



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 16, Issue 17 • April 22, 2021

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

It's coming down



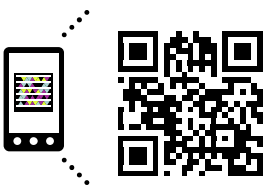
Work has begun on the Oxford School project. The first step is demolishing the 1951 addition to make way for the new construction. The old building and the new combined will house 53 affordable senior housing units for "active seniors." This week the exterior was stripped of its bricks and the inside was being demolished when this shot was taken on Tuesday, 4/20/21. The demolition of the exterior walls should happen at the end of this week. ABOVE: The 1951 addition to the Oxford School in North Fairhaven is stripped of its brick on 4/20/21, being prepared to get demolished later in the week to make way for a new apartment complex that will consist of 53 units of affordable senior housing, including apartments in the old building, which will be restored, not demolished. *Photo by Beth David*

First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Judge Murray Gurfein, Pentagon Papers case, June 17, 1971:

"The security of the Nation is not at the ramparts alone. Security also lies in the value of our free institutions. A cantankerous press, an obstinate press, a ubiquitous press must be suffered by those in authority in order to preserve the even greater values of freedom of expression and the right of the people to know."



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From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

We don't lie in our paper. And I don't lie in my editorial. That would be libel, Mr. Freitas. Please, feel free to sue us.

Oh, did I mention there's a recall effort afoot? Visit www.RecallDanFreitas.com

One can only hope. Fairhaven is the only town in these parts that requires signatures of 20% of the voters, and they have to be collected in 14 days. Clearly this bylaw was created by someone who was afraid of a recall. Most other towns require 10% and allow 30 days to gather the signatures. I think it's time we changed our bylaw to make a recall effort more realistic. Should it be easy? No, of course not, but it shouldn't be nearly impossible either.

Mr. Freitas told another news outlet that he would resign if they got the signatures. As my dear mother used to ask: Is that a promise or a threat?

Either way, let it be true, please. But, hey, I'm not the one who lies here, so ... only time will tell.

Meanwhile, I broke a rule of journalism: I signed the petition. Yeah, I know. But, no point in pretending.

It's not, however, up to me, or even the 2000+ people needed to sign the petition. It's up to the voters. A special election will have to be held and then Mr. Freitas can run for his seat, just like anyone else. If the voters still want him in office, then so be it. That's letting democracy work.

Because a recall is democracy in action, make no mistake about it.

You know what's not democracy? What's NOT democracy is threatening Stop & Shop so the petitioners lose the best spot in town to collect signatures. You know what's NOT democracy? Threatening a small business because they let the petitioners set up outside their restaurant. You know what's NOT democracy? Sending your goon of a brother to hover around the table harassing the petitioners and any potential signers.

Yeah, all that happened. Your esteemed elected official at work.

And...NEXT. The Board of Health refused to let a resident into the room at their meeting this week (see page 4 and page 22 for letter). Another petty little move, by petty little men. Oh, there's a recall effort underway for those guys, too (see ad on page 24).

Meanwhile we have meeting coverage in here. See page 4 for Board of Health, and page 25 for BPW.

The Fairhaven Firefighters union has a new president and he's planning to make sure they are more active in the community. They've been helping at various cleanups around town, and they built a wheelchair ramp for a family that really needed one (see page 16).

Pretty cool, huh?

There's other stuff in here, of course. Be sure to look carefully at each page, notice who our advertisers are, and let them know you saw their ads in the *Neighb News*.

Until next week then...see ya,



Beth David, Publisher

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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Editor: Beth David

Photographers/Correspondents:

Elizabeth DaCunha, Mary Macedo

Jean Perry, Glenn C. Silva

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NeighbNews@comcast.net

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Nothing this week? Really? Cool.

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*.

COVID update

By Beth David
Editor

People age 16 + who live, work, or study in Massachusetts can be now vaccinated in the state. To learn more about where to get the shot, visit <https://www.mass.gov/covid-19-vaccine>

If you do not have internet access, or have difficulty using the site, you may call 211 to schedule an appointment.

In addition to the seven mass vaccination sites run by the state, there are regional sites that administer the vaccine, and many pharmacies are now also able to administer the shot. Visit <https://vaxfinder.mass.gov> to find a site.

On 4/19/21, Massachusetts reported 968 new, confirmed cases of COVID-19, bringing the total to 633,675. There were 708 COVID patients hospitalized, 168 in Intensive Care, and 102 intubated. The average age of hospitalized COVID patients was 59. The state's positivity rate is 2.11%. Fairhaven has had 1,911 total cases; Acushnet has had 1,249. Visit <https://www.mass.gov>.

Freitas recall effort underway

Press Release

A group of concerned citizens has launched a campaign to recall Selectman Daniel Freitas. For the last few years, Selectman Freitas has increasingly demonstrated his inability or unwillingness to represent the people of Fairhaven. His failed leadership has reached critical mass with the botched recruitment of a Town Administrator, the most important administrative position in town government. This failed recruitment is the result of Selectman Freitas' attempts to manipulate the process to favor an unqualified insider candidate.

In addition to this egregious dereliction of duty, Mr. Freitas has been abusive toward his fellow selectmen, particularly Selectman Espindola, who he has routinely silenced and insulted, and working with Selectman Silvia, flouted tradition to block Mr. Espindola's access to chairmanship. Again after this election they did the same and he is still the Chair of the board.

Mr. Freitas has created a circus of the Selectboard by abandoning

meetings in anger, skipping meetings to delay decisions, gaslighting the public to place blame for his bad behavior on other people. Other examples of Mr. Freitas' bad behavior include:

- Wasting \$10,000 of taxpayer money on Town Administrator Screening consultant with no intention of accepting the results of recruitment
- Manipulating Town Administrator hiring process to favor insider candidate
- Libelous social media attacks on a Town Administrator finalist
- Open meeting violations (deliberating and conversing with Selectman Silvia outside of posted meetings)
- Refusing to accept the assistance of the DOR to review best practices without grounds
- Refusing to allow public/media attendance in meetings while Covid protocol allowed it
- Ignoring questions and emails from constituents; and berating constituents for their feedback
- Attacking and discrediting the press for holding him accountable

RECALL: cont'd on page21

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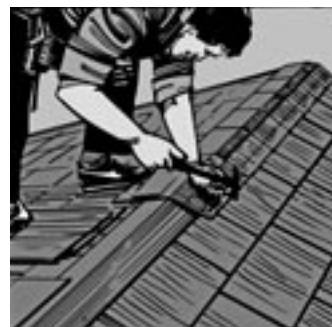
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Board of Health denies public access to meeting

Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

The state has lifted its capacity restrictions on restaurants as COVID-19 cases decline and more of the population is vaccinated, and the Fairhaven Selectboard has for a month now opened up its meetings to the public to the maximum extent possible while keeping social distancing protocols intact. So when a resident approached newly elected Board of Health member Kevin Gallagher outside the meeting room and told him Chairperson Peter DeTerra had just denied her entry to the board's 4/14/21 meeting, Mr. Gallagher's first question as a new board member was about public access.

Mr. Gallagher said he was under the assumption that given the precedent set by the Selectboard and the guidelines Health Agent David Flaherty provided the Selectboard on 4/12 to safely reopen meetings to the public, the BOH would also allow the public to attend its meetings by following the same safety measures.

Diane Hahn, who had been sitting in the hallway with her sign calling for

a recall of Mr. DeTerra and BOH member Michael Ristuccia, told the *Neighb News* that she attempted to enter the meeting room to attend the meeting when Mr. DeTerra physically blocked her from entering and shut and locked the door (see letter on page 22). Ms. Hahn says the two men should be removed from office for "dismantling our experienced Health Department during a global pandemic" and for Mr. DeTerra's hosting of a 100-plus guest wedding last year at his private property in violation of the state's COVID-19 restrictions on private gatherings.

"Due to COVID-19, I don't feel comfortable having people in the meeting," Mr. DeTerra told Mr. Gallagher. The public should only be allowed to attend via Zoom, he said.

Mr. Ristuccia agreed, saying the restriction should remain in place until more of the population is vaccinated and positive cases decline; however, he added, the board should regularly consider its restriction and consider "the feeling in the air, the flavor," and the community's COVID-19 status.

The state has now designated Fairhaven as "yellow" in terms of the spread of the coronavirus.

"I think, to have the public come just to have the public come, I don't think it's correct," said Mr. Ristuccia. "I don't think it's the right thing to do."

This led Mr. Gallagher to ask, "Then, would the board inform the [Selectboard] that they're wrong?"

Yes, said Mr. Ristuccia, saying, "As the Board of Health, it's our duty to let the Selectboard know that we feel it's not a good policy... It doesn't follow what we would consider good protocol to allow the public into their meetings. I don't think that they should be coming into their meetings... Maybe we should ask that a letter be written to the chair of the Selectboard."

Mr. DeTerra said he still had not received a COVID-19 vaccine, "So I'm still a little bit nervous."

"It's not safe yet to have people mingling ... especially in the Town Hall [and] to ask people to come and gather," said Mr. Ristuccia.

Mr. Gallagher then mentioned the idea that Selectboard member Keith

BOH: cont'd on page 20



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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 Scoticut 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.

Earth Day Cleanups

The Buzzards Bay Coalition celebrates Earth Day with hands-on activities focused on caring for the environment as well as the opportunity to be entertained and inspired by the possibilities that already exist for making a positive impact toward sustainability.

The Coalition will sponsor a community trail and green-up workday at reserves **from Fairhaven to West Wareham on Saturday, April 24 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.** Working together, we will show some love and care to natural resources and local trails in the Buzzards Bay watershed.

Volunteers will clear vegetation around trail entrances, maintain parking areas, and prepare our properties for the growing season. **This event will take place at the following locations:** The Acushnet Sawmill (Mill Road Acushnet, MA); New Boston/Tripps Mill (New Boston Rd. Fairhaven, MA); Shaw Farm/Carvalho Farm (Shaw Rd. Fairhaven, MA); The Bogs (Acushnet Rd. Mattapoisett, MA); and Horseshoe Mill (Station St. West Wareham, MA).

All are welcome to join the effort. Participants should bring work gloves, close-toed shoes, water, and a mask for the workday. Contact the Coalition via email at: info@savebuzzardsbay.org or call the Coalition's office at 508-999-6363, ext. 200.

And for entertainment and inspiration, the Coalition is collaborating

with the SouthCoast Film Forum on a four-day, **online screening of the documentary 2040**, an exploration of what the future could look like by the year 2040 if the best solutions already available were rapidly adopted. **The screening will run from Thursday, April 22 through Sunday, April 25 at <https://socofilms.org/>**

Shrub Program

The Fairhaven Improvement Association Beautification Project is Back. **Fairhaven Residents Only**

Each year the FIA offers the Voucher Program to help Fairhaven residents enhance the beauty of their property. To take advantage of this program send a check for \$20.00 to Fairhaven Improvement Association, P.O. Box 404, Fairhaven, MA 02719 with a self-addressed stamped envelope. You will receive a voucher for double the amount, \$40.00, to purchase any combination of the following shrubbery: Andromeda, Azalea, Boxwood, Butterfly Bush, Dogwood, Holly, Hydrangea, Lilac, Magnolia, PJM, Rhododendron, Viburnum and Wisteria at Kenny's Farm Stand, 325 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven.

The voucher is valid from 5/1 till Sept. 30, 2021. If you use your voucher before July 1st, Kenny has offered to add another \$10.00 allowance to your doubled voucher giving you a total of \$50.00 in buying power at his nursery.

The offer is available to Fairhaven residents only. One voucher per family is allowed.

The application is also available at Kenny's farm-stand, or on FIA website: fairhavenimprovement.org and our Facebook page.

Contact person: Monika Whalley 508.758.8223 or monikawhalley@hotmail.com

Art Mobile for Seniors

This month, New Bedford Art Museum/ArtWorks! (NBAM) will launch a new outreach program designed specifically for seniors. The Creative Care program will occur at three locations across the south coast: Oxford Terrace in Fairhaven, Whaler's Cove in New Bedford, and Sol-E-Mar in South Dartmouth beginning the last week of April.

Using NBAM's mobile art van, the

artMOBILE, the art care kits will be brought directly to program participants. Each week the care kit will feature a different arts-based project that will encourage cognitive thinking and motor skills through quality art supplies, easy to follow lessons translated into English, Portuguese, and Spanish. This program is entirely free for seniors! Those interested in participating in the summer, fall, and winter sessions are encouraged to inquire with their living facility program coordinator.

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.

Student Art Contest

The Bow Seat 2021 Ocean Awareness Contest invites students ages 11-18 to create visual art, writing, films, music, or multimedia that explores their connection to water and the need to protect this vital resource. In addition to the general awards of up to \$1,500, Bow Seat will be granting South Coast, Cape & Island Awards to recognize eligible Contest participants from the South Coast of Mass., Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, or Nantucket. Winners will each receive a \$250 cash prize.

Visit www.bowseat.org/contest.
Deadline is 6/14/21.

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.

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
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>

Concert

SURFACE TENSION, Virtual Concert Premieres, Sat., 4/24, 7:30 p.m.

This concert begins with a groovy piece by Gabriela Ortiz, one of the foremost composers in Mexico today and one of the most vibrant musicians emerging on the international scene. You can view the biography and list of recordings of Ms. Ortiz on her website (<https://gabrielaortiz.com/index.php?idioma=en&p=1>)

Next, you will have the pleasure of exploring the talents of NBSO principal cellist Leo Eguchi as he performs in the role of soloist for Leonard Bernstein's *Three Meditations from Mass*. Leo has been described as "copiously skilled and confident" (New York Times) with performances that were "ravishing" (New Bedford Standard-Times) and "played with passion and vitality" (Boston Music Intellegencer). Leo has performed extensively across North America, Europe and Asia. More info on Leo may be found at <https://www.leoeguchi.com/>

The program closes with a piece by one of the greatest opera composers of all time, Giuseppe Verdi. His String Symphony in E Minor is both brooding, fiery, and dark - as well as light, innocent, and playful. Join us for this opera without words!

Tickets are \$20 per household, visit <https://zeiterion.org/nbso-surface-tension/>

Buried in Treasure

The New Bedford Fresh Start Program continues to sponsor hoarding remediation support groups known as Buried in Treasures. The support groups are designed for individuals who struggle with hoarding disorder and/or individuals who are interested in learning how to support someone they know who struggles with hoarding disorder, such as spouses, children, family members, care givers, etc. Please keep in mind that those who join must commit to the entire length of the support group (roughly twenty weeks). While we understand the duration of the support group sounds like a long time, the program does fly by and members of the group form a bond in which helps to support each other during the process.

- Buttonwood Warming House 1 Oneida St., New Bedford, MA 02740
Facilitator: Sandra Cambra (sandra.cambra@nbsso.org) **Mondays beginning April 26th from 1-3pm**

To join, please e-mail the group facilitator listed above or simply visit the location on the meeting date. The support group is FREE and we welcome all of Greater New Bedford!

A maintenance group is also available for those who have previously attended at least one full round of the Buried in Treasures support group.

The maintenance group continues to meet biweekly on Mondays from 5pm to 7pm at the Acushnet Senior Center. For questions, please contact Mary Freire-Kellogg at kellog63@gmail.com

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

Glass Museum

After ten years of operation in the Wamsutta mill complex, the New Bedford Museum of Glass is reopening in the spectacular James Arnold Mansion in downtown New Bedford. Known for being the home of the exclusive Wamsutta Club, the mansion is owned and maintained by a non-profit preservation organization and offers many advantages: magnificent Victorian architecture, landscaped grounds, and plentiful on-site parking, all at one of the city's most prominent addresses.

Visit <https://www.nbmog.org> or call (508) 984-1666

A little bit of kindness goes a long way in the neighborhood

By Beth David
Editor

Debbie Wojcik had a heckuva time scheduling her vaccine appointment. In the end, she was not able to do it.

Then a little angel appeared.

Really, he's nine years old.

Miles Gardner knocked on Ms. Wojcik's door wearing a "high wattage smile," she said.

"He said he found something he's good at," she said, adding that she had been in tears trying to schedule her appointment last month.

She "turned it over to God," or the universe.

"I gave up for me and my husband," said Ms. Wojcik.

Then Miles saved the day. He had all his electronic devices open and was making appointments for other people, too.

So, on a cold day in March, the neighbors walked around the neighborhood to thank young Mr. Gardner.

"It's so beautiful to see this happen to him," said Ms. Wojcik.

She made a poster to thank her hero and presented it to him: Outside,

with masks on, of course.

"He is is parents' son," said Ms.

Wojcik. "They're such wonderful people."



Debbie Wojcik presents a thank-you poster to young Miles Gardner, who helped a lot of people schedule vaccine appointments back in March, when the neighborhood also turned out to show their appreciation for their young neighbor. Submitted photo by Laura Gardner.

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The Fairhaven Historical Society

The Harris House



On display at the Museum of Fairhaven History
"The Harris House" painted in 1896 by Fairhaven artist
Lemuel D. Eldred (1848 to 1921)

Eldred studied in Paris ca. 1880 and traveled around Europe
His work typifies that of the Hudson River School Artists
The Samuel Proctor/Captain Harris house was located on Mill
Pond, now the location of Cushman Park.

The Fairhaven Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
The museum is located at the Academy Building, 141 Main Street

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Fire damages boat at Pease Park ramp

Fairhaven Fire Department Press Release

A fire caused major damage to a cabin cruiser at the Pease Park Boat Ramp in Fairhaven, MA on Monday, 4/19/21.

At 11:43 am, the Fairhaven Police received a 911 call reporting a Boat Fire at Pease Park Boat ramp. The fire department responded with 2 Engines. On arrival, a 25ft cabin cruiser still on a trailer and attached

to a truck, was heavily involved in fire. The fire took about 30 minutes to extinguish and caused about \$20,000 in damage to the vessel. Additional damage was sustained to the town-owned pier at the boat ramp estimated at \$5,000.

The boat was recently just fueled and was being launched for the season. A backfire combined with gasoline fumes in the engine compartment is the apparent cause of the fire.

The boat owner was on the vessel at the time of the fire and managed to escape without injury.

The Fairhaven Fire Department was assisted by the Fairhaven Harbormaster, Fairhaven Police, and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Mattapoisett Fire Department also provided mutual aid assistance for a commercial fire alarm at the same time.



Fairhaven Firefighters battle a blaze on the Aurora, a 25-foot cabin cruiser that was being launched at the Pease Park boat ramp on Middle Street in Fairhaven on Monday, 4/19/21. Photos courtesy of the Fairhaven Fire Department.



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Recipe of the Week

Easy Mini Quiches

- 6 slices bacon, chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 eggs
- 3/4 cup buttermilk baking mix
- 1 1/2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
- 2 cups shredded American cheese

Preheat the oven to 350°. Grease 2 mini muffin pans. In a large skillet over medium heat, fry bacon and onion together for about 5 minutes, or until bacon is crisp. Drain and set aside.

In a medium bowl, beat the eggs. Stir in the baking mix, parsley, shredded cheese, bacon and onion. Spoon into greased muffin cups.

Bake for 10 to 15 minutes in the preheated oven, or until the tops are lightly browned. Allow mini quiches to cool in the pan before carefully removing with a small knife or spatula.

This quiche recipe can be made in a large pie pan, a regular muffin pan, or mini muffin pan. They taste great, and you can add more ingredients to suit your tastes such as mushrooms or spinach.

From allrecipes.com

Dear Frankie



New Puppy is a surprise

Dear Frankie,
Last week, my parents brought home a Bassett Hound Puppy called Chester. I almost fainted when they brought him into the house. My first thought was, "What were

they thinking?"

When my Mom asked, what I thought of Chester? I said there were things we needed more. I know my Mom was upset, but so was I. My dad later reminded me that I was once the new puppy, and Jamie, their boxer, welcomed me with open paws. I know my dad was right. I fully intend to work on being a great big brother to Chester. But don't you think they could have asked my opinion on getting a puppy or at least told me ahead of time he was coming?

Unsettled, Hector

Dear Hector,

I do think, at the very least, they should have told you that Chester was coming. I asked several of my dog friends if their family had told them there would be a new addition to the family. They all said not a word was spoken until the day the brat arrived.

So, if it's any consolation to you, you are not alone.

I find humans to be linear thinkers when it comes to how

they think their dogs feel about their decisions and behavior. If humans believe something is a good idea, like getting a puppy, they believe their dog will wholeheartedly agree. Concerning Chester, they might be right. Over time you might grow to love the little bugger and be grateful for his companionship.


Regarding the breed they chose for a puppy, you have lucked out. Bassett Hounds are reputed to be hard to train and troublemakers. Here's a thought about how you might blow off a little of the emotional steam you have worked up over Chester's arrival. If ever there was the time for you to do something really naughty that you didn't have the nerve to do in the past, now is the time to do it. Then sit back, and let Chester take the blame.

Don't worry about him getting punished. He's a puppy. How hard do you think they are going to be on him? Please understand I'm suggesting this act of rebellion as a one-time cathartic event. If you care to get back to me, I think the column's readers would also be interested in knowing what you did.

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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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

Tag Sale

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club will hold a Tag Sale on May 1st, from 10AM-2PM, at the old Bowl Mor parking lot, next to Ying Dynasty. The rain date is May 8 th.

Also available for purchase at the Tag Sale are the specially designed MWC notecards and postcards of local scenes and flowers, and the Pathway to Planting Passport. This \$10 passport will provide purchasers with special discounts for: Always in Bloom Flower & Gift Shoppe, Blossoms Flower Shop, Crystal Lake Garden Shop, Eden Florist & Garden Shop, Great Scapes Nursery, Lawrence Family Greenhouses, Nessralla's Farm and Greenhouses, Roseland Nursery, TomCat Daylily Farm, Village Gardens, and Williams' Trading Post. Most shops included will discount only on May 21, 22, 23. The exception with special dates are Village Gardens (May 17-23) and TomCat Daylily Farm (July).

If you need a wonderful gift idea for Mother's Day, the Mattapoissett Woman's Club Tag Sale is a terrific place to start. All proceeds from the sale support scholarships that are awarded to local students annually.

Concert

"Postcards from Buzzards Bay" by Cape Cod composer Michael Donovan is a musical celebration of the body of water that shapes the lives of all who live and work in and around this

wonder of nature. On Sunday, May 16 the Marion Art Center (MAC) will present an enhanced virtual encore of the Tri-County Symphonic Band performing the premiere of "Postcards from Buzzards Bay" and other evocative works about the sea. For this performance, the concert will be accompanied by compelling images of Buzzards Bay, both vintage postcards and original fine art.

After the concert, viewers can see recorded interviews with the composers and participate in a live Zoom question and answer session. The event begins at 3:00PM, when it will be broadcast on ORCTV and live-streamed through the MAC's YouTube channel. To register and receive the Zoom link, email info@marionartcenter.org with "Postcards Concert" in the subject line.

Register for MAC events through our website at www.marionartcenter.org/scspringarts. More exciting events throughout the SouthCoast region are listed on the SCSA website at <https://southcoastspringarts.org/>.

Habitat Info

The Buzzards Bay Area Habitat for Humanity (BBAHFH) will hold a virtual public information session at 6 p.m. on Wed., 4/28 to advise the community of its plans to construct two affordable condominium units in a duplex building on a parcel of land on Sodom Road purchased from the Westport Affordable Housing Trust.

BBAHFH will explain the application process for their homebuyer lottery, the maximum income levels which apply to potential purchasers earning 30 to 60 percent of the town's median income, and details of the loan program typically used to

finance the purchase of a BBAHFH-sponsored home.

The Trust conveyed the 5.3 acre parcel on Sodom Road to BBAHFH, a non-profit organization that helps families buy their own homes at an affordable price, as long as they are willing to put in the sweat equity needed to help keep the purchase price well below market rates.

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

Poetry Month

Meet Claude McKay

Claude McKay was a key figure in the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s. His work ranged from vernacular verse celebrating peasant life in Jamaica to poems that protested racial and economic inequities. Visit <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/claude-mckay>

Meet Georgia Johnson

Georgia Blanche Douglas Camp Johnson, better known as Georgia Douglas Johnson, was an African-American poet, one of the earliest African-American female playwrights, and an important figure of the Harlem Renaissance. Visit <https://blackkudos.tumblr.com/post/618300116703576064/georgia-douglas-johnson>

Meet Gwendolyn Brooks

Gwendolyn Brooks is one of the most highly regarded, influential, and widely read poets of 20th-century American poetry, with the distinction of being the first Black author to win the Pulitzer Prize. Visit <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/gwendolyn-brooks>



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Acushnet Police arrest two on drug/weapons charges

Acushnet Police Department
Press Release

On Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at approximately 5:30 p.m., Officer Quinn Indio was monitoring Slocum Street for motor vehicle traffic violations. His attention was drawn to a white Nissan Sentra traveling westbound on Slocum Street in excess of the 25 MPH speed limit. As a result, Officer Indio initiated a stop of the violator.

The vehicle operator was identified as 35-year-old Robin Lyn Laroche of 638 2nd Street, Fall River. It was determined that Ms. Laroche had a suspended driver's license and two active arrest warrants. While she was being placed under arrest, it was also discovered she had a knife attached

to a lanyard around her neck.

The passenger in the vehicle, 39-year-old Jose L. Cruz of 71 Robeson Street #2, Fall River, also had a suspended driver's license. As officers made arrangements to tow the vehicle, he was advised he could make his own arrangements for a ride from the scene. When Mr. Cruz stepped from the

vehicle to make a telephone call, he was asked by an officer if he had any weapons in his possession. He admitted to having a knife. It was located in his front right pants pocket. The knife had an automatic spring release with a double-edged blade. Mr. Cruz was then placed under arrest for possession of a dangerous weapon (MGL 269 sec 10).



ABOVE: Evidence collected by the Acushnet Police Department in the arrests of Jose Cruz (BELOW LEFT) and Robin Lyn Laroche (BELOW RIGHT), both of Fall River, on 4/13/21. Acushnet Police Department photos.



along with paraphernalia consistent with drug distribution. All were seized as evidence.

Officer Indio was assisted at the scene by Officers Kevin Martins and Michael Lajoie and Sergeant Michael Matton. The suspects were booked at the Acushnet Police Station before being transported to the Bristol County Sheriff's Office Ash Street regional holding facility pending arraignment in New Bedford District Court on Wednesday, April 14.

In addition to the charges mentioned above, both Ms. Laroche and Mr. Cruz are being charged with:

- Trafficking heroin in excess of 100 grams (MGL 94C sec 32E/G)
- Conspiracy to violate drug laws (MGL 94C sec 40)
- Possession of a class A drug, subsequent offense (94C sec 34)

A subsequent inventory search of the vehicle revealed in excess of 100 grams of suspected heroin, approximately \$1,235 in cash



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http://fairhavenma.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA_COA/index

Fairhaven Council on Aging

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

GRAB and GO Meals

Coastline will be providing Grab and Go meals at the Fairhaven Senior Center every Wednesday, from April 28 through May 26 for seniors 60 years old and older. You must pre-register by calling the Fairhaven Senior Center at 508-979-4029 by 10:00 a.m. the Tuesday before to be able to receive a meal. The meal will be distributed from 11:00-11:30 in front of the Fairhaven Senior Center. Just drive up to the front door and someone will bring the meal to your car. A \$2.00 donation is suggested by Coastline, but not necessary to receive

a meal.

4/28 Buttermilk Chicken, red bliss potatoes, glazed Carrots; **5/5** Mexicali Chicken, Spanish Rice, Mexicali corn; **5/12** Spaghetti w/Bolognese Sauce, Italian Blend; **5/19** Mac and Cheese, Escalloped Tomatoes; **5/26** Pot Roast, Whipped Sweet Potatoes, green Beans. All lunches with bread, dessert and milk.

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.

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Firefighter union members help wheelchair bound child

By Beth David
Editor

Little Gwendolyn (aka “Gwennie”) cannot walk at all. And now that she’s getting bigger, pushing 40 pounds at four years old, she’s getting kind of heavy for her parents to pick her up. She needs a wheelchair now, so when the Fairhaven Firefighters asked if they could use a wheelchair ramp in front of the house, Gwennie’s mom did not hesitate.

“We were so happy, we said absolutely yes,” said Jennifer Brengle, meaning her and her husband Sebastian.

The pandemic, with its work restrictions, also did not help last year. Mr. Brengle works at the Seaport Inn as a bartender, so he was out of work for awhile. He’s back now, but it’s still kind of slow, certainly not as busy as a normal summer. Ms. Brengle works as a speech therapist.

She said the family moved from a second floor apartment to a ranch in Fairhaven, making it easier to take Gwennie out. But it was still difficult. Gwendolyn has a neurological disorder that severely restricts her

mobility and her speech. The ramp will make it much easier.

She’ll be able to go to the zoo with her cousins.

“They dote on her,” said Ms. Brengle. “They love her. She’s everybody’s baby.”

Gwendolyn loves Harry Potter, listening to stories, and her favorite TV shows. With the weather getting warmer, they will definitely go to the beach.

“She likes the water,” said Ms. Brengle.

All of that will be easier because of the ramp, and a wheelchair van that they are hoping to get soon.

Firefighter/Paramedic Kevin Gonsalves, Jr., who is the new president of the Firefighters union, Local 1555 said they saw a local news report on Gwendolyn’s challenges, including the lack of a ramp at her house, and decided the union could help. They have built a couple of ramps



ABOVE: Members of the Fairhaven Firefighters Union, Local 1555, build a ramp on 3/17/21 at a house in Fairhaven to help out a family with a child who is wheelchair bound. L-R: Lt. Josh Benoit, FF/Paramedic Timothy DesRoches, FF/Paramedic Kevin Gonsalves, Lt. Paul Correia. BELOW LEFT: Lt. Correia and Mr. Gonsalves cut a notch in a board for the ramp. Photos by Beth David.

over the years for other families who needed them.

Mr. Gonsalves was quick to thank local businesses that donated materials, including A. Medeiros Construction, Fairhaven Lumber, and L&S Concrete.

Mr. Gonsalves said that the union members want to be more active in the community. They helped with the BMX pump track spruce up day and worked on some beach cleanups. He said they have a big year planned, and people will see them out in the community a lot.

“It’s important to get out there and help,” said Mr. Gonsalves. “We’re not only about ambulance runs. We’re about community.”

Find the union on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/local1555> or by email at FairhaveFirefighters@gmail.com



LEFT: Brian Rego (front) joins members of the Fairhaven Firefighters union for a group shot on 3/17/21 when they built a ramp for a family with a child who is wheelchair bound. L-R (back): Maggie Rocha, Josh Benoit, Paul Correia; L-R (middle row): Chauncy Burr, Timothy DesRoches, Mark Mattesich, Kevin Gonsalves, Nathan Rebello; front, Brian Rego. Photo by Beth David. RIGHT: The finished product. Photo from Fairhaven Firefighters Association Local 1555 Facebook page.

The Finished Product



Hastings Middle School recognized for support of Toys for Tots



ABOVE: Honor Society Advisor, Lisa Cadima accepts a Certificate of Appreciation from US Marine Corps Reserve member Ken Gendreau, in gratitude for Ms. Cadima's "outstanding support of the USMC Reserve Toys for Tots Program," at EHMS on 4/1/21. Submitted photo.

Elizabeth Hastings Middle School in Fairhaven collects toys for the US Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program every year, giving countless children a Christmas that includes fun toys under the tree.

On April 1 US Marine Corps Reserve member Ken Gendreau recognized Grade 7 teacher and National Junior Honor Society advisor Lisa Cadima for her efforts, presenting her with a Certificate of Appreciation "for outstanding support of the United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program."

Volunteers clean up Marsh Island, aka Tin Can Island

By Beth David
Editor

There's just something about Marsh Island, aka Tin Can Island, that draws the debris from New Bedford Harbor onto the banks of this little piece of land at the end of Taber Street in Fairhaven that juts out into the harbor.

On Saturday, 3/13/21, a group of 13 volunteers, cleaned up a "mountain of trash," according to Operation Clean Sweep's Facebook page.

The Fairhaven public works department then picked up about up 20 bags of trash collected by the volunteers.

The day was organized by Gary

Lavalette with volunteer help from Operation Clean Sweep (<http://www.operationcleansweep.net/>, 508-979-1493), Be the Solution to Pollution (<https://www.facebook.com/pollution-solution/>), and The Climate Reality Project/Southcoast (crmasc2019@gmail.com).



ABOVE Volunteers pick up trash on Marsh Island in Fairhaven on 3/13/21 eventually collecting about 20 bags of trash. Submitted photos.



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DVDevelopments: Streaming the Oscars

This is the first year since 2007 that I've gone into the

Smoothly wrought, with a minimum of fanciness. The movie's hero is Fred Hampton (Daniel Kaluuya), the "Black Messiah," but the film is really about Judas, or informer Bill O'Neil (LaKeith Stanfield). Both men's pain is palpable and relatable. *\$19.99 rental from Apple TV, Google Play, Vudu, YouTube, Fandango Now, Microsoft, Redbox, Directv.*

seems like a commercial for the "vandweller" lifestyle, eliding a lot of unpleasant realities (aside from the infamous trots-in-a-bucket scene) and making a hero out of Amazon for throwing the nomads a paycheck or two. *Streaming at Hulu. Buy for \$14.99 at Apple TV, Amazon, Google Play, Vudu, YouTube, Fandango Now, Microsoft, Redbox, Directv.*

Academy Awards show (ABC, April 25, 8 p.m. ET) having seen all the nominees for Best Picture. (And this year has eight nominees!) Three guesses why, and the first two don't count. It's because all the nominees are streaming. 2020 was a streaming kind of year, in case you hadn't noticed.

Mank Unengaging, self-regarding, hey-ma-lookit-me-direct folly; of course, since it's a movie about movies, it got the most nominations (ten). Who cares? This is the one you can most afford to miss. *Streaming at Netflix.*

Promising Young Woman Enjoyably nasty satire with an undeniably female sensibility, which we can always use more of at the movies. The ending is a little cheap, but it's satisfying anyway. I'd be fine with Carey Mulligan winning Best Actress for her sharp work here. *\$5.99 rental from Apple TV, Google Play, Vudu, YouTube, Fandango Now, Microsoft, Redbox, Directv, Flix Fling. Buy for \$19.99 at Apple TV, Amazon, Google Play, Vudu, YouTube, Fandango Now, Microsoft, Redbox, Directv.*

In a saner year, maybe one of two of the nominees would've played at AMC/the Mall, with a few others getting wider release when the nominations were announced. This year, if you subscribed to the right services and didn't mind paying somewhat hefty rental fees for a few of the films, you could have — as I did — watched all eight contenders from the comfort of your couch.

In a saner year, maybe one of two of the nominees would've played at AMC/the Mall, with a few others getting wider release when the nominations were announced.

Sound of Metal I respect a movie that uses the specific language of cinema to show me how it feels to occupy another person's headspace. *The Father* does that quite well, and so does this unsentimental drama (the director is from Massachusetts) about a punk-rock drummer, the excellent Riz Ahmed) who suddenly goes deaf. Not comforting, but not depressing either. *Streaming at Amazon Prime.*

Without further ado, here are 2020's Best Picture nominees, a short assessment of each, and where you can watch them. If you're picking this issue up on Wednesday you still have at least three days to catch up!

Minari Immensely likable semi-autobiographical slice of life, partly in Korean, about the specifics of one family whose patriarch pursues his dream, which may as well be the American dream. *\$19.99 rental from Apple TV, Google Play, Vudu, YouTube, Fandango Now, Microsoft, Redbox, Directv.*

The Trial of the Chicago 7 Like many movies last year, accidentally relevant — the fight of young idealists against powerful, corrupt men trying to criminalize protest seemed newly urgent. Occasionally it feels stage-bound or grandstanding, and too much of it is just made up, but it's entertaining in that slightly cheap Aaron Sorkin mode. *Streaming at Netflix.*

The Father One of my favorites, not because it's a barrel of laughs but because it puts us ingeniously inside a difficult mindset — a bewildered, aging Englishman (Anthony Hopkins) suffering from dementia and watching the lights of his world blink out one by one. *\$19.99 rental from Apple TV, Google Play, Vudu, YouTube, Fandango Now, Microsoft, Redbox, or Directv.*

Judas and the Black Messiah



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Fairhaven

Public Hearings/Legal Notices

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

Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall Banquet Room, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts
Public hearing via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/94115137952?pwd=MXpoVWwKPTFBUEUmluT1pWScTtVzJCQT09>
or call 1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 941 1513 7952
Passcode: 361259

1. **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.**
2. **Administrative Appeal by A1 Crane – re: 86-88**

BOH: cont'd from page 4

Silvia brought up for discussion before his board about providing for a public comment period at the end of each meeting to allow the public to voice any concerns. The BOH will add the matter to its next agenda for discussion and a possible vote.

Moving on to the annual reorganization of the board, Mr. Gallagher asked the board to first pause and address the enduring precedent of individuals serving as the chairperson of multiple boards. He said while his concern is not aimed at anyone specific, anyone who serves as the chair of more than one quasi-judicial board now and then "gets two bites at the apple," and the practice "concentrates influence in that one person."

Mr. DeTerra has often served as chairperson of both the BOH and the Zoning Board of Appeals simultaneously over the past decade.

Mr. Gallagher asked the board to consider what he said and perhaps wait until the next meeting before reorganizing, but Mr. Ristuccia said he disagreed with Mr. Gallagher and that the most qualified chair should always be selected regardless of whether they act as chair for other boards.

That way, Mr. Ristuccia said, "The people who we work for, they're going to get their best money's worth by having the most qualified guy running the show."

Still, said Mr. Gallagher, presiding over a meeting does not necessarily require an extensive amount of tenure on the board. For example, he said, Mr. Ristuccia, as vice-chairperson of

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 June 1, 2021.**

3. **78 Akin Street. ZBA-2021-11..** Previously continued: 198-18: Variance request for 1,765 sq ft short of a 15,000 foot requirement for a buildable lot in a RA District. **Continued from April 6, 2021.**
4. **Silvershell Beach Drive. REF #ZBA-2021-014:** Map 41, Lot 49. Lopes, Joyce. Request for an Administrative Appeal from letter dated February 5, 2021 from Building Commissioner for parking of a motorhome encroaching on a public way. 198-16: Special permit request to park motor home on land located at Map 41, Lot 49 on Silvershell Beach Drive. Land has 4,021 sq feet owned by Ms. Lopes.
5. **81 Middle Street. Cleaves, Jennifer. REF #: ZBA-2021-15.** 198-16: Special Permit request for 6 chickens in a RA District for site under 5 acres.
6. **12 Hedge Street. Gaudreau, Andrew. REF #: ZBA-2021-16.** 198-18: Variance request of 7' short of the side setback to build a deck, in a RA District that requires 10'.
7. **80 Adams Street. Hinman, Paul. REF #: ZBA-2021-**

17. 198-18: Variance to extend the legal non-conforming use to add a 12x16 porch to right side of house with a Variance request of 14.60' feet short on front setback, whereas should be 20' in a RA District.
8. **69 Jerusalem Road. Souza, Patrick. REF#: ZBA-2021-18. 198-18:** Variance request 9' short rear set back for a proposed 14x24 addition, whereas rear setback is 30' in a RA District.
9. **37 Balsam St. Kirk, Thomas. REF #: ZBA-2021-19.** 198-18: Variance request short 15' on front setback to extend non-conforming front porch, that requires a 30' front setback in a RA District.
10. **108 Sycamore Street. REF # ZBA-2021-20.** 198-18 (1) Variance request for 16,100 sq feet short of required 22,500 sq ft in a RB District. 198-18: Variance request for 7,256' short of contiguous upland, where 13,500 is required. 198-18: Variance request short 4.25' front setback, whereas 20' in a RB District is required. 198-18: Variance request short 4.30' rear setback, whereas required is 30' in RB District.
11. **32 Green Street. Perkins, Leslie. REF#: ZBA-2021-22.** 198-18: Variance short 6.5' for side setback for a proposed garage and addition, that 10' is required in a RA District.

Peter DeTerra, Chairman
FNN: 4/22/21, 4/29/21

the BOH, was able to fill in when Mr. DeTerra was absent, and he did an "admirable job." Turning to Mr. DeTerra, Mr. Gallagher asked if it was Mr. DeTerra's intention that day to accept the nomination for another year as chair and asked the board to "pump the brakes" and hold off until the next meeting.

Without hesitation, Mr. DeTerra called for the reorganization of the board and nominated Mr. Ristuccia as chair, which Mr. Gallagher seconded, and it passed unanimously. Mr. DeTerra then asked to be vice-chair, and Mr. Gallagher responded by nominating Mr. DeTerra, seconded by Mr. Ristuccia.

In other business, the board is considering updating its local tobacco regulations to expand its flavored tobacco products ban to include flavored rolling papers.

Children will use anything flavored to make the consumption of tobacco and nicotine products smoother, said Mr. Flaherty.

Mr. Ristuccia said he hoped the public would reach out to the board with its comments and concerns ahead of drafting any regulation changes.

"This is an area where we're really going to... ask to infringe on people's freedoms a lot here," he said. "We're public servants here... This is a matter of choice, this one."

Proposed amendments also include increasing fines for retailer violations to align the amounts more with the state's fine schedule, which imposes significantly higher fines than Fairhaven. For example, the state's fines for a first, second, and third offense for selling tobacco

products to an underage consumer are \$1,000, \$2,000, and \$5,000, respectively. The fines in Fairhaven are \$100, \$200, and \$300.

The board listed the tobacco regulations changes on its agenda as a public hearing and continued it until the next meeting when it will discuss the matter again; however, once the board agrees on a draft of the amendments, it must duly advertise the proposed amendments for two weeks before holding a public hearing to adopt the changes.

In COVID-19 matters, Fairhaven had 56 active cases over the prior two-week period, totaling 1,884 since the onset of the pandemic. The positivity rate went down slightly from 4.07% to 3.92%, prompting Mr. Flaherty to say, "We're doing better than I expected."

Mr. Gallagher also commented on the vaccination rate in town, about 25% fully vaccinated, then focused on the disparity in the gender of those vaccinated. In a town of 51% male and 49% female, Mr. Gallagher said he couldn't help but notice that 62% of those vaccinated were female, with 38% of them male. He wondered if some outreach the board could provide would encourage more males to get the vaccine.

Mr. Ristuccia said his own "personal adventure" in getting vaccinated might help shed light on why more women than men are getting the shot. Making a vaccine appointment requires diligence and "stick-to-itiveness," he said, something he had to rely on his daughter and wife for in securing him a vaccine appointment.

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RECALL: cont'd from page 3

- Allowing a fellow board member to participate in TA hiring process while that member's involvement was in violation of state ethics laws
Most importantly, Selectman Freitas stands accused of a July 1, 2020 incident in which he allegedly assaulted a young man and woman in a Fairhaven parking lot. We have gotten to the point where we have accepted and normalized this kind of behavior from Selectman Freitas.

Fairhaven deserves better. It's not too late to fix our political climate and move forward with Fairhaven's best interests in mind. Join our recall campaign — sign, collect signatures, volunteer your property for signage... every bit helps. We need 20 percent of the voters to turn out and sign. This is a **BIG TASK** (2,500 signatures!), which means we need help from you! We have to collect the signatures by this weekend, 4/23.

We will be available at signature drives, permanent signing locations, and we will even come to you. Our volunteers will observe social distancing, masking, use sanitizing protocols, and our vaccinated volunteers will facilitate no-contact petition delivery to those who wish to remain at home.

For more info: website recalldanfreitas.com; call or text, 508-306-1669 with questions.

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

Bikeway Committee
Wed., 4/28, Remote, 7 p.m.

Board of Appeals
Tues., 5/4, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Assessors
Thurs., 4/29, Remote, 6 p.m.

Board of Health
Wed., 4/28, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Board of Public Works
Mon., 5/3, Arsene St., 6:15 p.m.

Broadband Study Comm
Thurs., 4/29, Remote, 6 p.m.

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

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 Assessors**
Wed., 4/28, 6:30 p.m.

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

TIDE TABLE

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

	Apr. 2021	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	22	0437	1712	1003	2231
Friday	23	0538	1806	1102	2337
Saturday	24	0629	1852	1154*	----
Sunday	25	0714	1936	0031*	1241*
Monday	26	0759	2021	0122*	1328*
Tuesday	27	0847	2111	0214*	1417*
Wednesday	28	0938	2202	0309*	1510*
Thursday	29	1029	2254	0359*	1600*
Friday	30	1122	2348	0445*	1646*

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

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From our readers

Board of Health denies access

And the hits just keep on comin'... literally. Once again, I was at Town Hall again prior to and during the meeting of the Board of Health held on Wednesday the 14th. Once again, my intention was to have a peaceful demonstration to bring attention to the Recall effort now underway to oust from office now former Chairman Peter DeTerra and Board member Michael Ristuccia. Once again, I faced harassment and intimidation tactics from Wendy Graves and Mr. DeTerra.

One would think that after six months of my presence during the BOH meetings they might have learned by now that those tactics don't work with me as I thrive on being a successful social justice activist and vocal agitator. You might remember my November encounter with former Board Member Geoffrey Haworth (see the archived November 19th issue of this fine newspaper) that, contrary to the rantings of Selectboard Chairman Daniel Freitas, 100s of people read weekly.

After mulling it over for a few days of that incident I filed with the Fairhaven Police Department a complaint against Mr. Haworth because I wanted to have a public record of the intimidation I faced.

Last Wednesday I sat silently in the hall outside of the banquet room holding a protest sign, a legal activity that Police Chief Myers assured me was my right, until the offices closed at 4:30. I had done this on a previous day prior to a BOH meeting. During both of these peaceful protests I was harassed by Wendy Graves who threatened to "call the cops because" she falsely claimed that I was "not allowed to be in the building."

At 4:30 I exited the building and took to the sidewalk to continue my demonstration by chanting "Hey Hey Ho Ho DeTerra and Ristuccia have got to go!" When newly elected Board Member Kevin Gallagher arrived, I asked him if the public was allowed in the building as per Governor's Baker's March 18, 2021 order allowing up to 100 people at indoor gatherings in public spaces and because #10 on the meeting agenda was a Public Hearing to which he replied, "That's my intent."

With that, I followed him up the steps, with the intention of sitting silently in the hall until I might be

allowed in the meeting room to make a comment on the issue at hand.

Arriving at the front door of our public space, we found it locked. In short order Mr. DeTerra arrived and unlocked the door. He allowed Mr. Gallagher in, then proceeded to shove the heavy on me as I entered the threshold stating "You need to leave or I'll call the cops."

I attempted to talk with him about being in the hall during the meeting, reminding him that a Public Hearing was on the agenda, but he kept applying pressure on the door while my right arm was still in the doorway while loudly proclaiming that "It's a Zoom meeting only. Now leave or I'm calling the cops" (all of this occurring 6 inches from my face and not wearing a mask).

I pried myself loose and he locked the door again. Not to be deterred, I began knocking and caught the attention of Wendy Graves who yelled through the locked door, "you can't come in here it's a Zoom meeting only" and repeated the threat of calling the police. I replied that the Selectboard had, after receiving a letter of approval from the Health Agent/BOH, voted the previous Monday to allow ten members of the public into meetings being held in that very same room. I returned to the sidewalk to continue my vocal protest. The next day I once again went to the police station and lodged a complaint.

I don't know about you but I am sick of the bullying, harassment, intimidation, disrespect and disregard of the civil rights afforded to the citizens of Fairhaven.

If you are fed up too, SIGN THE RECALL PETITIONS to oust DeTerra and Ristuccia so we can return integrity and respect to the Board of Health!! Contact me and I will bring, in a COVID safe manner, the petitions to you. Diane Hahn 508-525-0936 or dihahn@msn.com
Dian Hahn, Fairhaven

Vote on 5/18 Mattapoissett

As a boy in the 1930's and through the 40's I was a Sconticut Necker.

Then I went to college, volunteered and served in the US Army, went to Korea, returned home to continue my education and marry a Mattapoissett girl I met at Fairhaven High School, class of 49.

For 65 years Mattapoissett has been my home.

I have been a reader of the FNN (*Fairhaven Neighborhood News*) once I knew it was circulating in Mattapoissett.

I have honored its plea to support local journalism, a field I am extremely familiar with.

I am telling Beth David in this letter she is one, if not the only true journalist left in Southeastern Massachusetts, who has the guts to tell it all — like it is.

Good luck Fairhaven voters, in your recall efforts.

Now I would ask your readers if you would vote for any candidate for any public office that, as an adult, spent the majority of his or her voting life on the west coast, and registered to vote in Mattapoissett only last June, never attended a Town Meeting and whose supporters need two political signs on their property to show their support.

Mattapoissett's town election will occur on May 18th.

In the Selectmen's race, there will be a candidate who may fit the job description but doesn't fit the bill. The ads boldly promoting "I'm passionate about helping all Mattapoissett residents..." is political speak, for no one can help all if they are working in the best interest of any town.

This appeal is for all Mattapoissett FNN readers, and those in other towns to encourage their relatives, friends, and acquaintances who vote in Mattapoissett to elect the candidate who is a life long resident and voter with service to the town as a volunteer on the Community Preservation Committee. Getting out the vote by absentee ballot or going to the polls is a must for those ages 18-100+, if Mattapoissett is, indeed, to "GO FORWARD."

Brad Hathaway, Mattapoissett

Mr. Hathaway worked at the New Bedford Standard-Times for more than 37 years, from reporter, to city editor, to other managerial positions.

Tree Warden: Support higher pay for tree workers

Hello, Don Collasius, Tree warden here.

I will be appearing before the Board of Selectman on 26 APR 21. I urge you to view this on town cable [channel 18, or watch live at fairhaventv.com] and what I hope to display is a dedicated group of elected and appointed town officials working together to fix a long term issue regarding the town's ability to employ two part-time workers for the tree department.

As currently structured the pay scale

LETTERS: cont'd on page 26

Obituary



Geneva Viveiros

Geneva M. (Gallant) Viveiros, 93, of Fairhaven, passed away on Friday, April 16, 2021 at Saint Luke's Hospital in New Bedford.

She was the wife of the late John Viveiros.

Geneva was born in Acushnet the

daughter of the late Archie and Florida (Goguen) Gallant. Mrs. Viveiros owned and operated Jan's Beauty Salon in Fairhaven for over sixty-five years.

Geneva was a devout Catholic and communicant of Saint Joseph Church in Fairhaven. She was a past president of the Legion of Mary and member of the Secular branch of the congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary.

Survivors are a daughter: Karen Diggins and her companion Rick Campbell of Fairhaven; a grandson: Bert Diggins and his wife Tracy of Fairhaven; two great grandchildren: Drew and Jared; two sisters: Ann

Bowman of New Bedford; Gertrude Malone of Florida; a brother: Edward Gallant of Lakeville; along with many nieces and nephews.

She was the sister of the late Janice Silveira, Janet Genereaux, Raymond Gallant, Robert Gallant, Donald Gallant, Herman "Joe" Gallant, and Leo Gallant.

Calling Hours for Mrs. Viveiros will be held on Wednesday April 28, 2021 from 4-7 p.m. with a Prayer Service to follow at 7 p.m. in the Fairhaven Funeral Home, 117 Main Street, Fairhaven. Relatives and friends are invited to attend. Facial coverings and Social distancing are required.



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RECALL

PETER DETERRA & MIKE RISTUCCIA

Board of Health – Fairhaven

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Outdoor, contact free signing.
We need 2200 signatures by 4/29/21

RECALL GROUNDS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Not following Town of Fairhaven employee personal policies and procedures and Boards and Committee handbook as well as Town bylaws. Settling **thousands, of taxpayer's dollars in lawsuits**, independent investigations, legal fees, and workman's Compensation payments due to **bullying and harassing** numerous health department employees over the last 10 years.

Refusing to allow the citizens access and communications with the Board during regular meetings. Refusing to publish emails or accept calls and answer citizens questions.

Violating the very laws that by sworn oath they took to protect the public's health, finances, and act in the best interest of the citizens. By **putting the public's health at risk**, hosting a wedding of over 150 guests on his property and violating mandatory Governor emergency covid order #46 and then attempting a cover up! Their actions of covering up Peters' abuse, dismantling the Health Department, hiring under qualified personnel for the office and board during a pandemic, using insider information to acquire town contracts, refusing and **manipulating** enforcement of the laws and regulations **and lying**.

PAID FOR BY AMY SINGELAIS

BPW interviews for beach jobs, discusses Costa Dr. water issue

By Mary Macedo

Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Monday 4/5 the Fairhaven Board of Public Works conducted interviews for lifeguards and gate attendants at West Island Town Beach. The board also discussed rentals of part properties by businesses and non-profits .

The board first met with Susan Adao and her neighbors on Costa Drive about an issue with dirty water on their street. Superintendent Vinnie Furtado explained that the BPW has been working with the residents regarding the issue.

He said the Water Department frequently goes to Costa Drive to flush the system because the water continues to be dirty. Residents cannot take baths, and have put filter systems on their showers to help with the problem, but nothing has been a permanent fix.

Water Superintendent Jeff Furtado told the board that when the subdivision was built the main line was looped into the water line, causing the water to settle inside the pipe, which is what causes it to be dirty. He said they should have looped the main line into an additional line, not the same one. He also explained that the subdivision has a high usage of water.

Board member Robert "Hoppy" Hobson asked if there is a long term fix to the problem.

Mr. Furtado explained that the first step would be to show the problem to an engineer and see if there is a way to get the main water line looped into another line. He said that would be the only way to stop the water from settling and solve the problem.

Mr. Furtado said he did not know how much it would cost and he was not even sure if an engineer would be able to fix it. He said they will need to look into it with the engineers to learn more. Meanwhile, they will need to flush the water system weekly.

Vinnie Furtado said that they will increase the flushing to once a week for now to see if that helps and make plans to meet with the engineers.

The board also conducted interviews for positions at the town beach on West Island.

The board interviewed Laila Amaral who is a freshman at Fairhaven High School, for the gate attendant position. Mr. Hobson said

that they have plenty of openings and thanked Ms. Amaral for applying. Mr. Durant agreed and said that her resume looked great.

The board then interviewed for lifeguard positions.

Michael Croteau, a 17-year-old student at Tabor Academy told the board that he was honorable, puts his family first and would love to serve his community through a job as a lifeguard.

Mr. Hobson said he was impressed with how he was dressed and how he presented himself to the board.

Mr. Croteau explained that he would not be available through Labor Day and would need some flexibility with his work schedule because he attends football camps during the summer at colleges such as Dartmouth and Harvard.

Board member Cameron Durant said that would be fine as long as he informs Ms. Vento of days and times

Residents cannot take
baths, and have put filter
systems on their showers...
but nothing has been a
permanent fix.

he would need off ahead of time.

Mr. Wotton said that they were more than willing to work on Mr. Croteau's schedule and that getting ready for college is top priority.

The board also interviewed Carlson Cantoreggi of Millis, for a lifeguard position. He explained that his family has a beach house in Fairhaven, where they spend most of their summers. He said he should be able to work every weekend and most weekdays and that he is available through Labor Day.

Mr. Durant said that his availability was great and he loved that Mr. Cantoreggi worked at Mac's Soda Bar for a whole season.

The board agreed that he was a great candidate for the job.

Mr. Wotton told all candidates that Ms. Vento would contact them.

Mr. Wotton explained to the board that they had one more candidate to interview, but the person could not make it that night. He said the

candidate's sisters are currently gate attendants and they are great and that he knows the family well.

Mr. Wotton also announced that they have open positions for all the candidates who applied and for all the employees from last year as well.

The board voted unanimously to re-hire all of last year's town beach employees and the new candidates.

In another matter the board met with Samantha Dungca and Alexis Costa about holding a Souflower Yoga and Wellness Festival on June 26th from 1- 5 p.m. at Cushman Park.

Ms. Dungca explained that it would be a grand opening event for their business and they would like to use the stage, field, and basketball court areas. She said it would be a fun event for families with a ninja warrior obstacle course, yoga classes, climbing wall, and family basketball.

Mr. Wotton said it sounded like a great event. Mr. Hobson agreed and asked if there are any other events going on that day at the park that would interfere. Mr. Furtado said the park was clear for the day.

BPW board member Marcus Ferro said that it is good to see festivals start coming back again.

Mr. Durant asked if there would need to be guidelines or regulations for capacity and social distancing.

Ms. Dungca will need to get in touch with the health department for any restrictions or regulations due to COVID-19. The board approved the event, pending approval by the Health Department.

In a related matter Mr. Furtado told the board that he created a draft of a multi-day park rental form for businesses and non profits.

Mr. Durant said the form was good, but he was not sure about the fees. If the business is making money off the event the board should charge more than \$25. Mr. Wotton said that if the business is renting out the entire park it should cost more money, but if they are just renting a specific area it should be \$25 each time. Mr. Durant agreed.

Mr. Durant said he would like to see a line on the form for non-profits to make it clear that they will not be charged.

The board unanimously approved the fee of \$25 per use for a specific area of a park, and voted to add the line for non-profits.

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for those two part-time folks is \$14 to \$18.46 per hour. On a normal basis these employees can work a maximum of 19 hours per week and they receive no other benefits other than wages. During emergencies they work as much as can be safely expected of them with still no benefits.

This town has a history of not being able to hire and keep these positions filled. I have two candidates with very much experience and training who want this job. They have filled out the proper paperwork with the town and can start immediately. What I don't have is a close to acceptable wage I can pay them.

The following comes from TCIA which is the Tree Care Industry Association who do a comprehensive survey of pay scales for tree workers in New England yearly.

The median compensation ranges for both an aerial lift operator and a grounds worker in Massachusetts. These results are for 2019.

Aerial Lift operator: \$20-\$25/HR

Grounds person: \$16-\$20/HR

I am told towns pay less than the industry. What I am requesting is below industry. I am told Mattapoissett has folks doing this for \$15 an hour and I can start my people at \$16.09. That's great for Mattapoissett that they can hire and retain people for \$15 per hour. History shows this does not work for Fairhaven.

I have been in office for one week today (as I write this). I have met with 30 folks requesting tree work and I was left with a list of 20 folks requesting service. Every one of them has been reasonable in their request.

I am not asking for more money for my budget. I believe I can make the current budget work. I am asking to be able to pay two people who are expected to get up at two in the morning during inclement weather and to work in a dangerous environment something close to a reasonable wage.

I cannot find, and no one can show me a document saying the town cannot currently pay what I am asking. To the contrary I understand it is within the Town Administrator's authority to start these workers for what I ask.

Please watch, and prior to I encourage you to reach out to the Board of Selectmen, the interim Town Administrator and myself to share your thoughts on this. What I hope and believe you will see on April 26 is a level

of cooperation that often happens but is rarely seen.

*Don C. Collasius, Town of Fairhaven
Tree Warden*

Residents have expressed thanks for recall effort

Since the recall effort has started we have had so many people express gratitude for our efforts. One person thanked us for "taking back our town" and that really hit home to me. All of us who live here really do love the town and want a local government that works for everyone. We love the historic charm, the wonderful community and how everyone can come together to get things done.

This is one of those times that the town needs to work on holding our elected officials accountable, having people who represent us all that don't embarrass us and continually cause problems. We need to have leaders that we are proud of and that are good role models.

Now is the time to take a stand, not wait any longer to see what happens. We can't afford to stand by, we all need to sign this petition and recall Dan Freitas. Please make every effort to sign this week and we will all move forward for a better town and place to call our home.

Ann Richard, Fairhaven

Think Again, Fairhaven

For months now our beautiful town has been held captive by an abusive, lying and corrupt Selectboard chair Mr. Freitas and his silent conspirator Mr. Silvia. Now it's clear that this whole town knows it, and now it's time to fix it.

If you think we can afford to wait, think again. After intentionally wasting over \$10K of your taxpayer money on a Town Administrator hiring consultant process that Mr. Freitas undermined, we have no legitimate Town Administrator. We cannot wait another year to correct that. Who knows how much more damage Mr. Freitas and a void of qualified leadership will do to this town.

If you think this can't be fixed now, think again. Even with constant (and almost certainly illegal) intimidation and interference from blind cronyism and massive pandemic restrictions, the recall effort is more than halfway to reaching the required number of signatures.

If you think you, yourself can't (or shouldn't) be a part of this solution,

think again. The biggest, clearest and easiest opportunity you have to contribute directly to the peace and welfare of this great town we all love is right at your feet: sign the petition to recall Dan Freitas and help put an end to the bullying, corruption and shame he has brought upon us once and for all. Let's do this; together.

Phil Washko, Fairhaven

Volunteer for a committee

This year has been an interesting one. People have been paying closer attention to Town Government than in years past and many of you have participated in public meetings, written letters to the editor of this newspaper, posted concerns on Facebook, etc.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you (or inform you if you are new to Town Government) that one of the best ways you can make an immediate impact on your local government, and Town in general, is to volunteer for one of the many boards and committees that are appointed by the Board of Selectmen each year.

These Boards and Committees carry out many vital functions for the Town, such as the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Conservation Commission, the Historic Commission, the Economic Development Committee, Broadband Study Committee, Library Trustees and many more.

It's a great way to become involved, to meet some new people, and to make a positive impact in your community. Please consider donating some of your time or talent to any area you are passionate about or that you just think the town could use some improvement in.

I hope you will consider submitting a letter of interest for appointment in 2021 to one of the many openings. You can do so by writing the Selectmen at <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/user/49/contact>

A complete list of all Boards and Committees may be found on the Town's website at the following link: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/boards> and the annual reports are a great resource to give you a sense of what each group is involved in. The annual reports can be found at <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/board-selectmen/pages/town-reports>.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out directly to me at respindola@fairhaven-ma.gov

Selectman Bob Espindola, Fairhaven



VFW Kitchen



**Eat In Or
Take Out**

**Call 508-997-1707
for take-out**

***Seafood
All Cut Fresh Daily***

Small fish & Chips: \$8.95

Fish/Shrimp: \$12.95

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RECALL FREITAS

RecallDanFreitas.com

www.facebook.com/recalldanfreitas

508-306-1669

We cannot wait any longer to end the abuse, dysfunction and shame that Mr. Freitas has brought to our wonderful town. Please sign this petition.

We need all signatures by Saturday April 23.

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