitas>**

Paid for by Ann Richard, Phil Washko, David Braga, John Farrell and Shane Sher.