



# Fairhaven

# Neighborhood News

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



The little paper  
with a big voice!

Volume 19, Issue 10 • February 29, 2024

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

## Bagged & Tagged!



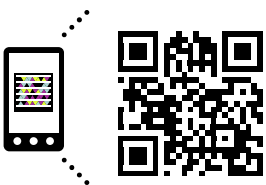
The Blue Stream Shellfish oyster farm in Fairhaven waters is a year round operation, with harvesting going on even in February. L-R: Travis Ortega, James Gamache, and Cody Jardin of Blue Stream Shellfish use the Hoppy's Landing boat ramp to unload 100 bags containing 100 oysters each, harvested from their aquaculture farm in Nasketucket Bay off Goulart Memorial Drive on 2/27/24. See page 19 for more photos. *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.



Publisher Beth David with  
Charlie, aka Evil Dog

Oh, where to begin? Select Board Chairperson, Leon E. Correy III, actually said out loud and into the microphone, “Two more meetings” during one of his despicable displays of disrespect for fellow board member Bob Espindola.

Such a dedicated public servant, huh?

So, Mr. Correy, why don't you do us all a favor and just stay home for the next two meetings and let the grownups take over? Because I assure you that you are not the only one counting the meetings.

I hereby absolve you of the responsibility of going to the next two meetings (picture me making the sign of the cross or using incense like the Catholics do).

Two more meetings...

In that same meeting Mr. Correy told Mr. Espindola he should be ashamed of himself for insisting that the topic for discussion was not appropriate for executive session. Town Counsel confirmed (of course) that Mr. Espindola was correct. Town Counsel made it clear that they were not talking about that thing, but the other thing (see page 4).

Did Mr. Correy apologize to Mr. Espindola? Of course not. Because that, undoubtedly, would require you to be a grownup, clearly a task beyond your capacity. Two more meetings, indeed. One can only hope.

So, do you like our cover this week? I was out and about trying to find a good shot for the cover when I came upon those hardworking oyster guys. Brrr... Well, it was warm for February, around 50 degrees, but....brrr anyway. Still too cold for me to be on the water.

I'm a totally fair weather boater. Just a few more weeks, though, right? Yup.

We have other meeting coverage this week. The BPW had a lot of resident input on the proposed new trash fee. See page 3 for that.

We also have some fun stuff in here, of course. See page 12 for when you can see a ballet version of “Hansel and Gretel” right in Fairhaven.

And, last, but certainly not least, we have a primary this Tuesday. See page 17 for who is on the ballot, etc.

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Until next week then, see ya  
*Glory to Ukraine!*  
*Glory to the Heroes!*

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# Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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Editor: Beth David

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## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

# BPW holds off on trash fee, town faces \$2.17 M deficit

By Beth David  
Editor

The Fairhaven Board of Public Works opted not to vote on a proposed trash fee of \$100 that would be assessed to each residential household. The board heard from a number of residents at its meeting on 2/26/24, some remotely, who expressed concern with the fee, spending about an hour and a half on the agenda item.

The board first heard a presentation from Assistant Town Administrator of Finance/Town Accountant, Anne Carreiro, who explained the town's financial situation.

She said the town is facing a deficit of \$2.17 million. The town is only allowed to raise property taxes by an overall amount of 2.5%. State aid is increasing by 1.6% and local receipts (permit fees, excise taxes) are increasing by 1.7%.

Expenses, however are increasing 8% to 55% depending on the department. Police and Fire Departments have contracted to increase overtime pay from 10% to 15%; school assessments for Voc-Tech have gone

up \$240K, and Bristol Aggie has increased \$81K; and the overall school department budget is increasing. In short, every department has an increase, but revenue is not keeping pace.

Ms. Carreiro said the Town Administrator has asked all town departments to increase fees.

In round numbers, the increase in revenue is \$1,398,000, and the increase in expenses is \$3,537,000.

She said they were actually at \$2.17, but she only used the "big numbers" to keep it short.

Ms. Carreiro went through the numbers, explaining how much of a deficit the bigger departments face with and without the trash fee.

She also explained that the host community agreements with the cannabis industry throughout the state are gone, after a court awarded a company over a \$1 million that a municipality had to pay back. That will cost the town more than \$400,000 this year.

"We can't get it back," said Ms. Carreiro. "It's controlled by the state. That's gone."

BPW member Robert "Hoppy" Hobson said he did not like the idea of a new fee, but said he would rather pay \$100 a year on each of his properties than see layoffs.

BPW member Anne Morton Smith praised the concise presentation, adding that the Finance Committee meetings are hard to follow. She said she was with Hoppy, saying that \$25 a quarter is not a lot to ask.

Ms. Carreiro told the board that without increasing revenues, the town is looking at a \$617K cut to the schools; \$210K cut to police; \$180K cut to fire; \$166K cut to public works; plus cuts to the smaller departments.

"Those are salaries," she said.

One woman said if layoffs have to happen, then they have to happen. She said corporate America is laying off people. If the town can not afford so many employees then they need to be laid off. She said the town voted against the Proposition 2 1/2 override last year because people just cannot afford more.

One man said that he and his wife make decent money but they have

BPW: cont'd on page 14



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**UU Society of Fairhaven welcomes all!**

Worship at 10 a.m. Sundays  
March theme: Transformation  
March 3: 'The Church is Dead, Long Live the Church!'

'Second Hour' Faith Formation:  
Sustainability activities for all ages

The Rev. Maria Uitti McCabe  
102 Green St., Fairhaven uufairhaven.org 508-992-7081



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# Fairhaven Select Board chair gets his hackles up

By Beth David  
Editor

The Fairhaven Select Board meeting had some testy exchanges on Monday, 2/26/24. SB chairperson Leon E. Correy III engaged in his now common berating of fellow board member Bob Espindola and an exceptionally long diatribe about racism and racists in Fairhaven, reminding everyone that he is not running for re-election because of racism he has endured since entering public office.

The board was discussing a motion to convene in executive session, purportedly to discuss contract negotiations for Town Administrator Angie Lopes Ellison, whose contract expires in April of 2025.

Mr. Espindola asked for a clarification of why they were convening in executive session. He said he did not believe the reason for the executive session was a permissible reason. He wanted an assurance that they would not be discussing goals and objectives because that is not permitted as outlined by the Attorney General's Office. He said he had forwarded an email to his fellow board members from the AG's office.

Ms. Ellison took exception to the questioning and quite forcefully said her contract has "very specific" things in it and they needed to be negotiated in executive session.

She also chastised Mr. Espindola for forwarding his "opinion" to everyone in an email. He answered that he did not express an opinion, he forwarded information from the AG.

Mr. Espindola said for two years they discussed goals in open session, then last year they did it at their "retreat."

The retreat was not recorded by the Fairhaven Cable Access Department.

Mr. Espindola said they should wait for a determination from the AG's office.

"You can't set goals for me in open session," said Ms. Ellison.

She read a section of her contract to prove her point, but Mr. Espindola said he did not see where it meets the standard for executive session. He said the email from the AG's office says otherwise.

"At least that's the way I read it."

The documents he produced were

an email from the AG's office in response to Mr. Espindola's question of whether or not a discussion of the goals and objectives that will be used to evaluate the Town Administrator in the next contract is a proper executive session topic.

The AGO's answer was that they would only "provide an advisory opinion" if it is from a complaint filed for "full review and investigation."

The answer then points to previous decisions that the office has made and provides three documents: Dighton Selectboard, and two from Great Barrington Housing Authority.

"We have explained in a few prior determination letters that discussions of the process or metrics through which an evaluation will be

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After a long and loud  
sigh, Mr. Correy said,  
"Two more meetings."  
And then moved the  
meeting along

---

conducted is not a proper matter for executive session," writes the AGO.

Mr. Espindola said if the board did not agree, then he would not participate in an executive session, preferring to see something specific from town counsel or the AG's Office.

Ms. Ellison said they could decide to do it in open session, but would have to discuss it in executive session to decide that. Mr. Espindola said it was not listed on the agenda that way.

"All right," said Mr. Correy, then paused for a moment and spoke to Mr. Espindola: "The divisive environment that has been created and has been fostered for at least the last year is absolutely insane and irresponsible. And we can talk about it further at another time because it's not... You should be ashamed of yourself, quite frankly."

Mr. Correy asked if there was anything beyond goal setting that had to be discussed in executive session. When Mr. Espindola tried to speak, Mr. Correy interrupted him.

"I'm talking, I'm talking, I'm talking, I'm talking, I'm talking. Thank you," said Mr. Correy.

He said they would go into executive session, and since Labor Counsel was there, they would ask him for some clarity.

The board's roll call vote for executive session was 4-1 with Mr. Espindola voting "no."

When they returned, Labor Counsel, Rich Massina, said that the purpose of the executive session was not to discuss goals. He said the reason was to discuss strategy and negotiations for the contract that expires in 2025.

Generally speaking, he said, goals will come up in discussion, but, he made it clear, that the purpose of the executive session was not to set goals "as described in the contract for the purposes of the performance review."

"That's a separate process," said Mr. Massina. "The meeting was truly to discuss the strategy and how the board goes about negotiating that."

The two board members also had some disagreement during the appointment of Daniel Lane to the Board of Assessors to fill the position vacated by long serving assessor Ellis Withington, who resigned on 2/7/24 with no explanation and no notice.

He wrote: "Hi. I am herby [sic] resigning from the board of assessors as of today. Thank you."

Mr. Espindola said he had some concerns about the status of the Board of Assessors because they so abruptly lost a "valuable asset to the town," in Mr. Withington who has served on the board since 2006.

Mr. Espindola asked that the Select Board consider holding a joint meeting with the assessors to find out what is happening with that board. He said he spoke with another board member who also may leave, and he was concerned.

"That's an incredibly vague ask," said Mr. Correy, adding that he did not think they were in a position to address it.

SB member Stasia Powers asked what the end goal would be. They need to fill the spot and they have a candidate.

Mr. Espindola said he was concerned about the nature of how it happened, so abruptly. He said he would like to know what precipitated

**SELECT: cont'd on page 13**



# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## 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)**

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

Call 508-979-593 or email with questions.

## Wood School Proj

SRPEDD Announces a 14-day Public Comment Period and Virtual Public Meeting on Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 4:00 pm to hear comments on the release of Amendment #4 of the FFY2024-2028 TIP which includes a project cost increase for Fairhaven's Leroy Wood Elementary School improvements.

February 21, 2024 – The FFY2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for Southeastern Massachusetts is being amended due to a project cost increase. Safe Routes to School Project 609518 for Leroy Wood Elementary School Improvements in Fairhaven will increase in cost from \$1,516,087 to \$2,659,175 in 2024. Cost increases are due to the relocation of Verizon and Eversource utilities.

A virtual public meeting on this amendment will be held remotely on Thursday, February 29, 2024 at 4:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to attend, ask questions and offer comments, but attendance is not necessary to offer input or comment. More options to offer comments can be found below.

The meeting will be conducted through the ZOOM app. This link provides the information to allow participants to connect to the meeting through a computer, smart phone or regular telephone: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/>

categories/200101697.

The direct link to the public meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84102113930?pwd=V0J3Y3Rjd091ODIRYnVLZDZjBUNjQT09>

This amendment will have a 14-day public comment period and automatic endorsement on March 5th if no negative comments are received. More detailed information on Amendment #4 can be found on SRPEDD's website [www.srpedd.org](http://www.srpedd.org) at the following link: FFY2024-2028 TIP Amendment #4.

Comments are encouraged and may be offered by a variety of methods including: via e-mail at [lestrela@srpedd.org](mailto:lestrela@srpedd.org); our website at <https://srpedd.org/contact-us/>; our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SRPEDD/>; or Twitter @SRPEDD\_NEWS at [https://twitter.com/SRPEDD\\_NEWS](https://twitter.com/SRPEDD_NEWS)

## 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](http://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](http://communitynurse.com/bingo)

For questions or raffle prize donation, email: [donate@communitynurse.com](mailto:donate@communitynurse.com)

## 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.

## SAVE THE DATES:

### Beach Cleanup

Be The Solution to Pollution is sponsoring a cleanup on Hacker Street in Fairhaven on 3/23, from 9 a.m. to noon. Wear closed-toe waterproof shoes or boots. Meet at the end of Hacker Street Fairhaven

Gloves, bags tools provided. Contact: Instagram: [marylou4oceans](https://www.instagram.com/marylou4oceans),

or [bethesolutiontopollution@gmail.com](mailto:bethesolutiontopollution@gmail.com)

## Coffehouse

The Women's Alliance of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven invites you to a concert by SloGrass, one of Central Massachusetts' longest-performing bluegrass bands, from 7 to 9 p.m. March 23.

SloGrass plays an eclectic mix of instrumental and vocal bluegrass songs. Besides bluegrass, the musicians draw on a repertoire of blues, jazz, folk, American Songbook, Americana, world music, and originals.

Bob Dick on bass, Mark Whiting Davis on steel-string guitar, David DiBiasio on banjo, dobro and nylon-string guitar, and Fran McConville on mandolin make up the band. To learn more, visit [www.slograss.com](http://www.slograss.com).

All seats are first-come, first-served. Doors open at 6. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$7 for kids under 15. Coffee, tea, and sweets will be available for purchase. To buy tickets, text a request to 717-462-0411.

The parish house at 102 Green St. is handicapped accessible via a ramp off the Center Street driveway. For more information about the church, call 508-992-7081 or visit [uufairhaven.org](http://uufairhaven.org).

## 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](http://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](mailto:westisland5k@yahoo.com)

# HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

## Lenten Fish Dinner

Our Lady of Purgatory Maronite Catholic Church will hold two Fish Fry Fridays during Lent. On March 1 & March 22, OLOP will have fish dinners immediately following the 7 p.m. Adoration/Stations of the Cross, at the parish hall behind the church, 4254 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford.

Choice of fried or baked fresh cod "New England Style," with French fries, cole slaw, dinner rolls, and dessert, all for \$15.00

We will also offer New England Clam Chowder for an additional purchase. The 12oz bowl of clam chowder will be \$5.00.

Please contact the church office for tickets by calling 508-996-8934, or email officeolop@gmail.com

## Science Cafe

Please join us for New Bedford Science Café, Tues., 3/5, from 6–8 p.m.. at The Last Round Bar & Grille, 908 Purchase St., New Bedford. Open to everyone. Free, save for the beer!

Our guest Maggie Jackson, an award-winning science writer and technology critic, will discuss *The Wisdom and Wonder of Uncertainty*. Humans naturally find uncertainty aversive and tend to fear the unknown. But the unease sparked by uncertainty is actually a kind of good stress that readies the brain to learn and grow. A new science of uncertainty reveals this mindset as central to curiosity, creativity, astute problem-solving, and even resilience. Managing uncertainty can be used as an effective treatment for anxiety and other mental disorders.

Drawing on her new book *Uncertain: The Wisdom and Wonder of Being Unsure*, Maggie will cover the neural mechanisms of uncertainty; how contemporary pressures to be quick & sure may narrow our thinking and deepen our anxieties; and how proven strategies can bolster our capacity for dealing with the unknown. Maggie is also the author of *Distracted*, a book that sparked a global conversation on the steep costs of tech-fragmented attention. Her books will be for sale.

Free parking in rear of building. Videos of recent events can be found on our website: <https://newbedfordsciencecafe.weebly.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NewBedfordScienceCafe/>

## Fishing Safety Classes

Fishermen are encouraged to attend two safety classes, both at SMAST West, 706 So. Rodney French Blvd., NB. To register contact: Jenny Verde, call or text 774-770-5666; or email [jverde@fishingpartnership.org](mailto:jverde@fishingpartnership.org)

**Safety & Survival Training:** March 7, 7:30 a.m. to 4 pm. This training is designed for all fisherman, including crewmen, to learn or hone fundamental skills. Through hands-on training, learn about EPIRBs, Signal Flares, MAYDAY Calls, Man Overboard Recovery, Firefighting, Flooding & Damage Control, Dewatering Pumps, Immersion Suits, PFDs, and Life Rafts. Commercial fishermen who attend are eligible for a 50% rebate off a lifejacket they purchase after the trainings.

**Drill Conductor Certification:** March 8, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dig deeper into what you learned in the Safety & Survival Class including new information in cold-water survival, helicopter rescues, stability, liability and emergency procedures. Then apply your knowledge and skills to your own fishing vessel in a way that has proven to save lives.

Fishermen who complete these two days of training are AMSEA certified Drill Conductors, which meets USCG requirements under 46 CFR 28.270(c).

## YTI Production

Your Theatre Presents *CRIMES OF THE HEART*. by Beth Henley, Directed by Brienne Riccio

This show will not be your grandmother's *CRIMES OF THE HEART* but it will certainly be one to remember. The play we all remember from college will feature actors performing roles in drag to echo what Roger Ebert referred to as the line that "exists somewhere between parody and melodrama." This "love letter to the South" will satisfy your nostalgia, tug at your heartstrings, and tickle your funny bone.

For the first time in a decade, the three Magrath sisters are back together in their hometown of

Hazelhurst, Mississippi. Lenny, the eldest, never left Hazelhurst; she is the caretaker of the sisters' cantankerous Old Granddaddy. Meg, the middle sister, left home to pursue stardom as a singer in Los Angeles, but so far has found happiness only at the bottom of a bottle. And Babe, the youngest, has just been arrested for the murder of her abusive husband, Zackery Bottrelle. Under the scorching heat of the Mississippi sun, past resentments bubble to the surface in this Pulitzer Prize-winning tragicomedy, and each sister must confront the consequences of her own "crimes of the heart."

Fri. & Sat., 3/1, 3/2, 3/8, 3/9 at 7:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 3/2, 3/3, 3/9, 3/10, at 2 p.m. at Your Theatre @ Steeple Playhouse, 159 William Street, New Bedford, MA 02740

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

This will be the entrance for all patrons for this performance.

Tickets: General Admission, \$25.00; Military, Seniors and Students, \$22.00

No Assigned Seating. Open Seating at All Performances. Payment at the door Day of Performance

## Grant Info Session

The Women's Fund SouthCoast aims to build leadership and economic security for women and girls, promoting economic, racial/ethnic, immigrant and LGBTQ+ equity. As a small fund with limited resources, our approach is to invest in social and systemic change.

Please visit our website to learn more about our priorities and how to apply. Join us for one of our upcoming information sessions to learn best practices for applying for a grant and to ask questions. We look forward to seeing you. Sessions will be recorded.

Letters of Intent will be due on March 14 for funding that begins July 1 2024. Register Here: [https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZYof-CorjwpGNPVeUnHSNxIz8OFNu\\_Oiran#/registration](https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZYof-CorjwpGNPVeUnHSNxIz8OFNu_Oiran#/registration)

Visit <https://womensfundsouthcoast.org/local-impact/local-grants/>

# HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

## Concert FR

Concerts at the Point is pleased to announce the next concert in its 27th Annual Concert Series. This season's concerts will be held, once again, at the Westport Point United Methodist Church, located at 1912 Main Road, Westport Point, Massachusetts. The building is handicapped accessible, with room for social distancing. Street parking is abundant.

Ticket prices are \$40 for adults, \$20 for students. For tickets, please visit [concertsatthepoint.org](http://concertsatthepoint.org) or call 617-512-5549.

RUCKUS EARLY MUSIC BAND & FLUTIST EMI FERGUSON, Sunday, March 3, 2024, 3PM

Acclaimed virtuoso flutist Emi Ferguson, who received standing ovations at our 2023 H&H concert, joins RUCKUS, the six-member continuo band, to offer a joyous romp through some of Bach's most playful and transcendent works. These idiosyncratic performers reimagine Bach for 21st-century fans of 18th-century music.

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

## Arsenic & Old Lace

The Marion Art Center is pleased to present *Arsenic & Old Lace*, written by Joseph Kesselring and directed by Donn Tyler. Performance dates are March 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 2024. Friday and Saturday shows will start at 7:30pm, while the Sunday matinee will begin at 2:00pm. At the MAC, 80 Pleasant St., Marion.

The cast includes Kiah Allaire, Ron Bieber, Jack Boesen, Chris Clark, Tom Conway, Ann-Marie Foley, Bethany Lamoureux, Susan Salvesen, Jacqueline Sophia, Aidan Weaver, Jess Wilson, and Harvey Ussach. Kiah Allaire is Assistant Director, Sound and Lighting tech is Steven McManus, and set construction is by Dick Sullivan and Connor Sullivan.

Synopsis: Drama critic Mortimer Brewster's engagement announcement is upended when he discovers a corpse in his elderly aunts' window seat. Mortimer rushes to tell Abby and Martha before they stumble upon the body themselves, only to learn that the two old women aren't just

aware of the dead man in their parlor, they killed him! Between his aunts' penchant for poisoning wine, a brother who thinks he's Teddy Roosevelt, and another brother using plastic surgery to hide from the police — not to mention Mortimer's own hesitancy about marriage — it'll be a miracle if Mortimer makes it to his wedding. *Arsenic and Old Lace* is a classic black comedy about the only thing more deadly than poison: family

Tickets are on sale now for MAC members (\$20) and go on sale to nonmembers (\$23) on February 15; tickets can be purchased online at [marionartcenter.org/events](http://marionartcenter.org/events). The MAC is a participant in Mass Cultural Council's Card to Culture program, in collaboration with the Department of Transitional Assistance, the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Nutrition Program, and the Massachusetts Health Connector, by broadening accessibility to cultural programming. Learn more about the MAC's free or low cost ticket offerings at [marionartcenter.org/about](http://marionartcenter.org/about).

## SAVE THE DATES:

### Clothing & Toy Sale!

Gently used clothing for the entire family, toys & jigsaw puzzles. All at bargain prices.

Fri., March 15, 1-7 pm Sat., March 16, 9 am-1 pm fill a bag for \$3.

St. Julie Billiard Church Hall, 494 Slocum Rd., Dartmouth. Sponsored by the Ladies Guild

### Job Fair

Thurs., 3/14, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at White's of Westport, 66 State Road (Route 6), Westport.

Free for attendees/job seekers.

Sponsored by One SouthCoast Chamber of Commerce.

### Free Movie

Monday, 3/11 Movie Matinee - The Holdovers Nominated for an Oscar! Some scenes were filmed at FHS. At Acushnet Public Library, 232 Middle Road, Acushnet. 508-998-0270; Visit [acupl.org](http://acupl.org)

## Art Exhibit

Thomas H. Lynch: Fine Art and Corporate Design. March 1 – March 31. Come to the Mattapoissett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow St. between March 1 and March 31 to view the Artist Series

Lynch has been working professionally for some 40 years. His BFA in design is complemented by a lifetime pursuit of artistic development and excellence, which has enabled him to create award winning works of art and design. Additionally, his experience as an Art Director, Senior Designer and Creative Project Director in the corporate design world has made him a world class visual arts communicator. Lynch has a Gallery in the Ropewalk Mall in Mattapoissett. Lynch will also be available for a Meet & Greet at the Mattapoissett Library on Sunday, March 10 from 2:00 pm – 2:30 pm to speak about his work.

## 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).

## New Playwrights

The MAC Theater Playwrights Incubator is a program for first-time playwrights to see their work realized on the stage.

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. Apply online at [marionartcenter.org/mtpi](http://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](mailto:mtpi@smarionartcenter.org).

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# Fairhaven Recreation Center

Open Mon-Thurs, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.;  
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2 p.m.; Closed Sunday • 227  
Huttleston Ave, 508-993-9269  
<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. \$7 per child

## Tumble Time Pre-K Free Play

Fairhaven Recreation Center.  
Every Tuesday, 10:30am-12pm

Come join us for a time of pre-k family free play! We will place mats, tunnels, playhouses, rockers, trikes, stilts and more out in the gym for families to enjoy. There is no instructional time, just free play. This program will not run during school vacation weeks

## Chemical Creations (Ages 6-10)

Come experience a hands-on world of fun as you conduct a variety of scientific experiments! Learn and discover many different scientific concepts in an entertaining and innovative approach. Learn all about energy and molecules, create a crazy bouncy glob from glue, and make some scary green slime! Make your very own UV bracelet and watch it react to the sun. You will also get to witness some amazing scientific demonstrations from your instructor. Watch snow being created and feel how cold it is! Experience a powerful magnet, magic sand, and many other exciting experiments in this fascinating and educational program!

This program has 2 sessions that are 3 hours long on May 4th and May 11. Member \$130. Non-Member \$145.

# Fairhaven Senior Center

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Visit our website at:  
[http://fairhavenma.virtualltownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA\\_COA/index](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: 3/6, Tiverton Casino; 3/13, Warwick Mall; 3/20, Providence Place & Whole Foods; 3/27, Hyannis Mall, Trader Joe's & Whole Foods.

### 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?

We are happy to take an unused medical equipment in working condition to loan to others in need.

### Medical Transportation

Did you know we can help you get to your medical appointments? Call us for more info, 508-979-4029.

### Legal Help

Free 15-minute consultation with Atty. Suzanne Seguin. Call the center for info, 508-979-4029.

South Coastal Counties Legal Services, advocates for older adults, 508-979-7150.

### Single Senior Supper Club

If you are a Single Senior, like to socialize and have a great meal, please join us! Call the center to sign up, 508-979-4029. \$3. The third Tuesday of every month, 4-6 p.m. Call the Wednesday before to confirm.

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# Recipe of the Week

## Grilled Ribeye Steak

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- 2 ribeye steaks, 1-inch thick
- Rosemary, to taste
- 2 tablespoons butter, room temperature
- Sea salt, to taste, coarse
- Pepper, to taste

Allow the steaks to come to room temperature.

Chop the fresh rosemary.

Combine the rosemary with the room temperature butter. Set the herb butter aside.

Preheat the grill to medium heat.

Season the steaks with salt and pepper.

Grill until the steaks reach desired doneness, about 5-6 minutes per side for medium-rare (135°) or 6-7 minutes for medium (145°).

Remove the steaks from the grill and place them onto a cutting board.

Brush the steaks with the herb butter and tent loosely with aluminum foil for 5-10 minutes.

Serve immediately

*From heartlandcooking.com*



what's going on.

All I know is my mom is distraught with my dad and says to him, "I can't believe you have done this again. You promised me the last time you would quit. I believed you and helped you. The 401k is for our retirement, not racetrack and poker debts."

Then my dad says, "You didn't seem to mind when I was winning at poker and bought you that ring. It's a bad streak. Nobody wins all the time. I know I can make it back. But until I do, I need to cash in the 401k. These guys I play poker with are putting on the pressure and want their money

# Dear Frankie

## Trouble at Home

Dear Frankie, There has been a lot of tension between my parents these past few months.

They have been arguing about the track, poker games, thugs, 401k. I need to figure out

this week."

The argument usually ends with my mom leaving the room crying and slamming the bedroom door. Recently, my dad has been sleeping with me on the couch. It has been weeks since I have had a decent night's sleep. Is this ever going to end?

Tony

Dear Tony,

What is going on is your parents are arguing about your father's gambling debts. His first debt was from his bets on the horses at the racetrack. Your mom helped him pay this debt because he promised to quit. Your mom is mad because he is in debt again, this time from playing poker.

Your dad is asking your mom to allow him to withdraw the money from their retirement account called a 401K to pay off his debts, and your mom is refusing. He is trying to persuade her by saying he needs the money as a temporary loan and will put the money back into the account when he wins the money back. Your mom knows professional gamblers don't take unpaid debts lightly, so she

FRANKIE: cont'd on page 18

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# Select Board discusses concerns with Oxford Street home

By Beth David  
Editor

At its meeting on 2/26/24, the Fairhaven Select Board discussed and took comment on “concerns” at 14 Oxford Street. SB member Keith Silvia said he asked for the item because neighbors have complained about vehicles abandoned on the street. They have flat tires and have not moved in months.

SB member Bob Espindola asked if they could understand the request by the owner to postpone the hearing.

Mr. Silvia said he wanted it to be on the agenda last month and had to wait.

“I think we need to address this,” he said, however, it quickly became clear that the board had no authority to do so.

The vehicles fall under the jurisdiction of the police department, and the issues with debris and clutter inside the yard fall under the jurisdiction of either the Board of Health or the Building Department.

Mr. Espindola made a motion to table it until they could review the letter they received from the owner’s attorney, noting that the owner, Con-

servation Chairperson Jay Simmons, had just lost his father, Anthony, who lived in that house with him.

Mr. Espindola said Mr. Simmons had not even made arrangements for his father, and postponing it would be the “honorable thing to do.”

At that, SB Chairperson Leon Correy laughed.

There was no second for the motion.

Attorney Nicholas Sylvia asked the to read the letter. He said it shows there has been progress made and the owner is ready to “work side by side” with the town to work through the issues.

In the letter, Mr. Sylvia said that Mr. Simmons is “confident that a plan can be developed that would include a detailed description of work methods and well-defined/reasonable deadlines.”

He requested a continuance until mid April, which would give Mr. Simmons time to “further emotionally process the loss of his father,” and work in collaboration with the town.

Mr. Sylvia asked that his client not be subjected to a “public bombardment.”

Mr. Correy said that Mr. Sylvia was

“incredibly accusatory,” and said he did not appreciate the attempt to play on guilt.

Several neighbors spoke, but only about the cars being a nuisance and hazard on the street. They said they did not know that the property had vehicles and other materials that might contaminate the marsh.

The board also heard from Health Agent David Flaherty and Building Commissioner Randall Bassett.

Mr. Flaherty said he did see Mr. Simmons while his father was sick, and he asked for some time.

Mr. Flaherty said he is willing to work with Mr. Simmons to get the property cleaned up. Responding to a question from Mr. Espindola, Mr. Flaherty said there is some money from the hoarder program to help.

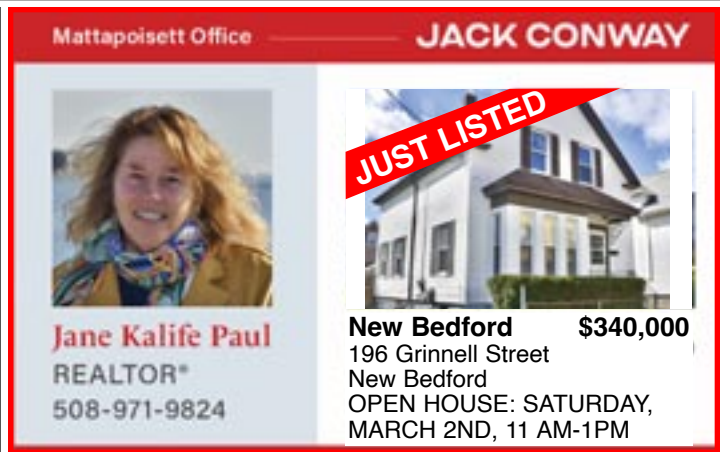
He said he was trying to work in the spirit of getting it cleaned up instead of issuing orders and citations.

Conservation Agent Bruce Webb said he had not seen the site, but agreed with Mr. Flaherty that the first step its to reach out to assess the

**OXFORD: cont'd on page 16**



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# Hansel and Gretel to be performed at Fairhaven Town Hall

## Press Release

New Bedford Ballet and Seaglass Theater Company present a charming blend of opera and ballet-fun for the whole family! Presenting *Hansel and Gretel* on Sunday, March 10 at 2:00pm and 4:00pm at the Fairhaven Town Hall Auditorium., 40 Center Street, Fairhaven.

New Bedford Ballet and Seaglass Theater Company collaborate to present the classic story of *Hansel & Gretel*. First published as a fairytale by the Brothers Grimm in 1812, it was adapted as an opera by Englebert Humperdinck in 1892.

The performance blends ballet, opera, and narration in English in a charming rendition that is suitable for the whole family. Be enthralled by the story of Hansel and Gretel as they travel through the woods, are watched over by the Sandman and Dew Fairy, eventually overcome the evil Witch, and are reunited with their mother.

The performance features the New Bedford Youth Ballet bringing the story of *Hansel & Gretel* to life through dance, while Seaglass Theater Company artists Elaine Daiber, Kristin Lawler, Chris Hunter, Diana McVey, Patrice Tiedemann, and Matthew Larson perform the musical score.

Founded in 2016 by Patrice Tiedemann and Dr. Matthew Larson, Seaglass Theater Company is a vagabond company presenting creative performances of classical music, theater & beyond. Their

mission is to bring the finest classics to New England, while inspiring community engagement and conversation. Visit [www.seaglasstheater.com](http://www.seaglasstheater.com)

The New Bedford Youth Ballet is a company of the New Bedford Ballet Foundation, Inc. Founded in 1987, the Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote and present classical ballets, grant scholarships, and educate the community about the beauty of this performing arts. Throughout the years, aided by the financial support of the Foundation, thousands of area school children and senior citizens have had the opportunity to witness the splendor of “live” ballet.

The New Bedford Youth Ballet will also be performing *Hansel and Gretel* for elementary schools in Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, and New Bedford in March as part of their Bringing Literature to Life through the Arts program.

Two special additional performances of *Hansel and Gretel* will be presented – one for PACE Head Start students and their families, and a second for New Bedford elementary school participants and their families in NBB’s Building Healthy Communities through Dance programs. These families will be provided with evenings of culture, as they witness the enchantment of ballet and opera. These performances are supported by grants from the Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, and New Bedford Cultural Councils.



*Hansel and Gretel* is sponsored by Lang, Xifaras & Bullard, The William & Deborah Synnott Family, Early Learning Childcare, Colonial Shutterworks, Inner Bay Café & Grille, Anthony & Mary Ann Garro, Matias Landscaping, folia, Hawthorn Medical Associates, Colonial Air, Ray Hunt Design, and Lucinda Clinical Trial

Tickets: Adults \$20, Seniors, Students, and Children \$15. Get tickets online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hansel-gretel-tickets-820146689827>.

Tickets are on sale now and may be purchased online through New Bedford Ballet’s website at [newbedfordballet.org](http://newbedfordballet.org) or through Seaglass Theater’s website at [seaglasstheater.com](http://seaglasstheater.com). Please contact New Bedford Ballet at 508-993-1387 or Seaglass Theater Company at 508-951-7187 for more information.



TOP: Hansel, Gretel, the Witch, the Dew Fairy, and the Sandman rehearsing in the New Bedford Ballet and Seaglass Theater Company’s production of *Hansel and Gretel* to be performed in the Fairhaven Town Hall auditorium on 3/10/24. Standing: Eva Politano (New Bedford) Kneeling: Nissa Inwood (Westport), Avamarie Khazan (New Bedford) Sitting: Anya Carle-Ericson (Fairhaven), Quendalyn Marchesseault (Fairhaven). LEFT: Hansel, Gretel, the Witch, the Dew Fairy, and the Sandman rehearse. Standing: Aaliyah Veras (New Bedford), Ava Cunningham (Freetown), Esther Smith (Rochester), Nissa Inwood (Westport) Sitting: Anya Carle-Ericson (Fairhaven), Quendalyn Marchesseault (Fairhaven). RIGHT: The Dew Fairy and Angels rehearse. Standing: Phoebe Mahan (New Bedford), Madison Marchesseault (Fairhaven), Isabella Francisco (New Bedford), Simone Soares (Dartmouth), Eva Politano (New Bedford) Kneeling: Nayarit Cruz Diaz (New Bedford), Olivia Matias (Dartmouth), Lily Medeiros (Dartmouth) *Submitted photos.*



## SELECT: cont'd from page 4

it, noting that the assessors are an "enormous part of our revenue."

Ms. Powers said that Mr. Withington did not share his reason when he resigned. She said it puts the board in an "awkward position" because they have a person who is qualified to fill the role.

SB member Charles Murphy said when a person resigns they should take that opportunity to say why, or to at least talk to the Town Administrator.

Mr. Espindola said it was his understanding that Mr. Withington did speak to Ms. Ellison. But the appointment is the Select Board's responsibility.

After a loud and long sigh, Mr. Correy said, "Two more meetings," apparently referring to the fact that he is not running for re-election and there are only two meetings left before the town's election on 4/1.

Then he moved the meeting along.

The board voted to appoint Daniel Lane to the board of assessors, 4-1, with Mr. Espindola voting "no."

At the end of the meeting when board members have a chance to speak on their chosen topics, Mr. Espindola addressed the comment that he should be ashamed of himself, saying it was "actually quite the opposite."

"I'm very proud of my record," said Mr. Espindola. "I've been on this board for 12 years. And I'm very concerned about every time we enter executive session ensuring that we are following those guidelines from the attorney general's office and trying to understand them so I can advocate for that."

He said people in the community are counting on board members to follow the guidelines when they go behind closed doors. He said he reaches out to the AG's office to find out when if he is not sure.

"I'm not always right," said Mr. Espindola, adding he is "very proud" of the fact that he does his best to

make sure only those things that are supposed to take place in executive session do.

He also reiterated his concern that not all the public documents that are in the SB packets are being posted online, even though it is a clear policy of the board to have them posted.

Mr. Espindola also said he was completely unaware of a major lawsuit the town is named in until he read it in the *Neighb News*. He asked that the board be kept updated when the town is in litigation.

"I think we got a little out of hand today," said Ms. Powers, adding that



Fairhaven Select Board Chairperson Leon Correy waves as the photographer tries to get a picture of Mr. Correy smirking and chuckling while SB member Bob Espindola speaks at the meeting on 2/26/24. Photo by Beth David.

as a board member she chooses to treat everyone with respect, even if they disagree.

"We should always just be treating each other with respect," she said. "And I think our community deserves to hear us be kind to each other, be respectful."

She said they can strongly disagree, but need to be careful and "set an example for our community."

"There's a lot of nastiness out there," she said.

In a 7 1/2 minute diatribe at the end of the meeting, Mr. Correy hit on his now familiar refrain about racism in Fairhaven and how people do not want to admit it exists.

He said it is "interesting" that "we" seem to pick and choose when we are transparent.

He also said that the behavior of residents is creating a hostile work environment for Ms. Ellison, who he said was stalked because someone looked up personal information on her, such as the cost of the house she bought.\*

"That's why I don't want to serve this town anymore," he said. "People don't want to hear the truth."

In other business, the board approved the increase in boat fees, including Waterways Fees.

The board voted at its last meeting to raise parking fees at the boat ramps, shellfish license fees, and Union Wharf fees (see 2/1/24 issue). The board had decided to hold off on other fees to get more information on how much more revenue would be collected if the changes went into effect. The Marine Resources Committee had suggested lower rates than the Town Administrator.

In the end, the board voted to go with the higher fees, which would net the town about \$128,000 more in revenue.

Waterways fees went from \$1/foot to \$4/foot for residents, and from \$4/foot to \$10/foot for non-residents. Mooring fees went from \$30/year to \$50/year for residential, and from \$100/year to \$150/year for commercial.

*\* Editor's Note: Home sale prices and mortgages are public information and are available through the Registry of Deeds organized in 21 districts throughout the state.*

*You can see the clip of Mr. Correy's "two more meetings" comment on our website at [www.neighbnews.com](http://www.neighbnews.com). The whole meeting is available for viewing at [www.FairhavenTV.com](http://www.FairhavenTV.com)*

## Belonging Committee, Rotary to sponsor April Food Day

The Fairhaven Belonging Committee and Rotary Club of Fairhaven are supporting a community food drive during the month of March ending on April 6th with the collection of donations. This year donations will go to: Family Resource Center, Council on Aging Fairhaven and the

First Congregational Church's food pantry in Fairhaven.

We are looking for non-perishables ONLY. Nut butters, jelly, pasta, pasta sauces, mac n cheese, cereals are frequent needs. Toiletries welcome.

Support the drive by sharing a flyer, hosting a food drive, host a box

at your business, donate items, volunteer to help with collecting items, sorting out items on April 6th, at the Fairhaven Council on Aging, 229 Huttleston Ave., from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For more information, contact [belonging@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:belonging@fairhaven-ma.gov)

## BPW: cont'd from page 3

had to cut back on things like going out to eat. He said most people are actually paying more than 50% of their pay in taxes if they add up all the sales taxes and utilities fees.

"So when is enough enough," he said. "There's a limit people can go. "A hundred bucks sounds very nice that way, but I'm just tired."

Resident Brian Messier, who worked as a firefighter in Fairhaven for 32 years, said the \$700K was almost double the amount that was rejected by the taxpayers.

"So where does this stop," asked Mr. Messier. "Because I'm very confident this is just the beginning of the town taking it to the taxpayer and saying we need more of your money."

Lee Baumgartner asked if the board could put a time limit on the increase and revisit it next year. If not, he said it will be an "eternal new cash cow" that everyone will count on and then it will go up.

Carolyn Lopes asked if people who have two bins would pay double, and BPW chairperson Brian Wotton said they would. He said people who do not have trash pickup will not pay the

fee.

Ms. Lopes said she was not for the fee.

"I think there are plenty of other cuts that could be made in town," she said, adding that there are a lot of needs in town but also a lot of wants that should be looked at.

Cameron Durant said the residents of Fairhaven are in the bottom 90% of income going to property taxes. He noted that Dartmouth has a larger commercial tax base and they also have a trash fee and have to pay for bags. Residents need to make a determination on what they want. It is a Return on Investment decision.

"People need to look at that ROI," he said and see if the value is worth it.

Christine Lopes said she was opposed to the fee, and noted that household median income in Fairhaven is between \$70K and \$80K, and those people are "absolutely going to struggle" with bills.

She said seniors are struggling now.

Joe Desroches suggested that it go to the ballot, since the override did not pass. The voters have to pay the

fee so let them decide.

Board member Anne Morton Smith asked if the board could include a senior discount that would also include income parameters.

Mr. Wotton said he was looking for a motion to table the matter while the board looked at some cuts. He said the town is looking for \$700,000 from the BPW, and if they can get some of that in cuts, the trash fee may be less.

"I would like to try to chisel away at that 700,000 so I can make a more educated decision," said Mr. Wotton.

Mr. Hobson said he wanted to vote that night because he did not see where the cuts would come from without layoffs.

"I know before I even leave out of here, I got 200,000 off of this already," said Mr. Wotton.

BPW member Daniel Lopes said he could "see the sense" in seeing what they could do to exhaust their options.

"At the end of the day we answer to the taxpayers," said Mr. Lopes.

In the end the board voted 4-1 to table the item until the next meeting on 3/4, with Mr. Hobson voting "no."

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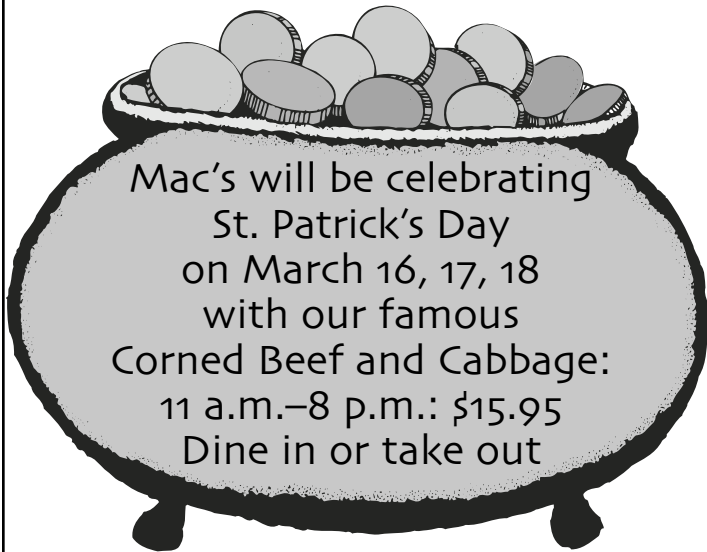
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## From our readers

### Hacking Endorses Romano

I am endorsing Andrew Romano's candidacy for Fairhaven's upcoming Select Board election. A talented, level-headed, young man, Andrew has many skills that the town and its residents will benefit from.

A little over two years ago, I successfully ran for the Board of Health, with Andrew as my manager. He was organized, efficient and hardworking. No task was too small for him during that campaign, where he assisted in handling everything from financial management to sign placements. He readily canvassed the town's neighborhoods with me, interacting with residents to make sure my platform was clearly explained.

Andrew is a passionate and dedicated supporter of the North Fairhaven Improvement Association. Recognizing his organizational, communication, and leadership skills, the group recently elected him as president, where I believe he will excel.

Andrew's civic enthusiasm extends beyond the boundaries of North Fairhaven, to the entire town. He is a product of the town's education system starting at Oxford School for his elementary schooling through his graduation from Fairhaven High School and is committed to making the town a better place.

A quick study, Andrew researches the areas of interest and concern that North Fairhaven residents have expressed, so that he can make informed, data driven decisions. I believe that this is the type of leadership to best serve Fairhaven and its people.

Please vote for Andrew Romano, candidate for Fairhaven's Select Board.

*Heidi Hacking, Fairhaven*

### America, Fight and Pray for it or Lose it

I believe the next presidential

election will be the most important in our history. The choice will be freedoms and rights that are enshrined in our constitution and bill of rights and the recognition that these are God given rights, versus the ruthless elitists' authoritative control of socialist Marxist Democrats who seek to control your life whose goal is power and control.

I believe little is being taught about the uniqueness of our history in schools, or about the brave patriots both men and women who fought and died in the Revolutionary War to gain our independence and form a government that is unique in world history. With its guiding principle that all men are created equal and are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Our freedom has been secured in the ensuing years by the men and women who fought and died to defend it.

I would like to point out the uniqueness of our history. To my knowledge no nation has ever fought a war to free the slaves. More soldiers died in the Civil War than all the other wars combined. I believe more than 600,000 men died in the Civil War.

In many of our schools and colleges this Marxist ideology has taken root and have ignored the fact that at no time in history have so many enjoyed the freedoms and opportunities we have. There are many in our government, schools, and colleges who have adopted this arrogant ideology. The focus on our faults not our good. Recently when other presidents of some of these universities were called before congress, they would not condemn the genocide of Jews.

There is a mountain of evidence to support the charge of corruption of the Biden family. Hunter Biden using his father's position in government has coerced and enticed many foreign

governments to transfer millions of dollars to proxy corporations\* Hunter's laptop collaborated much of this together with Tony Boblinski, a naval officer who worked with him testified that it was true.

Biden has opened our border to uncontrolled immigration. Our border is wide open. Fentanyl is pouring in killing thousands, many are young, sex traffickers, drug cartel members, terrorists, as many as 10,000 immigrants a day at the present rate there can be as many as 15 million by the end of this year. This will place an unsustainable burden on our welfare system, health care, and housing. For one reason only, to ensure the Democrats' drip on power and control.

When Trump was in office we had peace thorough strength. We were respected and feared. Biden's weak and feeble foreign policy has been a complete disaster. Starting with Afghanistan. The worst debacle in American history. We are now engaged in two wars with no end in sight. We are not under constant attack in the Middle East by Iran's proxies. Over 140 drones and missiles launched, three Americans killed, many injured.

In the words of that great patriot Ronald Reagan, freedom can be lost in one generation. It's up to every generation to defend it. I believe we have two choices in the next election, freedom or tyranny.

*John Pond, Fairhaven.*

*\*This claim is in dispute in so many ways, we could not afford to print them all, and, honestly, this editor is getting tired of fact checking this claim. Most recently, the "informant" who is the key to most charges against the Bidens has been charged with lying, and has admitted to getting his "information" from Russian operatives trying to get Trump elected.*

**OXFORD: cont'd from page 11**  
situation and then try to resolve it.

SB member Stasia Powers said she appreciated that town officials were trying to proceed with compassion. She said it must be overwhelming for Mr. Simmons.

Mr. Silvia asked if this is the kind of person we want to chair the conservation commission. Mr. Correy said they could not discuss it. Mr.

Silvia said he wanted it on the next agenda. Mr. Correy laughed and said they could put it on an April agenda, which is when he would no longer be on the board because he is not running for re-election.

The board voted to have the Town Administrator work with the other boards to get the property cleaned up.

In an email to the *Neighb News*, Mr.

Sylvia wrote: "I want to make clear that I would have been ready to meet with town officials to get the ball rolling today in order to avoid the matter discussed publicly during my client's time of grieving."

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Since Mr. Correy would not allow the letter to be read into the record, we will include it on our website, [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com)*



# Public Hearings/Legal Notices

NOTE: All legal notices are available on the Neighb News website, [www.NeighbNews.com](http://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"

## INVITATION TO BID

**Livesey Park - Skate Park Project, Fairhaven, MA**  
 Location of Work: Town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts. Sealed Bids for construction of the Livesey Park Skate Park Improvements will be received by the Public Works Department in Fairhaven, Massachusetts until **10:30 a.m., March 14, 2024**, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and bids read aloud. Bids submitted after this time will not be accepted. The work involves removal of existing asphalt surface and some features and placement of a concrete surface.

The work is estimated to cost \$210,000.00  
 Contract Documents may be viewed and downloaded as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file free of charge on or after Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at [www.accentblueprints.com](http://www.accentblueprints.com). Printed copies may be obtained for a fee by completing an order online or calling 978-362-8038 for each set. Completed orders may be picked up at the office of Accent Blueprints located at 99 Chelmsford Road, (Rear#13) North Billerica, Ma 01862 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Printed copies may also be shipped to prospective bidders for an additional charge to cover handling and mailing fees. All payments for printing and shipping are non-refundable. To be added to the project plan holder's list to guarantee receipt of addenda, it is recommended interested bidders obtain the Contract Documents directly from Accent Blueprints. Interested bidders will be prompted to register an email address with Accent Blueprints to access the documents.

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

The successful bidder must furnish a 100%

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

## INVITATION TO BID

**Buzzards Bay Stormwater Retrofits Project, Jerusalem Road, Fairhaven, MA**

Location of Work: Town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts. Sealed Bids for construction of the Buzzards Bay Stormwater Retrofits Project, Jerusalem Road will be received by the Public Works Department in Fairhaven, Massachusetts until **10:00 a.m., March 14, 2024** at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and bids read aloud. Bids submitted after this time will not be accepted. The work involves the following major item(s): The project consists of the construction of Stormwater Retrofits that include both soft and hard edged bioretention areas at four sites along a 1,350 linear foot section of Jerusalem Road.

Contract Documents may be viewed and downloaded as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file free of charge on or after Wednesday, February 28, 2024 at [www.accentblueprints.com](http://www.accentblueprints.com). Printed copies may be obtained for a fee by completing an order online or calling 978-362-8038 for each set. Completed orders may be picked up at the office of Accent Blueprints located at 99 Chelmsford Road, (Rear#13) North

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The estimated value of the project is \$300,000.  
**BID SECURITIES** shall be in amount of 5% of the bid and in the form of a certified check drawn upon a bank within the State of Massachusetts or a bid bond executed by a surety company authorized to do business in Massachusetts, made payable to the **OWNER**.

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

In accordance with Article 9 of the General Conditions, the work to be performed under this Contract shall be commenced on the date designated in the Notice to Proceed. All work related to the construction of Buzzards Bay Stormwater Retrofits Project shall be completed within 60 calendar days.  
*Board of Public Works for Fairhaven, MA*

# Super Tuesday is March 5

This Tuesday, 3/5, is the presidential primary election in Massachusetts and 14 other states. All polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

In Acushnet all precincts vote at Acushnet Elementary School, 800 Middle Road. Call the Town Clerk, 508-998-0215.

In Fairhaven, all precincts vote at the Recreational Center, 227 Huttleston Ave. (Route 6). Call the Town Clerk, 508-979-4023, Ext. 3.

Early voting ends on Friday, 3/1.

On the ballot will be the office of President of the United States, Party State Committee Man, Party State Committee Woman, Party Ward/Town

Committee.

In the primary in Massachusetts, all registered voters can vote, even those not enrolled in a party.

You must pick a party ballot, either Democrat, Republican, or Libertarian.

Republican voters will have the choice of Donald Trump and six other candidates, although only Nikki Haley has not dropped out.

On the Fairhaven and Acushnet ballots, Robert S. McConnell of Fairhaven is running unopposed for State Committee Man for the Second Bristol and Plymouth District. Jo-Anne Mello Hodgson is unopposed for State Committee Woman.

Democratic voters will have the choice of President Joseph R. Biden, Dean Phillips, and Marianne Williamson.

Incumbent Charles Motta faces challenger Leon E. Correy III for State Committee Man. Lisa M. Lemieux of New Bedford is running unopposed for State Committee Woman.

In Fairhaven, voters have nine candidates for Town Committee on the Republican side, and none on the Democratic side. There are no candidates for Town Committees in Acushnet.

The Libertarian ballot has five presidential candidates.



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### FRANKIE: cont'd from page 10

will probably bail him out, stopping their current arguments.

However, the underlying problem for why they have these arguments is not going to go away until your father comes to terms with the fact that he has a gambling problem and needs to seek professional help to overcome it.

*Best, Frankie*

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*Comments and letters can be sent to Frankie at [dearfrankiecolumn@gmail.com](mailto:dearfrankiecolumn@gmail.com). The Fairhaven Neighborhood News publishes the Dear Frankie column. To receive a free online subscription, readers can email [neighbnews@comcast.net](mailto:neighbnews@comcast.net), request their name be added to the email list or visit [www.neighbnews.com](http://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., 3/4, 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.

**Finance Committee**

Wed., 3/6, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

**School Committee**

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

**Select Board**

Mon., 3/11, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Acushnet

**Housing Authority**

Wed., 3/20, Nate Gomes Ctr., 9:30 a.m.

### Selectboard

Tues., 3/12, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

### TIDE TABLE

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

	March 2024	HIGH a.m.	LOW p.m.	LOW a.m.	LOW 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*
Sunday	10	0837	2103	0104*	1427*
Monday	11	0926	2152	0301*	1515*
Tuesday	12	1015	2241	0352*	1558*
Wednesday	13	1104	2331	0435*	1638*
Thursday	14	1155	---	0516*	1718*
Friday	15	0025	1252	0602	1802*
Saturday	16	0123	1352	0714	1903
Sunday	17	0222	1450	0953	2052

\*= 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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# Oysters, anyone?

By Beth David  
Editor

Oysters get harvested all year long in Fairhaven, even in February., although this Tuesday was just about 50 degrees, making it a little easier for the Blue Stream Shellfish crew to harvest 10,000 oysters from their aquaculture farm in Nasketucket Bay

off West Island.

Cody Jardin, James Gamache, and Travis Ortega said they would not be going out on Wednesday when the weather was going to be rainy and windy, but on Tuesday they bagged and tagged 100 bags with 100 oysters each. The bags were going to a distributor in New Bedford.

Each bag was tagged with the date, location of harvesting, the company name, destination, and the amount: "100 petite oysters."

Fairhaven has several other oyster farms keeping the waterfront on Goulart Memorial Drive a busy place all year round.



ABOVE: L-R: James Gamache, Cody Jardin, and Travis Ortega fill up the cooler with 100 bags containing 100 oysters each, harvested from their aquaculture farm in Nasketucket Bay off Goulart Memorial Drive on 2/27/24. RIGHT: BAGGED AND TAGGED: Cody Jardin of Blue Stream Shellfish (RIGHT) holds up two bags ready to go into the cooler for transport to a distributor in New Bedford while co-worker James Gamache holds up the cooler cover. Photos by Beth David.

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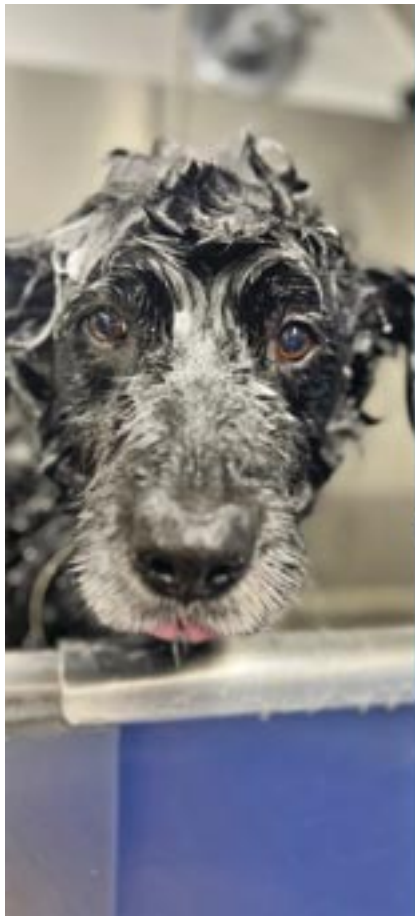
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