



Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 16, Issue 18 • April 29, 2021

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

Spring pops in and out during April



May is around the corner, but spring has been elusive, with cold temperatures, wind and rain making an appearance on a regular basis. Meanwhile, though, the leaves are starting to push their way to the fore and wildlife is hanging out in the open more often. Margie Joseph caught these two love birds hanging out in the marsh on Winsegansett Avenue in Fairhaven on 4/20/21. Photo by Margie Green Joseph.

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.

Well, they called his bluff. A very determined, hard-working, smart group of people have most likely gathered the signatures necessary to force a recall of Fairhaven Selectboard chairperson Daniel Freitas (see page 22).

Mr. Freitas wrote on Facebook that it was just a small group of people, and said he would resign and not run in the recall election if they got the required number of signatures. The signatures need to be certified, of course, then it's a 2-3 month time period to have the election. So, we'll see.

I mean, it's not like anyone takes this guy at his word anymore. He's quick to yell "liar" at this newspaper and this editor, but...really, dude, look in the mirror.

Oh, and then there's the brother. Ha! Oh my God that guy is good for some laughs. He called me an f'g liar on Facebook. No, really he did, but he spelled it out. He's demanding, of course, that I give proof — read: reveal my sources — for saying he was a pest, er...goon, by hanging around the petition tables.

Yeah, and this is the guy who comes to your house when you dial 911. Y'know what, I think I'll just put it here.

As for "proof," of what I claimed last week? I don't need to explain to you, Mr. Freitas (either one of you). My sources are protected from bullies like you. I will tell my readers, though, that I got confirmation from the police chief that at least one email was sent to them to "complain" about Mr. Freitas. Then there's the phone call to a local restaurant. But, I digress. We'll get to those in a week or two. Meanwhile, here's a sample of your first responder's work on Facebook, y'know, the guy who has to adhere to a higher standard because he's a HEERO!

PS: I heard that at least one town employee is getting in trouble for some Facebook posts that may not comply

with the town's social media policy. Think the brother will get called in on the carpet? Or is that policy only for people the Freitas brothers don't like? Just wondering.

Until next week then...



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Beth David, Publisher

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Nothing this week? Really? Cool.

Deterra, Hahn differ on interaction

By Beth David
Editor

In last week's issue, Fairhaven resident Diane Hahn sent a letter to the editor accusing Board of Health chairperson Peter DeTerra of closing the front door of town hall to keep her out of the building, while her arm was in the doorway. She said that he also threatened to call the police.

Ms. Hahn said in her letter that she "lodged a complaint" with the police the next day.

Mr. DeTerra left a voicemail on a *Neigh News* phone number cautioning the editor to be careful what was printed, but offering no details. The message was not retrieved until after the paper had gone to print.

Ms. Hahn did, however, provide some police records to the paper. In the main narrative, Officer Wayne Mello recounts Ms. Hahn's version of events and concludes that, after viewing surveillance video, that "no assault took place and simply a 'tug of war' with the door."

Ms. Hahn told the *Neigh News* that she begs to differ. She said a "tug of war" implies that it takes "two to tango," and she wants to see the video for herself.

In another report, Officer Christopher Bettencourt writes that he spoke with Mr.

DeTerra and got his version of events. In it, he states that he tried to close the door while Ms. Hahn tried to open it. Mr. DeTerra "held the door firm at 3/4 shut," wrote Officer Bettencourt.

Ms. Hahn contends that the door was "firm" at 3/4 shut because parts of her body were blocking it from closing.

She said she will attempt to get the surveillance video that the police used to make their judgement to see if there is a problem with the angle, or clarity, or some other reason the video does not match her recollection.

Mostly, though, she has two main issues she wants to get across. One, that she never intended to make a criminal complain against Mr. DeTerra. Ms. Hahn said she simply wanted the incident documented.

She also said Mr. DeTerra has twice impugned her reputation by insinuating that she was intoxicated, first when a similar incident happened in November, and again this month.

"He's trying to ruin my reputation by insinuating two times that I was drunk," said Ms. Hahn. "Because that's the only away a strong woman gives her opinion."

Mr. DeTerra did not respond to attempts to contact him for comment on this story.

COVID update

By Beth David
Editor

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker relaxed guidelines for masks outdoors, and announced more reopenings of businesses.

As of Friday, 4/30, masks will only be required outdoors in large gatherings or when social distancing is not possible. Wearing face coverings indoors is still required.

The governor also announced that the state will move to the next phase of the reopening plan, Phase 4, Step 2.

On May 10, large venues that are now open at 12%, will be able to open at 25% capacity. Amusement parks, theme parks, water parks will also be able to open at 50% capacity. Road races can resume, but with staggered starts. Singing indoors can resume, but with distancing requirements.

On August 1, all restrictions will be lifted for some industries. Restaurants will no longer have to serve food in order to serve alcohol, but other restrictions will remain.

To learn more, visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information>

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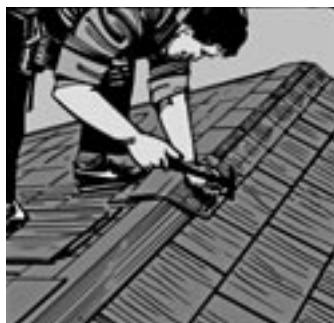
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Fairhaven town meeting to be remote again

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

The June 12 Annual Town Meeting is going remote after the Fairhaven Selectboard voted to accept Town Moderator Mark Sylvia's recommendation on April 26.

Selectboard member Keith Silvia claimed that "quite a few people" have called him to oppose another remote town meeting, calling instead to hold the event outside, perhaps on the football field at the high school.

Selectboard member Bob Espindola reminded Mr. Silvia that the town moderator in the past had already explained why an attempt to hold the meeting outdoors could be problematic, factoring in the weather and the fact that Fairhaven's representative Town Meeting is the largest in the commonwealth. Logistically, a remote Town Meeting is more effective, let alone safer, as the pandemic lingers, albeit into its final few months, hopefully.

Organizing a large-scale outdoor event that can accommodate social distancing is not the best way to conduct town business, Mr. Sylvia told the Selectboard. Furthermore, the Town has already held two successful town meetings in 2020. Contrary to Mr. Silvia's experience, Town Moderator Sylvia said he had not received a single call from someone complaining about the prospect of the June 12 Town Meeting being held via Zoom, with feedback being "generally positive," he said.

Mr. Espindola pointed out that the Town has hosted numerous pre-Town Meeting technology trainings to offer support to those unfamiliar with the technology and can lend laptops and tablets to those who need them to attend the remote Town Meeting.

Essentially, he said, if one really wants to participate in the remote Town Meeting, there are viable ways to achieve that.

Mr. Silvia, unconvinced, recalled how he found himself unable to navigate the technology and remotely vote and referenced an inability to see or hear what was being said at times.

Mr. Sylvia recommended anyone who is not confident in their ability to participate remotely may attend one of the many training sessions that the IT Department will again offer. Training sessions will also be broadcast on Cable Access TV.

As far as he is concerned, said Mr. Sylvia, the Town has hosted a successful remote Town Meeting before.

"And we will do it again as best as we effectively can," he added.

When Mr. Espindola motioned to hold the Town Meeting remotely, Mr. Silvia would not provide a second. Selectboard Chairperson Daniel Freitas seconded, and the motion passed 2-0.

The board also approved reducing the quorum from 100 to 40, as per the governor's allowance, which passed 2-1, with Mr. Silvia opposed.

Later in the meeting, the board made its recommendations on some of the articles on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant that Interim Town Administrator Wendy Graves had ready for them to review. The articles and the board's recommendations remained uncomplicated for the most part up until the introduction of the Board of Public Work's Article 44 to change the tree warden from an elected to an appointed position.

Mr. Espindola motioned to yield to the petitioner, seconded by Mr. Silvia, passing 2-1, with Mr. Freitas opposed.

Article 46, resident Ann Richard's citizen's petition* proposing the board

change its name to Select Board, got a motion to recommend adoption from Mr. Espindola and a second by Mr. Silvia, with both men voting in favor 2-1 with Mr. Freitas again opposed.

All three board members voted to yield to petitioner Donna McKenna on Article 47 to increase the Selectboard from three members to five; however, on Article 48 to create a nine-member Fairhaven Charter Committee, again Mr. Espindola and Mr. Silvia voted to yield to the petitioner (Kyle Bueno) 2-1 with Mr. Freitas opposed.*

For Article 49, Mary Freire-Kellogg citizen's petition* proposing an Ethics Committee, Mr. Espindola preferred to yield to petitioner, but his motion was not seconded.

"I'm opposed to it, so..." said Mr. Freitas. "It sounds like he's opposed to it," he said, referring to Mr. Silvia.

"Yeah," said Mr. Silvia.

The vote was 2-1 for a motion to pass over* the article, with Mr. Espindola opposed.

The vote was also 2-1, with Mr. Freitas opposed to yielding to petitioner for Article 50, another of Ms. Freire-Kellogg's citizen's petitions*, proposing a term limit of two consecutive terms for elected board members. Her next article, Article 51, to amend the Right to Farm Bylaw to waive the need to acquire an animal permit at properties exceeding 5 acres, received a unanimous 3-0 vote to yield to petitioner. Her third citizen's petition, Article 52 to reduce the recall petition signature requirements from 20% of registered voters to 10%, received a 2-1 vote to pass over*, with Mr. Espindola opposed to the motion.

Article 53 is a similar citizen's petition offered by Planning Board

SELECT: cont'd on page 13

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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Beach Cleanup

West Island Beach Cleanup, Sun., 5/2. Meet at the West Island Improvement Association hall, 41 Causeway Road, Fairhaven, at 9 a.m.

Please bring gloves, masks and your own reusable drink bottle.

Text Jill, 561-542-9764 with any questions

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

Volunteer

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 Selectboard 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.

To submit a letter of interest write the Selectboard 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 <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: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/board-selectmen/pages/town-reports>.

Contact Bob Espindola at respindola@fairhaven-ma.gov if you have any questions.

Commy Garden

Have you ever wanted to try gardening but didn't know where to start? 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.

Visit fairhavencommunitygarden.org or email sitcoordinator@fairhavencommunitygarden.org.

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. We are working with both the Senior Center and the Housing Authority to distribute these. Call the Fairhaven Senior Center to sign up at 508-979-4029. There is a limited supply so please call. For more information about the "Seeds for Seniors" email fairhavensustainability@gmail.com or call Ann Richad, 508-287-2831.

Bask celebrates Arbor Day with 1,000 free trees to community

Press Release

Bask, Inc. ("Bask"), a locally owned cannabis dispensary in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, has announced plans for their 4th annual Arbor Day event. The event will be held at Bask's adult-use and medical dispensary on Saturday, May 1st, 2021 from 10am to 7pm at 2 Pequot Road in Fairhaven.

"This will be our fourth 'Free Trees' event since opening Bask in 2018 and will be our biggest yet," explains Bask CEO, Chapman Dickerson. "Our goal is to give away 1,000 blue spruce tree seedlings this year and we welcome everyone in the community to take one home to plant."

Tree seedlings will be available in the parking lot outside the company's Fairhaven dispensary for contactless

pickup. There is no purchase necessary to pick up a free tree seedling.

"As a company, we are committed to sustainable practices and reducing our carbon footprint is important. Getting 1,000 trees in the ground is a great benefit to the environment and a fun way to get the community engaged in the process," says Dickerson.

Bask's purchase of the seedlings from the Massachusetts Tree Wardens Association contributes to the association's annual scholarship fund.

Bask has been serving registered medical patients at the Fairhaven dispensary since 2018. The multi-award-winning cannabis dispensary, cultivator, and manufacturer was named Best Dispensary in 2019 by south coast residents and recently

expanded its cannabis retail operations in Fairhaven with the addition of recreational sales to adults 21 and older.

The founders of Bask are experienced medical cannabis cultivators, educators, and advocates. The team came together over a shared vision to create an environment where patients could learn and have safe access to quality products. Bask opened its doors to medical patients in February of 2018 as the first cannabis dispensary on the South Coast of Massachusetts. In February of 2020, the company moved its cultivation and processing operation to a state-of-the-art greenhouse facility in Freetown, MA in partnership with AmeriCann, Inc.

Millicent begins holding outdoor storytimes

Press Release

The Millicent Library, 45 Center Street, Fairhaven, is excited to announce outdoor storytime every Wednesday in May at 11:00 a.m. (Rain date Thursday)

Read, sing, and get up and move on the Millicent Library Lawn! This

program is for families with little ones age 3+ (siblings are welcome). Families are encouraged to bring blankets or chairs to sit on, and to dress for the weather.

Advanced registration is required and spaces are limited. If you'd like to attend, fill out our online form at

MillicentLibrary.org. Social distancing and mask wearing are required for all attendees.

For more information about Outdoor Storytime contact Youth Services Librarian Allie Thiel at 508-992-5342, extension 112 or email athiel@sailsinc.org.



Sunshine, bubbles and books on the lawn of the Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven. Every Wednesday (Thursday rain date), the library will hold storytime outside for children 3+ years old. ABOVE: LEFT: Children and their adults listen to Millicent Library Youth Services Librarian Allie Thiel during outdoor storytime on the lawn of the Millicent Library earlier this month. ABOVE RIGHT: Millicent Library Youth Services Librarian Allie Thiel points out a page in a book during outdoor storytime. RIGHT: Bubble fun is part of the program during outdoor storytime. Photos from the Millicent Library Facebook page.



Fairhaven celebrates Arbor Day with 10 new trees in center

Fairhaven Tree Warden

Press Release

On Friday, May 7, 2021 the Fairhaven Tree Department partnering with the BPW and Eversource will celebrate Arbor Day by planting 10 new trees along Union and Laurel Streets. Arbor Day is an annual holiday celebrating the planting, upkeep and preservation of trees. Eversource donated 8 of the 10 trees and will help dig the holes and plant the trees on the morning of the event.

Officials from town departments and the media are invited to participate in this earth friendly event. Trees will be planted in the morning and there will be a brief ceremony at 10:30 a.m. with remarks by Town officials about the importance of trees and tree maintenance to our town, our environment, and our safety.

"We look forward to helping these

new plants establish strong roots and to making Fairhaven a greener and even more beautiful place," remarked Fairhaven Tree Warden Don C. Collasius .

The town currently has a budget of \$3,200 dollars a year for planting new trees and Mr. Collasius says he is committed to procuring and planting many more trees through state grants, and partnerships without increasing the tax burden on the town.

In the next few months we hope to plant another 10 trees throughout the town of Fairhaven. Suggestions from town residents regarding species and location are welcome.

Mr. Collasius has big plans for the tree department including plans to publish a local guide to native species selection with information about planting the right tree in the right place including the identification of

species that work well under wires.

The Tree Department is also looking for volunteers for a new Tree Planting Group. The Group will provide hands on help including digging holes, planting trees, and writing articles and social media posts in support of Fairhaven's tree planting efforts.

"I ran for the position of tree warden to help beautify our town, make it safer and increase the number of healthy trees in our area. The interest from the public has been fantastic! So far, every person that has reached out to me has been kind, courteous and reasonable. I am already hard at work responding to and addressing your requests for service and hope to have a tree crew in place within the coming weeks. Then we can really get going!" said Mr. Collasius.

Fairhaven Housing Authority holds vaccination clinic

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Housing Authority teamed up with state agencies to make sure that residents were able to get vaccinated against the COVID-19 virus. The HA held two clinics, with the first shot administered on March 11 and the second on April 8.

FHA Executive Director Krisanne Sheedy said about 120 shots were given at each clinic, with some staff members also taking advantage of the opportunity. Ms. Sheedy said the Department of Housing and Community Development set the guidelines. They paired up with the Office of Elder Affairs to make sure all housing authority senior complexes were covered.

The FHA has run flu clinics before with Stop & Shop in Fairhaven.

"And in the end, that's who they paired us up with," she said.

She had to take a stab at the numbers, but she was able to get it pretty close. A few residents had managed to get vaccinated on their own, but most of them used the clinic.

"It was way easier for most of them," she said.

The clinics were held at Oxford Terrace, so those from Dana Court or Anthony Haven could walk, if they were able. She said the Fairhaven Council on Aging/Senior Center also provided vans.

[COA Director] Ann [Silvia] and I worked really well together making sure people were taken care of," said Ms. Sheedy. "We did a lot of coordinating to make sure we made full use of those vaccines."

She said EMS provided an ambulance in case there were any complications: there were not.

Other than putting shots in arms, the HA staff ran the clinic, from maintenance setting up, to office staff making sure forms were in order, to having water available so people were hydrated.

"We did a lot to make this happen," she said.

They even got \$10 gift cards from Stop & Shop for every tenant.

"Today went very well, smoothly, everybody was happy to get their second shot," she said on 4/8 after the second clinic.

"We hope it helps to start getting people out of isolation here," she said. "And hopefully get back to a little bit of normal."

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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MASS. INSPECTION

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Free Food Boxes

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

Distribution is on Saturdays: May 1, 8, 15 from 10 a.m.-Noon, at New Life Church (behind the church), 1331 Cove Rd. his program will be held once a week for the foreseeable future.

COVID-19 health guidelines will be followed.

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

Concert

"Surface Tension," Virtual Concert Still Available. Tickets are \$20 per household and available for purchase through May 24 at 10:00pm. Tickets: <https://zeiterion.org/all-shows/>

We recommend linking your phone, tablet, or computer to your TV to enjoy the full visual-audio quality of the performance!

Feast Canceled

The 2021 Feast of the Blessed Sacrament has been postponed to 2022. Michael Canasta, President of the Clube Madeirense S.S. Sacramento, Inc. will have an official announcement of special ticketed events scheduled for this summer and fall!!

Clube S.S. Sacramento Inc., sponsors of the greatest Portuguese Feast in the World is proud to continue to provide academic scholarships and vocational awards as well as assisting Southcoast organizations.

The Power of a Flower

Honor the special women in your life this Mother's Day, May 9th. A gift to the Women's Fund SouthCoast is a wonderful way to honor a special woman in your life this Mother's Day. You know her well — whether she's

your mother, sister, aunt, cousin, friend, or colleague, she has impacted your life positively and always inspired you to live your life in full bloom!

Your honoree will receive a beautiful card acknowledging your donation, and a paper flower celebrating her will be added to our Garden of Giving display at our new office at 65 William Street in New Bedford. Stroll by with your honoree any time during May to view your generous gift!

Please make your gift of \$25 or more for each honoree by May 3rd to ensure your card arrives on time.

Donat at <https://www.mygiving.net/donate/Mother-s-Day-2021>

Visit our website, <https://womensfundsouthcoast.org>, for more information on how you can get involved in creating a more equitable world for women and girls.

The Women's Fund SouthCoast believes in the collective power of local women helping local women. We fund promising programs to achieve gender equity for women and girls.

City Offices Open

New Bedford City Hall's limited reopening for four offices at City Hall, which began in August, has expanded in-person hours to 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. beginning Tuesday, April 20.

The Sixth Street entrance will remain the only public entrance to the building for four offices: the Treasurer's Office, City Clerk's Office, Elections Office, and Licensing Office.

Access will remain strictly limited to those offices, as these four offices conduct bill and tax payment and vital records and licenses for city residents. No appointment is needed for general inquiries and document requests at these four offices. Residents should call ahead to these or other city departments with any questions.

Clear directions will be in place to allow for safe social distancing in the building. Strong health and safety requirements will be in place at City Hall to protect residents and employees. In addition to mandatory mask use and social distancing, physical barriers have been installed to ensure the safety of visitors and city employees. Department staff have been trained on best practices to promote health and hygiene, and the building is being sanitized

frequently.

Due to the pandemic, residents are still encouraged to pay any bills by mail, by phone, or online whenever possible. Payments can be made online at the City's website, www.newbedford-ma.gov, and selecting "Pay Bills" directly on the home page. To mail payments, residents can use the mailing address printed on their bills or mail their bills directly to the City Treasurer at the following address: City Hall, Treasurer's Office, 133 William Street, Room 103, New Bedford, MA 02740

City departments other than Treasurer's, City Clerk, Elections, and Licensing, are still doing business by phone or online. No other city office is open to the public in-person at this time. As more offices are opened in-person, announcements will be made.

Residents are encouraged to contact other city departments for any services they need.

Walking Tours

Stepping into the Past with Historical Walking Tours 2021 will take place on AHA! Nights **every second Thursday in May, June, July, August and September from 6:00pm to 7:00pm** unless otherwise stated.

The tours will based on particular themes within the city's history to create a compelling narrative of the city's historic neighborhoods. Each tour in the 2021 series will highlight different properties than previous NBPS tours. The Series will include the Architecture of Nathaniel Smith, VIP3- Notable People in New Bedford History, Victorian New Bedford, Arnold Place and More and "That Should be in a Museum" Tour. In addition to in person audience the Architectural Walking Tour Series 2021 will be filmed. The films will be uploaded to the NBPS YouTube Channel for access to everyone. This series is made possible by the generous support of the New Bedford Local Cultural Council.

• May 13th AHA! The Architecture of Nat Smith

Nat Smith (1866-1943) was one of New Bedford's most important and prolific native born architects. His building designs include most of the varieties of Colonial Revival style that were popular during his lifetime. Gather at the James Arnold Mansion, 427 County Street

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 Mattapoisett 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.

If you need a unique gift for Mother's Day, the Mattapoisett Woman's Club Tag Sale is a terrific place to start. In addition to the usual items, the sale will include postcards and notecards of Mattapoisett scenes and the Pathway to Planting Passport. This \$10 passport booklet provides a springboard for spring and summer planting with special discounts offered on May 21st, 22nd, 23rd at 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, and Williams' Trading Post. The exceptions with special dates are Village Gardens (May 17-23) and TomCat Daylily Farm (the month of July only).

A sweet bonus awaits the purchasers of the first 50 Passport booklets sold at the Tag Sale – a gift card from Oxford Creamery for a free cup or cone courtesy of Liz & Ken Ackerman.

All proceeds from the sale support scholarships that are awarded to local students annually.

Westport Poetry Hist

Local history research can lead to some unexpected discoveries. What began as an effort to highlight a few poems found in the Westport Historical Society's collection, has led to a deeper exploration into the history of Westport's cultural past.

Westport's seclusion and natural beauty have served to attract, inspire and rejuvenate artists and writers for many years. Today it continues to provide a sanctuary for poets, both published and unpublished.

Visit <https://wpthistory.org/blog/> Westport Historical Society, 25 Drift

Road, PO Box N188, Westport, MA 02790; www.wpthistory.org

Paper Shred Day

Free Paper Shredding Day, Sat. 5/1, 9:00 a.m. to noon at the Dartmouth Highway Department, 976 Russells Mill Road. It will be a contactless event to keep both participants and staff safe. All are welcome; there is no residency requirement.

For safety purposes, participants are not able to watch the destruction of their paper. Individuals may bring up to two boxes of paper. The event will end when the shred truck is full; it is possible it may be before noon. Each box should weigh no more than 30 to 40 pounds. Paper clips and staples do not need to be removed, but please remove paper from folders and binders.

Shredding confidential documents helps to prevent identify theft, protect personal information, and prevent valuable resources from being sent to the landfill. The shredded paper will be recycled into new products such as paper towels.

Event is sponsored by NBCU and held in partnership with the City of New Bedford, the Town of Dartmouth, and the Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District.

For more information, please visit gnbrrmdistrict.org, call the Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District at (774) 503-0254, or email Marissa@gnbrrmdistrict.org.

Art Exhibit

The Marion Art Center is pleased to announce its upcoming exhibit featuring Contemporary Prints by Allison Bianco and Stella Ebner. The MAC's newest show is presented as a collaboration with Cade Tompkins Projects, a contemporary art gallery located in Providence, RI, owned and operated by art dealer and gallerist Cade Tompkins. In lieu of an in-person reception, the Marion Art Center will celebrate its new exhibit with a free Virtual Gallery Tour & Conversation, one of the MAC's eight SouthCoast Spring Arts events (marionartcenter.org/scspringarts). The virtual reception will take place via Zoom on Friday, May 7 from 6:00-8:00pm. Participants can "tour" the MAC galleries with the MAC's executive director. During the tour,

gallerist Cade Tompkins will discuss the works of both artists and be available to answer questions from visitors. As a bonus, get a sneak peek of the current show at Cade Tompkins Projects featuring works by Dean Richardson. "Visit" two galleries in two different locations all in one evening!

The MAC exhibit runs April 30 through May 28, 2021. Current gallery hours are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 10:00am-2:00pm, or by appointment Tuesday-Friday. To register for the virtual event, email info@marionartcenter.org with "Gallery Tour" in the subject line, or visit marionartcenter.org/events/scsa-galleryprints for more information. Preview the works by Bianco and Ebner, and find out more about Cade Tompkins Projects at cadetompkinsprojects.com.

Diapers+ Drive

On Saturday, May 1, 2021 from 10:00am-12:00pm, at 1015 Reed Road, Dartmouth, My Brother's Keeper will be hosting a Pop Your Trunk Spring Collection Drive for diapers, cleaning supplies and hygiene products. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, My Brother's Keeper has significantly expanded its Food Assistance Program, delivering an average of 350 food deliveries each week to those in need on the South Shore and South Coast. Recipients can also request non-food staples such as toilet paper, paper towels, diapers and wipes, cleaning supplies and hygiene products.

Participants are asked to remain in their vehicles as staff/volunteers safely remove donations with a pop of their trunk.

To donate or learn more about getting involved with My Brother's Keeper, visit www.MyBrothersKeeper.org or call 774-305-4577.

Story Walk

For the month of May, Our spring StoryWalk features the children's book "Archaeologists Dig for Clues" by Kate Duke. At the Handy House Heritage Trail, 202 Hix Bridge Road; enter at parking lot off Hix Bridge Rd.

This StoryWalk will introduce young audiences to the excitement and magic of an archaeological dig.

Visit <https://wpthistory.org/>

Recipe of the Week

Taco Pie

1 (8 ounce) package refrigerated crescent rolls
1 pound ground beef
1 (1 ounce) package taco seasoning mix
8 ounces shredded Mexican-style cheese blend
Optional toppings: sour cream, shredded lettuce, diced tomatoes, green onions, avocado, olives

Set oven to 350 degrees F.

Cover your round or square cake pan with the crescent dough flat on the bottom. Bake according to package instructions.

While your crust is baking in the oven, heat a large skillet over medium-high heat on the stovetop. Cook the beef until no longer pink. Add the taco seasoning and combine. When the crust is done baking, add the beef to the crust and layer with cheese. Place back in the oven and bake for another 10 minutes or until the cheese is melted.

Add toppings of your choice!

From <https://www.cookingprofessionally.com/>

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Dear Frankie

Unrequited Love

Dear Frankie,
Harriet is a cocker spaniel and my best friend. We have been getting together every day at the park for years. On the days I arrive first, I often chat with Jeffrey a



Beagle. Recently I was told Jeffrey had a crush on me.

At first, I didn't give it much thought. Then I realized that Jeffrey was always at the gate to greet me whenever our car pulled into the parking lot.

I think that Jeffrey's Mom and mine haven't helped the situation by saying what an adorable couple we make and what a shame we were fixed and couldn't have puppies. Yesterday they were talking about playdates on the weekends.

I like Jeffrey well enough for a bit of chit-chat, but I have no interest in our relationship going any further. How can I nip this situation in the bud and let him know how I feel without hurting his feelings?

Cordially, Celeste

Dear Celeste,

You are getting pushback from all sides. Everyone has an agenda: Jeffrey wants a girlfriend, and your Mom and Jeffrey's want a happily ever after. When some women have children of child-bearing age, all they can think about is marriage and grandkids, even in your case, when they know neither is a possibility.

You can't count on the Moms to help you. Actually, they are part of the problem. Perhaps Harriet could speak to Jeffrey and let him know what's what. If she feels uncomfortable speaking to him directly, she might speak to one of his pals and suggest he break the news to Jeffrey.

From what you tell me, Jeffrey has a lot to offer as a boyfriend. He can carry on a conversation, has a thoroughbred pedigree, and comes from a good family. A lot of families would kill to have him as a dog-in-law.

You might discreetly ask around the park to see if any of the ladies have her eye on him. I would be surprised if there weren't several that would be thrilled to date him. Jeffrey may be so focused on you, Celeste, that he doesn't realize that he is such a good catch.

All it might take to set him straight is to be told straight out: "Jeff, Penny the poodle or Ginger the Whippet thinks you are adorable and would like to get to know you better."

If Jeffrey is crestfallen when he learns that you are a no-go, at the very least, he will have learned there are lots of canines in the sea.

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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DaCunha's Dispatches



News from high
school in the
age of COVID

By Elizabeth
DaCunha

Special to the Neighb News

It's that time of the year again — April Vacation!

I covered students' February Vacation plans during the pandemic, and so in this article I will be sharing how this break is similar and different compared to winter vacation.

Danica Anderson shared how the boredom of the pandemic has pushed her family to safely travel during this break: "Since COVID, my family hasn't been to many places, so we decided to do something fun for April break."

Comparing April's vacation to February's, Ms. Anderson stated, "This break allows me to do more because of the warmer weather... I am now able to travel further and go to new places this break!"

Senior Riley Duprey looked back at past April Vacations, and reflected on the similarities and differences in regards to this year's break: "In comparison to past April Vacations, this year will be just as different as last year's, having to follow COVID guidelines. However, much more places are

open and more COVID safe friendly than they were last year at this time. It also seems as though flying and traveling is much more safe and is allowing families to continue on as they would travel previously on this week break."

Based on these several students and others that I was able to speak to, this vacation seems to be including more traveling for students and their families. Of course, the recently distributed vaccine is a contributor to this, as it is giving people the opportunity to feel safer when travelling.

Student Kaci Beiu shared her vacation plans, and how having the vaccine has affected it: "I'm going to

...it is my hope that this year's April Vacation proves to be much more eventful than last year's quarantine vacation.

Florida, but we're doing a road trip, and are only doing things that can be done socially distanced. I'm able to do more this vacation compared to last year's vacation because I am now vaccinated. Obviously, I'm still going to wear a mask and social distance, but I just feel more safe because my dad and I are fully vaccinated."

Ninth grader Campbell Costa, and many others that I reached out to plan on spending this

vacation outdoors, because of the warm weather which was not something that was available during February Vacation.

For some students that gave me their input, it seems that they are finding many more things to do such as hanging out with friends outdoors, or possibly traveling, but there are also some that feel vacations just still aren't the same.

One student shared, "I feel as though we are still only able to do the same things as we did on this past February break. The only difference is that the nice weather allows us to gather with people more safely outside. During February vacation, hanging out with people was more difficult due to places having a smaller capacity and it being less safe indoors."

During a pandemic, there is only so much you can do in order to practice COVID safe activities, but it is my hope that this year's April Vacation proves to be much more eventful than last year's quarantine vacation.

Also, the vaccine seems to be getting out to more people, and so hopefully this means that those students that are traveling will be able to enjoy their break elsewhere, safely.

Spring sports will be starting up soon after vacation, so be on the lookout for my upcoming articles about that!

I took a break last week, but don't worry, I'm back.

I hope you didn't miss me too much!



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Local film maker Botelho creates her second short film

By Beth David
Editor

Fairhaven resident and University of Rhode Island student Alyssa Botelho's latest short film *To Dust All Return*, produced by Bethany Fernandes, has wrapped principal photography at the Aptucxet Trading Post in Bourne, MA. The crew consisted of University of Rhode Island students, alumni, and local New England filmmaking professionals.

The suspenseful drama set in 1710 New England centers around a young girl living alone who is suspected of practicing witchcraft. A powerful man, a friend of her father's, visits her to interrogate her.

From there, a bit of back story unfolds, including that her mother has been sent away.

Written and directed by Ms. Botelho, the film captures the tense atmosphere of New England during the witch trials. It explores the nature of good vs. evil, the power dynamics between men and women in this time, and the lengths someone will go to make things "right" again.

The eight-minute film was another class project for Ms. Botelho, who created *Junkie*, a short film that screened at Fairhaven Town Hall in January, 2020, just before the pandemic hit.

The new film should be "really cool for people who are into the history of the period," said Ms. Botelho.

She said she made sure every detail was right for the time period, and people who know will be interested in those details. The movie was shot at the Aptucxet Trading Post in Bourne, Mass., adding to its authenticity.

She also said there are some "suspenseful elements" to it for people who enjoy suspense.

The crew has finished filming, and Ms. Botelho has screened the "fine cut," which is the cut without sound design, music, or color (yes, color gets added). They should finish up production in the next week or two. Then it will be screened on May 20th at Misquamicut Drive In-Theater in Westerly, Rhode Island, with other films. Find Film/Media at the University of Rhode Island on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/urifilm> for a link to sign up for free tickets.

The group is also looking to raise money through crowd funding site, IndieGoGo. The next fund-raising phase will cover the costs of entering the film into as many contests as they can pay for.

New York City actress Paulina Knaak, The Actor's Foundry trained David Prottas, and SAG-AFTRA actor Duncan Putney played the roles of Amity Smith, Enoch Adley, and John Smith, respectively.

The film will be screened in Ms. Botelho's home town, hopefully in the



Writer/Director Alyssa Botelho gives notes to actor David Prottas, who plays Enoch Adley in "To Dust All Return," a short film by written and directed by Ms. Botelho.
Submitted photo by Nick Doyle.

auditorium at Town Hall, in October, when there will also be a question and answer period for attendees.

Find more details on the Facebook page [@ToDustAllReturn](#) and the IndieGoGo crowdfunding page (igg.me/at/todustallreturn), where the creators are seeking contributions to meet its \$5K goal.

Ms. Botelho is graduating this year from URI, and said she has a "few avenues" she is pursuing. She has a job in the field, and she will be pursuing her own projects.

"I'll keep making stuff up," she said. "I've been dying to do one about Fairhaven set in the center of town."

Southern Mass Credit Union Announces New Name and Brand



Press Release

After nearly 100 years of serving the community, Southern Mass Credit Union (SMCU) is excited to announce that it is unveiling a new name and brand. The financial institution's new name will be Alltrust Credit Union.

"The Alltrust name better expresses our focus on being a trusted financial partner for all our members, at every stage of life," said Carmen Sylvester, President and CEO of SMCU. "Our new brand identity more accurately reflects our credit union's core values and culture, as well as our mission to help our members create brighter futures for themselves and their

loved ones."

SMCU was founded in 1922 as a member-owned, not-for-profit credit union offering quality financial products and friendly personal service. Since then, the credit union has grown to \$300 million in assets and has more than 14,000 members in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

As a local credit union, Alltrust is dedicated to giving back to the community, and the team is passionate about helping members succeed. Alltrust has been concentrating on strategic improvements and growth plans over the last few years, including increasing membership, enhancing product offerings, and upgrading technology.

In addition to expanding the credit union's convenience services, Alltrust is currently renovating its flagship

branch in Fairhaven, Massachusetts. The teller line at the remodeled branch is scheduled to open to customers in the beginning of May, and the Alltrust team members' offices will be completed during phase two of the renovation. The updated lobby will include more space and an improved layout to accommodate member requests.

Sylvester added, "We felt it was the right time to update our credit union's look and feel to give our financial institution a more modern appearance and provide an enhanced member experience. We are committed to building a stronger credit union for all of our valued members so that we can thrive together, and we look forward to brighter futures ahead."

For more information, call 508.994.9971 or visit alltrustcu.org.

SELECT: cont'd from page 4

Chairperson John Farrell that calls for the same reduction in registered voter percentage but calls for an extension of the time allowed to gather signatures from 14 days to 30 days. The motion was 2-1 to yield to the petitioner, with Mr. Freitas opposed.

In another matter, Mr. Espindola said he was disappointed that he had to ask again for the third meeting in a row for an update from Ms. Graves on the usage trends and spending of taxpayer dollars on town counsel. Ms. Graves said the Town's insurance underwriter emailed her to inform her that he had received Mr. Espindola's initial email requesting information.

Still, she had not prepared any of the information Mr. Espindola requested. He was concerned, given that Mr. Freitas had added another matter requiring town counsel to the executive session agenda "to investigate charges of criminal misconduct," presumably related to the information about Ms. Graves that had been shared with the *Neigh News* back in January.

Resident Phil Washko inquired about his request to have the town administrator hiring process added to the 4/26 agenda.

Just before, Mr. Espindola referred to correspondence from Town Counsel Tom Crotty from that day stating that it would be a conflict of interest for Ms. Graves to participate in soliciting bids for a new hiring consultant because she has a financial interest in obtaining the job herself.

Mr. Espindola said one mitigating strategy would be to hire a co-TA of sorts to assist in those areas that would be inappropriate for Ms. Graves to facilitate; however, since the matter was not listed on the agenda, there was no ensuing motion or vote for a solution. He asked Ms. Graves whether this would hold up the TA search process even further now, to which she replied, "I've sent out some emails, and I've received some back so far."

Mr. Washko asked if Mr. Freitas would add the matter to the next meeting's agenda, but Mr. Freitas would not state whether he would or not.

"We'll see how the next agenda unfolds," said Mr. Freitas.

Also during the meeting, the board heard a presentation on the annual audit from Audit Manager Zack Fentross from Melanson. The Town

received a clean opinion on its audit, the best it can receive, which it received during the years prior.

Mr. Freitas wanted Mr. Fentross to reiterate for the people watching from home that the Town's finances are good and that the people running the finances are doing a good job, which he did. Mr. Espindola commented that it was great to hear that the trend has continued and specified that the audit was for the last fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2020.

Planning Board Chairperson John Farrell asked how long the Town had been using the same audit group and when it last went out to bid, which Town Accountant Anne Carreiro said was in 2021. Mr. Espindola, who joined the board in 2012, said he has only known the Town to work with Melanson since he started and

Mr. Espindola said he was disappointed that he had to ask again for the third meeting in a row for an update from Ms. Graves on the usage trends and spending of taxpayer dollars on town counsel.

pointed out that the Department of Revenue recommends putting the annual audit out to bid once every five to eight years so fresh eyes can review the Town's finances. When he proposed going out to bid for the next audit, Ms. Graves informed him that last year the Town entered into a contract with Melanson that will last another two years.

Mr. Espindola remarked that a best practice would be to form an Audit Committee independent of those that work directly with the Town's finances and suggested that he would broach the subject again in the future.

In other business, the board voted to forego its Right of First Refusal for farmland owned by Peter and Melissa DeTerra that would be removed from Chapter 61 to accommodate a solar photovoltaic installation. Ms. Graves said she consulted with the relevant department heads for their recommendations before the meeting, as

requested by Mr. Espindola.

Newly elected Tree Warden Don Collasius asked the board to consider allowing for an increase in the pay rate for contracted tree work help, which he said is too low to attract help to assist him in the over 150 outstanding requests for tree work.

Ms. Graves said she contacted a firm to conduct a wage classification study on the position for \$650, and the board expressed support for Mr. Collasius's request. He will have to wait, however, until the town administrator makes a final decision on the rate.

Ms. Graves announced that the Town's health insurance rates for FY22 will increase by 9%. Mr. Espindola asked her to elaborate on the Town's insurance, which is funded by a trust. Ms. Graves said the Town is "self-insured," meaning that its rates are based on usage. When more employees are sick, rates go up, she said; healthier employees mean lower rates.

Mr. Espindola pointed out that Mr. Freitas and Mr. Silvia somewhat recently voted to disband the Employee Wellness Committee, which was one of the ways the Town had been trying to reinforce healthy lifestyles and habits for its employees in an attempt to keep insurance rates lower.

Before adjourning, Mr. Espindola called attention to the true definition of a recusal, for example, a board member's recusal from a matter due to a conflict of interest. He emphasized that a recusal does not simply imply a recusal from voting, but it also includes refraining from any deliberation or participation on the matter.

Mr. Espindola then requested that his fellow board members pay closer attention to the myriad ways they may be violating the Open Meeting Law through their email correspondences. He said one such way is when a board member replies to an email to allow the two other board members to read the sending board member's comment or opinion on a matter that should be discussed during open session. He asked not to be included in this practice in the future.

**The Selectboard does not have the authority to pass over articles that were submitted by citizen petition. On all those articles, the board is only voting to show its recommendations.*

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Sign ups begin May 10th online

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*There will be no extended day this year

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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.

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, Escaloped 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.

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Acushnet has contested Selectboard race, election on 5/15

By Beth David
Editor

Acushnet's annual election is just a couple of weeks away, and there is one contested race.

Marc F. Cenerizio, who is the chairperson of the Planning Commission, will be on the ballot challenging long time incumbent Kevin Gaspar, Sr.

All other seats are uncontested, and three seats have no candidate.

A three-year term for School Committee is blank on the ballot, for a seat previously held by Craig Sumner.

Two seats on the board of trustees for the library are vacant, previously held by Jennifer Alves and Diane Ferreira.

Other races, all uncontested, are:

Assessor, Matthew Lopes, incumbent; Board of Health, David Davignon, incumbent; Commissioner of Trust Funds, Tommy Lipsett, incumbent; Planning Commissioner, David Davignon, who is not the incumbent; Cemetery Board, Paul Fortin, incumbent; Park Commissioner, Chad Leclair, incumbent; Housing Authority, Rene Racine, incumbent; Tree Warden, Norman Fredette, who is not the incumbent.

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. All precincts vote at the Acushnet Elementary School.

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

Free Political PR

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

Please contact the *Neighb News* as soon as possible

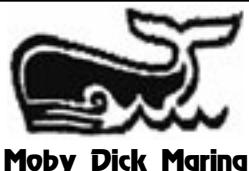
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Send by email (preferred) at NeighbNews@comcast.net, or by fax, 508-991-5580, or mail to 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719.

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From our readers

Worst of times – Best of Times

I write this before the signature count has been turned into the town clerk. Whatever the outcome of this effort the result is clear. Fairhaven has been tremendously damaged by [Selectboard chair] Dan Freitas's tenure.

He has embarrassed our town, shamed the Freitas family name, and created a personal legacy of bad judgements that will live on. He has dishonored his oath of office and proven unworthy of the leadership position he holds.

His tyrannical tenure will be a case study in how not to lead: His erratic disposition — shifting from explosive outbursts to long silent pauses glaring at his fellow selectman and banging the desk and pointing his finger in threatening ways.

All the drama can't be dismissed as "just politics" or permission to do whatever he wants just because he is an elected official. Winning an election is NOT a license to do as he pleases. He is a public servant and should put Fairhaven first over his personal vengeful agenda and favoritism to his cronies.

The Recall effort was necessary because Mr. Freitas is an extremist and out-of-control and damaging the town. His actions have cost our town plenty in lost opportunities: a sabotaged Town Administrator search; favoring an unqualified associate with a questionable background for the top job; and the blocking of a state review designed to impart best practices to municipalities. All to control and amass power — to play a king —and ignore the fact that he is a public servant elected to serve the

people not himself.

But, thanks to Mr. Freitas's bad behavior and judgement these are also the best of times.

This Recall has created energy in the town and people have come out in droves to sign. At least three times as many people have signed the petition than voted for Freitas. Many who voted for him are painfully disappointed and signed. People are reviewing the BOS videos and are appalled to see the way he treats people. There is a healthy renewed interest in town government.

Through it all, Mr. Espindola has been an exceptional leader — steadfastly putting the interests of Fairhaven first; offering solutions; making meaningful proposals to move Fairhaven forward; and setting a positive example. All the while courageously braving the insults and menacing body language hurled at him from Mr. Freitas — standing up to the bully, undeterred.

This recall was "democracy in action." It is a clear signal to all elected officials that they must put the wellbeing of Fairhaven first. Citizens are paying attention and they are demanding good government.

Cathy Delano, Fairhaven

All children should have free meals

My name is Lexy Souza, and I'm a social work student at Bridgewater State University. The following is an issue I want to raise more awareness about in our community.

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) in Massachusetts are currently working to pass a bill called Universal Free School Meals. This bill proposes that all Massachusetts students should continually

have access to free and nutritious meals while they attend school.

Food insecurity has always been a prevalent issue in our society and the COVID-19 pandemic has only exasperated the problem. Even before the pandemic, many students accumulated food debt due to an inability to pay for meals, or went without meals completely.

According to Feeding America in 2018, about 13% of children in Bristol County were classified as food insecure. Of the children who were food insecure, 24% were not eligible for free or reduced meals through their schools. The Federal government took action to fight against student hunger during the pandemic by instituting a pause on parental income verification for school meals. This has meant that all students could get food from their school for free during the 2020-2021 school year.

Now as pandemic responses are dissipating, income verification will once again be required for children to access free or reduced meals after the end of this school year (June 30th). The Massachusetts chapter of the NASW is working hard to make sure that all students, regardless of their parents' income, have equal access to food during the school day.

Together, we can call on our legislators to tell them we support all children having access to free meals at school. Massachusetts has demonstrated during this pandemic that Universal Free School Meals is a realistic option. We need to stay progressive and not go back on what we have already started. There is a long road ahead before hunger and food insecurity are eradicated, but

LETTERS: cont'd to page 22



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Public Hearings/Legal Notices

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TOWN OF ACUSHNET



There will be an Annual & Special Town Meeting held on Monday, May 10, 2021, at 7:00 P.M. at the Ford Middle School in the Auditorium, 708 Middle Road, Acushnet, MA 02743.

Kevin Gaspar, Chairman
David Desroches
David E. Wojnar
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
4/29/21, 5/6/21

Acushnet Planning Commission

Notice of Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given, the Acushnet Planning Commission will be holding the following public hearings via Zoom Meetings on May 10, 2021.

1) 10:05 a.m. – Proposal to amend Acushnet General Bylaws of Zoning Article VIII, Section 7, Flood Plain Overlay District as follows:

- a. Replacing Section 7.2 with Floodplain District Boundaries and Floodplain Requirements
- b. Amending Section 7.2A by replacing the existing Bristol County Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) with new data effective 07/01/2021
- c. Adding a new section 7.3 "Definitions"

2) 10:10 a.m. – Proposal to amend Acushnet General Bylaws of Zoning Article VIII, 3.3.C. 14 as follows:

- a. Add Section "A" to include subsection numbers 1 through 8;
- b. Change the wording of "A" (8) to read:

No common driveway shall be constructed within seventy-five feet ("75") of any principal or accessory structure existing or to be served thereby.

- c. Replace subsection number 9 with a section "B" to read as follows:

All principal and accessory structures shall be serviced by a driveway that is located within one hundred fifty feet ("150") of those structures and which driveway must meet the minimum construction standards herein specified.

3) 10:15a.m. – Proposal to amend Acushnet General Bylaws of Zoning Article VIII, by adding a subsection "H" to Section 3.3.1 and Section 3.3.2 and adding a Section "I" to 3.3.4 as follows:

No material or supplies shall be stored or permitted to remain on any portion of the property outside of a building constructed thereon. Any finished products or semi-finished products stored on the property outside of the building shall be confined to the rear half of the property and shall be appropriately screened on all sides, but shall in no instance be placed on that side of a building paralleling an existing or proposed street. No waste material or refuse shall be dumped upon or permitted to remain upon any part of said property outside of a building constructed thereon.

4) 10:20 a.m. – Proposal to amend Acushnet General Bylaws of Zoning Article VIII, Section 3.3.4 Subsection "E" by deleting subsection (6) and (7) and adding in their place the following section to read as follows:

Section 3.3.4 "E" (6) UPLAND CIRCLE: No dwelling, building or structure, having permitted use in any district, shall be erected on a lot unless the lot has an area within its bounds which encompasses an upland circle with a minimum diameter equal to 90% of the required frontage and within which the frontage, or a distance equal to the frontage at the front yard setback line, must pass.

5) 10:25 a.m. – Proposal to amend Acushnet General Bylaws of Zoning Article VIII, Section 3.3.1 by eliminating subsection (13) Light Manufacturing, and renumbering those items which follow.

6) 10:30 a.m. – Proposal to amend Acushnet General Bylaws of Zoning Article VIII, Section 1.2 Definitions for "Street" or "Way" as follows:

STREET OR WAY – A public way, a private way shown on a plan approved under the provisions of the Subdivision Control Law, or a private way in existence when the provisions of the Subdivision Control Law became effective in Town, having, in the opinion of the Town's Planning Board, suitable grades and adequate construction to serve the

proposed use of land abutting thereon or served thereby and for the installation of municipal services to serve such land and the building erected or to be erected thereon, having a minimum pavement width of twenty-two (22) feet and a minimum layout width of thirty (30) feet.

7) 10:35 a.m. – Proposal to amend Stormwater Review Board Regulations and Stormwater Bylaw

The full text of each of the afore mentioned proposed additions or amendments are available at the Town Clerk's office at the Parting Ways bldg., 130 Main St., during regularly scheduled business hours and are expected to appear on the May 10, 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83952212774?pwd=0xxOWZkUzRpNjc0b3ZTYXBLS2REUT09>

Meeting ID: 839 5221 2774

Passcode: 152713

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<https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kch5hta5cw>

Marc Cenerizio, Chairman

FNN: 4/29/21, 5/6/21

Tree Removal Hearing

Tuesday May 11 6:30 PM

Fairhaven Town Hall East room

40 Center St. Fairhaven Massachusetts 02719

In accordance with MGL Chapter 87, Section 3

Proposed removal of 5 trees at 28 Nancy St. 74

Farmfield St., 4 Leeward way, 10 Eddie St.

And 1 in the Rogers school yard on Chestnut St.

Respectfully submitted Don C. Colassius

Town of Fairhaven Tree Warden

FNN: 4/29/21

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Fairhaven

Conservation Commission

Monday, May 10, 2021 at 6:30pm

Town Hall, 40 Center Street

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

To Access Meeting Remotely:

<https://zoom.us/j/96084225215?pwd=cTNCSzk0WjLM0I3T0JQWnJVNkQvdz09>

or CALL 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 960 8422 5215

Passcode: 367108

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 023-220: **12 Hedge Street** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Andrew Gaudreau for the construction of an 18-foot-by-16-foot deck at the property located at 12 Hedge Street, Assessors Map 15, Lot 60. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage.

2. CON 023-222: **48 Torrington Road** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Lisa Lavalette for the installation of a stamped concrete patio, a 12-foot-by-20-foot concrete pad for a greenhouse and shed, and some associated fill and grading at the property located at 48 Torrington Road, Assessors Map 29B, Lot 171. Work to take place in the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

3. SE 023-1258, CON 023-162: **Sconticut Neck Road/Overlook Lane** Request for an Amended Order of Conditions filed by Overlook Realty Trust to revert to the original approved plans at the property located on Sconticut Neck Road/Overlook Lane, 3

Assessors Map 29, Lots 1C, 1D, and 1E. Work to take place in Bordering Vegetated Wetland and its 100-foot buffer zone.

4. CON 023-223: **Sconticut Neck Road/Overlook Lane (Map 29, Lot 1C)** Notice of Intent filed by Lauren Francis, Overlook Realty Trust, construct a single-family dwelling and associated site work at the property on Sconticut Neck Road/Overlook Lane, Assessors Map 29, Lot 1C. Work to take place in the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

5. CON 023-224: **Sconticut Neck Road/Overlook Lane (Map 29, Lot 1D)** Notice of Intent filed by Lauren Francis, Overlook Realty Trust, construct a single-family dwelling and associated site work at the property on Sconticut Neck Road/Overlook Lane, Assessors Map 29, Lot 1D. Work to take place in the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

6. CON 023-225: **Sconticut Neck Road/Overlook Lane (Map 29, Lot 1E)** Notice of Intent filed by Lauren Francis, Overlook Realty Trust, construct a single-family dwelling and associated site work at the property on Sconticut Neck Road/Overlook Lane, Assessors Map 29, Lot 1E. Work to take place in the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

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

Public participation will be via virtual means only: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Fairhaven Conservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. The public may participate in this meeting via remote participation. Information regarding remote meeting access, listed above, will also be provided on the Conservation Agenda posted on the Town's website at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Geoff Haworth, Chair, Fairhaven Conservation Commission
FNN: 4/29/21

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=MXpoVWpKTFBEUmlU1pWScTiVzJCQT09>

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 per applicant's request. **Previously continued until this meeting.**

2. **Administrative Appeal by A1 Crane – re: 86-88 Middle Street. REF#: ZBA-AA-02.** Administrative Appeal from a letter dated April 7, 2020 from the Building Commissioner stating that the operation on the site is in violation of the Mixed Use zoning regulations. (see attached-Exhibit 3) (continued per applicant's request to September 2, 2020 Meeting, see attached.) **Previously continued. Continued to 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. **Sivershill 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

LEGALS: cont'd on page 21

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LEGALS: cont'd from page 20

- 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 Jerusalm 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 RR 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 RR 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

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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., 5/12, 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., 5/10, Town Hall/Remote, 6:30

Espindola Office Hour

Tues., 5/4, Remote, 7:30 p.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 4/29, Remote, 7 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 5/12, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon. 5/10, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet

Annual Town Meeting

Mon., 5/10, Ford Middle Sch., 7 p.m.

Election

Sat., 5/15, Polls open 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Planning Commission

Mon., 5/3, Remote, 10 a.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 5/3, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

| | | HIGH | LOW | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------|------|------|-------|-------|
| | | a.m. | p.m. | a.m. | p.m. | |
| Apr. 2021 | Thursday | 29 | 1029 | 2254 | 0359* | 1600* |
| | Friday | 30 | 1122 | 2348 | 0445* | 1646* |
| May. 2021 | | | HIGH | LOW | | |
| | Saturday | 1 | --- | 1220 | 0531* | 1734 |
| | Sunday | 2 | 0048 | 1323 | 0630 | 1837 |
| | Monday | 3 | 0150 | 1424 | 0852 | 2105 |
| | Tuesday | 4 | 0248 | 1522 | 1014 | 2246 |
| | Wednesday | 5 | 0347 | 1625 | 1120 | 2352 |
| | Thursday | 6 | 0451 | 1727 | ---- | 1212 |
| | Friday | 7 | 0550 | 1817 | 0043 | 1254 |

* = Predicted minus tides from -0.1 ft. to -1.0 ft

**Predicted minus tides from -1.1 ft to -2.0 ft or more

LETTERS: cont'd from 17

making sure that kids have food stability while in school is a step in the right direction.

To learn more about this issue, visit www.feedkidsma.org

Lexy Souza, Acushnet

Freitas not suited for Selectboard

How much simpler these contentious events might be if [Selectboard chair Daniel] Freitas, seeing that he is not suited nor able to function as an effective select person, would simply volunteer to step down from his current office.

There is precedence amongst our political leaders. Granted circumstances where a bit different, but take Richard Nixon as an example. Though Mr. Freitas is not convicted of "dirty tricks," he is guilty of being overwhelmed by his current position and not acknowledging that fact. No doubt, Mr. Freitas would like to not be kicked around any more...echoing our 37th president.

We might also hope that Ms. Graves, for the sake of the town's forward motion, might also remove

herself from contention as Town Administrator. It is my experience that simply because one might be effective in one position, the effectiveness doesn't necessarily translate to a new one.

Bow out. Be graceful. Let us all get back to the business at hand.

Susan Spooner, Fairhaven

Fairhaven steps forward, & there are more steps to take

Fairhaven: you've been heard. Your decency, your civility and your respect for true leadership spoke loud and clear in successfully recalling a Selectboard member in Dan Freitas who had denigrated the office he held.

Whether he resigns as he promised or not, you will soon be thankfully rid of his standing in the way of moving our town forward on the right path.

And now the next steps are clear. First we need to broaden the Selectboard from three to five members. This is long overdue and a no brainer for most to see. We can't be held captive by a tyrant Selectboard member who only needs one silent

buddy to ruin any progress. There's an article on the warrant for the upcoming Town Meeting to get this done. Please advocate and vote to get that article passed.

Second, we need to take advantage of the complimentary assistance the Department of Revenue is offering us in the form of a renewed financial and management best practices review. This review looks at how Fairhaven operates and is structured, and offers recommendations based on the experience and success of other communities. Those recommendations are then reviewed and implemented as Fairhaven sees fit. Another no-brainer. Mr. Espindola has been appropriately advocating for this for months, and there's no reason whatsoever not to accept this assistance. Please communicate your support for this review to the Selectboard.

These steps, along with the moving demonstration of wisdom and goodwill that you just showed, will help restore the pride in our town government that we all deserve.

Phil Washko, Fairhaven

Freitas recall signatures submitted to town clerk

*By Beth David
Editor*

The Recall Dan Freitas movement announced on Monday, 4/26/21, that they had collected enough signatures to recall Fairhaven Selectboard chairperson Daniel Freitas. On Tuesday, the group submitted the petitions with signatures that will now have to be certified. If the certified signatures reach the threshold of 20% of registered Fairhaven voters, which equals 2384, then Mr. Freitas's time as a Selectboard member could be cut short.

The group is confident that enough signatures will be certified. The process requires members of the board of registrars to certify the signatures within seven days; then the Selectboard is notified of the successful count; then Mr. Freitas is notified by the board and he has five days to resign. Whether he does or not, the selectboard is required to schedule a special election no more than 90 days after the date of certification.

Mr. Freitas is free to run for his seat again in the special election, just as any other resident. If he refuses to

resign, he remains on the board until the election decides his fate.

On April 15, Mr. Freitas posted on Facebook that he would resign if the group obtained the signatures needed. WBSM also reported that Mr. Freitas said he would resign.

"We have a small group of people in town who have spread numerous lies about me," wrote Mr. Freitas in part on his official Fairhaven "Selectman" page. "They know that they can't beat me in an election so this is what they have left. If they do get the signatures needed I will resign. I will not run for re-election. I have given a large portion of my adult life to helping the people in this town!"

He also said he has "grown tired of the constant smear campaign," and blamed disgruntled former

employees.

In a press release, the group noted Mr. Freitas's promise to resign.

"The Recall group calls on Mr. Freitas to maintain his promise to resign and not run in the recall election," they wrote.

The bylaw governing recalls is available online at <https://ecode360.com/10417050?highlight=recall,recall ed&searchId=5903479475723192#10417050>



Fairhaven Assistant Town Clerk Linda Fredette time stamps the last batch of petitions submitted by the Recall Dan Freitas group on Tuesday, 4/27/21. Photo by Beth David.

Recent Sales



3 Abbey Street
Fairhaven
List Price: \$259,000
Sale Price: \$315,000

56 Elm Avenue
Fairhaven
List Price: \$329,900
Sale Price: \$370,000



27 Mulberry Street
Fairhaven
List Price: \$294,900
Sale Price: \$316,000

27 Grove Street
Fairhaven
List Price: \$459,900
Sale Price: \$500,000

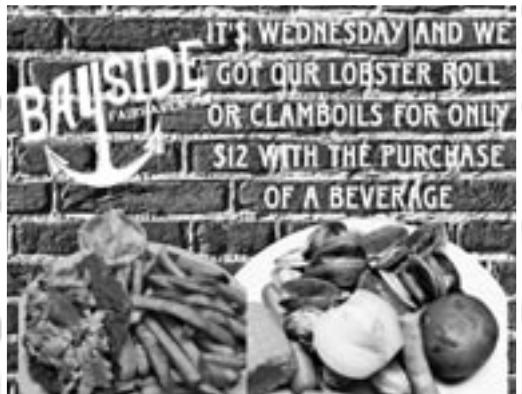
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