



# Fairhaven

# Neighborhood News

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



The little paper  
with a big voice!

Volume 19, Issue 14 • March 28, 2024

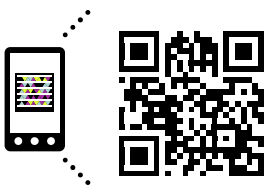
Teeming with information you need.  
(And some you don't need, but will be glad you have anyway.)

## Game time!



**VOTE**  
Mon., 4/1, in Fairhaven.  
Polls are open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
All precincts vote at the  
Rec Center, 227 Huttleston Ave.

Voters in Fairhaven will have lots of choices on Monday, 4/1, when they vote in local elections. All precincts vote at the Rec Center, 227 Huttleston Ave. Polls are open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Call the town clerk, 508-979-4023, Ext. 3 for info. *Photo montage by Beth David.*



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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.



Publisher Beth David with  
Charlie, aka Evil Dog

Fairhaven lost one of its long time public servants this month (see obituary on page 14). Deb Charpentier was the archivist at the Millicent Library for years, working her way up from a volunteer. Deb had a treasure trove of cool stuff in her little corner of the library, and she absolutely loved sharing her bits of information with people. I loved going to see her, but I always made sure I had some extra time, because she was always working on something new and it was easy to get immersed in whatever she was working on. She loved her job, and we could see that. She gave it her all, and we appreciated it.

She had not worked at the library for some time, and I had already missed her. Farewell, Deb. You're part of Fairhaven's history now.

The Select Board had a meeting on Monday (see page 3). It was the last regular SB meeting for Bob Espindola, a long time public servant, who truly understands what "public service" means. He has been treated with great disrespect the last two years, by fellow board members (one in particular) and the Town Administrator.

They shifted in their chairs, rolled their eyes, sighed audibly, and gave each other knowing looks while he spoke. For those of you not in the room, watching on TV, it may not have been noticeable. Bob asked for very normal things and was constantly told he could not have them, or he had to wait, sometimes for months. Some of that information would have been provided to any resident through a simple records request within 10 days.

But Bob had been berated publicly for going directly to department heads for information, so he asked for them in a public meeting, and waited. Meeting after meeting. And being the class act that he is, Bob kept his cool, always being respectful as he asked over and over again.

I started this letter with examples. Examples of the documents he asked for, the comparison of his interactions with the other TA, Interim TA, and Executive Secretary. But, I took all that out.

Suffice it to say that I have watched Mr. Espindola for 12 years, which means I have covered about 300 meetings and other events that he has participated in. His behavior has been consistent. He always wants things to be done the right way, always keeping the residents in mind, making sure residents are not left in the dark. I even remember his very, very, very first term, with that old-guard board and how he held them to account, asking how two members of that three-member board knew how to vote so quickly when they all supposedly just received the information.

The last two years have been an embarrassing, sometimes disgusting display on that board, with Mr. Espindola literally getting berated for doing his due diligence, while the Three Blind Mice cowered down in silence.

We should be able to disagree with people, especially people who make decisions that affect our lives, without being called racist and sexist and accused of ulterior motives. And we should not have to endure attacks on our

EDITOR: cont'd next page

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Thursday, March 28, 2024

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Editor: Beth David

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## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

EDITOR: cont'd from previous page

character and our livelihoods (yes, I mean me) to try to keep us in line.

That's the kind of foolishness that has been happening the last two years.

The election is Monday. Mr. Espindola did not run for re-election, so he will be gone.

I, for one, will miss him. I will miss his clear thinking, his institutional memory, his patience, his diligence, and his ability to take the blows and always take the high road.

I hope you take some time off and then reconsider and

come back, Mr. Espindola. Have fun with your grandchildren, but then come back and help us out. I think we still need you.

Fairhaven voters: Be sure to VOTE on Monday, 4/1, okay? Please choose wisely. Let's not have a repeat of the last two years. Let's vote in civil servants who know how to be civil.

Until next week then, see ya

Glory to Ukraine!  
Glory to the Heroes!



## Espindola files Open Meeting Law complaint

By Beth David  
Editor

At its meeting on Monday, 3/25/24, the Fairhaven Select Board answered an Open Meeting Law (OML) complaint filed by SB member Bob Espindola, who recused himself and left the room during the discussion.

In the complaint,\* Mr. Espindola alleges that the Select Board engaged in discussion during the Executive Session on 2/26/24 on a matter that should have been discussed in open session. During that meeting (FNN 2/29/24 issue), in the open session, the board discussed going into Executive Session to discuss the Town Administrator's contract.

In the OML complaint, Mr. Espindola says that the minutes of the executive

session on 2/26 show that an illegal topic was discussed. He writes that he thought his correspondence with the Attorney General's office, discussed in the open session, made it clear that the topic of Goals for the TA did not meet the standard for discussion in executive session.

"Upon entering Executive Session, Town Administrator Ellison started the meeting by saying that she wanted to discuss goals and became very angry," reads Mr. Espindola's OML complaint. "I felt uncomfortable both because the discussion was about to ensue about goals and because I felt there was a hostile environment aimed at me, so I exited the Executive Session at that point."

Mr. Espindola writes that after he saw Ms. Ellison leave the room, he re-entered the discussion and they talked about her contract, which is the topic that was actually on the agenda for Executive Session.

The complaint says that on 3/11, the board approved minutes\*\* "that confirm not only that the topic of goals discussed in Executive Session but Town Administrator Ellison also filed a formal complaint to the rest of the Board about me while I was not in the room. There was nothing posted on the Executive Session agenda to discuss concerns about any Board member and I received no notification that that discussion would take place without me present in the room.

SB: cont'd on page 13

"Making Fairhaven Fair For All"

# Donna McKenna Fairhaven Select Board

- 35 years of financial management and budget experience
- Involved in our Town and Community volunteering for over 25 years
- Fair to all in Fairhaven
- Strategic Planning and Decision Making skills
- Open Transparency



I ask for your vote April 1st.

Together we can make Fairhaven  
"Fair for All"

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT DONNA MCKENNA



# Worship with us this Easter Season!

## Maundy Thursday • March 28

Soup Supper: 5:45 p.m. in Maddaford Vestry  
(William St. entrance)

**Tenebrae Service: 6:30 p.m. in Sanctuary (Center St. entrance)**

Join us for a meaningful service when we remember how Jesus met with his friends on the night before he died and celebrated Communion with them. Then listen and watch as we contemplate Jesus' passion and seven last words as candles are extinguished one by one.

## Good Friday • March 29 • Noon – 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**Personal Meditation/Prayer Time**

Our sanctuary will be open for anyone who wants to spend a portion of this time in meditation and prayer.

## Easter Sunday • March 31 • 10 a.m.

Join with other members and friends of our church to sing out "Christ is Risen" as we celebrate the resurrection in song, prayer, and scripture.

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## From our readers

### Messier Launches Write-In Effort for BPW

With just four days and a wakeup to go till our local town elections, I wanted to take a moment and introduce myself and why I decided to run as a Write-in candidate for the Board of Public Works.

My name is Brian Messier, and I live at 82 Pleasant Street (this is important information!). After a short conversation with my wife, I chose to run as a write-in candidate for a seat on the Board of Public Works. I chose later than pulling papers because that all important conversation didn't happen till AFTER the closing date.

A little about me and why I ask for your write-in vote this April 1st. I have spent literally my entire adult life serving the residents and visitors of Fairhaven (with a short stint at another town on Cape Cod). As a firefighter from the day I turned 18, it was my honor and pleasure to do my part to try and help people in need, whatever the situation was.

I advanced my education in the fire and EMS service, eventually becoming a paramedic and later a

Lieutenant. As a Lieutenant, I was fortunate enough to be responsible for the supervision of a shift of firefighters. I also had the responsibility of being initially in command of incidents until a chief officer arrived.

Along with these duties, I was a member of the department's Apparatus Study Group, and assisted in developing specifications for several apparatus that are now in service.

I was very fortunate to be a part of the grant writing process for the most recent purchase of Engine 2, a \$600,000 fire engine. That grant application, and one other, were successful in saving the town from having to purchase with town funds.

In my free time, I also served in both the United States Marine Corps Reserve for four years, as well as the Massachusetts Army National Guard. As a heavy equipment operator with the guard, I gained valuable education and experiences building and improving infrastructure, roadways, and land clearing operations in Afghanistan and on Camp Edwards on

Cape Cod.

I am the father of two children and my wife is also a town employee. I believe I can bring a new set of ideas and skills to the Board of Public Works, and with both seats unopposed, with one incumbent running, and the not running, it is my belief there should be some more options available to voters to choose from.

For this reason, I ask for your write-in vote this coming election day. Please Note! You will need to write-in my name AND home address if you wish to add me to the ballot under the two other blocks for Board of Public Works.

*Very respectfully, Brian Messier*

### Monroe Supports Veitch, Pacheco

I am writing to express my support for Colin Veitch and Nicole Pacheco for the Fairhaven School Committee. Throughout my 13-year tenure on the School Committee, I've collaborated with numerous remarkable individuals. With his 16 years of dedication to the Fairhaven Public

LETTERS: con'd on page 11



**UU Society of Fairhaven welcomes all!**

Worship at 10 a.m. Sundays  
March 31: 'Resurrection!'

Nursery care is available in the Harrop Center starting at 9:45 a.m. Easter egg hunt follows the service.

April 7: Second Hour activities for all ages - Climate Reality Sustainability Sunday

*The Rev. Maria Uitti McCabe*

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

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PAID FOR BY DIANE TOMASSETTI

**THE FAIRHAVEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*presents*

# **“HETTY”**

*The Genius and Madness of America’s First Female Tycoon*

**by Charles Slack**

*Writer, Editor & Author*



**Fairhaven Town Hall**

40 Centre Street, Fairhaven, Massachusetts 02719

**Thursday, April 4, 2024 - 6:30PM**

**Donations Accepted**

# VOTE

Nicole Pacheco

FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE

NICOLE WON THE APPOINTMENT TO SIT ON THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE IN NOVEMBER 2023. SHE'S BEEN AN ACTIVE MEMBER, MAKING IMPORTANT DECISIONS TO IMPROVE OUR SCHOOLS.

AS A MOM, SHE UNDERSTANDS HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH RESOURCES LIKE OUR FAMILY CENTER.

NICOLE GRADUATED FROM FHS IN 2003. SHE KNOWS THAT INVESTING IN EDUCATION IS AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE OF OUR COMMUNITY.



[PACHECOFORFAIRHAVEN.COM](http://PACHECOFORFAIRHAVEN.COM)

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT NICOLE PACHECO

# VOTE VEITCH



## VOTE APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>

EXPERIENCE AND COMMITMENT

# SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Colin Veitch



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## Office of Tourism & Visitors Center

Academy Building, 141 Main Street  
next door to Fairhaven High School  
508-979-4085  
[FairhavenTours@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:FairhavenTours@fairhaven-ma.gov)  
Open: Mon. Tue. Thu. Fri. Sat. 8:00-4:30  
<https://FairhavenTours.com>  
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## HOLY WEEK 2024



**PALM SUNDAY** March 24 Festal Procession  
8 AM & 10 AM and Passion Story



**TENEBRAE** March 27 A Liturgy of  
7 PM Shadows



**MAUNDY THURSDAY** March 28 Holy  
7 PM Eucharist and  
Foot Washing



**GOOD FRIDAY** March 29 Stations of  
2 PM The Cross 7 PM Solemn  
Liturgy with  
Passion Play



**EASTER VIGIL** March 30 Ancient Eucharist  
7 PM Rite with Easter  
Bonfire and Baptisms



**EASTER SUNDAY** March 31 Holy Eucharist  
8 AM & 10 AM

Come as you are and walk  
this pilgrimage together.

124 Front St. Marion  
www.stgabrielsmarion.org





# Fairhaven Recreation Center

**Open Mon-Thurs, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.;  
Fri., 6 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-  
2 p.m.; Closed Sunday • 227  
Huttleston Ave, 508-993-9269  
[https://www.fairhaven-  
ma.gov/recreation-department](https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/recreation-department)**

## Kool Kids April Vacation

Embark on a thrilling school vacation program, tailored for grades K-6 packed with an array of activities! Dive into active games, team sports, captivating art projects, exhilarating science challenges. Four-day program Tues-Fri 8am-3pm Pizza lunch on Friday. April 16-19 \$160 for members \$175 for Non-members Register soon, this program fills up quickly

## Mommy & Me Movement & Sound

Must Pre-register!! Bring your little one(s) to a fun and inclusive series! Join Sara DaCosta in a yoga movement and sound experience with your toddler(s). We will circle up with some stretches and games on our mats as we move our bodies and find some balance. Our circle will close up with an opportunity to use sound instruments and enjoy a relaxing shavasana with our friends while receiving some sound healing. Sarah is certified in Advanced sound healing. Pretzel kids yoga and Yoga Alliance International. This is a 5 week program, cost includes Parent or Guardian and a child 5 years old or younger. Additional children are \$25.

Members \$65. Non-members, \$75.

March 22-April 26 10:30-11:30am  
(no class April 19th)

## Kids Night Out April 5th! Attention Parents!!

It is time to reclaim your evening and let the Fairhaven Rec center create magical moments for your children! Say goodbye to the hustle and bustle as you drop off your kids for an unforgettable Parents Night Out. Children will enjoy exciting games and creative arts. Pizza will be served to the kiddos so dinner is taken care of. While the kids are having a blast, you can have a date night, go shopping, check out the workout room at the rec or simply just relax and unwind.

The program is open to children 8-12 years old. \$25 for members \$30 for non-members. Must register by 4/1

# Fairhaven Senior Center

508-979-4029 • 229 Huttleston Ave • Fairhaven

Visit our website at:  
[http://fairhavenma.virtualltownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA\\_COA/index](http://fairhavenma.virtualltownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA_COA/index)

## Fairhaven Council on Aging

### Tech Classes

Computer and smartphone classes at COA call 508-979-4029. Next class on Mon., 4/1: Introduction to Google Cloud (Part 1&2): (Computer Knowledge 1) Must have a working Google Gmail account in Google Docs. Participants must know their username and password to their Google Gmail Account

### 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: 4/3, Twin River Casino.; 4/10, Warwick Mall; 4/17, Hyannis Mall, Trader Joe's, Whole

Foods; 4/24, Garden City, Cranston, RI.

### Tech Cafe

Do you need help with your cellphone or computer? Stop by the Fairhaven Senior Center for FREE help at our Tech Cafe! Every Thursday from 3-4 p.m.

### Walking Schedule

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

### Tax Filing Help

AARP Tax Aide IRS Certified volunteers will help with tax preparing. Please call 508-979-4029 to make an appointment. This is a free service.

### 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

### 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.

### Reassurance Program

A free service for elders wanting a daily telephone check-in with a responsible person ensuring all is well.

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# Recipe of the Week

## Sheet-Pan Eggs

12 eggs  
 1/3 cup milk  
 1 teaspoon salt  
 1/2 tsp ground black pepper  
 4 mushrooms, sliced  
 1/4 red bell pepper, diced  
 1/2 tomato, diced  
 1/4 onion, diced  
 1 green onion, sliced  
 1/2 cup cheddar cheese, grated

Preheat the oven to 430°. Lightly grease a sheet pan with non-stick oil or brush with some vegetable oil.

In a large mixing bowl, crack and then whisk the eggs together.

Once blended, whisk in the milk and season with the salt and the pepper.

Pour the egg mixture in the sheet pan and add the mushrooms, red bell pepper, tomato, onion, green onion, and the cheddar cheese.

Transfer to the oven and bake until the eggs are set, about 15-20 minutes.

Cut into 12 squares and serve.



# Dear Frankie

## Crazy About Dogs

*Dear Frankie,*  
 Why are humans so enamored of their dogs?

It's intriguing how some humans seem to prefer the company of their dogs over family members.

What is it about dogs that makes their owners so willing to invest significant amounts of time, attention, and money into their care?

Mind you, I'm not complaining; I'm fortunate to have a loving human family. I'm just curious.

*Alianna*

*Dear Aliana,*

The answer to your question depends on who you ask. Some humans say their dog provides them with loyalty and companionship. Others would say an opportunity to be a caregiver gives them a purpose

in life. Still, others would say someone to share their inner thoughts and feelings without being judged.

The one thing that all dogs provide is unconditional love. In their eyes, their owner is the most important person in their life. Dogs love their owners for who they are. They don't care how they look, dress, or how much money they have. None of those things matters to them.

What matters is their owners also make them feel loved, safe, and cared for. What more could anyone want in life from another?

*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 neighnews@comcast.net, request their name be added to the email list or visit www.neighnews.com to read the paper online or to download the latest issue.*

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## LETTERS: cont'd from page 5

Schools and various town causes, Colin Veitch stands out among them. His consistent willingness to step forward and contribute his time and energy is a testament to his commitment and reliability.

Working with Colin, I've come to appreciate his expertise in school and municipal finance. His knowledge and understanding are invaluable in this time of economic uncertainty for the town. Colin is not easily swayed or intimidated by challenging situations. His presence on the School Committee is crucial to navigating us through these turbulent times.

In addition to his financial and school policy expertise, Colin also possesses the required soft skills. He is very patient and willing to listen to the concerns of all involved. His thorough understanding allows him to ask very pointed questions, and he can mentor new committee members like Nicole Pacheco.

While Nicole has not been a member of the Fairhaven School Committee for very long, she has shown that she is committed to doing the hard work necessary. Before her appointment to the Committee, she met with current members and the Superintendent of Schools to gain insight into how the Committee functions and current issues. She attended meetings and showed that she was serious about the commitment.

In a short time, she has already taken the full-day introductory course offered by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC). She has shown that she is ready to listen and learn. I am confident that Nicole will continue to grow and be a great leader for our schools and community. Having grown up in Fairhaven and having kids in our schools, she is committed to excellence in education.

Please join me in voting for Colin Veitch and Nicole Pacheco for the Fairhaven School Committee on Monday, April 1, 2024.

*Brian Monroe, Fairhaven School Committee member*

### **Romano is True Leader**

I am writing this letter to offer my enthusiastic endorsement of Andrew Romano for Fairhaven Select Board. As a committed member of our community, Andrew will bring a fresh

perspective to town leadership.

I first met Andrew during his time as a student in my Spanish class at Hastings Middle School. Over the years, I had the privilege of closely collaborating with him on various drama club productions during his tenure at the middle school and Fairhaven High School. Throughout these experiences, Andrew consistently exhibited assertiveness and a drive for excellence. Since his graduation, I have witnessed his growth into a reliable and hard-working adult.

Andrew's commitment to community service is exemplary. Serving as the President of the North Fairhaven Improvement Association and as a member of the Fairhaven Rotary Club, he has continuously advocated for our community's needs and concerns with unwavering dedication and insight.

As a Select Board member, Andrew will bring a sense of transparency and accountability to town government. He understands the importance of fostering trust between elected officials and the community they serve, and he is committed to ensuring that decision-making processes are open, accessible, and accountable to all stakeholders.

Andrew Romano embodies the qualities of a true leader: passionate, principled, and dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of others. I am confident his leadership on the Select Board will bring about positive change and help move our town forward.

Please join me in supporting Andrew Romano for Select Board. Together, we can strive towards a brighter future for Fairhaven.

*Melissa Duarte, Fairhaven Teacher, Fairhaven High School*

### **McKenna has Integrity, Honesty**

I recently ran into a gentleman who told me that, when it comes to politicians, he always votes for the person who he feels has the most integrity and honesty because those are the most important attributes of a community leader. When I think of Donna McKenna, those are two characteristics that I know she exhibits, to go along with her long history of dedication to the Town for many years now.

Donna McKenna already has a great deal of Town Government experience as a long-time member of the School Committee: a policy setting body, just like the Select Board.

Being a good Select Board member is much more than voting on the issues at meetings. It involves taking a leadership role, researching issues that need to be addressed, and bringing solutions to the Board. Donna has demonstrated her initiative and leadership throughout her time on the School Committee. She was a member of a civil rights task force as well as part of a group that authored the School District's anti-bullying policy. She has also been the School Committee representative to the Southeastern Educational Collaborative (SMEC) since day one. Her work ethic will serve the Select Board well.

With Net School Spending concerns on the horizon for the Department that represents the largest budget in our Town, we are at a crossroads and in jeopardy of facing major penalties from the State that could set us back very quickly if we do not strike the right balance between the funding we provide to the School Department vs. all other departments.

The Select Board and School Committee will need to work collaboratively to solve this problem. The solution should include regionalization with Acushnet which would result in both towns being eligible for increased funding as a "regional" school district.

Doing so will help the Fairhaven Public Schools to continue providing excellent education for our students and, in turn, that will significantly relieve pressure on essential services like Police, Fire and Public Works.

Striving to increase revenues through economic development is a good mid to longer term strategy, but our immediate need is to get out from the dark shadow of financial consequences we are facing in the near term if we don't start investing more in our School district. The consequences could be substantial to the School Department and all other departments as well.

We need leaders that understand these issues and will work to resolve them quickly.

LETTERS: cont'd on page 16

# Candidate Statements: Board of Public Works



**Robert "Hoppy" Hobson**

I have been on the Board of Public Works since 2006. I ran on the board to push for getting streets paved, especially on Sconticut Neck and West Island. I feel I have helped get that done, although there are more to do.

The strongest thing about me as a member of the board, is that I get results for residents. People contact me directly all the time and I do my best to help them. When they call, I get results.

During my time on the board, we have improved the bike path and put through many improvements to town parks, such as pickleball courts, and the BMX track at Macomber Park.

I have been a big supporter of any improvements that make our parks better for the kids. I also speak out for veterans, making sure they come first when we are hiring.

During my time on the board, we worked to change out the water meters, so they can be read in the office. This means leaks are found ahead of time, as they are happening, instead of homeowners getting a huge bill and then realizing, too late, that they had a leak.

I have always been interested in town politics. I am a former owner of Hoppy's Landing, a retired police officer, and a U.S. Navy veteran.

I have lived in Fairhaven for more than 40 years, in East Fairhaven and on Sconticut Neck.

I have been married to my wife, "Saint Jacqueline" for 58 years. We have a daughter, Holly, who lives in Fairhaven with her husband and their two children.

I ask for your vote on April 1 so I can continue the work I've been doing the BPW for the past 18 years.

---

*Please see letter on page 5 for a write-in candidate for BPW. It is the policy of the Neighbor News to run candidate statements only for declared candidates who are on the ballot.*



**Hillary Rotondo**

Friends & Neighbors of Fairhaven,

My name is Hillary Rotondo and I am running for a seat on the Board of Public Works in the upcoming town election.

For those of you who don't know me, I have been a resident in town since 2011 when my husband and I chose this beautiful community to plant roots and raise a family.

Like many of you, I am so proud to call Fairhaven home and I have a great love for our historic buildings, green spaces, recreation areas, and beaches.

I have been an active town meeting member for Precinct 6 for the past three years and have truly enjoyed getting a better understanding of town issues, budgetary concerns, and also hearing different points of view on various articles.

As such, I have realized that I want to get more involved in town infrastructure and help where I can.

With my background as a local realtor and an owner of two small businesses, I know the importance of being fiscally responsible, coming up with ways to cover expenses creatively, reassessing items annually, all in an effort to keep fees down.

I also understand the intricacies of managing time, looking at all sides of an issue, taking time to stop and think, and of course, as a Mom of two children, patience and empathy.

I am excited to help my community tackle the issues we all care about and contribute to the greater good of the town I love.

I, like all of you, want to see Fairhaven succeed and grow, but not at the expense of our residents.

I would greatly appreciate your support and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

I look forward to working together!  
All the Best, Hillary Rotondo

---

## SELECT: cont'd from page 3

Furthermore, it is my understanding, from talking to Labor Counsel, that because of the comments made about me in Executive Session, I will be questioned in an investigation about the allegations."

The complaint also says the minutes do not show that the chair tried to stop the discussion.

"I believe the actions taken in executive session to discuss goals after receiving written notice by email and then verbal notice during the Open Public meeting as well as the complaint to the rest of the Board with me absent and without proper notice, show a blatant disregard for the Open Meeting Law," reads the OML complaint. "I believe it is my responsibility to file a formal complaint in an effort to stop this sort of thing

from happening in the future."

In the response to the complaint, SB Chairperson Leon Correy writes: "Please be advised that the Select Board is responding to an improperly filed complaint," and notes the reason it is improper is that OML complaints should go to the chair of the board and also the clerk. "You did not file with the municipal clerk."

In the response, Mr. Correy writes that Ms. Ellison explained at the 2/26 meeting that it is standard practice to negotiate terms of her contract in executive session and then bring results to open session.

"We take matters related to compliance with the Open Meeting Law very seriously," reads the response.

Mr. Correy also notes that Attorney

Rich Massina was in the room and explained the exemption in executive session and in open session.

"Due to the fact that executive session minutes have not been released, the Select Board cannot address your assumptions without violating the statute," reads the response.

The response did not address Mr. Espindola's claim that they discussed a complaint against him without his knowledge or presence in the room and without it being on the agenda.\*

In another matter, the board voted on their recommendations for Town Meeting Warrant articles. The budget numbers for a variety of departments are still changing, so the board mostly voted to

**SELECT: cont'd next page**

# Celebrating a Century of Life for Alice Fortin!



*Submitted*  
Join us in honoring a well-lived life as we celebrate Alice Fortin's 100th birthday!

Alice, a beloved resident of Fairhaven, has reached an incredible milestone, and her family and friends invite you to share in the joy of this special occasion.

Born on March 31, 1924, in New



ABOVE TOP: Alice Fortin will be celebrating her 100th birthday on 3/31/24. ABOVE MIDDLE, L-R: Alice Fortin with her mother Isabelle and sister Grace. ABOVE RIGHT: Alice as a young woman. BELOW: Alice and her late husband Alfred. *Submitted photos.*



Bedford, Alice has lived a life full of love, laughter, and cherished memories. In 1943, she married her husband, Alfred Fortin, who is now deceased, and had two children, Nancy Fortin and Carol Fortin. Alice waitressed at Star Store in New Bedford. In 1968, they built a home in Fairhaven.

Alice has four grandchildren, Richard Ramos, Kimberly Lavoie, Stacey Medeiros, and Nicole Furlan, and three great-grandchildren, Bethany Ramos, Andrew Lavoie, and

Matthew Lavoie.

Alice is an incredible mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, and she has deeply touched the lives of those who she has known.

Alice has had many interests and hobbies throughout her life, including reading, cross-stitching, crocheting, doing puzzles, playing cards, and watching tennis.

Happy 100th Birthday, Alice! Here's to a century of love, laughter, and a legacy that will continue to inspire us all.

## SELECT: cont'd from previous page

recommend at town meeting, instead of voting on hard numbers.

During the public comment period JP Lemieux presented a petition with more than 270 signatures on it asking the board not to renew Town Administrator Angie Lopes Ellison's contract. The petition cites budget shortfalls and staffing issues in the past three years. The item was not on the agenda, it was during public comment, so the board did not discuss the item.

The meeting was the last regular SB meeting for Mr. Correy and Mr. Espindola. Both received words of praise from their fellow board members.

Mr. Espindola noted that the budget shortfalls were years in the making and not the current TA's fault. He said the town saw this coming and did not do what it needed to do. This year is the correction year, he said, and people should not think the deficit will get larger each year.

He said people should get real

information from the town.

Mr. Espindola closed out by saying he enjoyed his time on the board for the last 12 years, and noted he had one more meeting, a joint meeting with the Finance Committee this week, before he was done.

In a 10-minute closing statement, Mr. Correy praised some of his fellow board members and then went into a familiar refrain about being mistreated by the residents of Fairhaven.

He said his family has "endured a lot" and it has taken a toll on the mental states of his family, and called out "armchair rebels."

He noted, by name, some people he defended, and made vague references to news articles, reporters, and a lack of an apology of some sort.

Mr. Correy said the town was very divided when he was elected, but he thinks the town has come together in their dislike of him.

"You're welcome," he said.

In other business the board

- The board also voted to support World Autism Day on 4/2, when people are asked to "Light it up Blue," by using blue lightbulbs. Diane Hahn left blue bulbs at town hall for anyone to take.
- Raised the senior age from 62 to 65 for shellfish licenses. Those who have already received their free lifetime licenses at 62 can keep them.
- Voted to allow the Pride Flag and the Juneteenth Flag to be displayed on the town hall, along with the Homecoming Day banner, which was already approved.

*\*Mr. Espindola's complaint and the response are available on the Neighb News website: [www.neighbnews.com](http://www.neighbnews.com) under archives, 3/28/24 issue.*

*\*\*Executive Session minutes are not a public record until they are approved and then released to the public, so the Neighb News has not been able to verify anything in those minutes.*

# Obituary: Debra “Debbie” Charpentier



**Debra Charpentier**

Debra (Debbie) Charpentier (Villa), age 68, of Fairhaven MA passed away peacefully at her home on Thursday March 14, 2024.

Debbie was born March 10, 1956 to the late Charles and Patricia Villa. She was a 1974 graduate of Fairhaven High School.

Debbie began to volunteer in the historical department of the Millicent library in the early 1980's. She was officially hired in 1984, working with the public at the desk circulating books and doing interlibrary loans.

In 1991 she took over the research department and began integrating local materials into a database with the help of many volunteers. As a

Historical Research and Outreach Associate, she also connected patrons to helpful organizations. No request was considered too high or low for Debbie's meticulous research, whether it was ghosts for a third grader, high schoolers learning historiography requests from town departments, or photos for London's Victoria and Albert Museum.

A member of the Fairhaven Historical Commission from 1991 through 2017, Debbie ran the Historic House Plaque program. In 1995 the archives department was opened to the public and Debbie began creating databases that could be accessed internationally, eventually including the Lost Fishermen Database, Fairhaven Cemetery Records, Fairhaven Vital Records, Fairhaven High School Yearbooks, the Barnacle and the Fairhaven Star. The archives expanded and became a repository for records of local organizations as well as for pictures, letters, journals, scrapbooks and art.

Debbie believed everyone's life is a part of history. She also worked on many publications including the Picture Postcard History of Fairhaven. By 2000 Debbie was both archivist and facilities manager of the library. As assistant to the director

she wrote grants for digitations, repairs, upgrades and restorations. In 2023, following her retirement, the archives departments at the library was officially renamed the Debra A. Charpentier Archives & Special Collections. She will be remembered for her many accomplishments.

Debbie was a beloved wife, mother and grandmother. She enjoyed reading, knitting and spending time with her family. She also played a key role in the establishment of the Phoenix Girls Softball League.

She is survived by her husband of 46 years Ted; daughter, Melissa Cormier and her husband Kevin; grandchildren, Samantha and Kevin Jr. Other family members include her brothers, Kevin Villa, Charles and his wife Jennifer Villa, sister-in-law, Eleanor Charpentier; brother-in-law, Leo Charpentier and several nieces and nephews. Debbie is preceded in death by her brother Steven Villa.

She will be deeply missed and in accordance with her wishes she will be cremated with no services to follow.

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## LETTERS: cont'd from page 11

Donna McKenna will be a strong complement to the Board to work through those critical, imminent issues and longer term issues as well. She will bring another woman onto our Chief policy making board to more closely represent our population.

We are fortunate to have choices for Select Board this year. I encourage you to vote for Donna McKenna and I would also like to reiterate my support for Andrew Romano posted in this newspaper on March 7th. Most importantly, please take your civic duty seriously and vote April 1.

*Bob Espindola, Fairhaven*

### **Monroe Supports McKenna, Romano**

I am writing this letter to express my support for Donna McKenna and Andrew Romano for the open seats on the Fairhaven Select Board.

I have had the pleasure of working with Donna McKenna for the past 12 years as a member of the Fairhaven School Committee.

In that time, I found her to be an extraordinary and genuine person with a passion for her hometown. She is an ardent volunteer in our community and has spent countless hours supporting various activities for our schools.

Her unwavering commitment to important issues has marked Donna McKenna's tenure on the committee. She has been a long-time member of the civil rights and anti-bullying task forces, championing the cause against bullying. Her support for special education, as Fairhaven's representative to the Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative (SMEC), has been steadfast. Donna's dedication to these causes is a testament to her commitment to our community.

With her extensive municipal experience from the school committee and financial insight gained from the mortgage industry, Donna McKenna is the candidate Fairhaven needs. Her dedication to our town is unwavering, and her ability to navigate municipal government and balance budgets is unparalleled. She is a straight shooter, ready to take on the task of serving on the Select Board.

My support also extends to Andrew Romano. I've had the privilege of knowing him since his high school days when he managed the audio for school committee

meetings. Since then, I've witnessed his remarkable growth and development into a world-class real estate agent, small business owner, and respected community member. This journey has equipped him with a unique set of skills and perspectives that make him a strong candidate for the Select Board.

Andrew, a familiar face in our community, is a candidate who will bring a much-needed fresh perspective to the Select Board. His track record of community service, from his role as the director of the Fairhaven Government Access Channel to his current positions on the Zoning Board of Appeals and as the President of the North Fairhaven Improvement Association (NFIA), is a testament to his commitment.

Andrew's trustworthiness, forthrightness, and capability to handle challenging issues make him the ideal candidate for the Select Board.

Please join me in voting for Donna McKenna and Andrew Romano for the Fairhaven Select Board on Monday, April 1, 2024.

*Brian Monroe, Fairhaven School Committee Member*

### **McKenna Strongly Endorses Veitch**

I am writing to strongly endorse Colin Veitch to the Fairhaven School Committee. I have known Colin for over 20 years on a business level and sharing a board seat on the Fairhaven School Committee.

Colin is a compassionate, thoughtful, committed leader and determined. Colin has shown that for these past years and will continue to make sure his dedication is to the School System.

Colin's efforts all these years has shown that he is prepared, knowledgeable and has great leadership. Colin has been a very active advocate for our children. He often goes to bat for issues that do not directly impact his family but he feels are the right thing for our Community. Colin is not afraid to bring up the tough conversations. Colin is not afraid to hold our schools accountable to the policies that are in place and when there is research to support amending policies, Colin is not shy about bringing the data and conversation forward.

We need Colin Veitch on our school committee.

It is important to have a balanced School Committee that can both advocate for our children and listen to the concerns of the community. I strongly feel confident that Colin Veitch will be true to the role as a representative for our entire community on the School committee.

I strongly encourage you, to vote on April 1st and Vote for Colin Veitch for School committee.

*Donna McKenna, Fairhaven*

### **Rees Supports McKenna, Romano**

I am writing this letter to support the election of Andrew Romano and Donna McKenna to the Fairhaven Select Board. When I took the job as Fairhaven's first town administrator, I was attracted to the challenge of bringing professional management to Fairhaven, but soon also discovered its natural beauty, historic attributes, and friendly people, so much so that my wife and I decided retire to this lovely town. We now have a personal stake in making sure Fairhaven continues to thrive as a well-managed town providing quality services to its residents.

To my mind, the best qualified candidates running for the Select Board who can build on past successes and address current and future needs are Donna McKenna and Andrew Romano. Both have demonstrated a commitment to the town by their service on various boards, the capacity to address complex issues through their private sector business acumen, a focus on providing excellent customer service and a commitment to fair and transparent government.

We need public officials who are dedicated to good local government and building bridges instead of silos. Donna McKenna and Andrew Romano more than meet those qualifications and I urge you to vote for them at the upcoming election.

*Mark Rees, Fairhaven*

### **Romano is Young, Enthusiastic**

I write today to encourage you to vote Andrew Romano for Select Board.

Andrew Romano is Fairhaven's future. He is young, enthusiastic, and extremely sharp. At just 26, with his family and career roots firmly planted

**LETTERS: cont'd on page 18**



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### Public Notice

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection  
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Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 and M.G.L. c. 21 §§ 26-53, notice is given of a 401 Water Quality Certification application for re-authorization of the Marsh Island Salt Marsh Restoration Project by the Buzzards Bay Coalition, 114 Front St., New Bedford, MA 02740 (Applicant/Owner) and the Fairhaven-Acushnet Land Preservation Trust, PO Box 491, Fairhaven, MA 02719 (Owner) on the Marsh Island conservation property on Taber Street in Fairhaven for restoration of salt marsh by removal of historically placed dredged material, reintroduction of tidal hydrology, and reestablishment of intertidal elevations with vegetated tidal wetland habitat. Additional information may be obtained from Sara Quintal, 114 Front Street, New Bedford, MA 02740, 508-999-6363 x225. Written comments should be sent to the MassDEP Southeast Regional Office, Division of Wetlands and Waterways, 20 Riverside Dr., Lakeville, MA 02347 within twenty-one days of this notice. Any group of ten persons, any aggrieved person, or any governmental body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment who submits written comments may appeal the Department's Certification. Failure to submit written comments before the end of the public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing.

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**BEGINNER DOG OBEDIENCE TRAINING** New class starts April 10, 2024 The Wampanoag Kennel Club, 1121 Main St. Acushnet. \$125 for 8 weeks. Call/text 508-858-9962

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Public Auction at Devon Self Storage at (16 Lambeth Park Rd Fairhaven, MA). The Property contained in the units will be sold to satisfy the Owner's lien for rent under the Massachusetts Self Storage Facility Act. Property contained in the units will be sold to the highest bidder via an online auction on [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com). Online bidding will begin on 4/11/24 at 10 AM and will continue until 4/25/24 at 10 AM. Devon Self Storage reserves the right to set minimum bids and to refuse bids. Please refer to [www.storage-treasures.com](http://www.storage-treasures.com) for all other terms and conditions governing the bidding and auction process.

#### UNIT D018

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#### UNIT G017

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## Upcoming Meetings

### Fairhaven

#### Board of Public Works

Mon., 4/1, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

#### Conservation Commission

Mon., 4/1, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

#### ELECTION

Don't forget to VOTE  
Mon., 4/1. Polls are open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. All precincts vote at the Rec Center, 227 Huttleston Ave.

#### Finance Committee/ Select Board

Wed., 3/28, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

Tues., 4/2, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

#### School Committee

Wed., 3/27, Media Ctr/Lib., 6:30 p.m.

#### Select Board

Mon., 4/8, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Acushnet

#### Board of Assessors

Wed., 4/3, Town Hall/2nd fl., 4 p.m.

#### Selectboard

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

### TIDE TABLE

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

	March 2024	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	28	1046	2305	0356*	1558*
Friday	29	1127	2349	0432*	1635*
Saturday	30	---	1216	0510	1714*
Sunday	31	0042	1313	0555	1802

	April 2024	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Monday	1	0141	1412	0656	1907
Tuesday	2	0239	1511	0810	2024
Wednesday	3	0340	1615	0920	2137
Thursday	4	0447	1723	1028	2254
Friday	5	0551	1819	1134*	---
Saturday	6	0642	1906	0005*	1226*
Sunday	7	0729	1952	0101*	1311*
Monday	8	0815	2039	0153*	1357*

\*= 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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# LETTERS: cont'd from page 16

here, our collective future is his own. I have yet to see any Selectboard candidate, in any election, take their pursuit of the position as seriously as he. He studies with sitting board members, attends every Selectboard and Finance Committee meeting, visits our departments and asks questions, and has been immersing himself in the details of what makes our government work since long before he announced his candidacy.

Mr. Romano embodies integrity and is a consummate rule follower. He will honor our by-laws and hold staff accountable without prejudice. At the same time, if change is warranted, he will pursue it doggedly. As evidenced by his professional success, Andrew is a critical and creative thinker, who is committed to considering all angles and perspectives to achieve the best outcome. He is deeply respectful of all that has made Fairhaven what it is. He also recognizes the challenges and necessity of change, and the value it can add to our pride in the Town.

As Mr. Romano noted in his "Meet the Candidates" night opening statement, he is committed to financial forecasting to enable our town to make the right decisions before crisis strikes. He has already spent time learning about all the tools available to make this possible.

I have the utmost respect for the dedication this mature and respectful individual has shared with Fairhaven

through his many and diverse activities that support our community. If given the opportunity to serve on the Fairhaven Select Board, he will serve us fairly and extremely well into our next chapter.

Please join me in moving Fairhaven forward on April 1 by giving Andrew Romano a seat at the table.

*Anne Morton Smith, Fairhaven*

## Romano on Romano: We Have Learned a Lot

What have the last 111 days looked like? Let us take a moment to reflect. We have learned about, and worked diligently to address a \$2,000,000+ budget deficit. We received the Town Administrator evaluation, and have begun discussions to enter into contract negotiations. We have heard updates from every single department head.

I have been in the room for every single one of these moments. I have heard the discussions in all of the meetings, I have listened to the residents, I have done the homework.

On December 12th, 2023, when I pulled my nomination papers and decided to enter this race, I became a Select Board member. What I mean when I say that is that on December 12th, 2023 I completely immersed myself into this position and have not looked back for even a moment.

In the beginning stages of running, I was asked by a resident "Why should I endorse you?"

And to that my response was, "You should not. Because I am not a politician. You should, however, trust me, because I have a proven track record for showing up and getting the job done."

I am not a candidate that you will only hear from during election season and not be accessible moving forward.

I believe in open and honest communication.


I am an award winning real estate broker, Director of Business Development, small-business owner with my amazing husband, and active community volunteer.

When I am not working, I can often be found at the old fire house at 267 Adams Street where I currently serve as the President of the North Fairhaven Improvement Association.

I love this town, and I am confident that if you put your trust in me, I will help foster a new generation of positive growth and impactful decision making. I am asking you to please vote for me, Andrew Romano, on Monday, April 1st.

*Andrew Romano, Candidate for Fairhaven Select Board; Givebutter.com/RomanoForFairhaven*

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**OPENS MARCH 8, 2024**

NEED ASSISTANCE?  
PLEASE CALL:  
EAST FAIRHAVEN ELEMENTARY: 508-979-4058  
LEROY L. WOOD ELEMENTARY: 508-979-4073

**For more information on registration visit:**  
[www.fairhavenps.org](http://www.fairhavenps.org)

## VOTE FOR RICK TRAPILO

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I will respect our vibrant coastal New England history while planning for our Town's future:

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

*"Rick will bring solid business experience to our Planning Board"*

*Keith Silvia*  
Fairhaven Selectman



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# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Don't forget to

# VOTE

Mon., 4/1, in Fairhaven. Polls are open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. All precincts vote at the Rec Center, 227 Huttleston Ave.

## Cand Nights Links

Candidates for office in Fairhaven had two opportunities to face off and answer questions. The candidates night on 3/21/24 was sponsored by the Cable Access channel. The debate on 3/24/24, was sponsored by the Committee to Elect Keith Silvia.

- See the 3/21 Meet the Candidates event at <https://vimeo.com/926264529> or on the government access Channel 18 (Comcast in Fairhaven). Find the schedule at <https://www.fairhaventv.com/ch18programschedule>
- See the 3/24 debate at <https://vimeo.com/927150917> or on the public/community access channel 95: <https://www.fairhaventv.com/ch95programschedule>

## Easter Sunrise Serv.

We invite everyone to the 85th Annual Easter Ecumenical Sunrise Service, 6:27am Sunday, 3/31, Fort Phoenix, Fairhaven, MA

So why do we do it? Why, when so many of us cherish our rest and want to sleep just a little bit longer, will get up in the darkness of the early morning and get ourselves to "the site of our common worship"? All around the world, to places that aren't where He was buried. Hundreds annually walk up the small hill at Ft. Phoenix to stand amongst the granite outcroppings. With people we don't know in the predawn light.

We've come to celebrate our shared faith... "For God loved the world so much that he gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NLT)

People have been going to Ft. Phoenix for 85 years, though during the pandemic we were limited to just the speakers, taping our message. People plan on coming back from across the country even from foreign lands, to be here with their family and

friends. It's a special experience. It's about a God who loves us and quite frankly we could all do with experiencing the closeness of that love, sensing that care, having that hope enlarged and doing it with brothers and sisters in the Lord. We realize we're not alone. We have each other and more importantly we have our Savior Jesus Christ! See you at "The Rock"!

The gates at Ft. Phoenix in Fairhaven will open by 5:30am with the service beginning at 6:27am. A freewill offering will be taken for Meals On Wheels, who help feed the elderly among us, one of the most vulnerable populations for food insecurity, which is vastly underfunded. God Bless you all and may you experience a wonderful Easter/Resurrection Day, but even more so a wondrous encounter with God!

## Egg Hunt

The North Fairhaven Improvement Association invites you to join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sat., 3/30, at Livesey Park, Parker Street, Fairhaven, 9 a.m. SHARP.

Children from toddler to 12 are invited to participate. Categories are: Toddler to age 4, 5-8, 9-12.

Bring your Easter basket and come out to welcome the Easter Bunny.

## Economic Dev. Surv.

FAIRHAVEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WANTS YOUR OPINIONS!

Only one question ..... Please complete the survey only once!

PLEASE TELL US THE TYPES OF NEW BUSINESSES YOU'D LIKE IN FAIRHAVEN

You can name a specific brand or just the business type you would like, i.e., clothing store, jewelry shop etc...

A link for the survey question will be embedded on a banner on the home page of the town website, <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov> or visit <https://tinyurl.com/EDCFairhaven>

If you don't have access to a computer, a survey card will be available for you next to a box outside the Town Clerk's office, in the Town Hall, 40 Center St., Fairhaven.

The survey ends April 15, 2024 (NOTE DEADLINE EXTENDED)

Thank you for participating.

**About 300 residents have already given their opinions to the Town Hall!**

## Scholarships

Applications for the Fairhaven Mothers' Club scholarships are due April 1. They are available from counselors at the high schools. Last year's awardees were Kaylei Joseph (Fairhaven High School), Brooke Bolger (Fairhaven High School), and Collin Johnson (Tabor Academy). The scholarships are for \$1,000.

## Dollars 4 Scholars

Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars has over 40 scholarships available for 2024. Application period is open through April 1, 2024.

For full list of scholarships and details on how to apply go to <https://fairhaven.dollarsforscholars.org>.

## Food Drive

The Fairhaven Belonging Committee and Rotary Club are supporting a community food drive ending on April 6. This year donations will go to the school department's Family Resource Center, Council on Aging in Fairhaven, and the First Congregational Church food pantry in Fairhaven. Looking for non-perishables ONLY. Nut butters, jelly, pasta, pasta sauces, mac & cheese, cereals are frequent needs. Toiletries welcome.

Look for donation boxes and drives around town or drop off at the COA, 229 Huttleston Ave., on April 6th 9a-1p. For more information or to join with a box or drive of your own contact [belonging@fairhaven.gov](mailto:belonging@fairhaven.gov) or [Ruby0918@comcast.net](mailto:Ruby0918@comcast.net).

Volunteers are welcome to help sort items on 4/6.

## Hetty

The Fairhaven Historical Society presents "Hetty, The Genius and Madness of America's First Female Tycoon," by Charles Slack, writer, editor and author. At Fairhaven Town Hall, Thurs., 4/4, 6:30 p.m. Donations accepted.

## FHS Drama Musical

The Fairhaven High School Theatre Company is excited to present this year's spring musical, *The Prom*, where four eccentric Broadway stars are in desperate need of a new stage. When they hear that trouble is brewing around a small-town prom,

cont'd next page

## STILL IN TOWN

they know that it's time to put a spotlight on the issue...and themselves. The town's parents want to keep the high school dance on the straight and narrow—but when Emma Nolan just wants to bring her girlfriend to prom, the entire town has a date with destiny. On a mission to transform lives, Broadway's brassiest join forces with a courageous girl and the town's citizens to build a prom for everyone. Winner of the Drama Desk Award for Best Musical, *The Prom* expertly captures all the humor and heart of a classic musical comedy with a message that resonates with audiences now more than ever.

*The Prom* will be performed at Fairhaven High School on April 4th, 5th and 6th at 7PM, with a matinee on April 7th at 2PM. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors/students, and \$10 for FHS students (ID will be required at the door). Tickets are assigned seating and can be purchased at the link below, as well as in person before each performance. For more information, please email [mrebelo@fairhavenps.net](mailto:mrebelo@fairhavenps.net). Visit <https://fairhaven-public-schools.ticketleap.com/the-prom>

[schools.ticketleap.com/the-prom](https://fairhaven-public-schools.ticketleap.com/the-prom)

### SAVE THE DATES:

#### Masonic Open House

All welcome! Please attend the free open house at the George H. Taber Masonic Lodge, 20 Center Street, Fairhaven, on Sat., 4/13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Come learn the history of one of Fairhaven's hidden architectural gems as well as the world's oldest fraternity.

#### 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 info at [westisland5k.org](https://westisland5k.org)). Registration is open at <https://my.racewire.com/event/7782>.

Please email Lyle at [westisland5k@yahoo.com](mailto:westisland5k@yahoo.com) if you want to sponsor the race or volunteer.

Volunteers are needed on Sat.,

April 20, 2-4pm at the West Island Improvement Association to support registration, number pick-up, and course setup. On Sun., 4/21 (race day), we will need help 8am-12pm to support registration, number pick-up, Kids Mile setup/execution, awards setup, and site cleanup.

#### April Bike & Brew

Sat., 4/6, Fairhaven Recreation Center. Hosted by Fairhaven Livable Streets Committee. Join us for a casual ride from the Fairhaven Rec Center to Mattapoisett's Inn on Shipyard Park! We'll meet on Saturday April 6 at 1pm at the Rec Center, then ride down the Phoenix Bike Trail, over Mattapoisett's recently completed Shining Tides extension, and to the Inn on Shipyard Park for drinks & snacks. It should be half an hour of easy riding each way. We welcome riders of all ages, abilities, and addresses (you don't have to live in Fairhaven to join us).

Reminders: Riders under 17 must wear a helmet. At each stop, riders are responsible for their own bikes. RSVP here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/910731600738016>

## HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

### Scholarships

The Greater New Bedford Garden Club is offering two \$2000 scholarships to residents of the Greater New Bedford area who are high school seniors graduating in June and who are planning to attend a four year college and pursue a career in horticulture, agriculture, landscape design, agriculture design, forestry, conservation or environmental design.

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

The scholarship applications are available to high school seniors in the guidance offices of New Bedford High School, Fairhaven High School, Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical Regional HS, Dartmouth HS, Westport HS, Old Rochester HS, Old Colony Regional HS, Bishop Stang HS, Global Learning HS and Bristol

County Agricultural HS.

The deadline for applications and required paperwork is April 1, 2024 and must be postmarked by that date.

For further information, contact [virginiasheehan427@comcast.net](mailto:virginiasheehan427@comcast.net).

### ELECT Southcoast

ELECT SouthCoast's second workshop, "Ready, Set, Run!: Strengthen Your Skills to Hit the Ground Running" will be on Fri., 3/29, at 6 p.m. at the Greater Southeastern MA Labor Council, 560 Pleasant St. Dinner and refreshments will be served. Please RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/nh9utkvz>

ELECT South Coast is an all-volunteer organization committed to advancing our collective good, investing in our region's future, and improving gender parity in public office. Visit <https://electsouthcoast.org>, or [electsouthcoast@gmail.com](mailto:electsouthcoast@gmail.com)

### SAVE THE DATES:

#### New Bedford Film Fest

New Bedford Film Festival, April

18–21. Join us in celebrating bold and diverse cinematic stories and storytellers in the whaling city.

The New Bedford Film Festival celebrates authentic cinematic stories, cultivates bold storytellers, and champions the city's growing creative and diverse economy. NBFF takes place in a variety of venues in New Bedford.

With its diverse and rich heritage, a bustling arts and music scene, and a strong community spirit, New Bedford has become the ultimate hot spot in the South Coast of Mass.

Come immerse yourself in the community and be part of a festival that honors filmmakers and their diverse narrative. Visit <https://www.newbedfordfilmfestival.com>

### NB Science Cafe

Please join us for New Bedford Science Café, on Tues., 4/2, from 6 to 8 p.m., at The Last Round Bar & Grille, 908 Purchase St., New Bedford. Open to everyone. Free, save for the beer!

Our guest, Grant O'Rielly, Ph.D., an

cont'd next page

## STILL OVERTOWN

experimental nuclear physicist and Professor of Physics at UMass-Dartmouth, will discuss The Science of Oppenheimer. The backstory of the movie Oppenheimer was fraught with scientific hurdles & unknowns, as Grant will relate. After the discovery at the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Germany in 1938 (at the beginning of WWII) that uranium atoms could be split into lighter particles, known as nuclear fission, the race to make the world's first atomic bomb was on.

Free parking in rear of

building. Videos of recent events can be found on our website.

### Spinner photos

If a picture is worth a thousand words, how many stories live in photos taken over a century and a half? The Spinner Archive contains over one million historical and contemporary photographs, depicting 150 years of life in Southeastern Massachusetts. On Thursday, April 11 at 5:30 p.m., Joe Thomas, co-founder of Spinner Publications, will speak

about the archive's creation. The talk happens at the RJD Museum, 396 County Road in New Bedford.

Thomas' talk is part of the RJD's "Behind the Scenes" series which offers an insider's perspective on museum collections and archives. As a part of New Bedford's AHA Night, admission to the event is free to the public. For more information, contact the RJD at 508-997-1401, visit the Museum's website, [rjdmuseum.org](http://rjdmuseum.org), or visit [ahanewbedford.org](http://ahanewbedford.org).

## HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

### Art Exhibit

Join us for the opening reception of this dynamic exhibition on Fri., 3/29, from 5-7 p.m., at Dartmouth Cultural Center, 404 Elm St., Dartmouth. Exhibit runs through 4/27.

### Egg Hunt

The annual Acushnet Egg Hunt is back for its third year! Join The Rescue Cafe, Spruce Up Acushnet, and Stuck On U Design at the Acushnet Sawmill, 32 Mill Rd., Acushnet, for a community egg hunt on Sat., 3/30, at 4 p.m.

Kids 12 and under are welcome to participate, and will be separated into age groups in order to make things fun and fair. Eggs will contain various types of candy and small prizes.

### Climate Reality

FFSHORE WIND IS HERE and GROWING OFF THE EAST COAST! Monday, April 1 at 7:30 PM on ZOOM

Join Christopher Hardy, Outreach Program Manager for Avangrid Renewables for a timely update on Offshore Wind Energy- its 21st century technology, renewable energy potential, wind disinformation and the industry's current and future status. Presented by Climate Reality Massachusetts Southcoast. Register at [tinyurl.com/awind24](http://tinyurl.com/awind24)

### Beach Cleanups

Be The Solution to Pollution is sponsoring several cleanups. Bring a reusable water bottle and closed toe shoes. Gloves, bags tools provided. Contact: Instagram: [marylou4oceans](https://www.instagram.com/marylou4oceans), [bethesolutiontopollution@gmail.com](mailto:bethesolutiontopollution@gmail.com)

- Horseneck Beach, Westport, on 3/30, from 9 a.m. to noon. Meet near the main bathhouse.
- Riverside Park, New Bedford, on April 6, from 9 a.m. to noon.
- Palmers Island, at the end of Giffords St., 1-4 p.m.

### Coin Show

Coin Show, Sun., 4/7, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Westport Town Hall Annex, 856 Main Road, Westport, MA. Free Admission.

## SAVE THE DATE

### Candidates Night

The Mattapoisett Republican Town Committee welcomes all to join us on Thurs., 4/18, from 6 to 8:30 PM to attend our annual "Meet the Candidates Night". Candidates up for election on 5/21 are welcome the opportunity to share with the community their overview of qualifications for the position and why they are seeking office in a relaxed friendly atmosphere.

Offices: Mattapoisett School Committee, Select Board, Assessor, Trustee of Public Library, Moderator

At Where: Knight of Columbus, 57 Fairhaven Road (Rte. 6), Mattapoisett 6:00 - 6:30 pm Meet and Greet - refreshments served, cash bar

6:30 - 7:15 pm Opening with Guest Speaker, Tom Johnson, MA State Coordinator for Tactical Civics. Tactical Civics is a 25-minute presentation reminding us that it is We The People responsible for enforcing, through peaceful, lawful means, the magnificent Law that our Founders left us and that beginning our reform at the local level is

essential. Very fitting since our voices will be heard at the ballot box on 5/21.

7:15 - 8:30 pm Opening the floor to candidates.

Candidates, please RSVP by Friday, April 12th: [PCMattyGOP@proton.me](mailto:PCMattyGOP@proton.me). Website: [MattapoisettGOP.com](http://MattapoisettGOP.com). Facebook.com/MattapoisettGOP

### Seed Library

The Seed Library is OPEN and ready for checkouts. With the days getting longer and the ocean air warming up, it's hard to deny springtime is coming! Have you started gardening yet? The Mattapoisett Free Public Library's seed library is restocked and ready for you! Our seed collection features a variety of options to promote planting, encourage healthy eating, and support local agriculture. Some staples include herbs, tomatoes, peppers, beans, and Brussels sprouts. We also have flowers and milkweed seeds to enhance your butterfly garden. Anyone with a SAILS library card can borrow seeds. They do not need to be returned. Please stop by to browse our selection of seeds and start growing your garden today!

No library card? No problem! Bring your ID and sign up for one. It's free and provides access to everything offered at the MFPL and surrounding SAILS libraries. For more information about the Seed Library and other library programs, please visit the Mattapoisett Free Public Library website, contact the library at (508) 758-4171, or email us at [mfpl@sailsinc.org](mailto:mfpl@sailsinc.org).

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