



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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

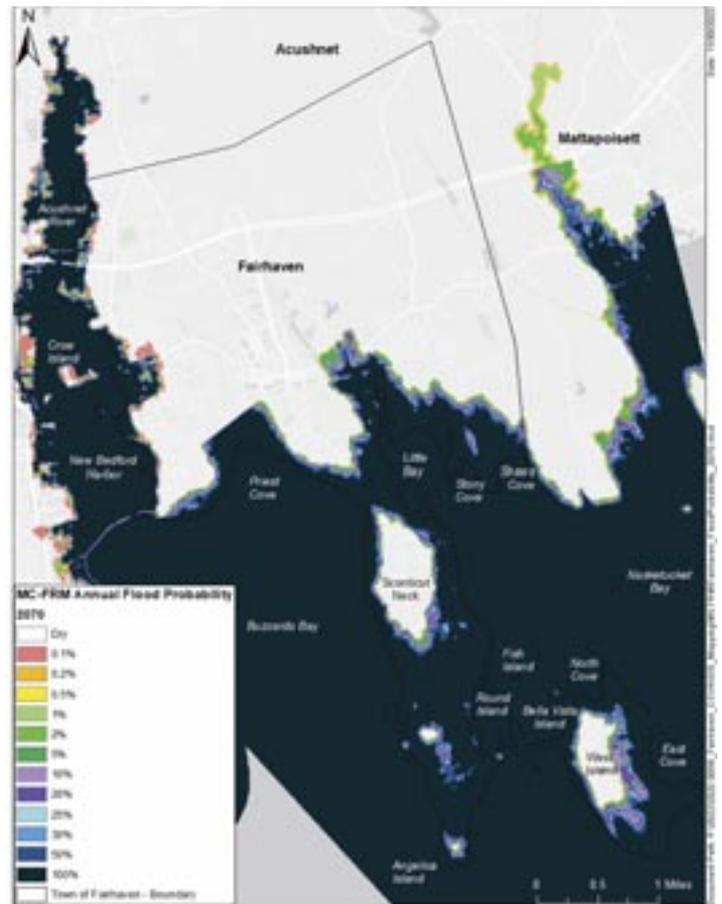
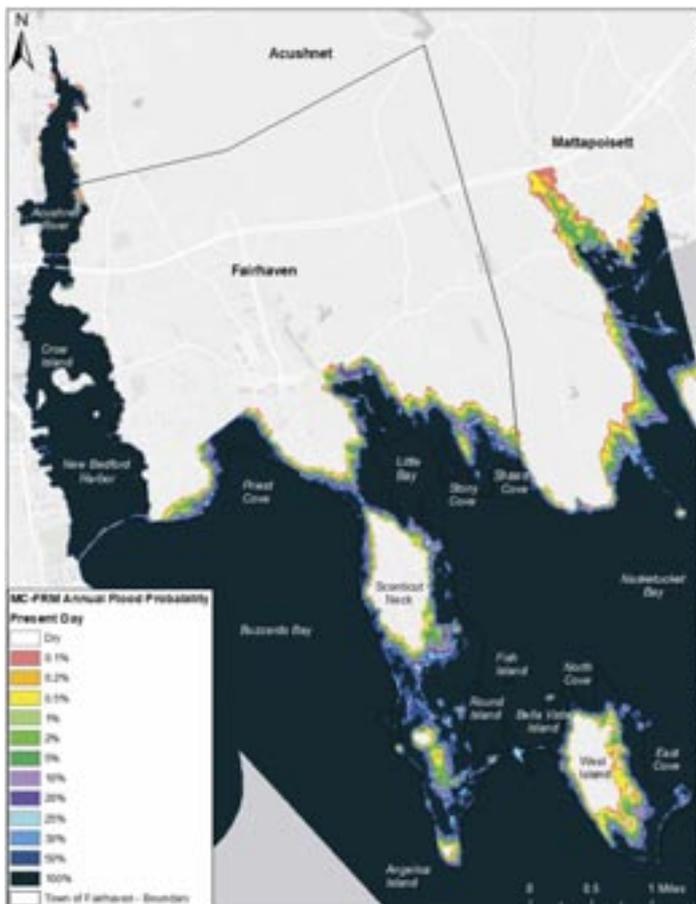


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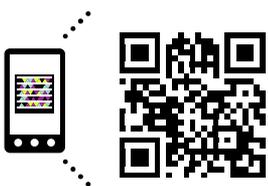
Volume 18, Issue 8 • February 16, 2023

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

Will you soon be under water?



LEFT: This present day map shows the probability of flooding in Fairhaven now during storms, with much of the coastline in all parts of town in the 10 to 20% chance range. RIGHT: This map shows the probability of flooding in Fairhaven in the year 2070 based on a 4.5 foot sea level rise scenario, which is a worst case scenario, and dramatically pushes back the land compared to the present day map. See story on page 12. Maps courtesy of Woods Hole Group.



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First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

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

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

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

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

Wow, the Frankie column hit 100 this week. That is quite the accomplishment. That's a little more than two years of writing nearly every week (we publish 48 issues/year).

Thank you, Frankie. Our readers really enjoy your advice. Keep on writing!

Well, the election in Fairhaven might have a few sparks. Nothing for Select Board, but Planning and School Committee both have contested races. See page 3 for details.

I have no clue if those races will be feisty or not. But we'll keep you informed.

Our cover story is something that has been on the minds of anyone who is anywhere near the tides at any time of year. If you've been driving by the shore in the last decade or two, you have probably noticed that the tides are making it to the road a lot more often.

The town is embarking on an effort to identify those places and put in a plan to mitigate the effects of rising sea levels (see page 12). There will be at least one more meeting for the public to weigh in, so stay tuned.

Our own Fairhaven TV/Cable Access crew won two of the awards they were nominated for (see page 14). They are quite the creative bunch, and they are having lots of fun. All the pieces are available online, too, so you don't have to feel left out.

There's lots of other stuff in here, of course, including quite the uptick in events/happenings. Things are picking up.

Be sure to notice who our advertisers are as you thumb through. Let them know you saw their ads in the *Neighb News*.

Until next week then... see ya,

Glory to Ukraine!
Glory to the Heroes!




Publisher Beth David with Charlie, aka Evil Dog

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Candidate field pretty much set in Fairhaven

By Beth David
Editor

It looks like most incumbents will sail to victory this year in the Fairhaven elections this April. Only the School Committee and Planning Board have challengers. Candidates do, however, have until March 1 to withdraw papers, so there may be even fewer contested races if someone decides to pull out.

In the Select Board race only incumbents Charles K. Murphy, Sr. and Keith Silvia will be on the ballot, with two seats up for election.

For School Committee, long time member and chairperson Pam Kuechler did not pull papers to run again. Two seats are up on that board, with incumbent Brian Monroe running for his seat again, and three newbies to elected office also running: Laura E. Gardner, Stephanie Pickup, and Brendalee Smith.

The Board of Public Works will not see a contest, with two seats up for election. Incumbent Brian Wotton, who is the chairperson will be on the ballot; and Daniel Lopes will also be on the ballot. Travis Raposa, who was

appointed to the board, did not take out papers.

Planning Board has three candidates for two seats, with incumbent and long time board member Wayne Hayward running for his seat; and two newbies also running, Patrick Carr and Ruy Da Silva. Long time member Rene Fleurent did not take out papers.

The Board of Health will see a new face, with Justine Frezza the only person running for one seat. Incumbent Mike Ristuccia did not take out papers for his seat.

Other races on the ballot include: Commissioner of Trust Funds, with incumbent Louise M. Ponte running for re-election unopposed; and Housing Authority, with incumbent Carol Alfonso running for re-election unopposed.

Precincts will also choose their Town Meeting representatives. All six precincts have 23-25 seats up for re-election and several other vacant seats.

Fairhaven's election will be on Monday, 4/3. Polls will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. All precincts vote at

the Fairhaven Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Avenue.

Voter registration deadline is March 27. Vote by mail application deadline is March 27. All Absentee/Vote By Mail ballots returned by mail, in person, or by drop box must be received in the Town Clerk's Office by 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Voters who will not be in town on the day of the election may vote via In-Person Absentee Ballot in the Town Clerk's office until noon on Friday, March 31, 2023.

You may register to vote any day from 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, at the Town Clerk's office in Town Hall, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven. Mail-in Voter Registration Forms are available at the Town Clerk's Office, the Millicent Library and State and Federal offices.

Vote By Mail application postcards will be mailed out by the Secretary of State to all registered voters who have not already filed an Absentee Ballot Application for the 2023 election year.

Call the Town Clerk's office, 508-979-4023, Ext. 3, with questions.

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Making a plug for electric school buses

Wendy Drumm and the Fairhaven Sustainability Committee

Ever had a school bus growling in front of your house, belching diesel?

Well, good news. Goodbye nasty diesel — eventually kids will ride healthy, energy friendly, quiet electric school buses.

Electric School buses are being integrated into fleets across America, including New Bedford and Fall River which got their first round of Federal Funding.

School buses are the transportation mode of choice by about a third of school-aged kids, with more than 50 million trips per day

Today most school buses are diesel powered. Exhaust from buses contributes to air quality problems and has a negative impact on human health, especially for children, who have a faster breathing rate than adults, and whose lungs are not fully developed. Respiratory disease, heart disease, cancer and physical problems can harm a student's cognitive development, affecting test scores.

Students from low-income families

are particularly vulnerable since 60% ride a bus to school compared to 45% of students from higher income families. (World Resources Institute: electric school bus initiative.)

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides \$5 Billion over the next 5 years (FY22-26) to clean many of the nearly 500,000 national school buses, and infrastructure assistance. There are Massachusetts, and Eversource new EV utility funds available. Cleaner electric bus replacements will produce zero tail pipe emissions. The result is cleaner air on the bus, in bus loading areas, less noise and safer breathing where they operate. (EPA October 2022). Plus, we benefit from reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Driver feedback indicates that a quiet interior is actually calming for the children.

Electric Bus maintenance costs are about half those of diesel. For example, less brake wear due to regenerative braking and no engine or exhaust system maintenance. (EPA)

However new electric buses cost significantly more, need regular charging (2-8 hours) and when

needed a new battery is very expensive. Major efforts are being made on processes to recycle batteries.

Amy McGuire from Highland Electric Fleets in Beverly, a leader in public-private partnerships, relates how Highland is taking New Bedford, Fall River and other towns through the process of conversion: "Highland conveniently provides full service to transition a fleet. This is a journey that takes about 12-24 months to being in operation. From planning to funding awarded, to setting up infrastructure and operations plans, to charging infrastructure, to testing to training to fleet deployment. And 24/7 service."

Robert Espindola, (Fairhaven Select Board) said, "I support the move to EV that the government is providing incentives for...if the conditions are right for Fairhaven."

There are now about 13,000 committed electric school buses in 38 states. Our community values student and community health. There is a good economic argument for town

BUSES: cont'd on page 18



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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Black History talk

During Black History Month, the Friends of the Millicent Library is presenting informal talks and discussions about Black people in Massachusetts and Rhode Island who changed history. We will talk about the realities of northern slavery and the challenges that continued after emancipation. The conversations will be led by Beth Luey, a Fairhaven resident who has written about these fascinating historical figures. The talks will begin at 6:30 and last about an hour, at the Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven, in the auditorium (use Walnut Street entrance).

- **Wednesday, Feb. 22:** Samuel Harrison. Born free in Philadelphia in 1818, Harrison became a shoemaker and minister in Pittsfield. In 1863, he became the chaplain of the Massachusetts Fifty-Fourth Regiment, and the symbol for equal pay for Black soldiers.

Annual Memorial Service

As we memorialize those whose lives have touched ours and passed in 2022, we remember, the special gifts they have shared with us.

Fri., 2/17, at 2 p.m., Alden Court, 389 Alden Road, Fairhaven, MA. 02719

Light refreshments will be provided following the service. We sincerely request that you RSVP for this event. To RSVP or if you have any questions relating to this Remembrance Service, please call Sharon Jensen, Alden Court Activities Director, before February 13th at (508) 642-6254.

Blood Drive

Mon., 2/20, 1:30-6:30 p.m., Fairhaven Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Ave. (near Stop & Shop). Call Fhvn Rec for more information, 508-993-9269

Spirit Medium

Fairhaven Rotary presents Spirit Medium Gallery Night. Three mediums will be in attendance: Judy Ramos, Megan Allaire, Heather Marshall.

Join us on Fri., 2/17, from 6-11 p.m., at Traveler's Ale House, 111 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven. Ticket

donation: \$50 each. Free hors d'oeuvres, cash bar.

Contact Jeannine Lopes for tickets, 774-628-6856, or ruby0918@comcast.net

Black History Event

The Fairhaven Belonging Committee invites you to come together and celebrate Black History Month, Thurs., 2/23, 5-7 p.m., at the Fairhaven Council on Aging/Senior Center, 229 Huttleston Ave. (next to Stop & Shop).

Join us as we honor Dr. Jibreel Khazan with a Proclamation. Learn about the NAACP from New Bedford Chapter President Renee Ledbetter and Atty. David Gomes. Listen to NAACP goals and consider how to support them. Stay for the community gathering and light refreshments.

Let's Celebrate Together

End Cash Bail

On Thursday, February 23rd at 7:00 PM, South Coast Progressive Voices (SCPV) will host an online presentation by The Massachusetts Bail Fund and The FANG Collective, *On State-Sanctioned Ransom: Ending Cash Bail and Pre-Trial Detention*. The presentation will examine how bail and pre-trial detention operate in the Massachusetts court system; how bail funds help those without resources to meet bail requirements; efforts by The Massachusetts Bail Fund and The FANG Collective to eliminate cash bail and pre-trial detention; and action steps for those wishing to become more involved.

If you are interested in attending this online meeting, please register at <https://tinyurl.com/cash-bail>.

South Coast Progressive Voices is an occasional speaker series sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven. SCPV features topics in fields of broad public interest from local, regional and national perspectives. SCPV presentations are FREE and OPEN to the public.

The Massachusetts Bail Fund (<https://www.massbailfund.org>) pays bail in Massachusetts so that low-income people can stay free while they work towards resolving their case, allowing individuals, families, and communities to stay productive,

together, and stable. The Mass. Bail Fund is committed to the harm reduction of freeing individuals serving pre-trial sentences, and to abolishing pre-trial detention and supervision in the long-term.

Founded in 2014, The FANG Collective (<https://thefangcollective.org>) leads direct action campaigns to create a more just world, working to bring communities together to enact powerful change. FANG organizes to build a decolonized world free of prisons and police, where systems of oppression are uprooted and healed, while taking action to avert the worst impacts of climate change. FANG believes in a diversity of nonviolent tactics from community organizing and coalition building to escalated direct action.

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven (<https://uufairhaven.org>) is committed to the pursuit of religious freedom and to building a world that is just, peaceable and sustainable.

Bask Celebrates Five Years

Bask, Inc. ("Bask"), a locally owned cannabis dispensary in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, is set to celebrate its 5th anniversary at its Fairhaven location, 2 Pequod Road. On February 18th, Bask will have pop-ups from vendors, exclusive swag items, and different other offerings to entertain the crowd.

Visit www.cometobask.com

Millicent Events

The following events will be held at the Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven. Accessible. To register, or learn more call the library at 508-992-5342, email athiel@sailsinc.org, or visit <http://www.millicentlibrary.org/events>

- Tues., 2/21, 9:30 to 10:30am. Baby and Toddler Storytime. Bond with your baby over books! Each weekly Baby Storytime includes Early Literacy fun with board books, songs, play, and lots of love. Recommended for ages 0-36 months.

- Tues., 2/21, 1:00 to 5:00pm. Build with Cardboard. Let's build with cardboard! Use our materials and

cont'd next page

STILL IN TOWN

your imagination. Build something to take home, or help construct a collaborative cardboard city! Kids of all ages are welcome to attend. Registration is not required. Drop in anytime between 1-5pm.

- Wed., 2/22, 10:30 to 11:30am, Family Storytime. Read, sing, and get up and move, and make crafts together at this weekly storytime session. For families, recommended for kids age 3+. Siblings are welcome!
- Wed., 2/22, 2:00 to 3:00pm,

Houseplants 101. The Millicent Library & Fairhaven Sustainability Committee present: Houseplants 101 with Crystal Brinson, owner of Star Studio! Crystal will discuss houseplant care and propagation methods. All attendees will take home a cutting! Registration required, limited to 25 attendees.

- Thurs., 2/23, 2:00 to 4:00pm. Crafternoon. Weekly crafts for all ages and skill levels. Young Children should be accompanied

and assisted by an adult. No registration required, drop in anytime between 2-4.

- Friday February 24, at 11am. Weave Your Own Bookmark. Learn to weave by hand! Fabric artist and instructor Lisa Elliott will teach you how to weave using a simple wooden loom. Design, create, and keep the bookmark you make in this program! For ages 8+. Registration is required, limited to 12 attendees.

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

RJD Free for Fhvn

The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum is offering free admission to current residents of Fairhaven for the month of February. Upon arrival, visitors may show a piece of recent mail or other ID showing their address as proof of residency. The historic house, now the site of The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum, was built in 1834 for whaling merchant William Rotch Jr. This Greek Revival mansion, located on a full city block of formal gardens, is a National Historic Landmark, one of only 2,500 in the nation. The period rooms of the house chronicle 150 years of the economic and social evolution of the City of New Bedford, as reflected in the residencies of the Rotch, Jones, and Duff families and their domestic staff. The Museum is located at 396 County Street, New Bedford. It is open Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and from Memorial Day through Indigenous Peoples' Day, Sunday, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to visit www.rjdmuseum.org to book their Museum visit and to review the most current information.

Whaling Park

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park is proud to offer a month of events in recognition of Black History Month through the end of the month. All events are open to the public and free of charge. Although all the events will take place at the Visitor Center at 33 William St, New Bedford, MA 02740, two events will be hosted online and require pre-registration, and two will be hosted in the Corson Theater of the visitor center. Remaining dates are.

- Sat., 2/18, at 2:00 PM, register for this online presentation *The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass in New Bedford: A conversation between Abby Almy, one of New Bedford's 1850s Ladies and Frederick*. Join with us as we view a prerecorded conversation between Frederick Douglass (Nathan Richardson) and his New Bedford neighbor Abby Almy (Judy Roderiques). Douglass and Almy talk about life in New Bedford, and the Anti-Slavery and Women's Movements of the day. Following the pre-recorded presentation, Mr. Douglass and Mrs. Almy will be available for an online LIVE Q & A.

- Sat. 2/25, at 2:00 PM, join us in the Corson Theater for *Black Entrepreneurship Then and Now* as we pay homage to three of New Bedford's own 18th and 19th Century entrepreneurs: Paul Cuffe, Mary "Polly" Johnson, and Lewis Temple. From today, we will highlight Black Entrepreneurship in New Bedford with talks/presentations from Samia Walker, Executive Director, E For All SouthCoast; Lonelle Walker, Executive Director, Doers Lab NB; and Jaden Reyes, Brown Suga Stationery.

For more information, call 508-996-4095, visit nps.gov/NEBE or follow the park's social media accounts.

Scholarship

The Greater New Bedford Garden Club is offering two \$1,500 scholarships to residents of the Greater New Bedford area who are high school seniors graduating in June and who are planning to attend a four year college and who are planning to pursue a degree in

horticulture, land scape design, agriculture, forestry, conservation or environmental science.

The goals of the New Bedford Garden Club are to offer educational and inspirational programs and to encourage the advancement of gardening, flower arranging, horticulture, the beautification of the community and the conservation of natural resources. Scholarships are given out each year as a way to support and encourage these objectives.

Applications are available at high school guidance offices and must be postmarked by April 1,2023.

SAVE THE DATE:

Sacagawea's Song

The New Bedford Ballet is hosting its annual March Youth Ballet Performance on Sunday, March 5 at the NBB Community Theatre, 2459 Purchase Street in New Bedford. Performances of *Sacagawea's Song* by the New Bedford Youth Ballet will be at 1:00 pm and 2:00 pm. All proceeds will benefit New Bedford Ballet, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Tickets: Adults \$15, Seniors, Students, and Children \$10

Tickets may be purchased at www.newbedfordballet.org. For more information, call New Bedford Ballet at 508-993-1387.

Sacagawea's Song is an original historical ballet created and choreographed by New Bedford Ballet's artistic director, Rebecca Waskiel-Marchesseault. This unique, family-oriented ballet describes the story of Sacagawea, the Native American woman who served as interpreter and guide on the historic Lewis and Clark expedition across the western United States.

HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

At Acushnet COA

The following events are being held at the Acushnet Council on Aging, 59 1/2 So. Main St. For more info, call 508-998-0280.

- Get tickets now for MGM Casino & Live Musical Theater Day. One day only: Sat., 4/15, \$135 per person. Price includes gaming at MGM, Banquet buffet on property, admission to Majestic Theater, complimentary concession coupon, luxury transportation, all tax and service charges. See Buddy, the Buddy Holly Story, featuring more than 20 of Buddy Holly's greatest hits. For more info, contact Heather Chew, 508-998-0280, hchew@acushnet.ma.us

Photography Exhibit

The Mattapoisett Free Public Library Artist Series presents an exhibit from February 15 - March 14 called Photography by John Oldham: From the Streets of Boston to the Cannons of Fort Phoenix.

Local resident Oldham is a History Teacher at Old Colony Regional Vocational High School in Rochester. He has been taking photos and learning the art of photography for just one year. His passions include landscapes, lifestyles, portraits, and a love for street photography in Boston and other cities.

Concert

Concerts at the Point is pleased to announce the third concert in its 26th annual concert series. This season's concerts will be held, once again, at the Westport Point United Methodist Church, located at 1912 Main Road, Westport Point, MA. The building is handicapped accessible, with room for social distancing. Street parking is abundant.

Ticket prices are \$30 for adults, \$10 for students. For tickets, please visit concertsatthepoint.org.

Featuring Dover Quartet, Sunday, February 19, at 3PM

Named one of the greatest string quartets of the last 100 years by BBC Music Magazine, the GRAMMY® nominated Dover Quartet has followed a "practically meteoric" (Strings) trajectory to become one of the most in-demand chamber

ensembles in the world.

Concerts at the Point is a non-profit corporation, run by volunteers and supported by generous contributions from foundations, businesses, and individual donors.

Staycation

Hot Chocolate Hike

During school vacation week, don't get stuck indoors! Mattapoisett Land Trust is offering a Hot Chocolate Hike on Monday February 20th at 10am. Meet at the Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. Foundation on Angelica Ave. for a short hike followed by hot chocolate and a campfire. All are welcome to join. Dress for the weather and wear your boots, it may be wet out there!

Visit <https://mattlandtrust.org/>

Scavenger Hunt

For even more family fun during school vacation, try out MLT's Staycation Scavenger Hunts. See the Family Activities page on the MLT website to download the instructions and checklists for the Dunseith Gardens and the Dexter "Tub" Mill scavenger hunts. Good luck! Remember to post your photos with #MLTscavengerhunt so we see how well you do!

Visit <https://mattlandtrust.org/>

NE Boat Show

Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, Wed.-Sun., Feb. 15-19, Noon to 8 p.m. Wed.-Fri.; noon to 6 on Saturday; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday. Featuring Fred's Shed/DIY solutions for your boat; art of casting class; saltwater fishing seminars; boating simulator; paddlesports experience, on-water demos, and much more.

Tickets: \$20, children under 12 free with paid adult. For tickets and more information, visit <https://www.newenglandboatshow.com/>

Little League Talk

Play Ball !!! Sat., 2/25, 2 p.m. at Westport Free Public Library, 408 Old County Road, Westport MA

In 1964, a team of Westport Little League All-Stars came together and did something that Westport Little Leaguers had not done before, or since. Through grit, determination, and of course a bit of luck, these mostly 12 year olds became Massachusetts Little League State

Champions. The team included Carl Zajac, Jim Ford, Karl Kozak, John White, Norman Tremblay, Bob Wood, John Sousa, Billy Jalbert, David Azevedo, Manny Cabral, Steve Pettey, Bruce "Pee Wee" Letourneau, Paul Eastwood, Joe Correiro and Ronnie Briere. Join Al Lees to hear the story from those who were there, the Boys of Summer from that team.

Suggested donation \$5.

Art Contest

Contest for Kids K-12: Entries Due Monday, April 24, 2023. Teachers: Celebrate Endangered Species Day (May 19) by having your classroom participate in the 2023 Marine Endangered Species Art Contest!

Endangered and threatened species need our help. Students' artwork will showcase their knowledge and commitment to protecting these animals. While we are located in the New England and the mid-Atlantic United States, we invite participants from anywhere in the world to submit entries!

Artwork should highlight one or more marine endangered or threatened species from the New England/Mid-Atlantic region of the United States (visit <https://tinyurl.com/2p8mzxk6>). Text highlighting why the animals are important and what people can do to protect them may also be included. Potential themes may vary by age. Some ideas include animals in their natural habitat, sharing the shore and sea, threats to the species, or how we can help them recover. Another possible theme this year is the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act.

Get the details on entry requirements, entry submissions, prizes, and more at <https://tinyurl.com/ys6auzbh>. Good luck!

Contact us at nmfs.gar.es-art-contest@noaa.gov.

Acushnet Boy Fights Rare Cancer

Taylor and Danielle Guillemette received the devastating news that their 7-year-old son Porter was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor that is very difficult to treat.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/yckv557k> to learn more and to donate.

Recipe of the Week

Smothered Pork Chops

- 4 thick, bone-in pork chops
- Kosher salt
- Freshly ground pepper
- 1 c. all-purpose flour
- 2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/4 tsp. chili powder
- 1/4 c. plus 3 tbsps vegetable or canola oil, divided
- 2 med. yellow onions, thinly sliced
- 2 tbsps butter
- 1 1/2 c. low-sodium chicken broth
- 1/4 c. heavy cream
- Chopped fresh parsley, for garnish

Season pork chops all over with salt and pepper.

In a shallow dish, mix together flour with garlic powder and chili powder. Coat pork chops in flour, shaking off excess. Reserve 2 tablespoons seasoned flour.

In a large, heavy skillet over medium heat, heat 1/4 cup oil until shimmering. In batches, cook pork chops until golden, 4-5 minutes per side. Transfer to plate. Wipe out skillet.

Reduce heat to medium low, pour in remaining oil, and add onions. Season with more salt and pepper and cook until very soft and slightly caramelized, 15-20 minutes. Add butter and let melt, then sprinkle in reserved flour. Cook until flour is no longer raw, about a minute. Stir in chicken broth and heavy cream and bring to a simmer, until sauce begins to thicken, about 5 minutes.

Return pork chops to skillet and cook until pork is cooked through, about 10 minutes more.

Garnish with parsley and serve immediately.

From delish.com

Dear Frankie



Welcome to our 100th column! Thank you so much for reading. Frankie really appreciates it

Paw In Your Mouth

Dear Frankie, Mason is my best friend. We met at the park last year. The

minute we started barking and yapping, I knew we would be friends forever.

Mason is an absolute hoot and can make you laugh so hard that you think your sides will split. She also is a wonderful and caring friend.

Last week we were talking about friends from our old neighborhoods. I told her about Cooper and said he was the funniest dog I had ever met. Mason seemed upset.

When I asked her what was wrong, she said, "I thought I was the funniest dog you ever met."

I told her I thought she was funny, but no one could top her when it came to being a kind and thoughtful friend. Then she stomped off and hasn't talked to me for two weeks. I don't get why I'm in the doghouse.

Rocko

Dear Rocko,

Are you clueless? You hurt her feelings. You compared her ability to

make people laugh to Cooper's, and she came out on the short end of the stick.

Even though you complimented her other rewarding qualities, all she could hear was that you thought Cooper was funnier.

Put yourself in her snow boots. Would you like to have an exceptional talent compared to someone else's and then be told they were more talented? Of course not!

You messed up and need to make amends. How about getting a tee shirt that says, I'm a Big Mouth Jerk, and wearing it to the park? Then walk over to Mason and say I'm wearing this to show you I know I was a jerk, and what I said was thoughtless and hurtful. I'm sorry and promise never to do it again. Can you forgive me?

Mason, being who she is, will probably accept your apology. Then thank your lucky stars she gave you a chance to do right by her in the future.

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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Don't forget to bring your flashlight & camera for pictures with the Easter Bunny. In the event of rain, the event will be held indoors at the Center.

Date: March 31st Time: 7:30PM
Place: Recreation Center

Ages: 10 and under \$7 due at registration

Deadline to register is March 28 Tuesday. No late registrations will be accepted. No walk-ins will be allowed on the night of the event.

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Fairhaven Council on Aging

Join Us for Lunch

We serve lunch every weekday at 11:30 a.m. To schedule a lunch, call the day before by 10 a.m. Voluntary donation of \$2. To let us know you want to join us, and to arrange for a ride, call 508-979-4029.

Technology Classes

The Fairhaven Senior Center will host a series of technology classes from basic/novice to expert. All classes will be 90 minutes long, Monday and Wednesday only. Each class will be rated as to how much computer skill the participant should have: (maximum number of participants 10) All participants must preregister for the classes they want to take by either the phone or at the main desk. Next classes:

- Basics of Computer Word Processing with Google: Feb. 27: Part 1: (prerequisites) have a working account in Google Gmail and know their password) Computer Skills: (1-2): Introduction (the basics) to Computer Word Processing with Google Part 1). March 1, part 2: Introduction to Computer Word Processing with Microsoft. The class will create a free Microsoft account, Part Two on March 1.

Mall Trips

Reservations accepted for mall trips at beginning the 15th of the prior month. There is a \$6 charge unless otherwise noted. The van leaves the Fairhaven Senior Center promptly at 9

a.m.: 2/22, Hyannis Mall, Xmas Shop, Trader Joe's & Whole Foods; 3/1, Tiverton Casino; 3/8, Warwick Mall.

Memory Cafe

A Memory Cafe is a gathering that individuals with early to moderate Alzheimer's or other memory loss and their care partner, family or friends can attend in a safe, supportive and engaging environment. It's a time and place where everyone can interact, find support, establish friendships and share concerns without feeling embarrassed or misunderstood. The Cafe provides a relaxed atmosphere that focuses on strengths and meeting new people.

Please call to reserve by Feb. 21. Lunch will be hot dogs. Entertainment will be Judy and Barry DeRossi. Call 508-979-4029. Call if you are interested in sponsoring a future Memory Cafe.

Tax Prep Assistance

The AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program provides free tax preparation and filing services for low and moderate income seniors. By appointment only. Call 508-979-4029.

Blood Drive

Mon., 2/20, 1:30-6:30 p.m., Fairhaven Recreation Center, (next to Sr. Ctr). Call 508-993-9269.

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Alden Court puts renewable energy front and center

Press Release

Located in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, the Alden Court Nursing Care & Rehabilitation Center is one of the first nursing homes in Massachusetts to make the switch to sustainable energy. Two Smartflowers bloom at the front of the nursing home, a symbol of Alden Court's active effort to focus on its sustainability initiatives and to pursue a clean energy future. The Smartflowers were installed in early 2020 and are one of the many sources of renewable energy at the nursing home.

The Smartflowers are a part of Alden Court's "Go Green Initiative", an active effort to focus on sustainable energy through the use of solar energy, geothermal energy, and EV charging. Thanks to these efforts, there are a total of 900 solar panels

across the nursing home!

In fact, the initial Smartflower installation, implemented by local dealer Energy Management, Inc. (EMI), lead to EMI obtaining an additional contract to provide Alden Court with rooftop solar panels and a "Solar Canopy" in the car park. Alongside multiple EV charging stations, the solar power that Alden Court produces manages to offset approximately 73% of its annual power consumption.



ABOVE: Brad Truini, Executive Director of Alden Court Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Fairhaven, MA, reaches up and touches one of two Smartflowers on the grounds, which provide solar energy to the facility. TOP: Two Smartflowers are turned towards the sun on the grounds of Alden Court. *Submitted photos.*

Alden Court's Executive Director, Brad Truini, remarked, "The sculptural form and slow kinetic motion of the Smartflowers resulted in a lot of interest and questions from our residents and visitors. Our commitment to environmental care, in addition to best-in-class patient care, instills pride and positive emotions in our staff, patients and families. Some of our residents

even take their grandchildren outside to watch the solar panels of the Smartflower open and track the sun across the sky. Our positive experience with the Smartflower installation prompted us to consult Energy Management, Inc. on other sustainability measures we could take to effect further energy cost savings and emission reductions. Together, we implemented additional solar systems and EV chargers, making us one of the leading sustainable health care facilities in Massachusetts."

An information kiosk detailing Alden Court's renewable energy measures will soon be joining the Smartflowers, making the senior care facility's dedication to enhancing energy security, mitigating climate change, and improving health even clearer to the community.

Learn more about Alden Court Nursing Care & Rehabilitation Center at www.aldecourt nursing.com

Want to read up on other Smartflower installations? Visit <https://smartflower.com/blog>



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Officials look at flooding now and in the future

By Beth David
Editor

Fairhaven officials, consultants, and state officials held a public meeting on Wednesday, 2/8/22, to discuss the growing threat of flooding along the coast during storms. The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) meeting allowed residents to voice their concerns and tell officials where the flooding is getting worse in their neighborhoods. The project is in the information gathering stage to identify critical infrastructure that may need to be raised or moved to prepare for climate change.

Fairhaven Town Planner Paul Foley told the group of about 40 that the maps will “shock” them, showing how land along the coast will be swallowed up by rising seas.

Conor Ofsthun, Coastal Scientist at the Woods Hole Group, the town’s consultant, told residents that the primary goal for the evening was to get more feedback from them.

“You guys live here,” said Mr. Ofsthun. “You know what you see every day.”

The project will identify future flooding scenarios and overlay the maps with public infrastructure, said Mr. Ofsthun, to see what assets are vulnerable and identify priorities.

The project at this point, he said, is assessing risks for critical infrastructure. Then the project will create an adaptation plan.

Mr. Ofsthun said the planning is for



a 4.5 foot sea level rise, meaning the high tide mark and low tide marks will be 4.5 feet higher than they are now. He said they will plan for more than they need.

Mr. Ofsthun showed pictures from the December 23, 2022, storm that took many by surprise with its widespread damage from coastal flooding.

Gary Lavalette, a member of the Conservation Commission, said there is at least one house in Fairhaven that had 60 feet of frontage with a lawn that needed cutting, and now the water is under the house. He said the owners had to install a wooden platform to get into the house.

Najwa Kale, who owns a house on stilts on Goulart Memorial Drive, said they had grass in front of the house,

but now it is all water.

“We got affected really really bad, ours and other lots in that stretch of beach,” she said of the 12/23 storm. “Like, really bad.”

She said the storm “came out of nowhere,” so homeowners had no time to prepare. She asked when a state of emergency gets declared so they can file a claim.

Courtney Rocha, MVP Regional Coordinator, said the damage has to reach a certain amount.

Harbormaster Tim Cox explained the process, but noted that the storm was not considered major. The damage would have to be much worse for the fund to be opened up.

“They call this a minor storm,” he said. “I get it. The coastline took a beating, but it was just kind of a minor storm.”

People gasped and started arguing with him about how much damage their homes sustained.

Mr. Cox said he was out in the storm all night and knew how bad it was.

“I’m not here to argue,” said Mr. Cox. “It’s not my job to declare a state of emergency. But I’m telling you it wasn’t even thought about.”

Mr. Lavalette said the unnamed storm caused more damage than Hurricane Bob on seawalls and beach. He said the West Island Town Beach lost 15 feet of beach.

He said it was “amazing” how many people were affected by a storm that was not even a hurricane.

“And this was just a puff of wind,” said Mr. Lavalette, adding that if it had been a “real hurricane,” many of the properties would not exist at all.



TOP: In this screen shot from the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness meeting in Fairhaven on 2/8/23, four photos show flooding from the December 23, 2022 storm and tide surge. ABOVE: Fairhaven residents look at flood maps to mark places that flood during storms. Photo by Beth David.

MVP: cont’d next page

MVP: cont'd from previous page

Mr. Foley said that was the reason for looking at it all, so they can at least move critical infrastructure.

Karen Isherwood, Vice-Chair of the ConCom, said this was “our new future” and the town had to figure out how to protect the coastline.

She said the Mass. Coastal Flood Risk Model (MC-FRM) had tools online for people to see how their specific properties will fare in the future.

The group also discussed the Hurricane Barrier and the properties affected by being inside the protection of it, and those outside.

Mr. Cox noted that the HB itself is getting old. They are having trouble finding parts, so they avoid closing it if possible.

Mr. Cox also noted that the New Bedford of the harbor is not affected as much by storm surge because the piers are so high.

Fairhaven, on the other hand (and on the other side of the harbor) has a lot of low lying houses.

Mr. Ofsthun also talked a bit about marshes, saying “wetlands are a valuable asset to the town.”

He showed four maps showing loss of wetlands in the coming decades, detailing how many acres of wetlands will be converted to transitional marsh, high marsh, and tidal flats.

By the year 2070, there could be “dramatic changes to the wetland resources in town,” said Mr. Ofsthun.

The maps show that 471 acres “want to convert” to wetlands by 2070; transitional marsh habitat expands by 114 acres; high marsh habitat reduces by 515 acres; low marsh habitat expands up until the year 2050, then begins to convert to tidal flats; tidal flats expand by 501 acres.

Mr. Lavalette suggested that the town release the information in the town’s emergency preparedness plan, so residents will understand that the town is prepared.

“It’s a whole thick book,” he said.

Mr. Cox explained that it contains sensitive information and that is why it has not been released to the public.

Mr. Lavalette said that a general overview of the protocol would make people feel comfortable knowing that

the low lying areas have already been talked about.

Officials also had a survey available asking residents to detail when they experienced coastal flooding, how far away it was from their homes, in their homes, etc. The survey also asks residents to note their biggest concern related to coastal flooding.

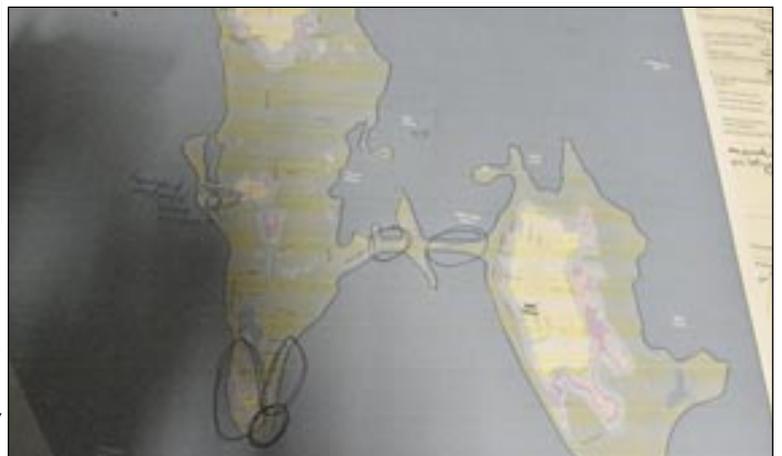
To get the survey, contact Mr. Foley in the Planning Office, 508-979-4082, Ext. 9.

The group then headed to the two big maps on the table in the Town Hall banquet room, one with present day flood zone probabilities (see cover) and one with 2070 projected zones.

Mr. Ofsthun asked residents to circle on the maps the places they have seen flooding.

The next meeting will be held sometime in April. The topic will include what to do with critical infrastructure, evacuation routes, utilities.

The meeting and presentation are available on at FairhavenTV.com, (Government Access-Public Hearings)



Water floods a yard, and debris from a seawall is strewn about a property on Wilbur's Point in Fairhaven after the 12/23/22 storm. *Photo courtesy of Stephen Pietruska, Jr.* ABOVE RIGHT: A flood map of Wilbur's Point, Goulart Memorial Drive, and West Island shows the present day flood areas, and a couple of areas that regularly flood marked off by residents during the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness meeting in Fairhaven on 2/8/23. RIGHT: The same map showing flood areas in 2070. *Photos by Beth David.*

Fairhaven TV crew accepts awards

Press Release

On January 25th, Fairhaven TV won two Massachusetts Creator Awards from MassAccess. The Massachusetts Creator Awards recognizes outstanding work in television and media within the state of Massachusetts. Awards are judged by third party evaluators who are top media professionals in the field. All entries are judged based on strict criteria in order to ensure the most outstanding productions are recognized and honored.

Fairhaven TV won the premier award, Best Production Value, for "Hometown Haunts: The Caretaker at Rogers School". A sequel to last year's Hometown Haunts (which also won Best Production Value in Mass Access' 2022 Awards), this short Ghost Hunters-esque mockumentary film was designed to entertain children attending FTV's Haunted Halloween Party this past October.

"Built over a century ago...abandoned for a decade...and investigated for one night Fairhaven TV's very own award-winning ghost hunters discover the truth of 'the

caretaker' who lived (and died) on the top floor of Fairhaven's beloved elementary school, Rogers School."

Fairhaven TV also won best Promotional Video for "Fairhaven TV's Home for the Holidays Parody Promos", which is a series of short promotional spots spoofing popular Holiday movies (Elf, Home Alone, National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, and A Christmas Story). These were created to promote FTV's Virtual Home for the Holidays Virtual Show in 2021.

Both winning pieces are available to watch on Fairhaven TV's website (www.FairhavenTV.com/Community



The Fairhaven TV team poses with one of their trophies at the Massachusetts Creator Awards banquet on January 25 at Laugh Boston comedy club, when the team won three of their four nominations, including Best Production Value for "Hometown Haunts: The Caretaker at Rogers School," a "Ghost Hunters-esque mockumentary" about the rumored ghost at the beloved, and now closed, elementary school. L-R: Todd Migliacci, Erick Sa, Derek Frates, Nick Doyle, Alyssa Botelho. Submitted photo.

Videos) and YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/@Fairhaven_TV).

Cable Access Director Derek Frates says, "The team was extremely excited to win two of the four

FTV: cont'd on page 18

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Sen. Montigny: Nero's Law delayed "without justification"

In response to the Department of Public Health's to delay Nero's Law for one year, state Sen. Mark Montigny sent a letter to DPH Commissioner Margret R. Cooke objecting to the delay.

Nero's Law, sponsored by Senator Montigny, was filed in response to the lack of proper medical care provided to K9 Nero in April 2018 when Sergeant Sean Gannon was tragically killed while serving a warrant. This Wednesday, February 15th marked the one year anniversary of the Nero's Law bill signing.

Sen. Montigny's letter follows in its entirety.

Dear Commissioner Cooke:

It has come to my attention that the Office of Emergency Medical Services published Administrative Requirement 2-270 on February 2, 2023, effectively delaying the implementation of EMS training requirements under Nero's Law. This one-year delay is not acceptable and will jeopardize the health and safety of our K9 officers without justification.

Nero's Law was enacted by the

Legislature and signed into law by the Governor in February 2022 in order to prevent the unnecessary and shameful lack of immediate treatment for K9 Nero following the brutal killing of his partner Sergeant Sean Gannon in April 2018. Too often, K9 officers are in harm's way as they serve and

Nero's Law was enacted by the Legislature and signed into law... in order to prevent the unnecessary and shameful lack of immediate treatment for K9 Nero following the brutal killing of his partner Sergeant Sean Gannon.

protect our communities. They deserve nothing less than the very best care should a medical emergency arise. Nero's Law will ensure this care is made available through trained EMS personnel. However, the recent decision by OEMS threatens this objective.

Under the current requirements,

an ambulance service must ensure that its certified EMTs successfully complete a minimum 3-hour training course. This is not an extraordinary requirement, and many providers and municipalities have been able to ensure its personnel are trained. In fact, Gillette Stadium recently hosted over 400 EMS personnel for training with the late Sergeant Gannon's mother Denise in attendance.

A request by some ambulance services to delay implementation of these basic training requirements is not enough to justify a delay. Many of these providers are for-profit companies who have had months to prepare for these training requirements. Permitting a last-minute delay is also unfair to the many providers and localities who have worked diligently to train their personnel prior to the original February 2023 deadline.

I urge the department to reconsider its decision and ensure that these training requirements are implemented within 90 days.

Sen. Mark Montigny

Second Bristol and Plymouth District

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REALTY

From our readers

President Biden Weak and Incompetent

Last week China flew a spy balloon over the continental United States. It loitered over our ballistic missile site in Montana and other strategic bases throughout our country gathering useful information. This wasn't just a spy balloon. I say it was a test just as much.

Once again Biden failed us furthering endangering us by his weakness and incompetence. There was ample warning of this balloon, the military was tracking this balloon since it left China. It flew over the Aleutian Islands, crossed into Alaska down into Canada, then into Montana hovering over our missile bases. Only when so many citizens and reporters made reports about it, Biden's administration couldn't dismiss it they had to recognize it. They could have shot it down long before it reached the continental United States.

It's just another example of Biden's weakness and incompetence. But what do you expect from Joe and Hunter Biden* and the rest of the Biden family. They are completely sold to China.

Hunter's laptop and Tony Bobulinski, who was a naval officer with top security clearance, provide irrefutable evidence to prove it. Tony Bobulinski had face-to-face meetings with both Joe and Hunter Biden. Joe Biden is repeatedly referred to as the Big Guy.

The Afghan debacle, the worst in American history, where we abandoned hundreds of Americans and Afghans who supported us, left \$80 billion in military equipment,

abandoned strategic air force base next to China, was a major factor in Putin's decision to invade Ukraine. We are not engaged in a brutal war where there is not way out. Tragically, this war has caused massive misery, death and destruction.

I don't like to use these examples as backdrop to make my point. However, I will because I believe it's necessary. The consequences of a president's decisions are life and death.

The contrast between President Trump and both Obama and Biden couldn't be starker. When Trump was president, America was both respected and feared. Why? It's simple. Because of his actions, that's why. Start with Syria. Syria's president Assad was warned by Obama not to use poisonous gas on civilians, he called it a red line. He used it anyway. Obama did nothing. When Trump was president, he used it, Trump launched missiles destroying their bases and killing the Russians who operated them.

The North Korean missiles crisis is another example. Many were wringing their hands and cowering while Kim Jong-un was developing his nuclear bombs and the missiles to deliver them. Trump confronted him by saying I have a bigger button than yours and mine works. he put two aircraft carriers off his coast. Kim backed down.

Trump tore up the Iran nuclear agreement which had no real controls or observation and imposed sanctions which curtailed their development. Trump rebuilt our military, it was sadly depleted when he got in office. Trump got NATO to pay its fair share.

The COVID crisis. Trump took decisive action. He knew it originated from China and an all probability the Wuhan lab. The Chinese stopped all incoming and outgoing domestic flights from Wuhan, but allowed all international flights, thereby infecting the world. Trump stopped all incoming flight from China back in January, 2019. He was called a racist by Nancy Pelosi and many others. He used the Defense Production Act to speed up the production of ventilators. He speeded up the development of COVID vaccines through his program Warp Speed.

With Trump it was America fist, with Biden and Democrats, it's America last. I say Biden is both an embarrassment and an endangerment to our country. Wake up America, your children's future is on the line.

John Pond, Fairhaven

**Editor's note: Hunter Biden is President Joseph Biden's son, who does not serve in the administration. It was the Trump administration that hired family members for White House jobs.*

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Public Hearings/Legal Notices

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

Acushnet Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals is hereby giving notice that a meeting will be held by the Board on Tuesday, March 7th, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. in the Town Hall Meeting Room located at 122 Main Street.

The following public hearing will be held

- Case #2023.03.07A** A case of Johnathan Thomson, of 91 Miller Street Middleboro, who is petitioning the Board for a 12-foot Variance for an addition located at 144 Hathaway Road. This request is being made under the provisions of Section 3.3.1 "E" (3) c.
- Case #2023.03.07B** A case of Taylor Martin, of Westport, who is petitioning the Board for Variances to demolish and reconstruct a single-family dwelling at 15 Katherine Street. This request is being made under the provisions of Section 3.3.1 "E" Development Standards.

*** Plans are available for public view in the Town Clerk's office, 130 Main St., Acushnet, during their normal business hours ***

FNN, 2/16/23, 2/23/23

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Bids for construction of the Millicent Library Sidewalk Improvement Project will be received by the Public Works Department, 5 Arsene Street in Fairhaven, Massachusetts until 10:00 a.m., March 9, 2023

at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and bids read aloud. Bids submitted after this time will not be accepted. The work involves the following major item(s): The Project consists of the removal and resetting of the brick sidewalks and granite curb, construction of wheel chair ramps, bituminous concrete patching, driveway aprons and sidewalk within the public right of way on Walnut Street and Williams Street at the Millicent Library. The work is estimated to cost \$160,000.00

Contract Documents may be viewed and downloaded as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file free of charge on or after Wednesday, February 15, 2023 at www.accentblueprints.com. Printed copies may be obtained for a fee by completing an order online or calling 978-362-8038 for each set. Completed orders may be picked up at the office of Accent Blueprints located at 99 Chelmsford Road, (Rear#13) North Billerica, MA 01862 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Printed copies may also be shipped to prospective bidders for an additional charge to cover handling and mailing fees. All payments for printing and shipping are non-refundable. To be added to the project plan holder's list to guarantee receipt of addenda, it is recommended interested bidders obtain the Contract Documents directly from Accent Blueprints. Interested bidders will be prompted to register an email address with Accent Blueprints to access the documents.

Each bidder must be prequalified in accordance with 720 CMR 5.00, "Prequalification of Contractors" by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Highway Division (MassDOT Highway Division) with the class of work as "Highway - Sidewalk and Curb" prior to

the award of the project with an estimated value of \$160,000 is required.

BID SECURITIES shall be in amount of 5% of the bid and in the form of a certified check drawn upon a bank within the State of Massachusetts or a bid bond executed by a surety company authorized to do business in Massachusetts, made payable to the **OWNER**.

The successful bidder must furnish a 100% **PERFORMANCE** and **PAYMENT BOND** and will be required to execute the Contract Agreement within five (5) days following notification of the acceptance of his Bid. The **OWNER** reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to accept any bid, to waive any informality on bids received, and to omit any item or items deemed advisable for the best interests of the **OWNER**. Bids are subject to Massachusetts-M.G.L. Chapter 30-Section 39M, and to Massachusetts minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. Chapter 149- Sections 26 to 27H inclusive. All costs associated with the preparation of the bids shall be the responsibility of the bidder, regardless of whether or not the Contract is awarded.

In accordance with Article 9 of the General Conditions, the work to be performed under this Contract shall be commenced on the date designated in the Notice to Proceed. All work related to the construction of **Millicent Library Sidewalk Improvement Project shall be completed by June 30, 2023 within 45 calendar days**. Liquidated damages for breach of Contract, as set forth in the GENERAL CONDITIONS, are established at \$500.00 per calendar day.

FNN 2/16/23

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BUSES: cont'd from page 4

budget savings. It takes the community's education stakeholders, government, parents, commissions and citizens to form a strong advocacy group; to focus on transitioning our school bus fleet to electric vehicles.

GT CARPENTRY Exterior, interior painting and repairs, sheetrock, siding, yard cleanup. Call George, 774-810-5008.

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FTV: cont'd from page 14

categories we were nominated for. This brings our Mass Creator total wins to four over the past three years! This exemplifies our staff's continued creativity, effort and willingness to explore new avenues to share our work with the community. We hope to continue our success on a nationwide level at this year's ACM (Alliance for Community Media) awards."

Massachusetts Community Media, Inc. (MassAccess) is a non-profit, 501 (c)(6), membership-based advocacy agency, guided by a volunteer board of community media professionals. Their goal is to ensure the future vitality of Massachusetts based community media centers by developing educational workshops, monitoring legislation, utilizing technology to inform and enhance community media centers, as well as acting as government liaisons to inform supporters across Massachusetts regarding the current political landscape in regards to media.

Visit <https://www.massaccess.org/>

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Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Tues., 2/21, Remote, 6 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 3/8, Media Ctr., 6:30 p.m.

Select Board

Tues., 2/21, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Sustainability Comm.

Tues., 2/21, Remote, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet

Board of Assessors

Wed., 2/22, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

Selectboard

Tues., 2/28, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

US Army Corps of Engineers, Cape Cod Canal/Piney Point

	Feb 2023	HIGH a.m. p.m.	LOW a.m. p.m.	
Thursday	16	0411 1644	0959 2157*	
Friday	17	0513 1740	1113* 2308*	
Saturday	18	0604 1830	---- 1208*	
Sunday	19	0653 1919	0009* 1301*	
Monday	20	0742 2009	0109* 1352*	
Tuesday	21	0832 2059	0210* 1437*	
Wednesday	22	0920 2147	0300* 1514*	
Thursday	23	1008 2235	0340* 1548*	
Friday	24	1057 2326	0418* 1623*	
Saturday	25	1150 ----	0500 1701*	
Sunday	26	0021 1245	0558 1751	
Monday	27	0115 1339	0839 1901	
Tuesday	28	0209 1435	1005 2015	

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

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—Margaret Sullivan, "Ghosting The News"

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South Coast LGBTQ+ Network responds to neo-Nazi protest

From the South Coast LGBTQ+ Network

A Rocky Start to 2023

The New Year has gotten off to a rocky start for the South Coast LGBTQ+ community.

On January 14, during Drag Queen Story Hour with Monica Moore at the Taunton Public Library, masked protestors who identify with the neo-Nazi hate group NSC-131 entered the room while Monica was reading children's books to small children and their parents and began making vulgar, demeaning, and threatening comments to attendees. NSC-131 members also disrupted the Drag Queen Story Hour with Ms. Gloria in Fall River that same morning.

Thankfully, both events ended without any physical injuries; however, several people reported serious mental trauma as the direct result of a safe space for our community being violated by domestic terrorists.

National Coverage

The Taunton Gazette was first to report on the incident. Several other news outlets followed, including the New Bedford Light, ABC 6 News Rhode Island, and CBS Boston. The story received national attention on the Vice TV network, with its coverage of the event receiving nearly 677,000 views on TikTok alone. Monica Moore herself appeared on the podcast JustInTime to describe her experience.

Hate-motivated protests at drag performances are on the rise. NBC News reports that demonstrations at drag performances, particularly Drag Story Hour events, increased sharply across the U.S. in 2022. In response, The South Coast LGBTQ+ Network will be working closely with local



Monica Moore

government and law enforcement officials to make plans for protecting the South Coast LGBTQ+ community in 2023 and beyond.

The Path Forward

In a January 17 Taunton City Council Meeting, council members heard victim impact statements and pleas from South Coast LGBTQ+ community members to work together to secure future events from unlawful threatening behavior. Eileen Dugas, executive director of The South Coast LGBTQ+ Network, reminded the council that "aggression like that which we saw at the NSC-131 demonstration is one of the main reasons why kids in the United States who experience anti-LGBTQ+ victimization reported more than twice the rate of attempted suicide in the past year compared to those who did not have any of these experiences."

The Network has since met privately with Taunton city leadership and reached out to numerous government and law enforcement officials in neighboring cities and townships to discuss ways to inform our communities of the threat posed by hate groups, and to propose ways

to respond peacefully. On February 11, we will host the first of several volunteer information sessions to rally community support for future events. For March 4 we are planning a registration-only event at a site to be determined that will focus on how to de-escalate tense crowd situations. Please follow The South Coast LGBTQ+ Network on Facebook to stay up to date.

Undeterred

We want to thank everyone who shared their thoughts, concerns, and supportive messages about the incident at Drag Queen Story Hour with Monica Moore. Rest assured it will not deter The Network from our mission to help LGBTQ+ individuals celebrate their true selves and realize their full potential. If anything, it has strengthened our resolve.

One final note: We checked in with Monica Moore. She appreciates all the love and support she's received. Monica wants us to know: She will be back.

Consider a Donation

One last thing (it's important): If you would consider making a donation to help The South Coast LGBTQ+ Network continue to offer the resources, services, and events our community needs, we'd really appreciate it!

Donate online at: <https://tinyurl.com/yu83cm25>

The South Coast LGBTQ+ Network is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax-deductible. Proceeds support programs and advocacy for LGBTQ+ residents of all ages on Massachusetts' South Coast. Thank you for your support!

Learn more at <https://www.sclgbtqnetwork.org>



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