



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 16, Issue 27 • July 15, 2021

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

Fairhaven's got pride...and shows it



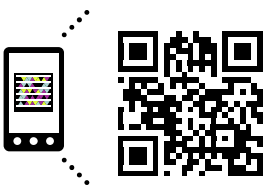
People attending the Fairhaven's Got Pride event on 6/27/21 decided to re-chalk the crosswalk between Fairhaven Town Hall and the Millicent Library in the rainbow pride colors after the speechmaking. See story on page 16. *Photo by Beth David.*

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're BAACCKK!

And we're less than two weeks out from the recall election (see page 19).

We have candidate statements from the three who will be on that ballot (see page 17).

And we have three+ pages of letters from our readers, mostly about the aforementioned election and/or candidates (see page 13). In one of those letters, a candidate is singled out by name and rather forcefully, so I gave her the opportunity to respond. I know it gives her a little extra ink this week, but it's about the turf field at the high school and contains some pretty strong language. Because we are so close to the election, I thought I would let her make a statement now. I did NOT show her the letter. She will see it in this issue, just like everyone else. And, we have one more issue next week for the other two candidates to get some extra ink.

Then, hopefully, the election will happen.

Our cover story is about a quickly planned rally in front of Town Hall that was lots of fun, but also serious. In response to that foolishness from the same two Select Board members (heavy sigh) surrounding the displaying of the LGBTQ+ pride flag at town hall, a group of activists/agitators called for a response from the community. At least 150 people showed up. It was a great little event, especially considering how quickly it was put together. See page 16 for that.

We have some meeting coverage in here, of course: See Acushnet Selectboard on page 11, Fairhaven Select Board on page 3, Fairhaven BPW on page 20.

I hope you all missed us during the last two weeks. I think my brain is back now that it's had a bit of a break from the deadline pressure.

Meanwhile two weeks of no paper means two weeks of no revenue for us, so please consider a donation. If you like our little free sheet, please keep in mind that it is not free to produce. We can always use your help. And be sure to tell our advertisers you saw their ads in the *Neighb News*.

Until next week then...
see ya,



Beth David, Publisher

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our story about Town Meeting in the 6/24 issue, we made an error regarding Beth Luey and the Unitarian church in Fairhaven. Ms. Luey not a UU member. We apologize for any confusion our error may have caused.

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Judge dismisses NE Preservation lawsuit

Jean Perry

Neigh News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Select Board on July 12 heard from Town Counsel Tom Crotty via an email stating that the judge presiding over the lawsuit by Zachary Mayo of New England Preservation and Development against the Town has dismissed the developer's case, ordered Mr. Mayo to pay the Town's legal expenses, and dissolved the accompanying lis pendens on the Rogers School property.

"Lis pendens ... I don't know what that means," said Select Board Chairperson Daniel Freitas.

The lis pendens, or the official notice that a property is involved in legal action, was the topic of discussion during the 6/9 meeting when Mr. Crotty brought it to the board's attention that the Town would be unable to enter into any lease agreement with the South-eastern Educational Collaborative (SMEC) until the lawsuit was resolved.

At that time, Mr. Crotty suggested that a letter from SMEC expressing interest in leasing the property might be grounds to expedite the judge's

decision given that it had been months since the Town filed a motion to dismiss.

Mr. Mayo, the grandson of Board of Health member Michael Ristuccia, who has spoken on his grandson's behalf on many occasions, filed the lawsuit after the Select Board terminated the purchase and sale agreement during its 6/29/20 meeting because Mr. Mayo failed to produce documentation of financing, among other conditions of the contract.

The Town has 30 days to submit affidavits for attorney fees for reimbursement from Mr. Mayo.

Also during the meeting, Select Board member Bob Espindola, who attended the meeting remotely via Zoom, wanted to make a general comment on "communication" just before adjournment. He brought up the high school turf field project and Interim Town Administrator Wendy Graves's involvement in the procurement process.

"There's been a lot ... on social media about the turf field and the extra dollars that have been allocated... from the School Commit-

tee," said Mr. Espindola, referring to the roughly \$800,000 in leftover school budget funds that have been redirected toward the turf project that was presented to the 2020 Fall Special Town Meeting as a \$1.4 million project and is now estimated at \$2.2 million.

According to Mr. Espindola, the process started about a month ago when Ms. Graves "went through a signoff process" as the Town's signing authority for procurement.

"Personally, I would have liked to have seen that [the project's increase in scope and the additional \$800,000 to fund it] come before our board," said Mr. Espindola. "As a checkpoint there, she had the authority to hold that, and then we could have had a discussion."

Adding that he realized the School Committee has the autonomy to spend school funding however it sees fit, he continued, "There would have been an opportunity, had [the Select Board] been aware" that the board could have held a joint meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss the

SELECT: cont'd next page



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SELECT: cont'd from previous page

ramifications of expanding the project and paying for it with leftover FY21 budget money.

"In the future, I'd like to be informed..." continued Mr. Espindola until Select Board member Keith Silvia called out "Bob!" loud enough to finally get Mr. Espindola's attention.

"We can't really talk about this because it's not on the agenda," said Mr. Silvia.

Ms. Graves agreed that it was not on the agenda. Still, Mr. Espindola said, he was relating it back to Ms. Graves's TA report she gave earlier and, "As one of the functions that she has," Mr. Espindola suggested, "If there are concerns with anything of this nature that it be brought to our attention and that we receive copies of that correspondence...."

"I think the Select Board deserves to know something of this importance," Mr. Espindola further argued. "From a communication standpoint, I think the Select Board needs to know about something of this importance. Had we known, maybe there could have been a

different outcome."

Ms. Graves shot back in defense, saying, "Let me ask you this: Did [former Town Administrator Mark Rees] always bring all of the procurements to the board?"

Mr. Espindola replied, no, not with typical standard procurements, as Ms. Graves spoke again: "That's my question."

Mr. Espindola began to explain that Mr. Rees "would have regular meetings with—" but he was stopped there by Mr. Freitas.

"You know, Bob?" said Mr. Freitas followed by thrice hammering the gavel, bang, bang, bang. "This was not on the agenda, Bob."

Mr. Freitas warned Mr. Espindola again that the matter could not be discussed when it was not on the agenda. "We should stop talking about this."

When Mr. Espindola explained what he was trying to accomplish regarding communication, Mr. Freitas's face expressed exasperation.

"When we communicate on stuff you tell us we can't," said Mr. Freitas, and he again suggested waiting until

another meeting to continue discussing the topic, which he himself then continued to discuss.

"And I don't believe this has not been a month. This came about last week, you know, so don't," continued Mr. Freitas.

Mr. Espindola said he understood the procurement started last month.

"The timing isn't important, but the communication is," said Mr. Espindola.

"The timing is very important," interjected Ms. Graves. "It was right after Town Meeting.* There was every opportunity for them to bring it to our attention."

In other matters, Cathy Melanson requested an appointment to the Rogers School Re-Use Committee as a representative of the Economic Development Committee, but the matter was tabled until the board can act to increase the size of that committee from five to seven members. The board also approved the transfer of Taylor Seafood's aquaculture lease to Blue Stream Aquaculture.

**Town Meeting was held on June 12, one month ago.*



Are you a Fairhaven resident looking to see our town in a new way?
Consider joining the **Fairhaven Community Writers Project**,
a new community writing initiative!

Meets online beginning June 24 for **writing exercises, readings,
and conversations on environmental and place-based writing.**
Between meetings, participants will visit accessible outdoor locations
in Fairhaven and write first-hand observations and reflections.

Free and open to full-time Fairhaven residents ages 14+

Families and seniors especially welcome!

****No writing experience required****

More information and registration: <http://bit.ly/fcwp2021>

Questions? Please email Stephanie Trott at
fairhavenwriters@gmail.com



This program is supported in part by a grant from the Fairhaven Cultural Council, a local agency
which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.



Free Blood Pressure Clinic

Fairhaven Town Hall Banquet Room
40 Center St., Fairhaven

July 28, 2021 • 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.
August 11 & 25, 2021: • 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.



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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Baldwin on Podcast

From School CEO website. Dr. Bob Baldwin shares how Massachusetts Fairhaven Public Schools has iterated a leadership pipeline to transform student achievement.

Dr. Bob Baldwin had never planned on being a superintendent at Fairhaven, but he had always planned to send his children there. So Bob was shocked nearly a decade ago when his wife, an alumna who “bled blue and white,” told him that she didn’t think Fairhaven schools were good enough anymore.

Because of his family’s passion for the district, he knew he had to help make Fairhaven not only a great district, but a district any employee would want to send their kids to. As luck would have it, Bob was already looking for a superintendency, and Fairhaven’s was open.

In this episode, Bob shares how Fairhaven is building leaders to make the district a destination that teachers, staff, and students are proud to call home.

Listen to the podcast at <https://podcast.schoolceo.com/episodes/dr-bob-baldwin-iterating-leadership>

ACO Wish List

Our numbers at the Fairhaven Animal Shelter have increased and they usually do this time of year. But the difference is last year with everyone being home our shelter was very low on animals. This year we have seen significant increases in surrenders with everyone returning back to work. As a result of this our supplies are getting very low.

Our Amazon wish list has the general items that we need, brand doesn’t matter, that is why we chose

a variety for the items we need. We are most in need of wet dog food, wet kitten food, and laundry detergent. We could also use some dry dog food. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Please contact the Animal Control Officer, 508-979-4028, 200 Bridge St., Fairhaven or find them on Facebook.

SAVE THE DATE

Car Show

The North Fairhaven Improvement Association and the Legendary Street Rods Car Club present a Car-Truck-Bike Show on Sun., 8/15, from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. at Livesey Park, Fairhaven. Featuring raffles, awards, food, music and more. Vehicle registration, \$15 fee plus one canned good for the food pantry. Interested non-food vendors should email northfairhavenimprovement267@gmail.com

Proceeds will benefit local veterans organizations, food proceeds to benefit the NFIA.

Farmers Market

At the Bright Yellow Farm Stand, 151 Alden Road, Fairhaven (next to National Bleach). Sundays through 10/31, 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Featuring beef, chicken, produce farms, honey, eggs, herbs, jams, organic soaps and more. Accepts senior and WIC Farmers Market Coupons, SNAP.

Contact: 508-496-9209; allnaturalbeef@comcast.net

Huttleston Marketpl

The Huttleston Marketplace will begin be open on Saturdays through 9/18, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. on at the Fairhaven Visitors Center lawn/ Fairhaven High School lawn, 141 Main

St., Fairhaven. Huttleston Marketplace is an outdoor bazaar featuring more than 65 vendors selling select hand made arts and crafts, quality antiques and vintage collectibles, upcycled items, fresh farm produce, and locally prepared foods. It is held rain or shine.

Contact the Fairhaven Office of Tourism, FairhavenTours@fairhaven-ma.gov or 508-979-4085.

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HuttlestonMarketplace/> or visit the website: <https://fairhaventours.com/huttleston-marketplace/>

Early American Mon

Monday afternoons, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., through August 9, Fairhaven Visitors Center lawn, 141 Main Street, Fairhaven WEATHER PERMITTING

A new weekly program for history buffs called “Early American Monday.” Each Monday afternoon, weather permitting, reenactors late Colonial and early Federal period will be set up at different stations on the lawn of the Academy Building to talk to the public about life during the late 1700s and to demonstrate early American skills. Visitors will hear about what happened in town during the Revolutionary War, everyday village activities, and, depending on the particular reenactors present, may see wool carding and spinning, quilting, 18th century medical and dental instruments and procedures, and other presentations. An original classroom in the Academy Building, built in 1798, can also be viewed. The public is invited to attend, free of charge. Wear masks for safety is optional.

For more information, email FairhavenTours@fairhaven-ma.gov or call 508-979-4085.

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Sonata Saturdays

“Summer in the Seaport” with Sonata Saturdays, The Drawing Room, 36 N. Water Street, in the Center of New Bedford

Join us for art, music, flowers, & bubbles on the 4th Saturday of the month, through September.

On these select dates, New Bedford Symphony Orchestra musicians will be on the Front Porch of The Drawing Room treating the

neighborhood to an outdoor performance from 4-6pm.

There will be wine tastings, locally-grown flowers in the bouquet bar, and, of course, artful treasures inside The Drawing Room. Stop by and experience something beautiful this Summer In The Seaport!

Musician Schedule:

- **July 24:** Raluca Dumitrache, violin and Antoaneta Anguelova, violin
- **Aug. 28:** David Rubin, violin and

Maureen Heflinger, viola

- **Sept. 25:** Fariba Hunold, violin, Maureen Heflinger, viola, and Shawn Wang, violin.

Note: We’ll have some chairs set up around the block, but you may want to bring one of your own to secure a seat!

Free Concerts

Summer Sound Series presents free concerts, Thursdays, 2–7 p.m., at the

STILL OVERTOWN

beer garden in Custom House Square in downtown New Bedford. Bring food, meet friends, grab drinks, enjoy music. Bring a lawn chair and lounge in the park, or sit under the tent and have a drink from the on-site bar.

- **July 15** Pearly Baker Acoustic Quartet, Grateful Dead tunes.
- **July 22** Monteirobots, Jazz
- **July 29** Mark T. Small, Blues
- **Aug. 5** Djim Job Cabo Verdean
- **Aug. 12** Kim Trusty, R&B/Soul/Jazz
- **Aug. 19** The Jethros, Bluegrass

• **Aug. 26** Rebecca Correia, Indie Pop Presented by the City of New Bedford in partnership with the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center.

SAVE THE DATE Frozen Polish Food Sale

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church basement 235 North Front St. New Bedford, Sat., 7/31, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pierogi, golambki, (stuffed cabbage) and cabbage soup, etc. We thank you for enjoying our delicious

food.

Farmers Market

From June through October: Mondays at Brooklawn Park, Thursdays at Buttonwood Park, and Fridays at Clasky Common. All markets will operate from 2pm - 6pm and accept cash, credit cards, SNAP, HIP, WIC, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons.

Learn more about Coastal Foodshed at coastalfoodshed.org, or find them on social media at @coastalfoodshed.

HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

Harbor Days

Harbor Days kicks off on Saturday July 10 and culminates with our craft fair on Saturday July 17-18 with many great events during the week.

Questions regarding booth rental should be emailed to mattapoissettharbordays@gmail.com

Mattapoissett Museum

The Mattapoissett Museum will be open 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday, July 17 and Sunday, July 18 during Harbor Days Weekend. The Mattapoissett Women's Club will be selling their summer-themed greeting cards to raise money for scholarships. Other vendors include, Grow Away Girl, Avo Maria, My Oily Mess and Veruka Dolls Land. Not all vendors will be set up on both days. All information related to museum events can be found on their website www.mattapoissettmuseum.org/events or on their Facebook page www.facebook.com/mattapoissettmuseum

On Sunday, July 18 at 1:00 PM the museum will be hosting Southcoast Lessons' Old Time Fiddle Sessions and Community Gathering. This event features old time string band musicians, friends, friends of friends, and friendly strangers.

Contact Mattapoissett Museum at info@mattapoissettmuseum.org or Southcoast Lessons southcoastlessons@gmail.com for info.

Museum admission is free that weekend, but donations are always appreciated. Thank you to the community for their continued generosity.

Free Concert

Members of the community are invited to attend the FirstWorks

Live — Music at Roger Williams Park free summer concert series in the gorgeous outdoor setting of "The People's Park." Presented in partnership with Roger Williams Park Conservancy and the Providence Parks Department, the six-concert series continues **this Sunday, 7/18**, with Rhode Island-based trumpet powerhouse Carlos de Leon and his multinational music group performing Latin Jazz, Salsa, Son, Merengue, and Cumbias from across Latin America and the Caribbean. The Latin Jazz trumpeter is one of the most sought-after jazz performers in New England.

Widowed Persons

Widowed persons support, every 1st Thursday of each month at 9:30 a.m. 17 Barstow Street, Mattapoissett, MA. at COA Entrance FREE. CONFIDENTIAL. Led by Nancy Arnold, Bereavement Counselor, Southcoast Health VNA

Have you (or maybe someone you know) lost a spouse, life partner or significant other? The loss can be one of the greatest stresses a person can experience. Coping with the emotional upheaval and social readjustment can be overwhelming and incapacitating. A support group can provide hope and reassurance. A support group can remind you that you are not alone. Being with others who have similar struggles can be helpful. A support group can bring different perspectives to help you on your grief journey. A support group is a place you can feel a sense of belonging.

Consider attending one session and take it from there.

Contact Nancy for more informa-

tion: 508-973-3227 or ArnoldN@southcoast.org

Fairy Tale Farm

Running Thursday through Sunday for the next two weekends, Coggeshall Farm Museum in Bristol, R.I. will host the live performance, Fairy Tale Farm. With a map in hand, guests will have the freedom to explore every inch of the Farm as the sun goes down. Hilarity is bound to ensue as characters they thought they've known since childhood finally decide to "get real."

The evening also features activities for all ages, including a StoryWalk®, a great way to enjoy Coggeshall's outdoor site and read a classic children's book at the same time, wand and crown making, games and activities, a fairy tale garden kit, and refreshments from Gnarly Vines Farm food truck. Experience theater as you never have before. Tickets on sale now at <https://www.coggeshallfarm.org/event/fairy-tale-farm/> or email coggeshallinfo@osv.org for more information.

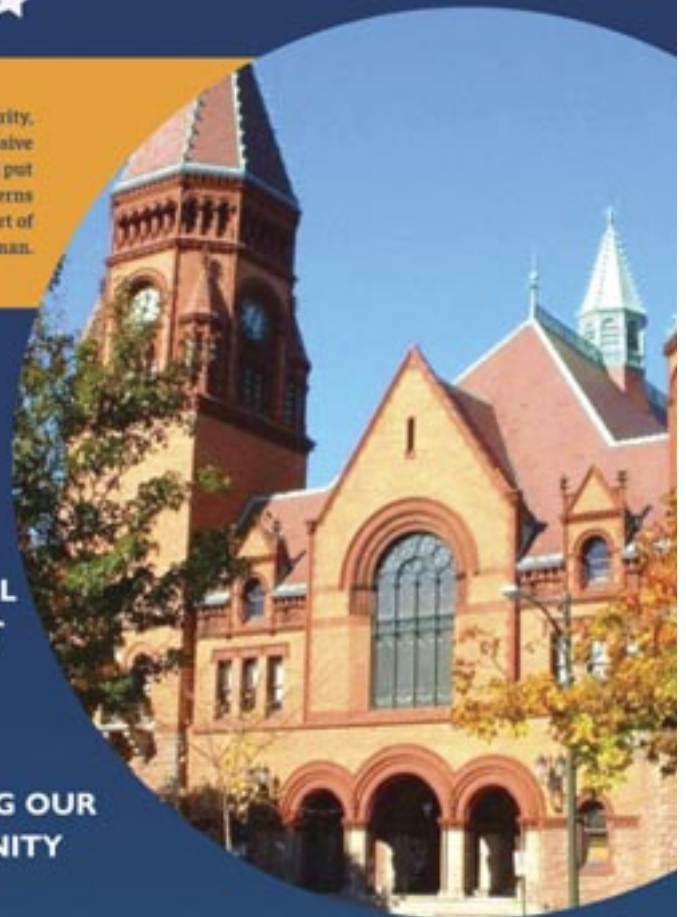
Watershed Ride Reg

The Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride provides one of the most scenic coastal cycling courses in all of New England, and it returns for its 15th year on Sunday, Oct. 3. Cyclists of all ages and abilities can **sign up now** to bike 35, 75 or 100 miles at the Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride by visiting www.savebuzzardsbay.org/ride. Participants who sign up before Monday, April 5 will save 50 percent on the registration, too.

The Watershed Ride is a fun community event that supports clean water in Buzzards Bay.



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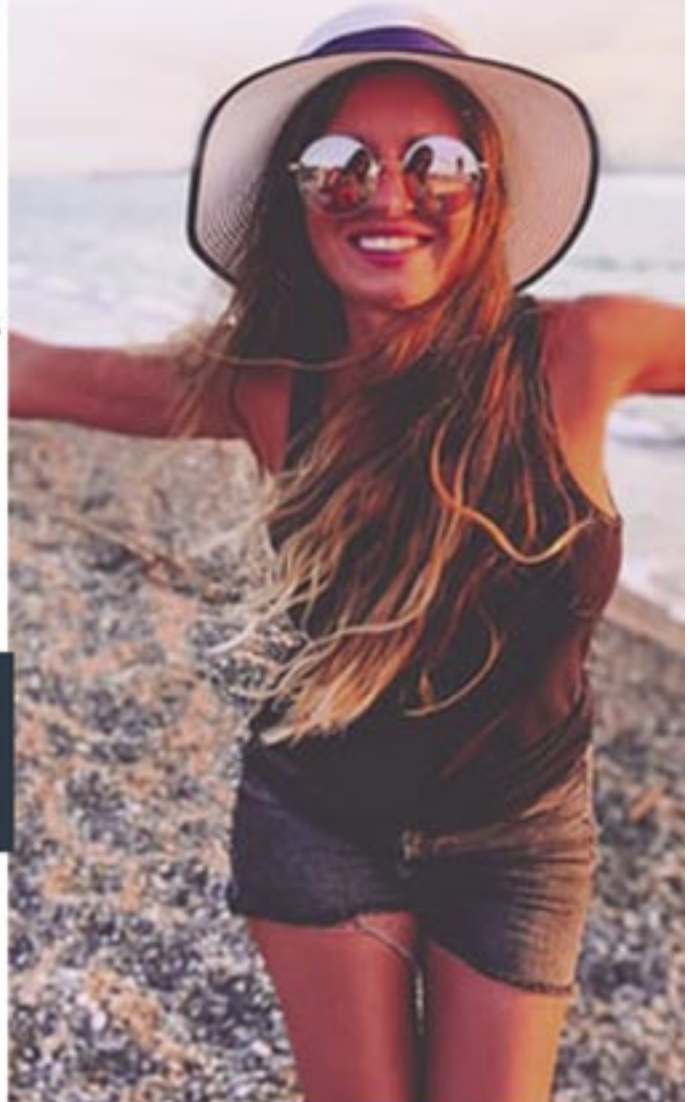
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Bikes for All donates 30 bikes

By Beth David
Editor

The bike path is for everyone. Even if you don't have a bike, you can walk. But, using a bicycle is what the path is designed for, so a group of residents set out to make sure everyone in Mattapoissett who wants a bike can get one. In addition to the

prohibitive cost of buying bicycles, especially for a family with children, the pandemic has made it difficult to find bicycles, new or used.

Mattapoissett Recreation (MATTREC) and the Friends of the Mattapoissett Bicycle and Recreational Path teamed up to create Bikes for All which has been fundraising, collecting used bike

donations, and fixing up bikes all year.

"It's a community wide effort," said Liz DiCarlo on 6/19/21 as she helped put the finishing touches on the bicycles that were stored at the Quaker Meeting House in Mattapoissett, another community organiza-

BIKES: cont'd on page 24



LEFT: Bill Emmons puts the finishing touch, a bell, on one of the 30 bikes collected by Bikes for All before they are distributed to their new owners on Saturday, 6/19/21, an effort by the Friends of the Mattapoissett Bicycle and Recreational Path and Mattapoissett Recreation to make sure everyone in Mattapoissett has the opportunity to use the bike path, even if they cannot afford to buy a bicycle or just had trouble finding one. RIGHT: Some of the 30 bikes collected by Bikes for All are at the Quaker Meeting House in Mattapoissett, just before they are distributed to their new owners on Saturday, 6/19/21. Photos by Beth David/Fairhaven Neighborhood News.

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Recipe of the Week

Blackberry Crisp

For the topping:

- 1 1/2 cups old-fashioned or quick oats
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 1/2 butter, cut into small pieces

For the fruit:

- 8-10 cups fresh blackberries, washed and dried
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice

Preheat oven to 350°

In a mixing bowl, combine the oats, flour, brown sugar, and salt.

Using a pastry blender (or forks if you don't have one), add the butter and combine until the mixture is crumbly. Place aside.

In another mixing bowl, add the blackberries, sugar, flour, and lemon juice. Stir until coated.

Lightly grease a 9x13-inch pan and place the fruit mixture on the bottom. Top with the oat mixture.

Bake for 45 minutes, or until the fruit is bubbling and the crisp topping has turned a golden brown.

Allow the crisp to rest for 10-15 minutes before you serve. Enjoy with your favorite ice cream or some homemade whipped cream!

Dear Frankie



Making New Friends

Dear Frankie, I'm a new-comer to the dog park and don't know any of the dogs there. I'm shy and don't have much experience making new friends. At our last house, it

wasn't an issue. Bruce, the dog next door, and I met when we were puppies. From the start, we got along great and became best friends.

Do you know of any strategies shy dogs use to make friends?

When I asked my mom, she said, "Just go over to a dog that looks friendly and gesture you want to play."

Just thinking about doing that makes me want to throw up.

Thanks for reading my letter.

Sue

Dear Sue,

You need to take a slower approach than your mom suggested. She's probably an extrovert. They think nothing of talking to strangers. Extroverts have a hard time understanding the terror new people can render for a shy dog like yourself.

Before you do anything, why don't you think about the qualities you

liked in Bruce and how the two of you played together. Then look around the park and see if any of the dogs remind you of Bruce and play the same way he did. Cautiously you could approach this dog and see if he or she notices you and asks you to play.

Another strategy you might try is to find a dog you like and sit by its owner. Knowing dog owners, the person will probably talk to you and give you a pet. When they call their dog to leave, be sure to smile and wag your tail when the dog sees you sitting by its owners. There's a good chance the owner will encourage their dog to play with you. If you do this for a few days, you might make a friend.

If not, try another dog and its owner. Eventually you will find a dog who will be thrilled to be your friend.

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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Acushnet Selectboard discusses goals for FY22

By Mary Macedo

Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Monday 6/21 the Acushnet Selectboard discussed goals and objectives for FY22, fees for solar panel utility poles, and the possibility of raising the water rates.

The board met with consultant Don Jacobs about the union wage and classification update for the ASCME union. Mr. Jacobs said that the goal was to establish a process for the way positions are paid and to make the jobs equitable as well as competitive.

He said the three objectives of the study were writing job descriptions, developing a grade/classification plan, and a compensation plan.

Selectboard member David Wojnar said that creating a process and system ensures stability, which is the key to success.

Board member Kevin Gaspar said Mr. Jacobs presented the Selectboard with a lengthy study and research, and he would like more time to read the entire study before having a discussion about it. Mr. Gaspar said he looked forward to reading through it and then coming to Mr. Jacobs with

questions and discussion.

The Selectboard agreed to revisit this conversation at the next meeting.

In another matter the board met with Building Inspector Jim Marot about developing fees for telephone poles and battery storage for the installation of solar panels in town.

Mr. Marot explained that he encourages solar development, but he would like to see the solar installation pole be placed underground rather than above ground using telephone poles. He said there has been an uptick of solar installation in town and the telephone poles sticking up all over town are becoming an eyesore, and a lot of residents have complained.

Mr. Marot said he would like to encourage people to install the lines underground, so there are fewer utility poles sticking up all over town. He suggested charging \$5,000 per pole installed above ground, which will hopefully encourage people to go underground instead.

Mr. Marot said the town has three solar projects currently operating with 12 more solar projects approved.

Mr. Gaspar said that the town might need a moratorium to slow down the development of solar projects. He said he has heard complaints from residents about solar projects taking over all the forest area in Acushnet and hurting the wildlife.

Mr. Wojnar asked if the town can just require that all the solar poles get put underground.

Mr. Marot said the Planning Board approves the solar projects, so the Planning Board would have to adopt a policy for all solar projects.

Mr. Gaspar said he liked the fees idea.

Mr. Wojnar agreed he liked the idea of fees but also said they should meet with the Planning Board about developing a policy.

The board voted unanimously to approve the permit fees of \$5,000 per pole and \$5,000 per battery storage.

In another matter the board met with Fire Chief Kevin Gallagher about hiring a full time captain that will be his second in command. Mr. Gallagher said they have never had

ACUSH: cont'd next page

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ACUSH: cont'd from previous page

the position before, but it will be helpful to have someone who knows how to do all the administrative work for when Mr. Gallagher retires,

The person does not have to be the next Fire Chief, but it will help to have someone to help the entire Fire Department for when he does retire.

Mr. Gaspar asked if they could have more time to look over all the information and discuss it at the next meeting, and the board agreed.

In another matter the board met with DPW Business Manager Kathy Silva about water and sewer fees.

Ms. Silva informed the Selectboard that the City of New Bedford has increased their rates by 2.5% for FY22. She said she did not think Acushnet needed to raise the sewer rates, but she said they should definitely raise the water rates. They will not make enough money in surplus to replace water mains if the town does not raise the water rates.

Ms. Gaspar said he would like more time to look into the numbers before he votes to increase rates.

Mr. Wojnar said Acushnet needs to

keep up with New Bedford's increases.

The board voted not to take action that night.

Selectboard Chairperson David Desroches also shared some items from the board's list of goals to discuss for FY22.

He said some goals were solar development, parking lot development on Slocum Street, outdoor dining, food truck bylaws, Lake Street Development, senior work, multi family home development, and mental health.

Mr. Gaspar asked what they mean by multi-family homes, and said he did not want Acushnet to be a city vibe with multifamily homes.

Mr. Wojnar said he believed it was more targeted to 55+ housing, and they should have a discussion with the town planner about housing development plans.

Mr. Gaspar also asked about the mental health goals.

Mr. Wojnar said with the pandemic many residents are struggling and he thought it would be beneficial to look

into mental health programs, as well as public safety responses to mental health traumas in homes, etc.

The Selectboard plans to use the list of goals to help organize their plans for the upcoming year.

The Selectboard also made a few committee appointments, including: Richard Gwozdz to the Historical Commission; Charles Leonard as an alternate for the Board of Appeals.

Mr. Wojnar said he would like to look at the meeting attendance for the Board of Appeals because there have been issues with attendance.

Mr. Gaspar said he agreed, and that being on a board is a commitment and attending meetings is crucial.

The Selectboard also received a letter of resignation from Ron Melbourne on the Finance Committee. Mr. Melbourne's letter explained that he has too many commitments during the spring season and it interfered with his ability to attend meetings. Mr. Melbourne thanked everyone in his letter.

The Selectboard voted unanimously to accept the resignation.

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From our readers

Reset Refresh

As we push the reset button on town government, we have the opportunity to elect someone to the Fairhaven Select Board who will bring fresh thinking to the issues we face as a town. Leon Correy is someone you might want to get to know more about.

As the "NKOTB" Leon Correy is not encumbered by local political allegiances and alliances, putting him in the position to contribute new perspectives and insights into the issues/projects/problems facing us as a community.

Although Leon Correy is a relative newcomer, he has already become part of the fabric of life in this community, active in his daughter's school and the Town's Sustainability and Diversity Committees. He values integrity and community. He is invested in service to his community. He is open-minded, articulate, and willing to listen to others, qualities we need in our leaders.

Leon Correy holds an MBA in Finance from the University of Chicago, making him particularly well equipped to look out for the Town's financial interests in the major projects that the Town of Fairhaven will likely need to undertake in the near future.

I believe that Leon Correy is someone who will put the interests of Fairhaven at the center of his role on the Select Board...and I find that refreshing. Please join me in voting for Leon Correy on July, 26, 2021.

To learn more about Leon Correy go to leoncorrey.com

Margaret Roderick, Fairhaven

Fairhaven Can Choose a Woman for Select Board

The Fairhaven Historical Society has put together a display this summer entitled "Fairhaven Women who Made History." I think it is wonderful to recognize and honor these women, some of whom were Suffragists and played a very important role in allowing all women to vote.

In Fairhaven this year we have some crucial decisions to make with our votes. We will vote on July 26th and recall a member of our select board. We have a choice to vote for one of three members of our community that have decided to run for this

position. Right now, I feel the best choice would be a woman to be a member of our Select Board.

Stasia Powers has committed many years to various committees in town, some of which were elected positions and others not. She has experience in non-profits, local environmental organizations, budgets, managing volunteers and staff.

I know that on day one she will be able to start in this important role with the background and experience we need for our community. No one is perfect, I can't think of a politician who I agree with on every single issue. It's ok to ask questions, disagree and find solutions to some difficult issues that arise in our town. I know that Stasia is willing to listen, hear concerns and try to find the best way to work within our town government.

There are changes coming in Fairhaven, very positive changes, we need Stasia to be there now to fill this position on the Select Board. She will not only make history being the first woman on the town's renamed Select Board but also, will use all her Powers to help our town continue to be a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family.

Ann Richard (she/her/hers), Fairhaven

Competencies and Skills Matter

I writing this letter to urge you to support Leon Correy in his bid for a seat on the Select Board in the Town of Fairhaven

I have had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Correy and to discuss his background and what he thinks he can contribute to a solid, realistic, open form of government for our town.

I am extremely impressed with his educational background in that he holds an undergraduate degree from Boston College and an MBA in Finance from the University of Chicago, one of the most prestigious business education institutions in the country.

I emphasize the foregoing for the following reason: the Town of Fairhaven will be facing two mega-million dollar projects in the near future, both the EPA mandated sewer rehabilitation project estimated to cost approximately \$30,000,000 and the proposed Public Safety Complex estimated to cost \$50,000,000.

These projects represent a fiscal obligation that this Town has never seen before. One has to agree that we need the best leadership and expertise in navigating these issues on behalf of the Town. I maintain that Mr. Correy is that individual who can deliver.

From a political perspective, Mr. Correy is "the new kid on the block." He has no local political affiliations or alliances in Fairhaven. Historically, Fairhaven voters have tended to choose their elected officials based on alliances, not necessarily on needed skills and competencies. Our votes are often driven by friendships both personal and political, past service on other Town committees or boards, and "I don't like the other guy."

Leon Correy gives us an opportunity to move forward with a clean slate. He owes no one politically, he is open-minded, and he is willing to listen to one and all, qualities that we need in our leaders. He brings to this moment an expertise in finance together with a commitment to reach decisions that are in the best interests of the Town.

Competencies and skills matter. Please cast your vote for Leon Correy.

Bernard Roderick, Fairhaven

Wotton Supports Cameron Durant

As a lifelong Fairhaven resident, Father of four, long standing member in the community with strong volunteerism, business owner, and chairman of the BPW, I would like to endorse Cam Durant for Select Board.

For nearly five years Cam has worked as a part of the Board to ensure residents receive the best services possible. Together we have kept water and sewer rates as low as possible while being fiscally responsible with our federally mandated sewer upgrades. We successfully negotiated with the EPA to get a construction timeline for our new upgrade that was beneficial to our residents. Cam has worked to pave roads in every precinct in a fair manner.

Cam also has worked as a part of our teams negotiating with unions and hiring the best talent for our department superintendent positions. These experiences are what the Town needs for successful leadership. He

LETTERS: cont'd on page 25

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Financial Help

Financial Help might be available if: you are a woman over 70 years old. You live in Fairhaven, You live alone. you have unpaid bills due to low income. Call the Fairhaven Council on Aging at 506-979-4029 if you meet these criteria and ask for Lucille. All information obtained will remain confidential.

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 Wed. July 21st

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Chairs will be provided but feel free to bring your own. Light refreshments will be provided by the Atria of Fairhaven. Please call the Fairhaven Senior Center at 508-979-4029 to sign up.

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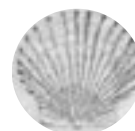
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Fairhaven's got pride!

By Beth David
Editor

After two of the three Fairhaven Selectboard members voted not to display the LGBTQ pride flag at town hall, and then followed up by rescinding the town's entire flag policy, a group of citizens decided to take action. Led by Diane Hahn, a well-known activist and agitator, a group organized a pride event in just about two weeks. On Sunday, 6/27, about 150 people showed up in the streets and sidewalks around Fairhaven Town Hall to show their support, and to be supported by the community (see letter on page 25).

Four people were scheduled to speak, but then five or six more decided to take the opportunity to tell their stories to the crowd.

Before the speechmaking, Ronnie Manzone, a transgender woman who is an elected member of the Fairhaven Housing Authority said she was there "celebrating pride."

"It's a beautiful thing," she said. "People coming together, caring about each other."

She said it's the Fairhaven she believes we are.

Ms. Manzone said her story of transitioning was smooth compared to so many others. Already a well known figure in town as she had been a Selectboard member, is on the Board of Assessors and has been for many years, and is still a reserve police officer and a corrections officer, she said, "Sometimes I'm embarrassed" at how accepting it was for her.

"I love this town," said Ms. Manzone when she addressed the crowd, adding that people need to take care of each other and fight for each other.



"We can do this," said Ms. Manzone, and then addressed the flag controversy. "That flag lives in our hearts. Caring about people lives in our hearts."

"I'm here to report that we're a loving town," said Ms. Manzone. "I'm trans, and I've never been happier in my life."

She said she was always "Ronnie," and is still Ronnie. When she told everyone at her various jobs, it was "news," she said; when she told one person at a pizza joint, it was all over town in minutes.

"Everyone embraced me," she said. "We are in a town that loves us."

"My daughter's an Eagle Scout," said Laurie Despres, to explain that she had a son who is now a daughter, Carrie.

She said it was very stressful for Carrie. The family knew through her teen years that something was not right, but they could not figure it out.

Eventually, she told them she was trans. She told them at a dinner, and the family accepted it in stride.

The big question was, are we still going camping?

Ms. Hahn started the speechmaking portion of the program and said she was "deeply troubled" by the selectboard's actions.

"But hear me when I tell you that today is not about making a political statement and it's not about any one issue. Today is about all of us coming together to celebrate the pride we all have in our town," said Ms. Hahn. "Pride that we are



Jordan Richard speaks at the Fairhaven's Got Pride event on 6/27/21 while volunteers hold up the pride flag and a banner stating "Hate has no home here." BELOW L-R: Travis Rapoza and Ronnie Manzone speak at the event. Photos by Beth David.

an accepting, inclusive and welcoming community. Pride that we care about each other and protect one another. Pride that we care about those who look to Fairhaven as a safe haven where they can live, work and raise a family without fear."

She said the day was not only about LGBTQ pride, but also for other marginalized groups, including people with special needs and people of color.

In keeping with that sentiment, Charlie Murphy, whose organization MO LIFE works with special needs adults, led the speaking roster.

"We are not done with this fight," said Mr. Murphy. "The LGBTQ+ community is a community of Americans, and the fight for more equality is ongoing. Justice is undying."

He said as a community, we can "work for justice each day, we can work for equality each day, we can respect one another. We do not have to be the same, regardless of our race, our abilities, our sexual orientation, our political beliefs, we are all the same."

He said he prayed for the community every day and prays that we work for justic and inclusion and for accepting diversity and peace.

"We are a fair haven and we need to keep it that way," said Mr. Murphy. "Stay strong fair haven, you are making a positive difference."

Fairhaven High School graduate Travis Rapoza told the crowd he was a closeted boy growing up in Fairhaven. There were no flags at town hall and the only gay person he knew of was Ellen DeGeneres because even celebrities were afraid to risk their careers.

PRIDE: cont'd on page 22

Candidate Statements: Fairhaven Select Board



Leon Correy

Dear Fairhaven, Over the past year we've been on a rough road together. We've endured a

pandemic, a social uprising, an attack on the White House, Selectmen meeting drama and bickering, a recall, and most recently a battle over interdepartmental financial transparency (the football field). It's been a year like no other. It took a year like this for many to get involved and recognize the need for change in the town.

I am here to personify that change. I represent progress. Some of you have asked if progress means so politically. According to Miriam Webster's third definition, "gradual betterment" is how I intend progress.

I am here to ask for the opportunity to serve the people of Fairhaven so that I can help the town gradually get better in the way you want it to do so. This isn't about my vision for the town, it's yours. My opinions of what Fairhaven can be are irrelevant if they aren't yours also. I am here to serve you. I don't have a history or obligations. I have my desire to serve the people and finally give the quiet majority a voice.

It's time we put Fairhaven First. Fairhaven First means we put the town of Fairhaven ahead of our personal agendas. We choose to serve the people of Fairhaven. It's not about relationships, friendships, or who we used to eat lunch with at school. This is about our town that we all love. It's time we do what's best for our little "best kept secret on the cape".

Over the past year we've endured so much. But we got through that together. Give me the opportunity to serve you and give the town back to you. Not to one side or another. This is me asking to return the town to its owner.

My Name is Leon Correy and I am asking for the opportunity to serve you as a member of the Fairhaven Select Board. I have presented myself to you in a sincere, transparent fashion. This hasn't been me just

CORREY: cont'd next page



Cameron Durant

As the Special Election draws close, voters will soon decide how to restore co-

hesive operations, a respectful culture, and a sense of leadership to Town Hall. I am excited to be a part of that change by bringing my experience to the Select Board.

My past two terms on the Board of Public Works have been a great source of pride. Not every resident has business at Town Hall, or a child in the school system, but they do turn on their faucet each day. Managing the BPW's nearly \$10 million dollar operating budget, and this year's \$10 million dollars' worth of capital projects, is the experience necessary for success on the Select Board. The BPW too was once contentious, and I am proud of how I contributed towards making the group a more respectful and collaborative entity. I know I can contribute towards a more harmonious public discourse in this new role.

My chief priority when elected will be to restart the Town Administrator search. As an Operations Manager and SHRM-CP certified HR professional, I have the experience to ensure a transparent and independent process. I am proud of my hiring decisions at the BPW, recognizing quality talent to promote our devoted employees to successful Superintendents.

In selecting a new Town Administrator candidate, I am looking for something more than the mere ability to balance spreadsheets. My greatest concerns will be their management experience and past creativity in generating new revenue for the Town. This individual will be key in restoring the residents' trust in our municipal government.

For Fairhaven to continue offering quality services to the greatest number of people, we must overcome the financial challenges that are ahead. The federal government has mandated a \$50 million upgrade to our sewer treatment facility in order to remove nitrogen from our outflow into

DURANT: cont'd next page



Stasia Powers

Fairhaven has been my home for twenty-two years. I am running for Select Board because I love serving

the people in this community; from the families I've met on the playground, friends I've made on the pickleball court, people I've chatted with while the kids were in Sunday School or playing sports, to those I haven't met but have stood in line with at Stop & Shop. When elected, I have many plans that I am excited to put in place for our community, including:

Town Administrator My first order of business is to restart the Town Administrator search process to hire the experienced visionary leader this town deserves. The selection committee should be chosen by the impartial Town Moderator and include representatives from boards and committees along with community members. They will then make recommendations to the Selectboard, who will ultimately choose the final candidate.

Communication is key to public support and consensus. The community needs to hear the truth from its elected representatives and needs to be involved. I have worked hard with the school committee and administration to make sure communication goes both ways. I take pride in my availability to hear issues and answer questions and will continue to be available to discuss ideas and concerns with anyone.

Fiscal Responsibility My 14 year record of setting the budget for the largest department in Fairhaven demonstrates my fiscal responsibility. With zero-based budgeting and cooperation, we have consistently worked with the town to stay within the recommended guidelines for increases. We have worked hard to not only rein in spending but to improve the educational program and increase revenues. As a result, the majority of Acushnet students choose to attend Fairhaven High School and the revenue from Acushnet students has grown from \$800,000 to \$2.7 million.

POWERS: cont'd next page

Candidate Statements: School Committee

CORREY: cont'd from previous page during the campaign process. This is me every day so you know it will continue to be me.

I will also be here to answer your questions and own my actions. I will stand tall and own my mistakes. I will fight for what you feel is best for the town rather than my own feelings or wishes. I will fight to make sure this is the Fairhaven you love and are proud of.

*Sincerely Yours, Leon E Correy III
On July 26 vote Yes and vote for the first candidate Leon E Correy III*

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DURANT: cont'd from previous page

the harbor. Also, our current joint police and fire station is near obsolete. Mold and lack of space will force the Town to soon build a new public safety complex that will cost in excess of \$50 million dollars.

With nine figure borrowing on the horizon, I believe I am the candidate with the responsible record to navigate through this challenging time.

During the pandemic, when the Town's 2020 fiscal forecast was uncertain, the School Committee backed spending \$1.2 million dollars from reserve cash to fund a new football field. The issue is not that the project happened, but the methodology behind its approval. Instead of examining how local receipts would be affected by the COVID economy and using historically low interest rates to borrow for the project at the next Town Meeting, we moved too quickly. Our Town now has less cash on hand to face the challenges that are ahead. I promise to be responsible with each and every tax dollar, as these funds come from our hard-working residents that I am elected to protect.

I know together we can return Fairhaven to a community where government is run on collaboration and communication rather than animosity. We can be a town of inclusion rather than discord. I cannot promise a world where we all agree on the right course of action to take. But I can promise to always do what I believe is right, to remain the independent person that I have proven to be on the BPW, and to continue to offer the highest level of engagement for every resident who reaches out for support. I thank the Town for the consideration and humbly ask for your vote on July 26.

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POWERS: cont'd from previous page

External Review I support participation in the Department of Revenue Review. The DOR audit will provide an unbiased review of our town's financial practices and priorities to ensure we are efficient and following best practices.

Leadership I will work to encourage a new generation of leaders willing to serve on boards and committees.

Housing We should increase the amount of quality housing available in Fairhaven. Housing is needed for seniors and for our young adults who wish to move out of their family home and stay in Fairhaven.

Business Making Fairhaven one of the best places to do business is a priority. We need to proactively market the benefits of doing business in Fairhaven. We should also make it more welcoming for small businesses to open and operate because this will help fill our empty storefronts and provide opportunities for our community members to shop locally.

Open Space As we develop the economic and housing opportunities in our community we must also plan for the preservation of open space. This is important for conservation of our water supply, the health of Buzzards Bay, and in preparation for eventual sea level rise.

Quality of Life In addition, a plan for Fairhaven's future must include more initiatives that improve our way of life and lower the cost of living here. Projects like solar panels on the school buildings, municipal broadband, safe bike routes projects, and new recreational facilities are some of the innovative ideas that can help move our town forward in positive ways.

When elected I look forward to working with you. If you would like to know more about these or other issues, contact me at: stasiapowersselectboard@gmail.com

I ask for your vote on July 26 for Select Board.

Voting is the expression of our commitment to ourselves, one another, this country and this world.

Sharon Salzberg

Recall election less than two weeks away

The Fairhaven special town election is scheduled for Monday, 7/26

The field is set, with three candidates on the ballot: Leon Corry, Cameron Durant, Stasia Powers.

The ballot will have a question asking voters if they want to recall Select Board member Daniel Freitas, with a “yes” or “no” vote. Then voters will be asked to pick a candidate.

If the plurality of voters choose “yes” to end Mr. Freitas’s term early, then he will no longer be on the board as of 7/26.

The next part of the ballot asks voters to choose a candidate. The candidate with the most votes will win the election and will be eligible to be sworn in by the town clerk.

Important Dates

Tuesday, July 20, 2021 Last day to request a MAIL-IN absentee ballot for the Special Election. The Town Clerk’s Office will be open from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM on this day.

Friday, July 23, 2021-12:00PM (noon) Last day/time to request an IN-PERSON Absentee Ballot in the Town Clerk’s office. In-Person Absentee ballot applications (to vote in the Town Clerk’s office) must be received by 12 p.m. on Friday July 23, 2021. In-person absentee voting should be arranged ahead of time.

If you are a voter with a permanent physical disability, you may file a note from your doctor to that effect with your local election official. Voters with permanent physical disabilities are sent completed applications at the beginning of each year, to be signed and returned to their local election official.

Applications may be submitted in person, by mail, fax, or by e-mail;

however, the local election official must be able to view the signature of the person requesting the ballot. If the application is being submitted by e-mail, a scanned copy of the request must be submitted.

Polling Places

Polling Places for the Town Election are: Precinct 1, Town Hall; Precinct 4, Fire Station Meeting Room; Precinct 2, Hastings Middle School; Precincts 5 and 6, Recreation Center

Polls are open from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM

You may register to vote any day from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday through Friday in the Town Clerk’s Office, on-line or through a mail-in registration form.

Voting By Mail

If you plan to vote by mail, be sure to submit your application as soon as possible. Please allow enough time for the ballot to be mailed to you and for you to return the ballot by Election Day. For your convenience, you may drop off your Mail-in ballot at the Town Clerk’s office, or simply drop it through the mail slot on the outside door on the east side of the front entrance to Town Hall. All ballots being mailed from inside the United States must be received by your local election official no later than the close of polls on Election Day.

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JULY 26, 2021

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B. Follow directions as to the number of candidates to be marked for each office.
C. To vote for a person whose name is not printed on the ballot, write the candidate's name and address on the line provided and completely fill in the OVAL.

QUESTION
Instructions: Vote for ONE

FOR THE RECALL OF DANIEL FREITAS, Select Board

AGAINST THE RECALL OF DANIEL FREITAS, Select Board

CANDIDATES
SELECT BOARD

Instructions: Vote for the candidate of your choice regardless of how you voted on the recall question above.

For 0 SELECT:

LEON CORRY, III

STASIA POWERS

CAMERON DURANT

Write in: _____

RECALL BALLOT INFORMATION: The Special/Recall Election ballot will look a little different than the usual ballot. First: Voters will be asked to choose whether they are FOR or AGAINST the Recall of Select Board Chairperson Dan Freitas. If you are FOR the Recall, which means you wish to have him REMOVED from office, then you will fill in the FOR THE RECALL oval. If you are AGAINST the Recall, which means you wish to have him REMAIN in office, then you will fill in the AGAINST THE RECALL oval. Second: That question will be followed by the list of candidates who wish to fill the vacant seat should the recall pass. Voters will be asked to choose ONE of the candidates listed — OR write in a candidate of their choosing — to replace Mr. Freitas, should the recall pass. ABOVE: A sample of the actual ballot for the 7/26 election in Fairhaven.

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BPW hires for sewer dept; grants waiver for Jersey Mike's

By Mary Macedo

Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Monday 6/28 the Fairhaven Board of Public Works hired for Sewer Department, approved of an ice cream vendor, and met with owners of Jersey Mike's.

The board first met with resident Mike Ristuccia about approval for an ice cream vendor on Town Beach. Mr. Ristuccia said he was speaking on behalf of his grandson Max Ristuccia who will be running the ice cream cart.

Mr. Ristuccia said they have sold ice cream in years past at Town Beach and would love to start doing it again this year. He said his two grandsons would be selling the ice cream out of a push cart and would be selling on most weekends and weekdays, as long as the weather is nice.

BPW Chairperson Brian Wotton explained that after Mr. Ristuccia gets approval from the BPW he must also get approval from the Board of Health. Mr. Ristuccia is a member of the BOH.

Board member Cameron Durant said the ice cream cart sounded great and he could not wait for it.

The board voted unanimously to approve the request.

In another matter the board met with Chris Hall, the owner of the sandwich franchise Jersey Mike's, about an external grease trap waiver for their new up incoming location at 217 Huttleston Avenue.

Mr. Hall explained that they do not cook on the property. His other Jersey Mike's locations have an internal grease trap underneath the counter and they have never had any issues.

Mr. Durant said he was very excited that they were opening a location in Fairhaven. He said that when he was in college in Providence he used to have Jersey Mike's all the time.

BPW Vice-Chairperson Robert "Hoppy" Hobson agreed that it would be a nice addition to the town. Mr. Hobson said he would be fine with granting the waiver, but if any grease issues start happening Mr. Hall will have to install an external trap.

Mr. Hall agreed.

Mr. Wotton said that there will be an inspection to check for grease issues every six months.

The board voted unanimously to allow Jersey Mike's to have an internal grease trap instead of an external one.

In another matter the board interviewed Jared Amaral for Sewer System Maintenance Craftsman. BPW superintendent Vinnie Furtado said the Sewer Department has a few vacancies due to employees getting promoted.

He explained that Mr. Amaral currently works for the Highway Department and is the only employee that expressed interest for the Sewer position. Mr. Furtado said they have two openings for Sewer System Maintenance Craftsman and both positions were posted internally. He said he has not posted the positions for the public yet.

The open positions require licensure which Mr. Amaral does not yet have.

Mr. Amaral told the board he is willing to take classes and work towards getting his licenses, and is looking for advancement within the town.

Mr. Furtado recommended that the board hire Mr. Amaral and require him to get the required Grade 3 license.

Mr. Hobson said he liked that Mr. Amaral applied to the position and that there is a lot of opportunity for advancement in the Department.

Mr. Wotton asked if six months is long enough to obtain the correct licensure.

Mr. Furtado said yes depending on test dates. He suggested making it a requirement that Mr. Amaral at least obtains a Grade 1 license within six months and is working towards the Grade 3.

The board voted unanimously to hire Mr. Amaral as Sewer System Maintenance Craftsman with the stipulation that he must obtain at least a Grade 1 license within the first six months.

In another matter the board discussed selling beach passes. Administrative Assistant Becky Vento informed the board that beach pass sales are going very well and they are on track to cover all beach costs and break even by the end of the season.

Mr. Wotton said he was happy to hear that they will be able to cover the costs considering they are only allowing Fairhaven residents to purchase passes.

Ms. Vento said they sold 52 passes just that day alone.

Board member Marcus Ferro also asked if Mr. Furtado could invite the new Tree Warden to a BPW meeting to discuss collaboration and ideas in an executive session. Mr. Ferro said he thinks it would a good idea to meet with the Tree Warden and get on the same page with him before the next Town Meeting.



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LETTERS: cont'd from page 26
Management Review for the Town since last June.

The DOR says that "Many communities have avoided town-school struggles over resources by agreeing to a Memorandum of Understanding and, while the school is somewhat insulated because of provisions associated with net school spending requirements, the town has no similar avenue to preserve minimum expenditure levels. Therefore, when budget cuts occur, it typically has a more adverse impact on town operations, as opposed to the schools"

I am fairly certain the DOR would have reiterated their stance on an MOU in Fairhaven if my fellow Select Board members would have allowed the DOR study to move forward. I feel this is so important that I asked all TA candidates during the interview process if they would

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support an MOU for our Town/School Department. MOU's provide stability in budget planning but also can establish criteria that govern what happens when there is a surplus of funds available from underspending on a particular budget.

3) Does the candidate support Tax incentives for new business growth in Fairhaven? Multiple candidates have stated their support for such Tax incentives. There is a reason why this strategy is not employed in most communities. There can be significant risks involved and we should research and understand those before we assume that it is a good strategy for Fairhaven.

Good luck making your decision and, most importantly, be sure to vote on Monday, July 26th.

*Bob Espindola, Fairhaven;
Select Board member*

Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven

Board of Appeals

Tues., 8/3, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Health

Wed., 7/21, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 7/26, Arsene St., 3 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 6/28, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Lagoa Friendship Comm

Fri., 7/16, Town Hall/Zoom, 2 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 6/23, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Wed., 7/28, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Special Election

Polls open 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Sustainability Comm

Tues., 7/20, Town Hall/Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet

Selectboard

Mon., 8/16, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

Board of Health

Mon., 7/19, Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.

Planning Board

Thurs., 7/15, Parting Ways, 6:30 p.m.

Cultural Council

Thurs., 7/15, Acushnet Lib, 6 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	July 2021	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	15	0018	1253	0535*	1801
Friday	16	0113	1348	0625*	1905
Saturday	17	0208	1441	0726*	2017
Sunday	18	0303	1537	0828	2124
Monday	19	0403	1640	0928	2236
Tuesday	20	0511	1744	1030	2357
Wednesday	21	0612	1839	1137	----
Thursday	22	0705	1929	0100	1236
Friday	23	0754	2017	0200	1332
Saturday	24	0844	2107	0304*	1432
Sunday	25	0935	2157	0348*	1530
Monday	26	1024	2243	0417*	1612
Tuesday	27	1111	2330	0441	1647
Wednesday	28	1159	----	0507	1722
Thursday	29	0018	1250	0538	1803
Friday	30	0110	1342	0617	1900

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

PRIDE: cont'd from page 16

"I felt like a stranger in my own body," said Mr. Rapoza. "I didn't have any role models to look up to, any television shows to relate to, and no community to turn to."

Teenagers are going through a lot anyway, he said, so figuring out sexuality on top of it all is "pretty overwhelming." So, he spent much of his life "living a lie," he said. "Because I was too afraid of being true to myself."

All of the fear centered around being afraid that people would not be supportive.

"At our core, all any of us members of the LGBTQ+ community are looking for is acceptance," said Mr. Rapoza. "No more, no less."

Over the years, said Mr. Rapoza, things have changed, more people have come out, LGBTQ+ people are depicted in movies, and some very brave people paved the way. He told the crowd that it is important to support the LGBTQ+ community, and cited the statistics of high suicide rates and attempted suicide among LGBTQ+ youth.

"Every member of the LGBTQ+ community is born into the closet, and we don't get to choose what house that closet is in," said Mr. Rapoza. "Some families don't every want that door

opened. And that's why the door to our community must be open to all."

The pride flag is an important symbol he said and flying it is important.

"Flying the pride flag at town hall would show that Fairhaven, as a community, is inclusive, and supports a group of marginalized people who have spent most of history either hidden away, denying our existence, or out in the streets, fighting for equal rights under the law," said Mr. Rapoza. "It would let me and other members of the LGBTQ+ community know that we are supported and welcome here, and signify to other communities that we support the LGBTQ+ community and our right to live our lives openly and proudly."

Jordan Richard was also a featured speaker, telling the crowd that it was not that long ago that they* were sure they were straight.

"But that just goes to show that self-discovery is a process," said Richard, adding that the most important thing on the journey is kindness, for those going through the journey and those who know them. "If this is something you're going through right now, please treat yourself with love and care and kindness, because it is complicated, and it is confusing, and it is hard. It is hard to put yourself out

there, and be vulnerable, and be different. And it's hard to be proud of something that so many people would hate you for."

There is a lot of work to be done in Fairhaven, said Richard, which is "disheartening."

"But in another sense, it really is a beautiful opportunity that we all have...The benefit of living in an imperfect world is that we, every day, can strive to improve it as much as we can," said Richard. "I do believe that anyone has the power to change the world, but I also believe that even changing one life for the better is just as beautiful. Even if it's your own."

Several other people spoke, including Select Board candidate Leon Correy, who told the story of a very close relative who did not come out to him, leaving him the last to know. When Mr. Correy asked him why, his friend said it would have been too devastating if Mr. Correy had rejected him, because he meant the most to his friend.

Mr. Correy said he moved to Fairhaven and was happy to find that he was not harassed by police or followed around. He chose to get involved in his new community and is committed to making diversity a priority.

"I have pride today," he said.

*Fixes errors from previous versions. "They" not "she."

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Powers responds to turf field controversy

Editor's Note: A controversy around extra spending on the turf field project at Fairhaven High School has emerged. We will write a story for next week's issue. Meanwhile, a letter to the editor (page 25) directly criticizes Select Board candidate and sitting School Committee member Stasia Powers for her decisions surrounding this issue. Since next week is the last issue before the special election on 7/26 (see page 19), we felt it was only fair to give Ms. Powers a chance to address this issue.

Submitted by Stasia Power

I have been part of the school committee for the past 14 years. During my tenure, we have built credibility through transparency and zero based budgeting, asking only for what we need. We have worked hard to stay within the guidelines of the town's budgetary needs and play our part in ensuring town wide fiscal responsibility. Even with this conservative approach we have been able to measurably improve the quality of our children's educational experiences.

The turf field project for Fairhaven High School was approved overwhelmingly by town meeting in October of 2020. The funding approved was \$1.2 million with \$200,000 coming from the Fairhaven High School trust.

Whether you approve of how it happened or not, it was done according to legal process and with support of most of your elected town meeting members. They wanted this for our town and for our kids.

Simply put..

It was important to include some of the alternates. (Bringing the lighting up to code reducing the impact on the neighbors (\$400,000), other sports equipment and fencing, wrap for the bleachers and gates to keep the field and its occupants safe).

The extra funds were due to the extraordinary circumstances caused by COVID-19. We wish we didn't have them as they were the result of loss; loss of after school clubs, loss of specialist time, loss of togetherness, loss of connection with their school community.

No educational programs were cut to fund this project. Special Ed services remain intact and in fact will be expanded to improve Social/Emotional Services in the coming year.

These funds are being used to deliver a more complete project, rather than a partial one that could have resulted in potential cost increases.

How remaining budgetary funds are spent is the purview of the school

committee and the school department by law, were discussed in open and televised meetings since the winter and were outlined to the town per request in June.

When given the opportunity to discuss the additional expenditures with the school department the Interim Town Administrator did not engage in constructive dialog. In fact, she chose to avoid discussion completely, holding onto the information until it became convenient campaign fodder.

We should move forward with negotiating a Memorandum of Agreement between the town and the school department to be sure a situation like this is avoided in the future. I can assure you the school department is a willing partner.

I am proud of my record of fiscal responsibility, and am the only candidate with a proven record reflecting that. Yes, we as a town have some large spending projects ahead of us but I'm in this race because I know I can handle these challenges, bringing back respectful debates and thoughtful solutions into our highest executive office in town. I look forward to bringing my knowledge and ability to negotiate difficult topics to the Select board.

BIKES: cont'd from page 9

tion that helped in the effort by allowing the group to store and work on the bikes at their property on Route 6.

A few volunteers were adding bells to the 30+ bicycles that were about to get loaded onto a truck for delivery to their new owners. They also had a collection of new helmets.

Bikes of all sizes, from teeny-tiny to

full-size adult filled the hall.

"We had to find the right bike for the right kid," said Ms. DiCarlo.

She said the community was very generous, which people from all over town donating old bicycles they had hanging around, some donating late model bikes, and some buying new ones for the effort.

"We're really lucky," said Jane Finnerty Porgram Administrator of

MATTREC. "We got some beauties."

"People were generous with the bikes for sure," said Bill Emmons, who has been helping repair bikes and was putting the finishing touches on them before they got onto the truck.

To learn more, contact Jane Finnerty, 508-758-4548 JANE.MATTRAIL@gmail.com and Liz DiCarlo, 508-942-9343, lizdicarlo@comcast.net or visit mattapoisettrailtrail.org.

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LETTERS: cont'd from page 13

does his homework and is comfortable standing up for what he believes is right. He has always stood as an independent member of our Board. I ask you join me in supporting him on July 26 so we can have a bright future in Fairhaven.

Brian Wotton, Fairhaven, BPW Chair

Durant will be fiscally conscientious

I am writing this letter to ask that you support and vote for Cameron "Cam" Durant for Select Board. These are just a few of my highlighted reasons among many and why I believe he is the best choice.

Financial responsibility is a major issue in our town as we emerge from Covid and the rebound of revenues yet to be determined and ramifications that could take years. Cameron Durant is truly fiscally conscientious and has stated that, "we can't achieve the town needs unless we are fiscally responsible in spending our taxpayers' hard earned dollars wisely."

In a time when the town was faced with Covid, an uncertain future for many residents, Cameron stated he "would have never advocated for \$1.2 million dollars to be taken from our free cash for a project that was not an immediate need during a pandemic. We all have to manage our own daily budgets carefully and so does the Town."

This belief is why he is the one to stand on his own and lead our town to fiscal stability. The town will be facing a federally mandated sewer upgrade project estimated at 30 million dollars which will require the town to borrow the money. His ongoing in-depth knowledge of the mandate and direction will be a great benefit for the town as he collaborates with the DPW as a Select Board Member as he is a twice elected Commissioner on the Board of Public Works.

Now is not a time to have a beginner learning. The Town has a proposed new Safety Complex with an estimate cost of approximately \$50 million dollars, which the town will also have to borrow.

I believe Cam is the candidate who will apply independent thinking, rationale leadership, communication and collaboration as this proposal is thoroughly reviewed.

Mr. Durant is an Area Operations

Manager for Amazon in which his responsibilities require him to engage with 50+ associates to resolve any obstacles they may encounter to ensure a positive end result. This kind of professional and personal interaction is much needed on our Select Board and at Town Hall.

Mr. Durant has a Bachelor of Science from Providence College. He is a certified Human Resources Professional SHRM-CP and pursuing his MBA-HR. Fairhaven has known Cameron, Bridget and their three children for many years now. This kind of connection to Fairhaven is one that allows unique knowledge and understanding of the needs of the Town and our neighbors.

During the hardest times of the Covid pandemic you would find Cameron delivering Meals on Wheels for our seniors. This personal interaction only reinforced his belief on the importance of Town Government and the impact it has on individual lives.

This is a time when we need strong fiscal responsibility and leadership. Someone who will listen to all the residents and bring independent thinking, experience and unity to our town.

My vote for Select Board is earned and not taken for granted. I believe Cameron Durant is the right choice to earn my vote.

Please remember to vote on July 26 and make your voice heard.

Doug Brady, Fairhaven

Fairhaven's Got Pride!

On the beautiful Sunday morning of June 27th, on the corner where our Town Hall stands, Fairhaven residents gathered to display their PRIDE in being an accepting, inclusive and welcoming community to ALL. The spark that lit the fire of activism was provided by our Select Board who would not display the Pride Flag during June. YES, I am fully aware of the logistical semantics of the now defunct "flag policy" (a debate for another day).

Within 10 short days my new friend, "she who shall remain nameless" because she does not want to be thanked publicly, and I organized what has now become our first annual Fairhaven's Got Pride! event. Because we believed that Fairhaven is welcoming to folks from

all walks of life, we included not only people of the LGBTQ+ community but also our fellow citizens who overcome the daily challenges of belonging to two other communities that are all too often marginalized in our country; people of color as well as those who have Different-Capabilities.

With nearly no time to pull off our little gathering that was to last for just 30 minutes, we were going to be happy if a dozen Fairhaven-ites joined us on the corner that morning. As it turned out, over 100 people from our community came!

With a faulty sound system, a short playlist of music, just four people who were going to address those gathered, a limited amount of Swag, and some colorful chalk (thank you Ann Richard for the donation) we ended up with a 2+ hour celebration in the streets!! A huge THANK YOU to the Fairhaven PD who without being asked blocked off the streets around us so that we would all be safe.

The Stealthy Unicorn arrived to greet excited children and witness those kids re-chalk the crosswalk in front of Town Hall into a rainbow strip of color. Our friends and neighbors, who've not had the opportunity to over the past 18 months, hugged each other, laughed together and relished the time they were able to spend with one another.

The most beautiful thing that happened that morning was when a half dozen people spontaneously asked to speak in order to share the struggles they've faced and triumphs they've experienced in their lives. They spoke because they felt safe, accepted and loved. I thank each and every one of the people, slated or spontaneous, who spoke so eloquently, enthusiastically and freely on that corner on that day. In all the 22 years since I moved my little family here, I have never been so happy to live in our town. I know in my soul that love trumps hate and from the bottom of my heart I thank all of you who came out to prove me right when I shout FAIRHAVEN'S GOT PRIDE!!!

Diane Hahn, Fairhaven

Powers Supports Reckless Spending

Fairhaven is at a crossroads. The town has been in turmoil for over a year now. We have a special election

LETTERS: cont'd next page

LETTERS: cont'd from previous page

coming up on July 26th. This is a recall election because the voters of Fairhaven are not happy with the way the current select board is conducting business.

Just recently it has come to light that the school committee had a surplus in their budget of over \$800,000 because the kids weren't in class due to Covid-19. They have used the \$800k surplus to purchase lights, bleachers and fencing for a new football stadium. The same stadium that after being voted down for borrowing (requires a 2/3rd majority) at the fall town meeting, a separate motion that was not in the meeting warrant was made to take \$1.2 million from the town's savings account and it just passed (requires a simple majority).

Many voters were upset about how they finagled the town meeting to get the \$1.2 million. So after obtaining \$1.2 million from the town's reserve funds they have added another \$800k of money meant to educate students, not buy accessories for the football stadium. The price tag at this point is \$2.2 million and climbing with some other money they have used.

I do not have an issue with improving the field. What I have an issue with is the failure to follow the process. We have a capital planning process in town for a reason. We budget these projects for a reason. The process was completely bypassed by the school committee.

We have a candidate for select board in this current special election who is a member of the school committee and has supported this project and the unethical process it has taken. The lack of transparency and the misuse of nearly \$1 million of funds meant to educate students is mind blowing. How can we support Ms. Powers when she supported this type of irresponsible, unethical and reckless spending.

The special election is because voters are not happy about how the select board is operating. Myself and many other voters are unhappy about how the school committee is operating. Lack of transparency, manipulation of town funds, unethical practices and a complete lack of integrity. The response from the school committee including Ms. Powers is arrogant and condescending. The position they have taken is

we did it, you should have paid attention to our meeting and we would do it again.

Is this type of manipulation of town government and town funds what we want to allow to carry over to the select board? I urge the voters of Fairhaven to demand more from our school committee and send a clear message this is unacceptable. We need ethical, transparent and honest leaders in our town government not backroom politics.

We the taxpayers of Fairhaven need to pay closer attention to what is happening in our town and elect ethical leadership and responsible leadership. I urge the taxpayers to ask the questions and pay attention to what is really happening with the school committee.

Geoff Haworth, Fairhaven

Gallagher Supports Correy

Last fall when I decided to enter the race for a seat on the Fairhaven Board of Health, I recognized that what was missing was the first rule of holes: the first step in getting out of one is to stop digging! Maybe the people of Fairhaven would recognize my interest in moving forward to fairly confront present and future challenges. But job one was simple, stop the digging!

In a few weeks, three talented people will be on the ballot hoping to bring the same simple task to the Select Board. For the betterment of this community, please stop making the hole we are in any deeper.

Leon Correy is one of those candidates. He is a newcomer to the Fairhaven election scene, has impressive academic and professional credentials, and an incredible father and loving husband. His curiosity about the roots of our problems speaks to his desire to not simply fix but to change.

I started my campaign early. The only other person running at the time was Leon, for the Select Board seat on the ballot in 2022. Leon saw a problem and stepped out very early to let us know he was serious about bringing change. Now, circumstances have placed his name on the ballot one full year earlier than he, or us, expected.

And that is a good thing for Fairhaven.

I am supporting Leon Correy for

Select Board for his willingness to step up, speak out and solve, not just Band-Aid over, Fairhaven's problems. He is a person I respect and admire.

On July 26th, I will be voting for Leon Correy for Fairhaven Select Board. Our future starts by dropping the shovels.

Kevin A. Gallagher Fairhaven

Voters Have Awesome Responsibility

On July 26th the voters in the Town of Fairhaven will have an awesome responsibility in the Special Election.

The candidate you choose will be helping shape the future of the Town. The process to hire the Town's next permanent Town Administrator is hanging in balance, waiting for the results of this Recall Election. That decision, alone, is of paramount importance, and will play a key role in the TA selection process.

The new Town Administrator will, in turn, be responsible for determining who will be appointed to a number of critical leadership positions and for working closely with those in other departments who have announced their retirement. The list includes our acting Police Chief, Captain, Lieutenants in the FPD, Council on Aging Director and our School Superintendent. The ripple effect is very significant.

I would recommend that, as you choose who to vote for, you consider, among other things, the following three areas.

- 1) Does the candidate have a strong grasp on the Town Administrator Act and have a clear understanding of the role of the Select Board vs. the Town Administrator? This is extremely important and I have heard things that lead me to believe that not all candidates understand this fundamental element of our Town Government.
- 2) Would the candidate support a Memorandum of Understanding between the School Department and the Town (as recommended by the Department of Revenue)? I truly believe that, if we had one in place, there would have been an equitable solution to the Turf Field issue that people are so passionate about right now.

This is one reason I have been advocating for the DOR Financial

LETTERS: cont'd to page 21

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A PLAN FOR OUR FUTURE

Town Administrator Search should start immediately to hire the experienced visionary leader this town deserves.

Communicate with and listen to the community.

Promote transparency by engaging the Department of Revenue to review our policies and procedures.

Economic development and improved housing through outreach, marketing, and collaboration, while remaining committed to preserving open space.

Prepare for Fairhaven's future with innovative initiatives like Solar development and municipal broadband.



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