



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 19, Issue 9 • February 22, 2024

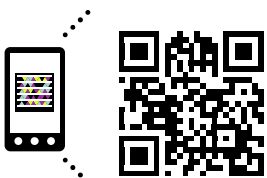
Teeming with information you need.
(And some you don't need, but will be glad you have anyway.)



Banner unveiled for FHS state champs

L-R: Surrounded by their teammates, Fairhaven High School football players, team captain Nathan Pickup Jr., and Finn Reynolds, unveil the banner in the FHS gym on 2/12/24 commemorating the team's 2023 state championship win for Division VI.
See page 12.

Photo courtesy of Katy Joseph.



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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.

Well, winter finally got here, huh? Brrrr...it's cold out there. But it's supposed to warm up.

The Fairhaven Select Board heard from more departments at their last meeting. See page 4 for what's happening.

The Vicki Oliveira wrongful termination lawsuit is proceeding. See page 3 for a summary of what's happening there.

The high school football team got more recognition this week. See page 12 to get a look at the cool banner that will now grace the walls of the gym.

And, what's winter vacation without the *Neighb News* going to the Rec Center to see the Kool Kids in action?

I have to say they sure seemed to be having fun. See page 12 for a couple of pics and an explanation of what they were doing.

The election is heating up a bit, with a couple of candidates running together (see page 11).

Now, listen: If you're a candidate and you want to take advantage of the free PR (see page 11), you'd better get cracking. Deadline is next week, but it would be nice if I got one early, huh?

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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, February 22, 2024

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Editor: Beth David

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

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Vicki Oliveira case moves forward

By Beth David
Editor

A US District Court judge rejected motions to dismiss the Vicki Oliveira wrongful termination lawsuit, allowing the case to continue. The lawsuit names Town Administrator Angie Lopes Ellison personally and officially as TA. Ms. Ellison had asked for the court to dismiss on several grounds, with the court allowing in part and denying in part.

In the complaint, Ms. Oliveira alleges that she was terminated as the Assistant to the Town Administrator because she spoke out about changes to historic town hall that Ms. Lopes Ellison was proposing. The TA and Collector switched offices and the proposal was to remove the counter to follow the Collector.

Ms. Oliveira told her husband, Wayne Oliveira, who was chairperson of the Historical Commission, and he spoke out publicly against the changes, and he contacted the Mass. Historical Commission about the changes to the historic Town Hall, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings.

In the complaint, Ms. Oliveira contends that after she spoke out about the changes, Ms. Ellison treated her in a "personally hostile manner."

Ms. Oliveira also contends that she was wrongly accused of violating a "duty of confidentiality." She claims that Ms. Ellison told her to send a notice out to department heads, and then "scolded" her for doing so.

In August of 2022, Ms. Ellison told Ms. Oliveira that she intended to terminate her from her position. Ms. Oliveira became "severely hurt and emotionally upset," and two days

later experienced chest pains while at work. Her husband arrived as paramedics treated her, and he and Ms. Ellison "engaged in a verbal altercation" over HIPPA issues.

The next day, Ms. Oliveira received a termination letter that contained "allegations that were false, trivial and out of context," according to the complaint.

Ms. Ellison also had a no-trespass order served on Mr. Oliveira.

The Court found that Ms. Oliveira spoke as a private citizen on a matter of public concern.

"All actions by Defendant Ellison, as stated above, were motivated by malice, anger, and retaliation for Plaintiff's communications and actions in regard to historic preservation of the interior features of Fairhaven Town Hall, and because of her marital association status with Wayne Oliveira, and their combined attempts to oppose the changes proposed by Defendant," reads the complaint.

As a result, Ms. Oliveira incurred "substantial damages, including substantial ongoing financial loss and physical and emotional distress."

The complaint alleges that Ms. Oliveira's "protected speech" and her association with her husband were

the motivating factor in her termination.

The complaint makes three claims. Count I: Violation of the Mass. Civil Rights Act (MCRA) versus Ms. Ellison personally and in her official capacity.

Count II: Tortious Interference with Advantageous Relations, versus Ms. Ellison personally. The claim is that Ms. Ellison knowingly and intentionally interfered with Ms. Oliveira's "advantageous relations with the Town of Fairhaven, namely her long-term employment with the Town of Fairhaven."

It also alleges Ms. Ellison did so with "improper motive and/or improper means"; and she acted with "ill will and actual malice."

As a result, Ms. Oliveira lost her long term employment with the town.

Count III: Violation of First Amendment Rights, versus Ms. Ellison personally and in her official capacity. The claim is that Ms. Ellison interfered with Ms. Oliveira's "protected speech and freedom of association with her husband under both federal and state law."

The claim alleges that Ms. Ellison's actions were in retaliation targeting Ms. Oliveira because of her speech as a private citizen and association with her husband. The termination is in violation of the Federal civil rights act.

There is no amount requested in relief in the US court, but Ms. Oliveira is asking for compensatory damages; equitable relief, including reinstatement or other relief necessary to protect her rights to free speech and freedom of association; attorney's fees and costs; pre-judgement interest. In the original filing in the trial court in December of

OLIVEIRA: cont'd on page 14



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The Rev. Maria Uitti McCabe

102 Green St., Fairhaven uufairhaven.org 508-992-7081

Select Board hears from department heads

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Select Board received updates from several department heads at its 2/12/24 meeting, including Cable Access, Marine Resources, and Human Resources.

Cable Access Director Derek Frates told the board his department recorded 307 meetings in 2023, the third year they have had more than 300. They have also covered 37 events on the government side.

The department has been a community resource and helpful to the various boards and departments, creating videos for a variety of reasons. For example, he said they helped the Health Department with guidelines and updates; helped created Public Service Announcements for the fire and police departments; helped the Animal Control Officer with the Adopt-A-Pet program; and a long list of other events they have helped departments. They have covered parades, events at the senior center, and events sponsored by town committees.

The department also just started a

new business spotlight feature focusing on new businesses in town.

On the public access side, the department has run shows for members of the public; covered events such as the Manjiro Festival, Father's Day Road Race, summer concert series; Halloween party; Benoit Square lighting, Old Time Holiday.

All programs are available at www.fairhaventv.com

Mr. Frates said his department works with department heads to promote whatever they are working on, such as making videos to show at Town Meeting on warrant articles.

He said they will be sponsoring a candidate night again this year.

SB member Bob Espindola said the department had come "lightyears" from when Mr. Frates first started.

Mr. Espindola said he has sent many people to the department over the years.

"It's a great resource," he said, adding that the meeting coverage is now almost 100%, after the bylaw was passed.

Mr. Frates said only a handful were

missed due to technical reasons, but they try to record the Zoom session when that happens.

SB member Stasia Powers thanked him for being such a great resource for the community, especially new businesses.

Mr. Frates said he had a small staff, but they were hard working and worked great together as a team.

SB member Charlie Murphy, whose public access show "The Magazine" won an award because it was submitted by Mr. Frates, said when they were at the awards ceremony, he noted how respected Mr. Frates was by people all over the U.S.

"You're known," said Mr. Murphy. "You put Fairhaven on the map."

Human Resources Director Cameron Durant told the board that his team of three has been very busy. He said they have been reviewing the health care benefits and are "diligently" working on lowering costs for employees. He said self-funded is still the way to go.

Mr. Durant said they are also working with the police and school

SELECT: cont'd on page 13

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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Bingo!

Community Nurse Home Care Presents BINGO! Featuring DJ Gazelle from FUN107, Thurs., 2/29. from 9 p.m., at Seaport Inn, 110 Middle Street, Fairhaven. Space is limited – get your tickets now!

Bingo, Raffle & Sweet Treats. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. Dinner will not be served. Suggested donation of \$35 per player

Register online at communitynurse.com/bingo or mail a check with participant names to: 62 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

Sponsorships are still available Visit communitynurse.com/bingo

For questions or raffle prize donation, email: donate@communitynurse.com

Beach Cleanup

Be The Solution to Pollution is sponsoring a neighborhood cleanup on Hedge St., in Fairhaven, on Sun., 2/25, from 1–4 p.m. (Use 2 Hedge Street for GPS). All ages welcome. Wear appropriate clothing. Email bethesolutiontopollution@gmail.com for more information.

Black History at Millicent

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>

Celebrate Black History month with events for all ages. This series is a collaboration between Millicent Library and the Fairhaven Belonging Committee.

Community Read: *Invisible Generals* Feb. 1st - Feb. 29th. Join us for a community read: pick up a copy of *Invisible Generals* by Doug Melville during the month of February. There will be multiple copies of the book available for check out on display near the circulation desk. No meetings to attend or deadlines to finish the book by - just a chance to read and learn in community!

Movie Screening - *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse* Fri., 2/23 at 2pm Join us for a screening of "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" (2018, PG) in the auditorium, an award winning animated movie, featur-

ing Miles Morales, the first black Spider-Man in the comic book's universe (introduced in 2011). All ages welcome, light refreshments served.

To register for any of these events, visit: millicentlibrary.org/events.

Free at RJD

The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum (RJD) is welcoming visitation from Fairhaven residents by offering free admission for the month of February 2024. Must have 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.

Poll Workers

Fairhaven needs poll workers for the election on 4/1/24.

Contact the Town Clerk, 508-979-4023, Ext. 3, for more information.

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

Highway Work

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing that it will be performing highway overhead message board maintenance at various locations and times during overnight hours from Monday, February 19 through Wednesday, February 28. Traffic will be controlled by the use of State Police controlled rolling roadblocks.

Work in Fairhaven will take place on Thursday and Sunday, from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. on I-195 Westbound.

SAVE THE DATES:

OLOA Dinner

Our Lady of Angel Annual Dinner, Sat., 4/27, 5–8 p.m., at OLOA, 7 Jesse St., Fairhaven, MA 02719. Tickets: \$15.

Call Joe Mello, 508-733-4608, and leave a message for tickets.

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

Lobster Days

Lobster Days are back again this year during February school vacation week! Visit the New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center, 38 Bethel St., on Thursday, Feb. 22, and Friday, Feb. 23, from 11am to 3pm to explore one of New England's favorite crustaceans. Meet local lobstermen, make your own lobster hat or lobster hand puppet, participate in science demos, enjoy story time, and more! This event is FREE and open to the public.

Free Admission Day

On Friday, February 23 from 9:00am -4:00pm, get out of the cold and dreary winter and explore the New Bedford Whaling Museum, 8 Jonnhy Cake Hill, during our Winter Camp Free Admission Day. Visitors get free admission to the Museum thanks to the Highland Street Foundation

There's no need to pre-register. Just arrive at the front door, and our staff will welcome you with open arms!

Learn more about all of the scheduled activities: <https://www.whalingmuseum.org/.../february-school.../>

Black History at the Whaling Park

New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, 33 William St., New Bedford, has announced its programming commemorating Black History Month in February 2024. This year's theme chosen by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH®) is African Americans and the Arts. New Bedford is known for its rich culture and historical artistic significance, and we celebrate today's artists of the African diaspora who come from every corner of the globe. Two of New Bedford's own, Iva Brito and Eden Soares will be telling the stories of their art and inspiration. In addition, the 1850s Ladies will explore New Bedford and Boston anti-slavery societies and how crafts became a part of the abolitionist cause. Finally, the park will show the movie, *12 Years A Slave*, directed by African Brit Steve McQueen which tells the story of Solomon Northup, who was kid-

napped and sold into enslavement from freedom.

Sat. Feb. 24 at 1:00 PM: Join us for the screening and discussion of the movie *12 Years A Slave* – an incredible true story of one man's fight for survival and freedom directed by Steve McQueen. It is 1841 and Solomon Northup (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a free black man from upstate New York, is abducted and sold into slavery. Stripped of his identity and deprived of all dignity, Northup is purchased by ruthless plantation owner Edwin Epps (Michael Fassbender) and must find the strength within to survive. In his twelfth year in captivity, a chance encounter with a Canadian abolitionist (Brad Pitt) forever alters his life.

ArtTalks: Black History Month

These events are at the New Bedford Art Museum, 608 Pleasant St.

Tues., 2/27, 6:30–7:30 p.m., FREE.

Dancer, choreographer, theatrical producer Marla D. Blakey shares stories of her illustrious career in the entertainment industry. Ms. Blakey performed with Sammy Davis, Jr., Billy Eckstein, Sarah Vaughan, and the bands of Duke Ellington and Cab Calloway, among many others. While living in Los Angeles she choreographed and staged shows for artists such as Donna Summer, Anne Murray, Aretha Franklin, Bette Midler, David Bowie, Sting, and Motown artists.

RSVP at <https://newbedfordart.org/arttalks/>

Poetry Reading, Wed., 2/28, 6–8 p.m. FREE

In recognition of Black History Month, the night will open with a reading of a black poet's work to celebrate black voices and talent.

Join as a speaker or listener, savoring the richness of language, imagery, and thought in this eternal art form with friends.

Sign up at: <https://newbedfordart.org/peoples-poetry/>

FriYAY: Candida Rose, Fri., 3/1, 6–8 p.m. FREE.

Candida Rose Baptista is a KabuVerdiana vocalist, songwriter, entertainer, and music and cultural educator from Massachusetts. Her

debut CD, *KabuMerikana: The Sum of Me*, blends Cape Verdean roots with American jazz influences.

Her latest album *Here I AM!* explores gospel, New Age, traditional, reggae, and other sounds. Candida's captivating voice combines jazz, rhythm and blues, and gospel with international spice.

RSVP at <https://newbedfordart.org/friyay/>

Early Voting

The New Bedford Election Commission has announced the early voting schedule for the 2024 Presidential Primary election.

The early voting schedule is:

- Downtown Library (613 Pleasant St.): 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily from Feb. 24 to March 1.
- Taber Mill (217 Deane St.): Feb. 28 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (please use entrance on Coffin Avenue)
- Hazelwood Senior Center (553 Brock Ave.): Feb. 29 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Additionally, absentee and mail-in ballots continue to be available. Any registered voter can request to receive one by visiting the Election Commission office at City Hall, 133 William St., during business hours, Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Request forms have been mailed to registered voters in New Bedford.

In the Presidential Primary, New Bedford voters may cast their vote for president, state committee man, state committee woman, and ward committee.

Any New Bedford resident who is uncertain about their voting status, designated polling location, has changed their address since the last election, or has other questions about the election can contact the Board of Election Commissioners at 508-979-1420.

One Night Only

New Bedford Festival Theatre (NBFT) is thrilled to announce its upcoming show, "Jesse Luttrell Showstopper" direct from NYC for one night only.

March 23, 7 p.m., at NB Whaling Museum, 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford. Tickets: \$40 & \$50. Available for purchase at www.zeierion.org/events/nbft-showstopper or at nbfestivaltheatre.com

HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

Author Talk

The following events are at the Acushnet Free Public Library, 232 Middle Road.

Author Talk: Wed., 2/28, 6 pm with Rachel Slade. The Acushnet Public Library welcomes back author Rachel Slade to share her latest book *Making It in America: The Almost Impossible Quest to Manufacture in the U.S.A. (And How It Got That Way)*. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

A moving and eye-opening look at the story of manufacturing in America, whether it can ever successfully return to our shores, and why our nation depends on it, told through the experience of one young couple in Maine as they attempt to rebuild a lost industry, ethically. From the best-selling author of *Into the Raging Sea*

Contact the library for more information, <https://acupl.org>, 508-998-0270 or smedeiros@sailsinc.org *Registration required.

Gospel Choir

The Mattapoisett Museum and the Trustees of the Mattapoisett Christian Church at 5 Church Street are proud to present Tabor Academy's Celebration Gospel Choir on Thursday, February 29 at 6:15pm. The Tabor Celebration Gospel Choir is a 20-voice choir, composed of faculty, staff, and students. It was founded in January, 2023 and had its debut at Tabor Academy's MLK Jr. 2023 chapel service.

The Choir is led by Tyrone Black, Associate Head of School at Tabor Academy. Its members sing mostly traditional gospel music with a few contemporary pieces. When asked why he founded the Choir, Black said, "Most places where I have worked, I started a gospel choir/ensemble as a way of bringing people together from all walks of life and singing about the Good News of Jesus Christ, and to spread the love of God through the ministry of song. I felt that Tabor had the right atmosphere/environment to start something new and inviting. It's a part of my identity, my spirit, my essence. It helps me and probably others find their place of belonging in a spiritually challenging world."

Most of the songs that will be sung are more traditional gospel songs from the late 20th and early 21st

century. They will range from old traditional pieces such as *God Is* by the Late Reverend James Cleveland, to more contemporary pieces called *Glory Glory* by New Direction. The Choir will also sing a piece with a Caribbean flare, entitled *He Reigns Forever*.

New Playwrights

The MAC Theater Playwrights Incubator is a program for first-time playwrights to see their work realized on the stage. Finding theaters to produce new or unpublished plays can be an obstacle for any new playwright. The MTPI is a structured program that aims to discover and support, through workshop and production, new stage plays by first time, unpublished regional playwrights. These plays are small cast shows with one to six characters.

Selected playwrights will work with two mentors who are experienced theater artists to fine-tune their plays over the course of several months and prepare the script for production. After regular writing evaluations, when the script is ready, the mentors will work with the MAC to find a director and assist her or him in casting the show with appropriate actors. One or more readings with a select focus group audience will include a feedback/response process, and the end result is a completed script, ready for debut performance for a live audience on stage at the Marion Art Center.

Any new writer who has not yet been published or had a play produced is invited to submit her or his script or outline for consideration. There is no cost to participate in this program. Playwrights must be available to meet on site with mentors, for readings and all aspects of the production process including auditions, rehearsals, tech work and performances. Apply online at marionartcenter.org/mtpi. Applications are due by March 31, 2024. The selected playwright for the 2024-2025 program will be announced in early May. Email questions to mtpi@smarionartcenter.org.

Sailor's Valentines

The Mattapoisett Museum at 5 Church Street and the Mattapoisett Land Trust are co-sponsoring a

winter vacation activity making Sailor's Valentines on Friday, February 23rd from 10-00AM 11:30AM at the Museum. Massachusetts Cultural Council helps to fund this program.

All supplies needed to make your own Sailor's Valentine will be provided. This craft is recommended for ages eight and up. The event is free and open to the public, but donations are always appreciated.

Snacks and cider will be provided.

Although the exact origins of the Sailor's Valentines are not clear, documentation shows that they were given as a token of affection by sailors to their loved ones. Sailor's Valentines were most likely not made by the sailors themselves but were handcrafted by women in Barbados, a popular destination amongst whaling ships between 1830-1890. Sailors would then purchase these trinkets at souvenir shops while in port.

Join everyone at the Museum to experience this long lost art for yourself and walk away with an heirloom to be cherished for years!

Maple Days

Old Sturbridge Village is open during the winter months with many seasonal programs and events each weekend with extended hours beginning Wednesday, February 21, right before the start of Maple Days!

See the entire sugar-making process, from tapping the trees to "sugaring off," and learn why maple sugar was more commonly used than maple syrup in early New England. Costumed historians will also cook period foods made with maple products and the tinner and cooper will make maple-related items. Maple Days are Friday through Sunday, February 23rd through March 17th from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Guests are encouraged to reserve tickets online and in advance for their date of arrival. Tickets and more information can be found online: <https://www.osv.org/event/maple-days/>.

Located just off the Massachusetts Turnpike and Routes I-84 and 20 in Sturbridge, Mass. Daily admission is: \$30 for adults, \$28 for seniors, \$15 for College Students, \$15 for children ages 4-17, and children 3 and under are admitted free. For details, visit <https://www.osv.org/plan-your-visit/>.

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

23rd Annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt (pre-registration is required by March 19th)

Join us for the 23rd annual flashlight egg hunt. Children will search for their eggs on the Recreation center grounds. They will keep the treats inside and return the eggs to the Easter bunny for a special treat.

Don't forget to bring a camera (for Easter Bunny pictures) and a flashlight! In the event of rain, our event will be held in the gym.

Date March 22nd Time 7:30pm
Ages 10 and under. No registrations accepted after March 19 and no registrations at the door.

Kool Kids Summer Program

Fairhaven Rec's popular summer program is now taking registrations online at www.fairhavenactivityreg.com or at the center, 227 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven.

This series of summer fun fills up quickly, so don't delay!!

Somewhere behind the athlete you've become and the hours of practice and the coaches who have pushed you is a little girl who fell in love with the game and never looked back...play for her.

Mia Hamm

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Fairhaven Senior Center

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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: Hyannis Mall, Trader Joe's, Whole Foods; 2/28, So. Shore Plaza; 3/6, Tiverton Casino; 3/13, Warwick Mall; 3/20, Providence Place & Whole Foods; 3/27, Hyannis Mall, Trader Joe's 7 Whole Foods.

Monday Movie Matinee

Free. Mon., 2/26 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 *You've Got Mail*. Book superstore magnate Joe Fox and independent book shop owner Kathleen Kelly fall in love in the anonymity of the internet, both blissfully unaware that he's trying to put her out of business.

Walking Schedule

Walk with friends at the Rec Center gym next door from 12:30-1 p.m., Monday-Friday. FREE

Volunteers Wanted

The Fairhaven Senior Center is looking for volunteers to assist with various positions, including front desk, serving/cleaning at Supper Clubs, food box delivery, newsletter delivery.

Please call or email Martha Reed, 508-979-4029; mreed@fairhaven-ma.gov

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.

Do you have old medical equipment?

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Recipe of the Week

Egg Muffins

A great way to get your morning egg fix on the go! Carry them in a resealable bag and get bites of tender egg, with plenty of fresh, bright veggies baked right in!

- Extra-virgin olive oil, to taste, for greasing the pan
- 2 medium red bell peppers, diced
- 1/2 cup scallions, chopped
- 9 large eggs
- 1 clove garlic, grated
- Sea salt, to taste
- Ground black pepper, to taste
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/3 cup feta cheese, crumbled

Preheat oven to 350°.

Grease a nonstick muffin tin with the olive oil.

Evenly divide the red bell peppers and the scallions between the muffin cups.

In a large bowl, add the eggs and whisk them until beaten well.

Add the garlic, the salt, and the black pepper to the eggs and whisk to combine.

Sprinkle the flour and the baking powder on top of the eggs and whisk well to combine.

Divide the egg mixture evenly into the muffin cups.

Sprinkle the feta evenly on top of the egg mixtures in the cups.

Bake until the eggs are set, about 22-24 minutes.

Allow the Egg Muffins to cool slightly before serving.

From CommandCooking.com



Dear Frankie

Should I Dump My Boyfriend?

Dear Frankie, I met Reginald during my first year at C.I.C. (Canine Institute for Canines). I'll never forget the moment when I realized a full

scholarship meant that I would be able to go to C.I.C.

The first time Reg spoke to me, he invited me to sit with him at lunch. And as they say, the rest is history. Reg and I spend most of our free time together, doing what most couples do in a new relationship: learning more about one another and our families, holding paws, going for walks, cuddling, etc.

Before Reg met me, he spent time with friends at his parent's club, swimming, playing tennis or a round of golf, eating club sandwiches, and doing whatever else they do in places

like that. I don't play sports. I can, however, eat a club sandwich.

My parents are from Haiti and work long hours at physically demanding jobs. When they have time off, they want to relax, watch TV, play cards, and socialize with friends and family. Recently I asked Reg why he hadn't invited me to the club. He said I would be bored because I didn't know how to play golf or tennis. He also said he felt uncomfortable telling his club friends that I never learned to play sports because my family only cared about having parties and watching TV.

I asked my mom what she thought about my conversation with Reg. She said I should tell him that Haitians also cared about getting a good education, working hard, and being close to friends and family, not about hitting balls at a country club. She said I should dump him.

Lizette

Dear Lizette,

I can understand that you have questions about your relationship with Reg ever since he shared that he

FRANKIE: cont'd on page 18

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Carr and Saunders announce run for Select Board

Press Release

Andrew Saunders and Patrick Carr are happy to announce that they are setting the wheels in motion to run for the two open seats on the Select Board.

We are looking forward to organizing a Town Hall Meeting Debate where the audience, the citizens of Fairhaven, can ask any important unfiltered questions to be answered by the candidates to further inform the Town Citizens prior to voting in the election.



L-R: Patrick Carr and Andrew Saunders of Fairhaven turn in their nomination papers to the Fairhaven Town Clerk on 2/6/24 to run for the two open seats on the Select Board. *Submitted photo.*

Free Political PR

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

Please contact the *Neighb News* as soon as possible so we can plan for space allocation in the issues leading up to the election.

DEADLINE: Friday, 3/1, for Fairhaven (4/1 election); Friday, 4/12, for Acushnet (5/18 election)

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Banner raised for FHS State Champs



The Fairhaven High School football team unveiled the banner commemorating their 2023 Division VI championship win on 2/12/24 in the FHS gym. ABOVE: The Fairhaven High School football team poses under the newly unveiled banner in the FHS gym on 2/12/24 commemorating the team's 2023 state championship win for Division VI. *Photo courtesy of Debra Hanson Almeida.*

Kool Kids do cool stuff on school vacation week

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Recreation Center's Kool Kids program had the kids running around letting off steam inside the gym, playing "Jailbreak," a dodgeball game.

Groups of kids are behind the partitions in "jail" while their

teammates throw the ball to them and guards try to block them. If a prisoner catches a ball, the whole cell block goes free. The game ends when everyone is in jail. You end up in jail when you get hit with a dodgeball.

It's a bit of controlled chaos, with balls flying around, kids running around, and lots of hooting and

hollering.

"They love it, and they're tired afterwards," said Michaela, one of the Rec Center workers keeping an eye on things (and playing, too).

No one is ever "out" in Jailbreak, which means everyone is always in the game.



LEFT: Fairhaven Recreation Center's Kool Kids take a breather to pose for the local free sheet along with Rec Center employees Michaela and Jake, during February vacation week on Tuesday, 2/20/24. RIGHT: Jayce catches the ball, freeing all his teammates, playing Jailbreak. *Photos by Beth David.*

SELECT: cont'd from page 4

departments to change the process and streamline payroll.

They are also making some minor changes to the personnel policy; and they created a new employee handbook.

Mr. Durant said one of the "most daunting" tasks he has is to reorganize the personnel file, including individual files and contracts.

Mr. Espindola noted that the town has only had a Human Resources department for a few years. He asked Mr. Durant to explain what that means for risk management.

Mr. Durant said from a labor standpoint, his department needs to make sure the town has the proper documents for compliance in a number of areas including sexual harassment; and making sure everyone is treated with equity in regards to pay, reviews, discipline.

He said his department also handles Workers Compensation claims, and looks into problems areas for safety concerns. His office has also taken over property liability insurances.

Mr. Murphy said HR is the hardest job in any town.

SB member Keith Silvia said some people have questioned why the town needs an HR department. He said Mr. Durant just explained it.

HR helps to avoid potential liability, which results in savings, said Mr. Durant.

SB Chairperson Leon Correy asked what changes they were making to the personnel policy.

Mr. Durant said they did a holistic view and tried to balance the "employee experience."

He said when it is about employee retention, compensation is a factor but it is not everything. Feeling valued and receiving certain benefits can make up for lower pay.

He said they are trying to honor experience, a work-life balance.

"It's the small things," said Mr. Durant, like sprucing up the break room.

It helps build a culture, and now people use that room.

Ms. Ellison noted that Mr. Durant had just received a certification as a Senior Certified Professional from the Society for Human Resource Management.

Harbormaster Timothy Cox also updated the board on his depart-

ment, noting that they have three major projects going on.

He said there is a light at the end of the tunnel for the dredging on West Island. Back in 2002, the project got stalled because they could not find a suitable place to dump the sand because they could not match the grain size. Now, due to the accelerated erosion across the state, officials have relaxed some of those rules. He said the Seaport Council has funding available for the project.

The issue, however, is still where to put the sand. Renourishing a beach close by would be the best option; dumping it out at sea would be the most expensive; using it on the CAD cells in New Bedford Harbor is the cheapest, but does not help the town

SB member Keith Silvia said some people have questioned why the town needs an HR department. He said Mr. Durant just explained it.

with beach erosion. Mr. Cox said they are looking at all options.

The second project is the Union Wharf reconstruction. He said it is moving along very well. Contractors will be working on different parts of the wharf.

The third project is dredging in the harbor. There are about 20 sites on the Fairhaven side. That project should be finished at the end of this year. There are commercial and private sites, he said. They want to dredge at the marinas now, before all the summer boats come in.

Mr. Cox told the board that the new motors on his boat are in and his department is getting ready for boating season to begin. The mild winter, though, has meant that some people have been quahogging all winter long. He said he had about 10 people digging on a recent warm day.

Mr. Murphy commended Mr. Cox on his collaboration with New Bedford and making sure Fairhaven waters are never forgotten.

Mr. Cox said they help each other on both sides of the harbor.

He said he appreciates the support he gets from staff at town hall, his staff and the Town Administrator's office. His job changes every day, he said and it helps to have office support.

"I love my job," said Mr. Cox. "I'm outside every day. I'm by the water every day."

He said he never knows what will happen next.

"It's just crazy," he said. "But just the support I get from our team is unbelievable."

Ms. Powers said there had been a real issue with the culture in town hall. Now she hears the department heads talking about "extensive collaboration" they have with other departments.

"It's a big difference. And I want to point that out," she said. "The happier the staff is, the better quality product we produce for our community."

In another matter, the board approved an electrical "passageway" through Hoppy's Landing for Eversource to run electricity to Blue Stream Shellfish, which operates on the abutting property.

Dale Leavitt told the board that the company has been waiting for Eversource to provide electrical service for more than three years. The town has allowed Blue Stream to use the service at Hoppy's Landing, with the company paying for the electric at that property, too.

Eversource finally contacted them to move forward with electrical service, however, they found that the only way to get it to them would be to tie into a main on the opposite side of Goulart Memorial Drive, which would require digging a trench across the road. Or, they could access the feed at Hoppy's. But to do that, Eversource needed the okay from the board to cross the property with the power line, which will be underground.

Mr. Leavitt said the project would also upgrade the service at Hoppy's to 200 amps.

The board voted unanimously allow the passageway.

The board also convened in executive session for two items: to review executive session minutes from 12/18/23; to conduct strategy/negotiations for non-union personnel contracts (Angie Lopes Ellison).

OLIVEIRA: cont'd from page 3

2022 (the case was moved), Ms. Oliveira asks for \$430,000: \$30,000 in documented lost wages to that date; \$300,000 in reasonably anticipated lost wages; and \$100,000 for "hospital visit with medical treatment, stress with associated psychotherapy assistance."

On January 11, US District Judge Denise Casper, issued a 17-page memorandum and order that allowed two motions to dismiss, but denied two motions to dismiss, allowing the case to proceed.

Ms. Ellison's filing last April asks the court to dismiss the case, citing six reasons, including that the town used "legitimate means to terminate" Ms. Oliveira; plaintiff fails to allege "policy or custom" in her claimed federal violation; her First Amendment rights were not violated; she failed to allege threats, intimidation, or coercion as required; the defendant is entitled to qualified immunity; plaintiff fails to allege "actual malice" to support her intentional interference claim.

The court allowed the motion in part and denied the motion in part.

It dismisses Count I, which alleges violation of her free speech rights under the Mass. law (not federal). The court allowed that because the MCRA requires that the plaintiff show her First Amendment rights were violated because of a municipality's policy or custom.

In her opposition to the motion to dismiss, "Oliveira does not offer any argument as to municipal liability," wrote the court.

The court allowed Count III, the alleged violation of Ms. Oliveira's First Amendment rights, distinguishing between a public employee's citizen speech, "which triggers protection, and employee speech, which may be disciplined by the employer."

The Court found that Ms. Oliveira spoke as a private citizen on a matter of public concern.

The Court also found that Ms. Oliveira "pled sufficient factual allegations" for the court to infer that she was terminated based on her speech.

The court also denied the motion to dismiss the "tortious interference

claim," the allegation being that Ms. Ellison fabricated a reason to fire Ms. Oliveira, or created a "pretext."

The court also denied the qualified immunity argument.

"For the foregoing reasons, the Court **ALLOWS** [Ellison's] motion to dismiss, D. 7, as to the MCRA claim (Count I) and the § 1983 claim (Count III) brought against [Ellison] in her official capacity, but otherwise **DENIES** the motion to dismiss so that Counts I and III survive as to [Ellison] in her personal capacity and Count II, the tortious interference claim, also survives. The Court also denies the request for qualified immunity of [Ellison] without prejudice."

According to court documents available online, the next step is mediation, but no date had been set.

In a phone interview and email correspondence with Ms. Oliveira's attorney, Philip N. Beauregard, he said, "The opinion speaks for itself," adding that the next step is to prove it.

He said the case is, "All about pretext."

Ms. Ellison would not comment on ongoing litigation.

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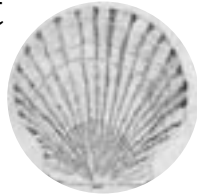
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From our readers

Romano Stands Out Above the Rest

We should be glad that we have so many candidates running for office this year in our local elections. Hopefully we will get a good voter turnout that represents our town. In the field of many candidates, there is one in my opinion that stands out above the rest for Select Board. A young, ambitious man who has lived here his whole life and cares deeply about the town.

Andrew Romano has always cared about others and done what he could do to help our community. Since he was in middle school, when I met him, he cared about collecting canned goods and winter coats for people in need, marching for environmental issues as a member of the Green Team and visiting the Mayor's office in New Bedford as a member of the student council to provide support for our local fishermen.

I have personally witnessed this town resident give his all to the town. He continues to donate volunteer hours to many worthy organizations in town and provides valuable time, thoughtfulness and leadership when most his age do not. We should be proud that a young Fairhavenite wants to give back to the town and welcome his new ideas, values and pride for our community.

Andrew has always had leadership qualities that are obvious when you meet him. Whether it is donating time to the North Fairhaven Improvement Association, Rotary Club or trying to find homes for abandoned pets, he continues to give his all. He does all of this in addition to being a co-owner of a local South Coast business and a very successful realtor. He participates in town government as a Town Meeting member and is currently a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

I hope that you join me in voting for Andrew Romano in the upcoming April election. I know that he is the best candidate for the position and will bring different ideas, transparency and leadership to the job as a Select Board member.

Ann Richard, Fairhaven

Support a Zero-Waste Store in Fairhaven

I recently conducted a poll on social media asking residents of

Fairhaven if we had a zero-waste store, would they shop there. Within hours 90 residents responded and 91% said they would or would consider. Wow! What does that tell you? We are a community that cares and are willing to step up and reduce waste willingly.

There were some questions on what a zero-waste/refill store is, which were answered. It's not about everyone creating an upheaval in their lifestyles, nor is it about forcing change. When residents decide they are willing to make small changes, i.e. swap a plastic toothbrush for a biodegradable one, it adds up to big changes. I don't doubt that many families are doing their best already, I know many of them personally, but bringing more awareness and opportunities is a step in the right direction.

What prompted me to conduct a survey was reading disputes on trash issues on social media. Issues related to costs, accumulation, blame and reasoning are brought up frequently. I also recently read that the town was encouraging more small businesses. There are big risks in starting a small business and business owners need to be supported.

Here are some positive effects of having a zero-waste store in our town: buying from local first, knowing what your customers want so less is discarded, major reduction on trash, reduction on transporting goods (zero-waste vendors ship with zero-waste packaging), reduction on customer travel to shop, reduction on delivery trucks in neighborhoods, consumer savings on products, income for the town, healthier living and more. Zero-waste stores are growing trends right now. Would someone in our town be interested in opening a new business and will the residents support it?

With appreciation and respect to all.

Eileen Brennan, Fairhaven

Parker Endorses Romano

My name is Pauline Parker and I served as the president for the North Fairhaven Improvement Association (NFIA) for the past 5 years. I'm endorsing Andrew Romano for a seat on the Select Board. I can attest to his skills and character as I have worked with Andrew as Town Election Officials, as well as members of the NFIA, where he is currently the

President.

Andrew has a wonderful public speaking ability; is quick to calm when things get out of hand; and shows a great sense of character. I can rely on him to make quick decisions, and he always has good advice and awesome ideas. He is very informed of what is going on around him and is very helpful in planning all of our activities.

Andrew is quick to respond to our texts or phone calls. He is always willing to help with a problem and if he can't help right away, he will always follow up as soon as he can.

Andrew is also an amazing Realtor, Associate Broker at BOLD Real Estate, Inc., recently winning the Top Sales award for 2023!

I feel he is well liked and respected here at the NFIA and in every aspect of his young life. I believe he is a great candidate for Select Board here in our town.

Thank you for taking the time to consider Andrew Romano for Selectboard.

Pauline Parker, Fairhaven, Immediate Past President of the NFIA"

Silly Season is Upon Us

Welcome to Silly Season! As someone who has run for office in the past, I know it's not easy to "put yourself" out there; so I commend anyone who puts their name on the ballot. There are a few rules to putting yourself on the ballot and I want to remind you of them.

First of all, and this goes to the people who are currently in office, "leave the theatrics" at home! Whether you are aware or not, there are cameras that record all meetings, so rolling your eyes and breathing deeply when another "team" member of your board speaks is unprofessional and basically rude! If you don't agree with the opinion of another, count backwards to yourself from 10 and breathe!

#2: Be careful who you choose as your "mentor." If you have had any violations or mistruths with the Town, it'll come out now and your buddy might not be your buddy after all. (He/she will probably throw you under the bus in a heartbeat!)

#3: People who are already voted in need to remain neutral. Don't ask them for their opinion and don't rely on it. Ask the Town voters!

LETTERS: cont'd on page 19

Public Hearings/Legal Notices

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

Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

Wednesday, March 6, 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=MXp0VWpKTFBEUmluT1pWScUvZjZjQQT09>

or call 1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 941 1513 7952

Passcode: 361259

- REF#: ZBA-024-005: 11 Fishermans Road, Map 43A, Lots 186, 187, and 188. Applicant: Lev Bronstein Owner: Lev Bronstein and David A. Hirsh. Applicant seeks a finding from the Board under MGL 40A, § 6, to allow an increase of area of a nonconforming use by replacing the existing single-family residence and shed with a new 2,188 sq. ft. two-story single-family residence with the addition of a 810 sq. ft. semi-detached garage, and that the addition is not more substantially detrimental than the existing nonconforming use to the neighborhood.
- REF#: ZBA-024-006: 5 Gilbert Street, Map 29A, Lots 236 and 238 - 242. Applicant: Bruce Penn Owner: Bruce H. & Deborah J. Penn. Applicant seeks a finding from the Board under MGL 40A, § 6, to allow an increase of area of a nonconforming use and replace the existing rear porch with a 135 sq. ft. three season room and adjoining stairs, and that the addition is not more substantially detrimental than the existing nonconforming use to the neighborhood.
- REF#: ZBA-024-007: 227-229 Huttleston Avenue, Map 28, Lot 1. Applicant: Kevin Fournier Owner: Town of Fairhaven. Applicant seeks a Variance to build a 20 ft. x 20 ft. shed in the front parking lot of the property as opposed to the rear, pursuant to 198-22 Accessory Buildings A (3).

Kenneth Kendall, Chair, Fairhaven ZBA
FNN: 2/15/24, 2/22/24

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Monday, March 4, 2024 at 6:00pm
Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be at 40 Center Street, and it is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of the public. MGL, Ch. 30A, § 20(f) requires anyone that intends to record any portions of a public meeting, either by audio or video, or both, to notify the Chair at the beginning of the meeting.

Anyone wishing to access the meeting via remote means may do so in the following manner:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86953155076?pwd=VFBUQkxzVYRnZjJkQktlVjV9XSGppZz09>
or CALL 1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 869 5315 5076
Passcode: 633695

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold the following **Public Hearings** pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, s. 40) and the Code of the Town of Fairhaven Chapter 192, Wetlands:

- SE 023-1385, CON 023-279: 27 Silver Shell Beach Drive, Map 41, Lot 54** Notice of Intent filed by Nancy Blouin to upgrade the existing septic system to a Title 5-compliant system and associated site work at the property located at 27 Silver Shell Beach Drive, Assessor's Map 41, Lot 54. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF) and the 100-foot buffer zone to Coastal Dune at Assessor's Map 41, Lot 54.
- SE 023-___, CON 023-397: Starboard Drive (Subdivision Lot #1), Map 42, Portion of Lot 9A** Notice of Intent filed by Starboard Drive Nominee Trust, C/O John Mathieu, Trustee to construct a 2-bedroom single-family home in compliance with FEMA requirements & Mass Building Code for construction within Flood Zone VE (El.19'). The applicant proposes to install fill around the perimeter of the house to direct stormwater away from the foundation; additionally, a 10'x10' utility shed will be anchored to slab or sono-tubes. The lot falls within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF), Flood Zone VE (El. 17' & 19'), with no other resource areas on or within 100 feet at Assessor's Map 42, Lot 9A.

applicant proposes to install fill around the perimeter of the house to direct stormwater away from the foundation; additionally, a 10'x10' utility shed will be anchored to slab or sono-tubes. The lot falls within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF), Flood Zone VE (El. 17' & 19'), with no other resource areas on or within 100 feet at Assessor's Map 42, Lot 9A.

- SE 023-___, CON 023-398: Starboard Drive (Subdivision Lot #2), Map 42, Portion of Lot 9A** Notice of Intent filed by Starboard Drive Nominee Trust, C/O John Mathieu, Trustee to construct a 2-bedroom single-family home in compliance with FEMA requirements & Mass Building Code for construction within Flood Zone VE (El.19'). The applicant proposes to install fill around the perimeter of the house to direct stormwater away from the foundation; additionally, a 10'x10' utility shed will be anchored to slab or sono-tubes. The lot falls within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF), Flood Zone VE (El. 17' & 19'), with no other resource areas on or within 100 feet at Assessor's Map 42, Lot 9A.

- SE 023-___, CON 023-399: Starboard Drive (Subdivision Lot #3), Map 42, Portion of Lot 9A** Notice of Intent filed by Starboard Drive Nominee Trust, C/O John Mathieu, Trustee to construct a 2-bedroom single-family home in compliance with FEMA requirements & Mass Building Code for construction within Flood Zone VE (El.19'). The applicant proposes to install fill around the perimeter of the house to direct stormwater away from the foundation; additionally, a 10'x10' utility shed will be anchored to slab or sono-tubes. The lot falls within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF), Flood Zone VE (El. 17' & 19'), with no other resource areas on or within 100 feet at Assessor's Map 42, Lot 9A.

- SE 023-___, CON 023-400: Starboard Drive (Subdivision Lot #4), Map 42, Portion of Lot 9A** Notice of Intent filed by Starboard Drive Nominee Trust, C/O John Mathieu, Trustee to construct a 2-bedroom single-family home in compliance with FEMA requirements & Mass Building Code for construction within Flood Zone VE (El.19'). The applicant proposes to install fill around the perimeter of the house to direct stormwater away from the foundation; additionally, a 10'x10' utility shed will be anchored to slab or sono-tubes. The lot falls within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF), Flood Zone VE (El. 17' & 19'), with no other resource areas on or within 100 feet at Assessor's Map 42, Lot 9A.

- SE 023-___, CON 023-401: Starboard Drive (Subdivision Lot #5), Map 42, Portion of Lot 9A** Notice of Intent filed by Starboard Drive Nominee Trust, C/O John Mathieu, Trustee to construct a 2-bedroom single-family home in compliance with FEMA requirements & Mass Building Code for construction within Flood Zone VE (El.19'). The applicant proposes to install fill around the perimeter of the house to direct stormwater away from the foundation; additionally, a 10'x10' utility shed will be anchored to slab or sono-tubes. The lot falls within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF), Flood Zone VE (El. 17' & 19'), with no other resource areas on or within 100 feet at Assessor's Map 42, Lot 9A.

- SE 023-___, CON 023-402: Starboard Drive (Subdivision Lot #6), Map 42, Portion of Lot 9A** Notice of Intent filed by Starboard Drive Nominee Trust, C/O John Mathieu, Trustee to construct a 2-bedroom single-family home in compliance with FEMA requirements & Mass Building Code for construction within Flood Zone VE (El.19'). The applicant proposes to install fill around the perimeter of the house to direct stormwater away from the foundation; additionally, a 10'x10' utility shed will be anchored to slab or sono-tubes. The lot falls within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF), Flood Zone VE (El. 17' & 19'), with no other resource areas on or within 100 feet at Assessor's Map 42, Lot 9A.

- SE 023-___, CON 023-403: Starboard Drive (Subdivision Lot #7), Map 42, Portion of Lot 9A** Notice of Intent filed by Starboard Drive Nominee Trust, C/O John Mathieu, Trustee to construct a 2-bedroom single-family home in compliance with FEMA requirements & Mass Building Code for construction within Flood Zone VE (El.19'). The applicant proposes to install fill around the perimeter of the house to direct stormwater away from the foundation; additionally, a 10'x10' utility shed will be

anchored to slab or sono-tubes. The lot falls within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF), Flood Zone VE (El. 17' & 19'), with no other resource areas on or within 100 feet at Assessor's Map 42, Lot 9A.

- SE 023-___, CON 023-404: Starboard Drive (Subdivision Lot #8), Map 42, Portion of Lot 9A** Notice of Intent filed by Starboard Drive Nominee Trust, C/O John Mathieu, Trustee to construct a 2-bedroom single-family home in compliance with FEMA requirements & Mass Building Code for construction within Flood Zone VE (El.19'). The applicant proposes to install fill around the perimeter of the house to direct stormwater away from the foundation; additionally, a 10'x10' utility shed will be anchored to slab or sono-tubes. The lot falls within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF), Flood Zone VE (El. 17' & 19'), with no other resource areas on or within 100 feet at Assessor's Map 42, Lot 9A.

- SE 023-___, CON 023-405: Starboard Drive (ANR #1), Map 42, Portion of Lot 9B** Notice of Intent filed by Starboard Drive Nominee Trust, C/O John Mathieu, Trustee to construct a 2-bedroom single-family home in compliance with FEMA requirements & Mass Building Code for construction within Flood Zone VE (El.19'). The applicant proposes to install fill around the perimeter of the house to direct stormwater away from the foundation; additionally, a 10'x10' utility shed will be anchored to slab or sono-tubes. The lot falls within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF), Flood Zone VE (El. 17' & 19'), with no other resource areas on or within 100 feet at Assessor's Map 42, Lot 9B.

- SE 023-___, CON 023-406: Starboard Drive (ANR #2), Map 42, Portion of Lot 9C** Notice of Intent filed by Starboard Drive Nominee Trust, C/O John Mathieu, Trustee to construct a 2-bedroom single-family home in compliance with FEMA requirements & Mass Building Code for construction within Flood Zone VE (El.19'). The applicant proposes to install fill around the perimeter of the house to direct stormwater away from the foundation; additionally, a 10'x10' utility shed will be anchored to slab or sono-tubes. The lot falls within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF), Flood Zone VE (El. 17' & 19'), with no other resource areas on or within 100 feet at Assessor's Map 42, Lot 9C.

- CON 023-407: 111 Cedar Street, Map 4, Lots 124-125 & Map 27, Lot 22** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Jerrold Ellner to install an osprey nest at 111 Cedar Street; a (3) to (4) foot deep hole will be dug with shovels; a 4"x6" pressure treated post, capped with wooden pellet will be placed in the hole and then back filled with the unearthened material and stabilized by pressure-treated 2"x4" boards. Work to take place within Salt Marsh, Barrier Beach, and FEMA Flood Zone VE (El. 15') at Assessor's Map 4, Lots 124-125 & Map 27, Lot 22.

Information regarding remote meeting access, listed above, will also be provided on the Conservation Agenda posted on the Town's website at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Copies of the applications and site plans listed in this hearing notice may be viewed at the Conservation Office in Town Hall, located at 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA and links to the applications are on the Town Website.

Jay Simmons, Chair
Fairhaven Conservation Commission
FNN: 2/22/24

Request for Proposals

The Fairhaven Public Schools is requesting proposals for the Operation and Management of the School Food Service Program. Beginning Monday, February 26, 2024, RFP documents are available by emailing npotter@fairhavenps.net. A mandatory site visit will occur on March 4, 2024 at 2:00 PM at Fairhaven High School. Proposals shall be delivered to the Office of the Superintendent located at Fairhaven Public Schools Administration Building, 128 Washington St Fairhaven, MA 02719, by Monday, March 25, 2024, at 1:00 PM. Fairhaven Public Schools reserve the right to waive any or all informalities in the RFP process and to reject any or all proposals if it is considered to be in the best interest of the Fairhaven Public Schools to do so.

Contact Information: Nicole V. Potter, School Business Manager, 128 Washington St., Fairhaven, Massachusetts; (508) 979-4000 ext 4140; npotter@fairhavenps.net

FNN 2/22/24

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

BEGINNER DOG OBEDIENCE TRAINING New class starts Feb 21, 2024 The Wampanoag Kennel Club, 1121 Main St. Acushnet. \$125 for 8 weeks. Call/text 508-858-9962

Make Your Dog a Better Pet at Plymouth County Canine Club's next 8 week Beginners session starting Friday, March 15, at 7PM with Trainer Ed Dupont at Rochester Grange, 205 Hartley Road. Ed will teach you "how to" train your dog in all the basic commands. Classes are limited, call for info. &/or to reserve space. 508-763-8471 or 508-763-3355. This course will help prepare you for Canine Good Citizen (CGC) and Therapy Dog (TDI) titles., 35 yrs. experience! Drop in advance classes at 8pm weekly.

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FRANKIE: cont'd from page 10

felt uneasy discussing your sports "handicaps" and your family's lifestyle with his friends.

If you decide to break up with him, all you need to say is you found his superior attitude toward you and your family insulting and disrespectful.

If you want to give him a chance, ask him how he feels about you not being able to play the sports. If it is important to him and you are open to learning, ask him to teach you. You certainly aren't the first person who picked up a racket or a club or put on a set of water wings for the first time at 15. If he says yes, I suggest you choose swimming. Once you have a few dog paddles, you will have a future of lounging to look forward to.

If the issue is he is ashamed to tell his friends that his girlfriend's family

are working-class immigrants, that is a red flag. Your mom's advice might be the way to go.

Never forget how special you are and what you have been able to accomplish. Not many 15-year-olds can list a scholarship at the most prestigious canine institution in the country on their resume.

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.

Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven

Board of Appeals

Tues., 3/5, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 2/26, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Charter Committee

Thurs., 2/22, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 3/4, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 3/13, Media Ctr/Lib., 6:30 p.m.

Select Board

Mon., 2/26, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Sustainability Comm

Tues., 2/27, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet

Planning Board

Thurs., 2/22, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Selectboard

Tues., 2/27, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Feb. 2024		HIGH a.m. p.m.	LOW a.m. p.m.	
Thursday	22	0628	1849	0113	1357
Friday	23	0705	1927	0154	1429
Saturday	24	0743	2005	0208	1430
Sunday	25	0821	2043	0148	1406
Monday	26	0859	2120	0215	1428*
Tuesday	27	0936	2157	0247	1457*
Wednesday	28	1014	2237	0320*	1528*
Thursday	29	1056	2323	0355*	1602*
	March 2024		HIGH a.m. p.m.	LOW a.m. p.m.	
Friday	1	1145	---	0433	1640*
Saturday	2	0015	1240	0521	1729
Sunday	3	0109	1334	0625	1833
Monday	4	0205	1433	0736	1942
Tuesday	5	0307	1542	0843	2049
Wednesday	6	0416	1648	0956	2202*
Thursday	7	0515	1741	1102*	2310*
Friday	8	0603	1827	1152*	---
Saturday	9	0650	1914	0008*	1238*

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

Don't forget to tell our advertisers you saw their ads in the Neighb News!

LETTERS: cont'd from page 16

#4: Most of us know that voting sometimes comes down to your personality. Don't try to be the smartest one in the room...most of us want to hear your honest opinion, don't try to answer like you think we want you to answer!

And Lastly: Be yourself. Say what you mean and mean what you say. Period. Don't promise anything during a campaign, especially if you can't produce or don't want to produce after the fact.

Good luck to ALL the candidates running!

Pattie Pacella, Fairhaven

The Chief Cornerstone

Well, when I first saw all the red bricks washed ashore at Fort Phoenix, I thought, what a disaster. My first thought was that hundreds of

red bricks do not belong on the shoreline of a beach. It is just not natural...

But a few days later as I walked along the beach, something extraordinary happened, in a very ordinary way.

It was like Jesus Christ appeared before my eyes and said to me, "The ocean is always washing up something, that is what oceans do"

Then He said, "Why not make a walkway."

He was telling me to put the bricks to good use. Be the alchemist and transform what looks like a disaster into something beautiful and useful. So, here I am writing a letter to the editor, wondering if she might publish this letter to help let other people know that there are more bricks on

the shoreline than I alone can make use of to make a walkway. I thought that other people might want some of those red bricks too. Even the broken-up bricks can be used as part of a mosaic walkway. Or you can make them part of a filler for a garden wall. The sky is the limit...

Made me think of the movie Field of Dreams, "If you build it, He will come."

I was grateful to have this transformative encounter, which provided me with an opportunity to be creative, while cleaning up the shoreline at our beautiful Fort Phoenix beach. And most of all, my heart was gladdened that I could leave a little more room for His footprints in the sand.

Michelle Costen Fairhaven

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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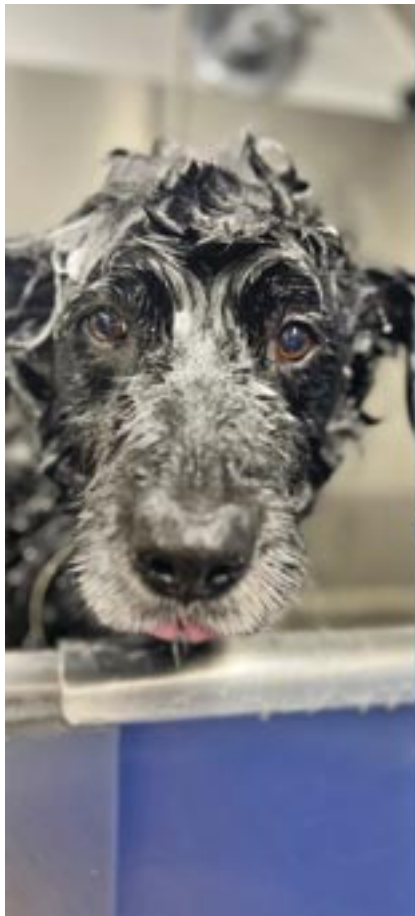
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