



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 19, Issue 4 • January 18, 2024

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

Winter storms are making a mess



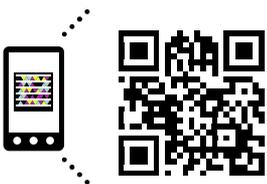
Winter storms are making a mess in these parts, with the last week of high tides causing the waves to crash over the West Island causeway dragging seaweed and other debris with it, and causing erosion along the coast. Then a little bit of snow followed on Monday, about two inches in Fairhaven. Most of that was washed away by rain, but then the frigid 20-something temperatures rolled in, freezing what was left. It seems winter is finally here. ABOVE: Mike "Soupy" Surprenant stops amid the seaweed that was tossed up onto the sidewalk on Causeway Road by the high tide and big winds to give a big smile to the local free sheet during his walk on Monday, 1/15/23. 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.

Okay, okay, I missed the tide. Embarrassing, I know. I wanted to get a shot of the water crashing over the causeway for the cover, but, alas, I missed the tide two days in a row, and then, poof...it fizzled. Then the snow came...and went.

I have a feeling the marshes are going to be pretty frozen up this week, so...maybe next week, huh?

We have lots of good stuff this week. See page 4 for the Fairhaven Select Board, and page 13 for the Acushnet Selectboard. We also have Marine Resources on page 11. Tighten the belts, guys, it's going to cost you more.

Acushnet is facing a shortfall, and Fairhaven wants you to pay more for the services you use near the water, such as parking at boat ramps and quahogging. Yup, you paid to make 'em, maintain 'em, outfit 'em, staff 'em, and you still have to pay to use 'em. Now, we'll have to pay even more.

A couple of fun races also seem to be shaping up in Fairhaven (see page 12). But, the field isn't set yet. Not many people have returned papers. But, if they all do, we will have real contests for Select Board and School Committee. Meanwhile, there are some seats that might go vacant. Don't let that happen. Contact the clerk's office and find out how to run.

Speaking of the clerk, she said Town Meeting members need to contact her to get reelected, and newbies need to get their papers. s

New Bedford had the Moby-Dick Marathon a couple of weeks ago. But did you know there is also a Frederick Douglass read-a-thon? See page 14 for details on that.

Be sure to check out ALL the pages in this week's little miracle. And while you do, please be sure to notice who our advertisers are so you can tell them 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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Thursday, January 18, 2024

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Editor: Beth David

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our Select Board story last week, the way we wrote something caused some confusion. Ms. Ellison said the police chief hire was conducted under Civil Service guidelines in an interview with the *Neighb News*, not at the meeting. We apologize for any confusion our error caused.

Support local journalism

No one does local like a local newspaper. And it does not get more local than the *Neighb News*. Any small amount will help. Just clip the coupon and send check or money order to *Fairhaven Neighborhood News*, 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719. Ask for a bumper sticker that says "I Support the *Neighb News*." And thank you for reading *the little paper with a big voice*.

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Azorean Maritime Heritage Scholarship applications available

Founded in 1997, the mission of the Azorean Maritime Heritage Society is to promote Azorean culture and whaling heritage by raising awareness and pride in our community. This rich maritime heritage has been shared on both sides of the Atlantic between the Azores and the Greater New Bedford area for more than 150 years.

Since 2003, the Azorean Maritime Heritage Society has awarded scholarships to deserving local high school senior and first-time college applicants who will be pursuing undergraduate education. Our scholarships began as two modest book awards of \$50 each. Thanks to the generosity of our members and donors, they have grown steadily over time. AMHS is committed to helping our Portuguese-American community's youth achieve higher education and to growing our scholarship offerings over time.

This year AMHS has designated eight scholarships to be awarded to high school seniors or first time freshman applicants who will be enrolled in an undergraduate college program during the next academic year.

Faial Scholarship Pico Scholarship Bela Vista Scholarship (\$1,000 each)

Named after the three authentically handcrafted Azorean

whaleboats that are regularly used by AMHS members.

Mary T. Vermette Scholarship (\$1,500)

Named after the founder of the Azorean Maritime Heritage Society.

Maria Jose & Diamantino Fidalgo Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Preference will be given to a student who plans to pursue Maritime Studies.

Irene Medeiros Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000)

Long time supporter of women rowing the AMHS boats

In Memory of Jose Pacheco Branco (\$1,000)

In Memory of Clotilde da Rosa Branco (\$1,000)

In order to be considered for a scholarship, applicants must meet ALL of the following criteria.

- Write a brief essay of 250-300 words illustrating one of the following: your commitment to the community, your appreciation for Azorean culture, or your relationship to the sea such as boating, marine studies, fishing, or other water activities.
- Enclose an official transcript of your grades and class standing.
- Enclose a copy of your SAT scores if you were required to take them.
- Enclose one letter of recommendation from a teacher or other unrelated adult.

- Submit the application along with all required documents postmarked by April 1, 2024, to: Azorean Maritime Heritage Society Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 40942, New Bedford, MA 02744.

All applications must be postmarked by April 1, 2024.

Visit <https://azoreanmaritimeheritagesociety.wildapricot.org> to download the application.

You can help fund these scholarships for our promising local youth. Become a member, make a donation to the scholarship fund, or attend one of our annual fundraising events: the Scholarship Dinner in February and the Sails of Portugal wine tasting in June. Visit the website, email azoreanwhaleboats@gmail.com, or call 508-687-0906.

Azorean Maritime Heritage Society (AMHS) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to promoting Portuguese culture, shared maritime history, and unique boating opportunities for all ages. Our all-volunteer organization participates in many local cultural events, teaches rowing, sailing and maintenance of wooden Azorean whaleboats, hosts a popular annual wine and food tasting, and provides scholarships for college-bound youth. We co-host the only International Azorean Whaleboat Regatta, held every two years, which alternates between the Azores and New Bedford.



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Fairhaven SB discusses committee appt process; evaluates TA

By Beth David
Editor

At its January 8 meeting the Fairhaven Select Board decided not to change the process for appointing board and committee members, and evaluated the performance of the Town Administrator.

TA Angie Lopes Ellison, reminded the board that the committee appointment discussion came from the process of appointing a full member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Two alternate/associate members, Andrew Romano and Patrick Carr, had asked to be appointed. Mr. Carr took issue with the appointment of Mr. Romano saying he was not on the board as long as Mr. Carr and so should not have been appointed.

The matter has been kicking around on agendas for a couple of months.

Ms. Ellison told the board that they have a couple of alternate positions that will be vacant so they need to determine what to do.

She noted that there have been a lot of assumptions based on what used to be done, but the way it was done was necessarily correct. The SB is the appointing board for all positions.

She also said people were looking for the SB to justify their selection.

"You don't have to justify your vote unless you choose to do so," said Ms. Ellison.

SB member Bob Espindola said they should clarify who makes the appointment because some boards felt they could choose from their alternates, but that is not the case.

They were doing that, said Ms. Ellison, but it was not within their authority to do so.

She told them they can pick someone "completely random" and not choose from the alternates.

Mr. Espindola suggested they put the regulation on the website, making it very clear.

SB member Keith Silvia, who strongly advocated for Mr. Carr, said people who are alternates put in the time and the one there the longest should be the next in line. He said how would the get people to put in their time if they would never get elevated.

"I would stay home and watch it on

TV," said Mr. Silvia. "I just don't think it's right. I'm not going to change my mind."

SB member Stasia Powers said they needed some leeway because they don't know what the next situation will be.

Mr. Silvia said if you put in your time and it you don't get rewarded, why do it? He said he would "go negative" the next time SB Chairperson made his usual plea for volunteers.

"I would hope you wouldn't go negative on all volunteers," said Mr. Espindola.

"That's how I feel, Bob," said Mr. Silvia.

Ms. Ellison reminded them that

I would stay home and watch it on TV. I just don't think it's right. I'm not going to change my mind. [Keith Silvia]

they recently had big turnover on a committee that was "dysfunctional," and the board decided not to put some members back on it.

"I think this is more of a hot topic due to the individuals involved, not because of the committee," said Ms. Ellison.

The board took no formal action.

In another matter, the board read into the record Ms. Ellison's evaluation.

Board members evaluated Ms. Ellison on five sections, each containing three to six goals or tasks that were graded on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the best.

Section one contains three goals: Financial Sustainability, Town Committee Collaboration, Improve Municipal Services. Her composite average on Section one was 4.2

Comments include "significant progress" towards Goal 1; "substantial" efforts towards Goal 2.

"In regard to Goal 3, Ms. Ellison's leadership has fostered a new culture of professionalism and cross-

departmental collaboration, as highlighted by various directors during their presentation to the board," reads the comments section. "This emphasis on collaboration has become a notable strength of the Town Administrator."

Section two, "Knowledge, Skills, and Professional Development," contains four detail areas. Her composite average was 4.5, with willingness to try new ideas and showing originality getting a 4.8.

In section three, Core responsibilities: Staffing, personnel, financial, and management relations, she received a composite average of 3.9.

Comments include that Ms. Ellison is "cultivating a warm and cooperative culture at Town Hall," and that she works "diligently to ensure her staff maintains high performance standards."

Section 4: Leadership, Board Relations, and Personal Qualities, contains four detail areas. The composite average is 4.3

Comments include that she "takes pride in adhering to rules and processes, often serving as the subject matter expert, however, additional documentation may be helpful."

"Her work reflects a commitment to integrity and impartial conduct," reads the comment.

The comments also note that a minority of SB members express concerns about "oversight of some administrative actions, feeling that Ms. Ellison has sometimes overlooked the Board's roles and responsibilities through enacting policies."

Section 5: Community Relations and Communications, received a 4.1.

"Despite certain challenges from contentious individuals, she remains accessible to the public, balancing engagement with protection for her employees," reads the comment section. "Community members who interact directly with her find a welcoming and positive engagement."

Criticism includes that she can be perceived as rigid with personnel; and committees require more information, needed improvement compiling board packets.

The overall score is 4.2

SB chairperson Leon Correy was absent from the meeting.

AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Support FHS Grad's Project

Please support a local filmmaker and Fairhaven High School grad Jack Arruda's senior thesis film *AT THE COPA!* This television proof of concept tells the story of two long term friends who open up a successful dream nightclub together — until the stress of it all might be the very thing that tears them apart!

Full of laughs (and occasional tears), this reality show spoof tells a sweet story about the balance of self, friendships, and success, and diversity.

This crowdfunding will go directly to production, such as equipment rentals and feeding the crew! Here's the link to donate and share! <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/at-the-copa-jack-rhapsody-s-senior-thesis#/>

GOP Meeting

Fairhaven Republican Town Committee will host their first meeting of the New Year on Thurs., 1/25 at 6 p.m., at 32 Abbey St. which is accessible to all. Please consider making a change in the coming Year, you will be greatly rewarded and welcomed.

Town Mtg Articles

The deadline for Citizen Petition Town Meeting articles is Mon., 2/5.

Town Meeting will be held on Sat., 5/4. To learn more about how to submit an article, contact the Town Clerk's office, 508-979-4023, Ext. 3.

Parking Ban

One side snow parking ban in effect midnight to 8 a.m. through March 31. No vehicles shall be permitted to remain on the hydrant side of all Fairhaven streets during the parking ban, during the time of any snowfall, or during snow removal operations.

On streets with no hydrants, no vehicles shall be permitted to remain either on the east side of streets running north and south or on the north side of streets running east and west.

The BPW is authorized to remove, or cause to be removed, to some convenient place, including a public

garage, any vehicle interfering with the work of removing or plowing snow or ice from any way, and the cost of such removal with all storage charges resulting there from shall be paid by the owner of such vehicle.

The Fairhaven Police Department will strictly enforce this parking ban. Violators will be towed and/or ticketed.

By order of: FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Boating Course

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary's Flotilla 65 will be starting its 2024 SPRING SEMESTER 13-week Boating Skills & Seamanship Course (BS&S) on Monday, January 29, 2024 through April 22, 2024, from 7-9 pm, at the Acushnet River Safe Boating Club (ARSB) on 80 Middle Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719.

This 13-week comprehensive course is designed for both the experienced and the novice boater. It is taught by experienced Coast Guard Auxiliary instructors with years of experience on local waters. It is a perfect introduction to recreational boating fundamentals, such as: boating terminology, boat equipment/handling, boat trailering, lake boating, handling a small to midsize boat, rules of the road, navigation, medical/safety awareness, understanding weather, engines, radios and how to read a nautical chart and chart plotter, buy a boat, tie a knot, handle emergencies, and call in a Mayday.

Many insurance companies will offer discounts on boat insurance to individuals who successfully complete this course. Individuals who successfully complete the course and pass the exam are awarded certificates and cards.

The \$55 fee includes the textbook, chart and all course material. Family discounts are available for shared materials.

Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/3jzskh5c>.

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Schaeffer, Flotilla Commander at (781)422-9746 or via email: schae5900@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATES:

Open House

St. Joseph School, 100 Spring St.,

Fairhaven, is holding an open house on Sun., 1/28, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., for grades preschool to 8. Come visit or call 508-996-1983; visit www.saintjosephschool.org. Financial aid available.

Mariner Youth Soccer Mtg

The Mariner Youth Soccer Association's Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Fairhaven Council on Aging located at 229 Huttleston Avenue, Fairhaven, MA 02719. All members are welcome to attend.

Any questions should be addressed to: Angela Dawicki, Secretary, angela@mariner-youthsoccer.onmicrosoft.com

WI 5K

The 11th Annual West Island 5K will be held on Sunday, April 21, 2024 with the Kids Mile at 10am and 5K at 11am (more information at westisland5k.org).

Registration is open and can be completed online at <https://my.racewire.com/event/7782>.

We are always looking for former or new businesses to sponsor the race. If you are interested in volunteering, we will need help on Saturday, April 20, 2-4pm at the West Island Improvement Association to support registration, number pick-up, and course setup. On Sunday, April 21 (race day), we will need help 8am-12pm to support registration, number pick-up, Kids Mile setup/execution, awards setup, and site cleanup.

Please email Lyle at westisland5k@yahoo.com

Internet Survey

The Town of Fairhaven is pleased to collaborate with the Mass. Broadband Institute (MBI) on a residential survey which is intended to assess internet accessibility, device and technical support availability, service affordability, and digital education needs within the community.

To participate in the online survey visit <https://made.civilspace.io/en/projects/ma-digital-equity/engagements/ma-sdep-public-survey/sections/1>.

Printed surveys can be picked up and returned to the Fairhaven Select Board Office, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Submarine Mission

More than 65 years ago, the submarine USS Nautilus made American history by crossing under the North Pole ice cap to conduct an important mission.

A crew member on the vessel, retired US Navy submariner Joe Degnan, will share his experiences during a free talk at the Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Military Museum, 100C Rodney French Blvd., New Bedford, at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21.

The crew crossed the ice cap with top-secret orders to conduct Operation Sunshine, which required sending a submerged undetected transit from the Arctic Ocean that would carry from the West Coast to the East Coast.

Their efforts were a success.

They reached the North Pole at 11:15 p.m. Aug. 3, 1958. For this historic accomplishment, the 116-member crew earned the Presidential Unit Citation.

Degnan will discuss this piece of American history and his 23-year Navy career during the talk.

The event is free and ample parking is available. For more information, call 508-994-3938 or email info@forttaber.org.

Movie Pops

What do Yaniv, our musicians, Tom and Jerry, Homer Simpson, and the Pink Panther all have in common? They want to get animated! And so will you at this concert of wonderful music from films like *Toy Story 2*, *Hercules*, *Coco*, *How to Train Your Dragon*, *Mulan*, and more. Get your tickets early because our Movie Pops concerts always sell out. You don't want to miss this fun night of great music or any of our comedian-conductor Yaniv's jokes and skits!

Sat., 1/20, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$20 to 65. Visit <https://nbsymphony.org/> for tickets.

SAVE THE DATES

Women on Target

Women's Instructional Shooting Clinic. Come join us and receive a basic level of firearm safety instruction so that you will know how to safely handle firearms.

Then under the direct supervision of Certified Firearms Instructors, you

will enjoy some hands on experience with both revolvers and semi-automatic handguns. This clinic is FREE for any woman. Learn the safe and proper Way to handle firearms.

This event does NOT fulfill the requirements to obtain your Massachusetts LTC License Limited seating, must register to attend

If you have any questions and want to register for this event please contact either Michael DaRoza 508-294-4082 or Dave Maxim 508-295-5821

Sun., 2/11, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., New Bedford Revolver and Rifle Club, 246 Bolton St., New Bedford, MA 02744.

YTI Production

Your Theatre Presents A DOLL'S HOUSE, PART 2 by Lucas Hnath. Directed by James Sanguinetti

A Doll's House, Part 2, the 2017 Tony award winning play, picks up 15 years after Henrik Ibsen's groundbreaking 1879 play (A Doll's House) about a strong woman who defiantly leaves her husband, left off. We find that woman, Nora, now a successful novelist, having to return to her house, husband, and children that she left behind when her new life is threatened by her past.

Nominated for 8 Tony awards, including Best Play, A Doll's House Part 2 provides a modern spin on the Ibsen classic and is filled with suspense, humor, and intensity.

Fri & Sat: 1/19, 20, 26, 27 at 7:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun." 1/20, 21, 27, 28 at 2 p.m. At Steeple Playhouse, 159 William St., New Bedford, MA 02740.

Ample parking is available in the city lot at 6th and William Sts. and metered street parking is free evening and weekends. Wheelchair accessible entrance is on the 6th St. side of the building, facing city hall.

Tickets \$25.00; Military, Seniors and Students, \$22.00; \$5 for EBT, WIC, and ConnectorCare cardholders.

To make reservations please call 508-993-0772 or email BoxOffice@yourtheatre.org. Open Seating at All Performances. Payment at the door Day of Performance

Tea for Two

Valentine's Day arrives early at The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum (RJD) this year. Couples are invited to a Sweetheart Tea in the parlors and dining room of the 1834

whaling mansion on Sunday, February 11, at 2 p.m. where they will enjoy a private table for two with sandwiches, scones, sweet treats, and tea service. Reservations include Museum admission, a souvenir, chocolates, and special access to visit the cupola with its panoramic view of New Bedford harbor.

Advance registration is required, and space is limited. The fee for this event is \$90 per couple. Tea service is provided by Milward Tea Room. For more information or to reserve your tickets, call the Museum at 508-997-1401 or visit the Museum's website, rjdmuseum.org.

Scholarships

The SouthCoast Community Foundation offers more than 50 scholarships to high school graduating seniors, college students, and adults returning to school, throughout the SouthCoast. One application, lots of scholarships! Complete just one app and you'll be automatically linked with the scholarships you are eligible for, including: LGBTQ+ students; Cape Verdean students; engineering students; medical and nursing students; student-athletes; trade school students; and so many more.

We're offering two Zoom info sessions so that students can learn more about how to apply, what scholarships are available, and how the SouthCoast Community Foundation evaluates applications: Wed., 1/31, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; Tues., 2/13, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Visit <https://southcoastcf.org/receive/apply-for-scholarships/> to register and to see all the scholarships available.

Dock U Mentary

Join local photographers Phil Mello and Markham Starr along with George Kirby, Jr. on Friday, January 19, at 4:00pm for an exploration of one of New Bedford's oldest maritime paint suppliers, the George Kirby, Jr. Paint Company, originally established in 1846. Free. At the NB Whaling National Historical Park, 33 William St. Visit <https://fishingheritagecenter.org/programs/calendar/> or contact [t programs@fishingheritagecenter.org](mailto:programs@fishingheritagecenter.org) or call (508) 993-8894.

HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

FAYA Board Needs Members

Fairhaven Acushnet Youth Athletics Football and Cheerleading needs board membes.

Please reach out via Facebook, or to fayabluedevils@gmail.com / fayacheerleading@gmail.com if you have any interest in being on the board or if you have any questions about what the positions entail.

Acting Workshops

The Marion Art Center with Watermelon Alligator Theatre Company, and Instructors Garrett Olson and Jess Wilson, present a series of theater workshops including a free informational session on Saturday, January 20, 2024. Cost for each session is \$40 for MAC members and \$50 for nonmembers, and those enrolling in all three paid sessions receive 10% off registration. The fourth and final session is free and open to all. A foul weather date is February 10, 2024. See all details and register online at marionartcenter.org/events.

Quahog Book Award

Quahog Book Award Returns to the Mattapoissett Free Public Library

The much-anticipated Quahog Book Award is back at the Mattapoissett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow St., inviting students in grades 3 to 6 to embark on a literary adventure. This annual award aims to cultivate a love for quality literature among youth by empowering them to choose their favorite book from curated lists consisting of five nominated titles.

Students interested in participating are welcome to register by visiting the children's room of the library between now and March 3rd. During the course of the program, the library will host a range of events specifically for Quahog readers, offer weekly beads, opportunities to participate in raffles, and, of course, provide the delight of delving into exceptional books. To celebrate, a pizza party will be held at the end of the program. This festive gathering will serve as the platform for announcing the winning books and

applauding the readers for their enthusiasm and dedication.

Students from Mattapoissett and all surrounding communities are welcome to participate. The Quahog Book Award is generously funded by the Friends of the Mattapoissett Library. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Skaar at mkskaar@sailsinc.org call the library. You can find more information about the Quahog Book Award on our website, MattapoissettLibrary.org.

Nomination Papers Available

Nomination papers for elected positions in the town of Acushnet are now available. The last day to take out nomination papers is Wed., 3/27 at 5 p.m.

Candidates need at least 42 certified signatures of registered voters to get on the ballot.

The last day to register to vote is Mon., 4/17, at 5 p.m.

The last day to register as a voter in Wed., 5/8, at 5 p.m.

The Acushnet election is Sat., 5/18. Polls are open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. All precincts vote at the Acushnet Elementary School, 800 Middle Road.

Deadline for Vote by Mail Applications is Mon., 5/13.

Contact the town clerk if you have any questions, 508-998-0215; 130 Main St. (Parting Ways Building).

Art Exhibit

Chuck's Fantasia - Artwork by Chuck McIntyre. From the neuro-divergent mind of Mattapoissett resident Chuck McIntyre comes an exhibit called Chuck's Fantasia.

It can be viewed at the Mattapoissett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow St., until January 31, 2024.

Chuck considers himself an abstract surrealist although he creates landscapes and portraits as well. His acrylics are based on various themes such as emotions, states of mind, and identity. He feels his imagination and passion lead him to producing canvases the audience can be wowed by and appreciative of. Free and open to all.

Dog Licenses

Town of Acushnet has dog licenses available for 2024.

Licenses for spayed/neutered dogs, are \$10; unaltered, \$15.00

Kennel License Fees are: \$75 for 5-10 dogs; \$125 for 11-19 dogs; \$200 for 20+ dogs. All kennels require an inspection by the Animal Control Officer prior to licensing (MGL c. 140 S 136).

State law requires a valid rabies vaccination certificate of dogs 6 months and older, prior to licensing.

Cash and checks only, to Town of Acushnet, Town Clerk's Office, 130 Main St. (Parting Ways Building), Acushnet, MA 02743; 508-998-0215.

Free at RJD

The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum (RJD) is welcoming visitation from Acushnet residents by offering free admission for the month of January 2024. Ring in the new year with a visit to one of New Bedford's most grand whaling estates.

Upon arrival, individuals are asked to produce proof of residency with a piece of current mail, or I.D. For more information about hours of operation and current exhibitions, visit the Museum's website, rjdmuseum.org.

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. Advance booking for admission is encouraged, but not required. Admission is \$8 for adults; \$6 for AAA members, seniors and students; and \$3 for children (age 7-17). The Museum is free for RJD members, as well as for EBT, Connector-Care, WIC, and Wunderfund cardholders.

The RJD gardens are open to the public at no cost and available to visit from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week. Visitors are urged to go to rjdmuseum.org to book their Museum visit and to review the most current information on hours and programs.

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[https://www.fairhaven-
ma.gov/recreation-department](https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/recreation-department)

Young Entrepreneurs

Join this exciting program that fires up your creativity and equips you to dominate the business world with your unique products or services. This course is a passport to entrepreneurship, essential skills and a path to success!

Participants will need to bring their own laptop or tablet, earbuds or headphones and access to an email account.

Start date: Jan 30- March 12 Time 3pm-4pm Members \$135; Non-members \$145.

Encanto Musical Theater Class

Come join the fun of learning how to take part in a musical theatre performance. Children will learn the basics of putting together a production. In this class, boys and girls will audition for a role in the musical "Mirabel's Medley Excerpts." The play has been rewritten along with the theme of the original Encanto. "Children will sing and dance and act." Every child receives a speaking role of some kind. Costumes are encouraged but not necessary.

Jan 24th-March 6th (No class 2/21)
Ages 5-13 Time 4-4:45pm

Member:\$105. Non-member \$125.

Hip Hop Dance Class

Come take the class with a dancer from the Celtics games! Join in on the fun of learning the latest dance moves to the popular music out there right now. Class incorporates choreography and different forms of freestyle movement. At the end of the 6 week session, the children will have a short performance of their hard work. No experience necessary.

Jan 24th-March 6th (No class 2/21)

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Visit our website at:

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

Fairhaven Council on Aging

Social Day Program

The Fairhaven Social Day Program provides a fun day of activities for seniors who are in need of supervision or just want to spend the day socializing with others. The program is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30-3:00. Lunch is provided and transportation can be arranged at an additional fee.

For more information, please call 508-993-9455 and ask for Sally Bourke.

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.

Mall Trips

Reservations accepted for mall trips at beginning the 15th of the prior month. There is a \$6 charge unless otherwise noted. Please bring exact amount. The van leaves the Fairhaven Senior Center promptly at 9: 1/24, Prov. Place & Whole Foods; 1/31, So. Shore Plaza; 27, Twin River Casino.

Memory Cafe

Jan. 25 11:30-1:30. Please call to reserve a spot by 1/23.

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. It's a time and place where everyone can interact, find support, establish friendships and share

concerns without feeling embarrassed or misunderstood.

Entertainment will be Tony & Pat. Lunch will be turkey with gravy.

Space is limited. Please sign up at 508-979-4029.

Tax Filing Help

AARP Tax Aide IRS Certified volunteers will be at the Fairhaven Senior Center starting on Feb. 6. Please call 508-979-4029 to make an appointment. We are taking names now. This is a free service.

Monday Movie Matinee

Free. Mon., 1/22 12:15 p.m. If you would like lunch before the movie at 11:30 a.m., please call the center the day before to reserve a meal. \$2 donation towards the meal. The movie is free.

Featuring *The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*. As the Best Exotic Marigold Hotel has only a single remaining vacancy, posing a rooming predicament for two fresh arrivals, Sonny Kapoor (Dev Patel) pursues his expansionist dream of opening a second hotel. Also starring Judi Dench, Maggie Smith, Bill Nighy.

Technology Classes for Seniors

You MUST CALL to see which class is right for you as here are three different skill levels. All classes are 120 minutes. Call 508-979-4029.

Jan. 22 & 24, Advanced Beginner Let's learn all about the Apple iPhone smartphone.

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Recipe of the Week

Homemade Caramel

- 1 cup sugar
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, room temperature
- 1/2 cup cream, room temp
- 1/2 to 1 teaspoon sea salt

In a heavy bottomed sauce pan, heat the sugar on medium low heat until it's completely melted, swirling the pan gently every 20 seconds or so. The sugar will start to form clumps before melting slowly. Be patient and keep an eye on it to make sure it does not burn.

Once melted, remove from heat immediately and stir in the butter. The mixture will violently bubble. You're doing it right.

Next, pour in the heavy cream and 1/2 teaspoon of the sea salt. Stir until everything is combined. Taste a spoonful of cooled caramel. If desired add the remaining sea salt to taste!

Pour into small bowl or cup and allow to cool completely before using.

Store in an air tight container in the fridge for 1 month or in the freezer for 3 months!

TIPS:

Use a high quality butter. Caramel is made from so few ingredients that the butter and cream's quality really shines through!

For thicker caramel, only add 1/3 cup of cream.

Feel free to add any additions you like at the the end, such as a teaspoon of vanilla extract, cinnamon, ginger....

From BromaBakery.com



Dear Frankie, My mom got married last year. Before Bob moved in, my mom and I did everything together. Bob tries to make me his buddy. But we have very different interests. I like video games, hard rock music, football, and hockey. Bob likes books, jazz, old movies, and Broadway musicals.

Recently, Bob and my mom have been going to a show or a movie most weekends. My mom always invites me to join them, but who likes to be a third wheel? I told my grandma I was feeling left out and didn't like living with Bob. She said she was worried that might happen and asked if I would like to live with her for the rest of the school year. I'm not sure what to do.

Raven

Dear Frankie

The New Stepdad

Dear Frankie, My mom got married last year. Before Bob moved in, my mom and I did everything together. Bob tries to make me his buddy. But we have very different

Dear Raven,

I say stay home and work it out with Bob and your mom. As far as I can tell, you have not made any effort to be friendly or cooperative.

It appears you are punishing Bob and your mom for getting married by rejecting Bob's overtures and your mom's invitations. Bob isn't going away, so if you go to your grandmother's, it's only for the school year. So why postpone the inevitable?

Why don't you think about what you can do to have a pleasant relationship with Bob and what invitations you will accept, so the three of you can spend time together.

Really, how bad can a night out seeing an Albert Hitchcock movie or "The King and I" be?

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

FRANKIE: cont'd on page 18

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Marine Resources Committee recommends fee increases

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Marine Resources Advisory Committee discussed an across-the-board increase in fees for almost all water related activities requiring permits at its 1/4/24 meeting.

Fairhaven Harbormaster Timothy Cox told the board he met with the Town Administrator and they were recommending increases to all fees for parking and permits.

The Committee generally considered the proposed increases too high, and voted to recommend smaller increases.

The agenda only listed parking fees for the boat ramps, and shellfish permit fees, so the committee only voted on those items. They will vote on mooring fees, Union Wharf dockage fees, and waterways fees at the next meeting.

The Town Administrator proposed an increase from \$7/day to \$10/day, and \$70 for the season from \$50 for the season for Hoppy's Landing, and for the Pease Park/Seaview Boat ramps. Hoppy's Landing is a separate

permit because all money raised from fees there goes into a separate revolving account and can only be used at Hoppy's Landing. Pease Park and Seaview have a combined permit and those fees go into the general fund.

The proposed shellfish permit fees would go from \$30 for residents to \$50 for residents; and from \$135 for non-residents to \$175.

MRC Chairperson Michael McNamara called the proposed increases "aggressive," and broke down each one by percentages.

"That's a 40% jump," said Mr. McNamara about the boat ramp parking fees. "I feel that's really aggressive. I know the town is looking for money, but to penalize the boaters like that I think is unreasonable myself."

As for the shellfish fees, and other fees, he said, "Wow. These are really, really, big jumps."

A comparison of other towns showed the new fees exceed all the other towns.

Boat ramp parking fees in New Bedford are \$7/day and \$55 seasonal,

\$25 for commercial; Dartmouth is \$7 and \$60; Wareham is \$7 and \$50; Mattapoisett and Marion are \$10 for seasonal; Plymouth is \$10 and \$100.

The committee discussed the parking at Hoppy's Landing, which had been paid, then was free, and then was paid again starting last year. They discussed the possibility of only charging from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Mr. Cox said he has had no problems since October. If people are sitting in their cars or walking the property, he does not bother them about paying for parking.

The board discussed why they need to raise rates. The cost of maintenance at Hoppy's Landing has increased a lot. Just the shells they used for the parking lot have quadrupled in price, said Mr. Cox.

The revolving account was very low on funds.

MRC member Robert "Hoppy" Hobson noted that the parking fees from last year were about \$10,000 more than the year before. He asked for the numbers, but Mr. Cox said they do not have the year end

MRC: cont'd on page 19



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Select Board and School Committee races could be fun

Nomination papers for all town-wide elected positions and Town Meeting members are available in Fairhaven.

Four people have taken out papers for Select Board, with Donna McKenna, who is currently on the School Committee, deciding to run for SB instead. In addition, Cathy Melanson, Andrew Romano, and Andrew Saunders have also taken out papers for SB.

Only Mr. Romano had returned papers by press time.

Candidates seeking to be elected to office need to take out nomination papers from the town clerk's office and return them with the required number of signatures from registered voters.

Town-wide offices require 50 signatures; town meeting requires 10 signatures from the precinct in which you are running.

Call the town clerk's office, 508-979-4023, ext. 3, for more information on how to run for office in Fairhaven.

Select Board has two seats up for election, held by Leon Correy III and Robert "Bob" Espindola; School Committee has two seats up, held by Donna McKenna and Colin Veitch; Board of Health has one seat held by Kevin Gallagher; Commissioner of Trust Funds has one, held by Colleen Silvia; Board of Public Works has two seats, held by Robert "Hoppy"

Hobson and Travis Rapoza; Planning Board has two seats up, held by Jeff Lucas and Jessica Fidalgo; Housing Authority has one seat on the ballot, Anne Silveira; the Town Moderator position, held by Mark Sylvia, will also be on the ballot.

School Committee will also have one seat for an unexpired term on the ballot, currently held by Nicole Pacheco, who was appointed to fill Kyle Bueno's seat.

Planning Board will also have an unexpired term to fill, currently held by Diane Tomasetti, who was appointed to fill David Braga's seat.

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

Select Board members, Leon Correy and Bob Espindola, and BOH member, Kevin Gallagher, have all announced publicly that they do not intend to run for reelection.

As of press time, four people had taken out papers for the School Committee seats. Colin Vietch took out papers to be reelected to his seat. Nicole Pacheco, Erik Baumann, and Brendalee Smith all took out papers for the full term and the unexpired term on School Committee. They will only be allowed to return papers for one of the seats. By press time, none had returned papers.

In other races the following people took out papers: Jessica Fidalgo and

Diane Tomasetti for their seats on the Planning Board; Robert "Hoppy" Hobson for his seat on BPW; Town Moderator Mark Sylvia; Colleen Silvia for reelection as Commissioner of Trust Funds. Ms. Tomasetti, Mr. Hobson, and Ms. Fidalgo have returned papers.

Monday, 1/22/24 is the last day for Town Meeting member incumbents to file written requests for reelection with the town clerk.

The last day to obtain nomination papers is Monday, 2/8/24. The last day to return papers is Monday, 2/12.

You may register to vote Monday-Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The last day to register to vote for the town election is Friday, 3/22/24. The Town Clerk's Office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. on that day.

Mail-in Voter Registration Forms are available at the Town Clerk's Office, the Millicent Library and State and Federal offices. Monday, 3/25, is the last day to submit vote-by-mail applications to the Town Clerk.

The election will be held on Monday, 4/1/24. Polls will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. All six precincts vote at the Fairhaven Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Ave. (near Stop & Shop).

Call the town clerk's office, 508-979-4023, ext. 3, if you have any questions.

HMS students give to Toys 4 Tots



The National Junior Honor Society at Elizabeth Hastings Middle School in Fairhaven conducted a toy drive for the Toys for Tots program run by the United States Marine Corps last December. Students collected 70 toys

LEFT, L-R: National Junior Honor Society President of Hastings Middle School in Fairhaven, Lucas Meneses, and NJHS Advisor, Lisa Cadima, present the 70 toys collected for the Toys for Tots program run by the US Marine Corps, to USMC veteran, George Belanger, last December, 2023.
Submitted photo.

Acushnet facing budget shortfall

By Beth David
Editor

The Acushnet Selectboard discussed revenue projections and budget expenses at its meeting on 1/9/23, and came to the conclusion that the town is facing a structural deficit for FY25.

Town Administrator James Kelley told the board that the governor issued "9C cuts," which are mid-year cuts to balance the current fiscal year (FY24).

According to the Mass. Municipal Association, tax collections have fallen short for the past six months. Section 9C of Chapter 29 gives the governor the authority to cut state budgets. The cuts will not affect municipal core budgets and school aid. At least not yet.

Mr. Kelley said it does not affect this year's state aid.

"But that doesn't bode well for next year," he said.

Mr. Kelley told the board that new growth, which allows for the town to collect more in property taxes above the 2 1/2 limit, is down from previous years. He said there are not a lot of projects in the works that might be used for next year.

"It's mainly driven by the economy, and that's a problem," said Mr. Kelley.

He estimated a 3% increase in state aid for next year, a number that SB Chairperson Kevin Gaspar called "very ambitious."

Mr. Kelley countered that in administrative hearings so far, the state has been citing the 3% figure. The governor should have a proposed budget by January 20.

Mr. Gaspar said it still seemed ambitious compared to past increases.

"This is a moving target as you know," said Mr. Kelley.

Local receipts are also down, said Mr. Kelley, with excise taxes on vehicles down.

On the spending side, everything is up starting with Cost of Living Allowance increases across for all employees.

Mr. Kelley said they can save some money on health insurance by putting more money in their reserve account with the insurance group.

There is also an increase in projected tuition to Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High

School because of the increase in the number of students from Acushnet opting to go there. Acushnet students can go to Fairhaven High School, New Bedford High School, or Old Colony.

More students are opting to go to Old Colony.

"It is becoming the town's high school," said Mr. Kelley.

The cost to send students to Fairhaven High School is part of the regular school budget. Mr. Kelley said that, after they get the figure from Old Colony, he will meet with the school department about decreasing that item in their budget.

The COLA increases are a "budget buster," said Mr. Kelley.

But, the "real budget buster" is the schools. They are renegotiating the

We're at a point
where we just don't
have the revenue
to keep business
as usual
[Kevin Gaspar]

bus contract and the increase could be as high as \$400,000

"That's a killer," said Mr. Gaspar, adding for the public that the utilities costs, with heat up about \$100,000, are because of higher rates, not higher usage.

The town is not using any more, he stressed, it is the rate increases that they cannot control.

"That's why they're budget busters," said Mr. Kelley.

Elections are also up because it is a presidential election year.

The bottom line, he said, is that the town has a structural deficit of more than \$800,000.

Mr. Gaspar said that is only with the "ambitious" state aid figure. Otherwise, it is more than \$1 million.

"And that's before we start to work on the budget," said Mr. Kelley, adding that he found between \$300,000 and \$400,000 in cuts on the town side, and \$500,000 to \$600,000

on the school side.

"It's not a rosy year," said Mr. Kelley.

"It never is," said Mr. Gaspar. "But this year is a pretty bad one....We'll figure it out some way, somehow. We always manage to figure it out."

SB member David Wojnar said it was an opportunity to "examine our current practices."

He said maybe the town should look at using PILOTs more (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) for some of the solar projects coming up. Instead of higher taxes at the start of the project that lower with depreciation, the PILOT program allows the owner to spread out the taxes in equal payments for 20 or 30 years, the life of the project. It is a more reliable revenue stream.

Mr. Wojnar said it might also be time for Acushnet to institute a meals tax, although he said it would not be a popular decision.

"If it's an issue of maintaining core services, I'll take the heat for those political decisions," he said.

Mr. Gaspar said it might be time for a meals tax, although he had been against it when it was proposed years ago.

"I think you're right," Mr. Gaspar told Mr. Wojnar. "Anywhere else I go, I'm paying a meals tax."

"We're at a point where we just don't have the revenue to keep business as usual," said Mr. Gaspar, saying they should get "creative with PILOTs, and there might "be an appetite" for a meals tax now.

The board also discussed the disposition of the Russell Memorial Library building.

Mr. Kelley told the board that the town was able to secure a \$25,000 earmarked grant from the state, with a \$10,000 match from the town. The grant will be paid to Mass. Development to help with the Request for Proposals and other costs associated with selling the building. He said ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds could be used for the match.

The \$10,000 will be used to fill in the gaps, said Mr. Kelley, because the town cannot find a lot of the records required by Mass. Development to prepare the RFP. He said they have a deed, but no plans on the original building and no site plan.

Board member Robert Hinckley

ACUSH: cont'd on page 18

Public invited to read in 21st annual Douglass Read-a-thon

Press Release

On Sunday, February 4, the New Bedford Historical Society is hosting the Twenty First Annual Community Read-a-thon of the first autobiography of Frederick Douglass, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave written by Himself* (1845).

This event is being held in celebration of Black History Month and honors Douglass as a New Bedford resident, one of the great men of the 19th century, and an early advocate for African American civil rights and the human rights of women and Native peoples.

In addition to the reading, we will celebrate the birthday of Douglass on February 14 with gifts of the Douglass statue maquette to the Frederick Douglass Academy at Alma del Mar school and to the New Bedford Free Public Library. The statue was commissioned by the New Bedford

Historical Society for the newly designated Abolition Row Historic District and Abolition Row Park. The chairperson for the event this year is Carl Cruz.

The Annual Read-a-thon is a celebration of the historical connection between the people of New Bedford and the young Frederick Douglass. Douglass found his way to New Bedford through the Underground Railroad as a 20-year-old freedom seeker in the fall of 1838. He earned his first paid wages as a free man gathering and putting away coal for the minister of the First Unitarian Church, Ephraim Peabody. Douglass cast his first vote as a free man in elections in the city. Douglass and his wife, Anna Murray Douglass were city residents for 5 years, during which time they began their married life and started their family. New Bedford provided freedom and a stimulating

environment of ideas that afforded Douglass the opportunity to develop his skills as an abolitionist and civil rights activist to work for the end of slavery in the U.S.

We invite members of the New Bedford community to join the event as readers in this celebration of the life and legacy of one of New Bedford's great men. The Read-a-thon will be held on Sunday, February 4th, from 2:00–6 p.m., at the First Unitarian Church, 71 Eighth Street in New Bedford, MA. Refreshments will be available. For additional information, please contact the Society at (508) 979-8828.

The New Bedford Historical Society is a non-profit organization that preserves and celebrates the heritage of African Americans, Cape Verdeans, Native Americans, West Indians and other people of color in New Bedford, Massachusetts.

United Way grant applications available

Press Release

United Way of Greater New Bedford is seeking proposals for the Together, United Fund in order to advance new initiatives and existing efforts at local nonprofits to build the capacity of their board and staff to serve diverse communities and foster lasting, positive change in the advancement of racial equity and social justice.

Nonprofit organizations may apply for up to \$5,000 from the Together, United Fund. Requests could include, but are not limited to: support for professional development and/or training for board and staff to advance race, equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives, provide resources and tools to promote racial equity and social justice in the workplace, or

provide opportunities at all levels of implementation, to create and share knowledge through webinars, publications, professional conferences, and practice-group convening.

Proposals to the Together, United Fund are due Thursday, February 29th at 5 pm and must be submitted electronically through United Way's grant portal. Visit unitedwayofgnb.org for more information.

"This initiative of United Way of Greater New Bedford was established to build capacity at local nonprofits by investing in their leadership and workforce to improve their ability to serve our diverse community," said Sarah Rose, chief Impact Officer. "We are committed to strategically investing resources to help close

gaps and disparities in education opportunities, economic mobility, and health access."

In 2023, United Way awarded the first round of Together, United grants to Dennison Memorial Community Center and Coaching for Change. Both organizations focused on professional development for their staff and board to actively address racial equity and social justice through educational programming.

United Way of Greater New Bedford is the local chapter of United Way Worldwide. It has operated since 1953, advocating for family resilience, health access, economic mobility, and educational opportunity for every person in the nine communities it serves



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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 CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Acushnet Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 24, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Police Station Conference Room located at 64 Middle Road, Acushnet, Massachusetts.

Amended Order of Conditions - Acushnet Company - 115 Manchester Lane, Map 11, Lot 25C.34 SE 001-0571. A Request for an Amended Order of Conditions was filed by Acushnet Company for property located at 115 Manchester Lane. The applicant is proposing additional work consisting of the installation of utility poles, overhead wires, tree limb trimming and tree removal as necessary to provide three phase power service to the facility within the 100 ft. buffer zone to a bordering vegetated wetland. A small access area to provide the means to install the overhead lines is also proposed - this area is not located in a resource area or buffer zone. The applicant is represented by William Madden of G.A.F. Engineering, Inc. Plan name is "Plan to Accompany Request for Amended Order of Conditions for Installation of 3 Phase Power System" dated January 2, 2024.

Ryan Rezendes, Chairman of Acushnet Conservation Commission
FNN, 1/18/24

Notice of Public Hearing Acushnet Planning Commission

January 25, 2024

#39 Keene Road-Form C-Definitive Subdivision

Notice is hereby given that the Acushnet Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on January 25, 2024 @ 6:00PM in the Board of Selectmen's meeting room at Town Hall, 122 Main Street, Acushnet MA 02743. This will be a Hybrid meeting with a Zoom

option:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85326060459?pwd=QnlHeEkxTW9lemdDcDFhazhZbTNUQT09>
Meeting ID: 853 2606 0459
Passcode: 604789

This hybrid meeting is being held in accordance with Chapter 41, Section 81T, to consider the following petition: Proposed subdivision of land, off of Keene Road, owned by AMN Estate Holdings LLC, applicant. The engineer is Farland Corp., of Fairhaven, MA. This proposal is for a 6-lot subdivision on a single access street. The plans and accompanying documentation are available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office, Parting Ways Building, 130 Main Street 1st floor, during regular business hours.

Mark Francois, Planning Commission Chairman
FNN 1/11/24, 1/18/24

Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

Tuesday February 6, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall Banquet Room, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Public Hearing In-Person in Banquet Room or via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94115137952?pwd=MXpoVWpKTFBEUmluT1pWSctiVzJJCQT09>
or call 1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 941 1513 7952
Passcode: 361259

1. REF#: ZBA-023-007: 148 Dogwood Street, Map 43A, Lots 153-155. Applicant and owner: Nancy Santoro. Applicant seeks 1. A Variance from the maximum building coverage of 15% to a proposed approximate 22±% after the construction of a 24 ft. by 30 ft. semi-detached garage connected to the existing house via a breezeway and deck, pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-18 Intensity of Use Schedule and 2. An approximate 7 ft ± Variance for the garage to be 23.1 ft. from the front setback as compared to the minimum 30 ft. setback, pursuant to Fairhaven

Zoning Bylaw 198-18 Intensity of Use Schedule. — Last Continued from November 7, 2023. Readvertised with updated information for May 2, 2023 and again for February 6, 2024.

2. REF#: ZBA-024-001: 200 Washington Street, Map 26, Lot 28. Applicant and Owner: Matthew Paulson. Applicant seeks a Special Permit for a Home Occupation business to operate a Landscaping business, pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-23 Home Occupations B. (4) Building trades.
3. REF#: ZBA-024-002: 162 Main Street, Map 12, Lot 8. Applicant and Owner: Ray Charles Realty Trust. Applicant seeks a Special Permit to construct a private 4 ft. by 127 ft. pile-supported timber pier with a gangway and float, pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-32.2 Dock and Piers B.
4. REF#: ZBA-024-003: 11 Delmont Street, Map 28B Lot 715 and Map 29, Lots 6C & 8. Applicant and Owner: Mark Blouin. Applicant seeks 1. An 84 sq. ft. Variance for the construction of a 784 sq. ft. garage, as compared to the maximum 700 sq. ft., pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-22 Accessory Buildings and Uses A. (1) and 2. A 2 ft. Variance for the height of the garage to be 22 ft. as compared to the maximum 20 ft., pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-22 Accessory Buildings and Uses A. (2).
5. REF#: ZBA-024-004: 58 Ocean Avenue, Map 29C, Lot 249-250. Applicant: Jacob T. Galary. Owner: Daniel Gibbs Jr. Applicant seeks 1. A 6 ft. Variance for the construction of a new house to be 24 ft. from the front property line as compared to the minimum 30 ft. setback, pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-18 Intensity of Use Schedule and 2. A 10 ft. Variance for both sides of the house to be 10 ft. from the side property lines as compared to the minimum 20 ft. setbacks, pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-18 Intensity of Use Schedule and 3. A Variance from the maximum building coverage of 15% to a proposed 20%, pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-18 Intensity of Use Schedule.

Kenneth Kendall, Chair, Fairhaven ZBA
FNN: 1/18/24, 1/25/24

From our readers

Romano Emphasizes Transparency

Embracing Transparency and Community: My Vision for Fairhaven's Select Board

As I step forward as a candidate for the Fairhaven Select Board, I want to emphasize the importance of open communication and transparency in order to bring our community together and shape a brighter future for all of us.

I believe that transparency in local government is crucial for building trust, encouraging volunteerism, and ensuring that our boards and committees truly represent the diverse needs of our residents.

Financial transparency is essential for the well-being of our community. I'm proud of the progress we've made with Anne Carreiro's promotion to Assistant Town Administrator of Finance, and the introduction of monthly financial reporting. Beyond financial reporting, I believe we need quarterly updates on facilities and periodic updates on the Town Administrator's goals. These reports

are beneficial to understand the needs throughout the year, the progress that has been made, and to keep residents aware of ongoing upkeep, costs, and planning.

It has been amazing to hear the recent updates from department heads at Select Board meetings and the addition of liaisons to various boards and committees.

To support our volunteers and ensure transparency, I am proposing the implementation of further training for boards and committees. Our volunteers play a crucial role in making Fairhaven better, and it's important to provide them with the guidance they need to fulfill their roles effectively. I have experienced this first hand during my time serving on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

I am optimistic about the positive impact we can achieve by fostering an environment of open communication and clear guidelines. Together, we can empower our volunteers to continue their remarkable work, always making certain that their efforts are aligned with the law and

the betterment of our community.

My vision for the Fairhaven Select Board embodies a proactive, inclusive, and transparent approach that will pave the way for a stronger and more engaged community. I am eager to work alongside all of you to bring this vision to life and create a Fairhaven that thrives on openness, inclusivity, and shared prosperity.

Andrew Romano, Candidate for Fairhaven Select Board

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ACUSH: cont'd from page 13

said he was not comfortable using ARPA funds for the process.

Board member David Wojnar said he understood the hesitation with depleting the funds that are supposed to be used for Slocum Street, but selling the old library building "takes a level of expertise to get it right."

SB Chairperson Kevin Gaspar said he thought it would be simpler, that they would get the building appraised and sell it. He said the ARPA funds were getting "ratched down," and that money is supposed to be for infrastructure.

He asked if the \$10,000 could be put back into the ARPA account after the building sells.

Mr. Wojnar seemed to like that idea and added that any proceeds from the sale could go to the Slocum Street project.

The board did not vote on the measure, but directed Mr. Kelley to get a quote from Town Counsel for handling the sale, to find out if the \$10,000 could be put back into the ARPA account, and to find out if they can still get the \$25,000 without the match.

In another matter, the board announced and accepted the resignation Patrick Hannon, the town's part time conservation agent, part time health agent, and part time soil agent. The resignation was effective 12/29/23 and the letter was dated 12/29/23.

FRANKIE: cont'd from page 10
email list or visit www.neighbnews.com to read the paper online or to download the latest issue.

Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven

Board of Public Works

Mon., 1/22, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Commission on Disability

Thurs., 1/18, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 1/22, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Cultural Council

Thurs., 1/18, Remote, 6:30 p.m.

Economic Development

Thurs., 1/18, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Livable Streets

Thurs., 1/18, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board

Tues., 1/23, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 1/24, Media Ctr/Lib., 6:30 p.m.

Select Board

Mon., 1/22, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Sustainability Comm.

Tues., 1/16, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet

Golf Committee

Thurs., 1/18, Town Hall, 4:30 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Dec. 2023	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	18	0118	1339	0732	1921*
Friday	19	0213	1437	0920	2027
Saturday	20	0314	1544	1048	2204
Sunday	21	0421	1651	1147	2329
Monday	22	0518	1743	---	1240*
Tuesday	23	0604	1827	0020	1333*
Wednesday	24	0646	1909	0107	1420*
Thursday	25	0727	1951	0145	1455
Friday	26	0808	2033	0136	1505
Saturday	27	0848	2113	0204	1446
Sunday	28	0927	2152	0237	1503*
Monday	29	1006	2232	0310	1530*
Tuesday	30	1047	2316	0344	1600*
Wednesday	31	1133	---	0421	1634*

*= 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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UMassD student found in Acushnet River

By Beth David

Editor

The body of a missing UMass Dartmouth student was found in Fairhaven in the Acushnet River on Tuesday, 1/16/24. The Bristol County District Attorney's office said Flordan "Flo" Bazile, 21, an accomplished track athlete, appeared to have died by suicide.

In an email to students, UMD Chancellor, Mark Fuller, said Mr.

Bazile was described by teammates as "hard-working, energetic, a champion, and a great friend."

"It is always heartbreaking to see such a promising young life cut short," wrote Dr. Fuller.

He referred students to the Counselling Center and the Center for Religious and Spiritual Life, and staff and faculty to the Employee Assistance Center.

Plans to honor Mr. Bazile's

memory will be announced, he said.

Mr. Bazile had just been named Track Rookie Athlete of the Week for two weeks in a row.

According to news reports, Mr. Bazile was last seen on campus around 2 a.m. on Monday, and was reported to be in Fairhaven later that day.

Authorities searched the water around Howland Road and Coggeshall Street.

MRC: cont'd from page 11

numbers yet.

The committee discussed a variety of options, all lower than the numbers proposed by the Town Administrator. Mr. Cox noted that the parking fee has been \$50 since he started in 2007.

MRC member David Hebert suggested they go up 20%.

"I think the fees are good where they are," said MRC member Michelle Potter. "We're comparable to other towns."

She noted that they got rid of the parking meter at Hoppy's Landing that had cost the a lot of money. She said they went from free to \$7/day.

"It should bring everything up," she said. "I think those fees are fine."

Hobson said he would go along with the TA's recommendation.

Mr. McNamara noted that the TA wanted a 40% increase, "and Mr. Hobson is good with that."

Mr. Hobson did not reply.

MRC member Andrew Jones said they needed more information before making a decision. He said he did not agree with the steep increases.

Mr. McNamara said they got information two meetings ago that showed "quite a windfall" from the new parking fees by the end of the summer. He said the committee has been tracking the "dwindling account" at Hoppy's Landing. The new fee "turned that around quite quickly," he said, but admitted they did not have the final number.

Mr. Jones said he was not "completely opposed" to going up, but he was "definitely not in favor" of the proposed rates.

"I think that's way too much money," said Mr. Jones.

In the end, the committee voted to raise the parking rates for the boat ramps to \$8/day and \$60 for a

seasonal pass.

The vote was 4-1 with Ms. Potter voting "no."

The board also voted on Shellfish permit fees.

The proposed increase from \$30 to \$50 for residents is a 66% increase; while the increase from \$135 to \$175 for non-residents is a 30% increase, said Mr. McNamara.

"Which seems odd," he said. "You're attacking your residents more than non-residents. Very strange."

That's a 40% jump. I feel that's really aggressive. I know the town is looking for money, but to penalize the boaters like that I think is unreasonable myself. [Mike McNamara]

Residents 62+ and veterans get a free lifetime permit; non-resident veterans pay the resident rate, as required by state law.

The board discussed with Mr. Cox the cost of seeding the coves with the polluted quahogs from the Taunton River at a cost of \$22,400 per year or about \$27 per bushel.

Mr. Hobson noted that the commercial quahoggers do not even get that much for the bushel at market.

"So why are we subsidizing the commercial people," he asked.

Mr. Cox said they lost their biggest place to dig when the state close down the outer harbor.

The committee discussed how many permits have been issued to varying groups.

Ms. Potter said if the commercial guys are not even making what the town is paying for the quahogs, "That's kind of a no-brainer. I would say stop the quahog [relay]."

She said they should just let everything propogate itself.

Mr. Cox said if they stop the seeding, they would not sell any lincenes because there would be no quahogs to dig.

"But we're getting all these black ones that are orange inside," she said. "I won't eat them."

She asked Mr. Cox if he thought the quahogs would not have babies.

He said they would, but not in the amount they need.

He noted that the commercial diggers are not allowed in Round Cove, and they are only allowed in part of North Cove.

He said when he started, they were selling 50 commercial licenses, now they only sell abot 10. The commercial fee is \$400.

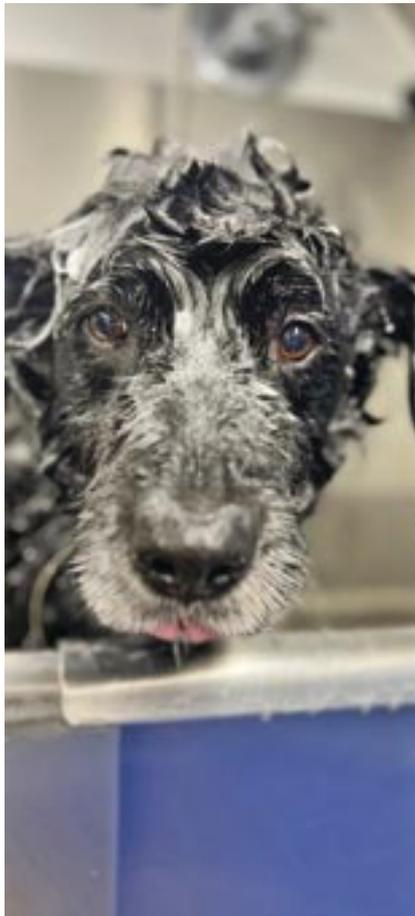
Mr. Jones suggested they look at raising the age for the senior license and making the Veteran's license annual, not lifetime.

"We have to look at everything," said Mr. Jones. "Because everyone is taking. It's a take fishery. They're taking stuff that the town is paying for. There's a lot of natural stuff out there, but not necessarily enough for everybody."

In the end, the committee voted to increase the shellfish permit fees by 30%, which is \$39 for residents and \$175 for non-residents.

The vote was 4-1 with Ms. Potter voting "no."

The MRC is an advisory committee. The Select Board regulates the fees.



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