



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 19, Issue 18 • April 25, 2024

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

Animal shelter volunteers recognized



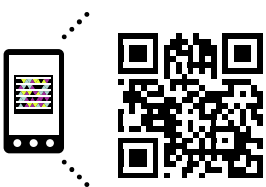
Fairhaven Select Board members pause for a photo with Animal Shelter volunteers and Animal Control Officer Terry Cripps after the board issued a proclamation recognizing the work of the volunteers and proclaiming 4/30/24 Adopt-A-Shelter-Pet Day, at its meeting on 4/22/24. Photo by Beth David.

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.

Oh...we're getting close to Town Meeting. I meant to get an overview story in, but then I had to bump it for some other stuff.

Meanwhile, we do have meeting coverage for you. See page 4 for Select Board.

The board also sent a letter about the hiring process for the police chief. It's unclear what will happen next, but it looks like the process may have to start all over. See page 3 for the board's letter. This has been an executive session item, so that's why we haven't written about it yet.

Mr. Hayward has another opinion piece in this week about the Accessory Dwelling Units (see page 13). But, it looks like some wording may have been changed (See SB article on page 4). Time got away from me, and by the time I realized I needed to get clarification, it was too late. So, I ran with what they said at the meeting.

Honestly, this process does not at all inspire confidence.

As for Mr. Hayward, I got a call from someone saying that we tried to pull a fast one on our readers by not clearly labeling his piece as opinion. Well, I guess I goofed, but, really, it starts out in first person, making it pretty clear that it's an opinion piece. However, I did label this week's story more clearly. Mr. Hayward is not a reporter and he doesn't pretend to be, but there should be no question.

We have lots of other stuff in here, of course: a West Island woman is looking for a kidney (see page 11); The Yellow Tulip Project in honor of Trevor Viera is at Livesey Park and it is in bloom (see page 14); and the West Island 5K was this weekend.

Spring is heating up. This weekend is Arbor Day stuff (page 5); next week is Town Meeting and Cherry Blossom Festival (page 5). Let's hope the rain behaves!

Until next week then, see ya

Glory to Ukraine!
Glory to the Heroes!



Publisher Beth David with Charlie, aka Evil Dog

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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Editor: Beth David

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Gulp! We made a mistake in our article on the Fairhaven Improvement Association's annual meeting. In the article, we said it was the NFIA. We apologize for the error. **CLARIFICATION:** In the opinion piece by Wayne Hayward about the Fairhaven Planning Board's proposed bylaw changes, we should have spelled out that it was an opinion piece. We apologize for any confusion our omission may have caused.

Fairhaven SB responds to Civil Service questions PD chief hire

Statement by the Fairhaven Select Board regarding Civil Service:

The Civil Service system in Massachusetts has not served the interests of our community for many years, and Fairhaven is not alone in that regard. The current Civil Service system no longer fulfills its primary mission and is particularly deficient in terms of allowing communities to hire women and minority candidates. In addition to diversity concerns, there are documented shortcomings with Civil Service promotional procedures and the disciplinary appeal process.

For all of these reasons, Fairhaven, along with many other communities, has pursued withdrawal from Civil Service in our police and fire departments. Our first step was to negotiate with our police and fire unions over the withdrawal. The unions representing our police officers and firefighters both agreed to support withdrawal from Civil Service. Additionally, the Town bargained with the Union and agreed to new hiring and promotional processes to replace the archaic processes required under

the Civil Service law.

We then put the matter of withdrawal before voters at our Annual Town Meeting in 2023, and voters overwhelmingly supported withdrawal. We placed these questions before town meeting based on the belief that all the positions in the Police Department, including the police chief, came under Civil Service jurisdiction by a vote of town meeting in 1954. We subsequently learned that the decision to put the police chief under Civil Service was approved at a town election in 1938, meaning it would require putting the question of withdrawal before voters at a town election.

Following the vote of the 2023 Annual Town Meeting to withdraw from Civil Service, the Town went through a process to determine who would succeed Chief Myers when he retires in August 2024. As our prior town meeting vote did not effectively remove the position of police chief from Civil Service, the promotional process we used to select the next chief is effectively null and void. The

Select Board will be meeting after town meeting to determine the best course of action to replace Chief Myers. We are committed to choosing the next police chief through a fair, unbiased and comprehensive assessment process. The Board will share the details of that process with our employees and our residents before a selection is made.

The decision to leave Civil Service was made with the support of our police officers and firefighters, and final approval of that decision rests with our voters. The central question to consider is whether decisions on hiring, promotions and discipline will be local decisions, or whether those decisions will be governed by a state agency. As for replacing Chief Myers, the Select Board again would like to assure our residents that we will fully disclose the process for making that decision before the Town selects a new police chief.

We hope this addresses any concerns regarding our position on Civil Service and the selection of a new police chief.

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Fairhaven Select Board recognizes animal shelter volunteers

By Beth David
Editor

At its meeting on 4/22/24, the Fairhaven Select Board recognized the volunteers who help out at the Fairhaven Animal Shelter. The board presented Animal Control Officer, Terry Cripps, with a proclamation praising the volunteers and recognizing National Adopt a Shelter Pet Day, which is April 30.

SB chairperson Stasia Powers credited SB member Andrew Romano with suggesting that the board recognize the volunteers for the "wonderful work" they do at the shelter.

"We all happily agreed," she said.

Mr. Cripps told the board he has about 30 volunteers of all ages. . There are individuals from the public, some from organizations, such as MO LIFE and Community Connections. They are there every day of the year, including every holiday, he said.

"They're there all the time," said Mr. Cripps, adding they are not like "normal" volunteer staff, and "It's a privilege to watch them."

He gets compliments about how clean the shelter is and how it does not smell like an animal shelter, and he credits the volunteers for that.

He also said they lost three volunteers last year and have a garden for one, and are working on ways to remember the other two.

"They were valued members of our team," said Mr. Cripps.

They all joked about getting "Crippied," meaning he got someone to take an animal.

Mr. Romano also noted that Mr. Cripps helps with all kinds of animals, including an injured squirrel that Mr. Romano called about.

SB member Charlie Murphy said

the town could not afford the work that the volunteers do. He also said he calls Mr. Cripps "about everything," including 12 duck eggs in the yard...with the duck.

Mr. Cripps said to leave them alone, when the eggs hatch, they will go to the water. And, indeed, they did just that, said Mr. Murphy, so it was "great advice."

"You excel at what you do," he said. "You are shining stars."

SB member Keith Silvia agreed that the volunteers were "special people" who do not get paid for what they do.

"They never say 'no'," said Mr. Cripps.

Donna Baldwin, who volunteers at the shelter, told the board it was "wonderful" to work with Mr. Cripps. "He's great."

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for you," she said.

Joan Fye told the board she had been through more than one ACO and, "They don't come any better than Terry."

She also said the shelter itself was "wonderful" and one of the only "genuine no-kill shelters in South-eastern Massachusetts."

"I just love the animals so much," said Ms. Fye. "When I retired, they gave me purpose."

The proclamation recognizes the contributions of the volunteers, noting that "our Fairhaven Animal Shelter could not operate without the faithful volunteers who help support their efforts to save, foster and care for animals through donations of their time, goods, services and funds."

The proclamation further states, "Our community recognizes the benefits of pets, who make life better by giving us unconditional love,

providing companionship and comfort, encouraging us to get outside for exercise, and helping us build social connections."

The board also held a public hearing to renew the aquaculture license for Stephen Doonan, who requested a five-year renewal.

Fairhaven Harbormaster Tim Cox told the board that Mr. Doonan was stuck in traffic, so Mr. Cox explained to the board that the original license was for three years and expires in May. He told the board that the town usually starts with a three-year license until the town knows how they operate, then they increase it if there are no problems.

He said he has had no issues with Mr. Doonan at all.

The license could go up to 10 years, but he and the Marine Resources Committee are recommending five. The MRC voted unanimously to grant the extension.

Mr. Doonan's aquaculture farm grows quahogs and oysters.

There were no questions and the board voted unanimously, 4-0, to grant the five year extension. Select Board member Andrew Saunders was not present.

In another matter, Town Administrator, Angie Lopes Ellison, told the board that two Town Meeting articles had some changes. The changes to Article 20, which amends several sections of the zoning bylaw, including the section on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), takes out some language that was "more restrictive," she said.

Ms. Ellison added that the changes did not necessarily impact the substance of the article, although the

SELECT: cont'd on page 8

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**UU Society of Fairhaven
welcomes all!**

Worship at 10 a.m. Sundays
April 28: *Music Sunday*
UUSF Choir, Director Dwight Thomas

Nursery care in Harrop Center starting at
9:45 a.m. Children welcome at service.

Theme for May: *Pluralism*

The Rev. Maria Uitti McCabe

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

AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Arbor Day Planting

There will be an Arbor Day tree planting ceremony at Fairhaven High School, corner of Main Street and Route 6, on Friday, 4.26 at 1:00 pm.

There will also be a planting at the Wood School, 60 Scoticut Neck Road, Fairhaven, at 3:15p.m. with the Jr. Deputy Tree Wardens.

Free Trees

For the 7th year in a row, Bask will be offering free fir trees to the public on Arbor Day. This annual event has become a staple in Fairhaven, and we love the fact that we can help the environment in any way possible. Bask's Free Trees 2024 will take place on Friday, 4/26, 9am - 9pm in front of Bask at 2 Pequod Rd. in Fairhaven.

This year, we purchased hundreds of Cannan Fir trees from the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association.

Look for the big green van to get your free tree!

Nemasket 5K

Join us for our upcoming 5K Walk/Run event on Sat., 5/4, at Fort Phoenix! Individual registration is \$25 and you can sign up at <https://nemasketgroup.org/events/>

The event starts at 9AM and includes a t-shirt for all registrants. There will also be gift card prizes for the first, second, and third place male and female finishers, as well as for the largest team and largest fundraiser. The Nemasket Group is celebrating 40 years of providing dedicated services to individuals with disabilities and their families. This year will be our 11th Annual 5K Walk/Run Event. We hope you can join us!

The race starts and ends at the Fort Phoenix in Fairhaven, MA. It is your choice to either walk or run the event. Our volunteers will be along the route holding signs to guide the way. There is a water station along the route as well, and snacks will be provided. Put on your sneakers and get moving to support our cause! Race happens rain or shine!

Schedule of the Day: 8:00 AM, Registration/Check-In; 8:50 AM, Runners/Walkers line up; 9:00 AM, Race Starts; 10:00 AM, Acknowledgements/ Awards Ceremony

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This event is one that we look forward to every year, and we love that we can help add trees to Fairhaven and the surrounding area. This little step is our way of contributing to worldwide environmental efforts.

This year, we purchased hundreds of Cannan Fir trees from the Massachusetts Tree Wardens' and Foresters' Association.

We are excited to give out these trees on Arbor Day, and we can't wait to see you there. Look for the big green van to get your free tree!

FAYA Reg Open

Fairhaven Acushnet Youth Athletics early bird special: \$200 (\$225 starting July 1). Registration for FAYA Fall Football and Cheerleading. Sideline and competition cheer, ages 5-15. Tackle football, ages 5-14.

Pre-season begins August 1 and official season is Sept. 1. Sign up now before the prices increase in July and August. Visit www.fayabluedevils.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.

Lions Pancake Breakfast

Join us for a pancake breakfast to benefit our scholarship fund on Sun., 4/28, from 8-11:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Church, 440 Main St., Fairhaven. Tickets: \$10, children under 10, \$5. Includes pancakes, sausage, fruit cup, coffee and juice.

Contact any Fairhaven Lion for tickets or email FairhavenMA LionsClub@gmail.com. Tickets also available at door.

Volunteers needed

Fairhaven's Veterans Services Office will be placing flags on the graves of veterans at Riverside Cemetery on May 18 at 10 a.m. (rain date 5/19) We are looking for volunteers to help us honor all or fallen veterans.

For details contact Brad or Jane at VSO, 508-202-4603

Garden Beds Avail

Have you ever wanted to try gardening but didn't know where to start? Perhaps you're interested in saving money by growing your own organic vegetables? Maybe your yard is too small or too shady for a garden? Or maybe, you just want to be part of a "growing green" community?

If you've answered yes to any of these questions, you're in luck. The Fairhaven Community Garden has garden beds available at three locations in town: East Fairhaven Elementary School, Hastings Middle School and Wood Elementary School. The annual fee is \$10 per 4x8 foot bed. All gardeners agree to use organic practices only.

If you are interested or have a question, visit our website at fairhavencommunitygarden.org where you'll find more information and the 2024 gardening application, or you can email the site coordinator at sitecoordinator@fairhavencommunitygarden.org.

SAVE THE DATES:

Cherry Blossom Festival

Japanese Cherry Blossom Friendship Festival, Free admission. Sun., 5/5, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM, at Whitfield-Manjiro Museum. 11 Cherry St., Fairhaven.

Taiko drums, Martial Arts, Kamishibai Story, Raffle, Kimono sale, Japanese name writing, Japanese items for sale, Ikebana flower arranging, Museum house tour, and Ukelele!

Bento Box Lunch (no raw items) with iced Japanese green tea/water and cherry square. Tickets for lunch (limited number): \$20

Boating Class

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary's Flotilla 65 is offering the two sessions of the Suddenly In Command boating

HAPPS/FHVN: cont'd on page 16

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Exercise Tiger

There's a lot happening at the Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Historical Association, 1000 Rodney French Blvd., New Bedford, on Sun., 4/28, to honor the achievements and sacrifices of America's veterans.

Events that day include an open house at the military museum, the observance of the 80th anniversary of Exercise Tiger, and the rededication of the World War II 212nd Artillery mural.

The museum will open to visitors at 10 a.m. Refreshments will be served.

At 1 p.m. the 80th anniversary ceremony to honor Exercise Tiger will take place. Exercise Tiger was a rehearsal for the D-Day invasion that went tragically wrong, claiming the lives of nearly 1,000 American servicemen April 28, 1944 at Slapton Sands, England.

Visitors are encouraged to visit the museum's indoor Exercise Tiger display, which features new museum-grade cabinets and a wall mounting listing the names of those who gave their lives that tragic day.

The day's events will also include the unveiling of the refurbished and remounted canvas mural. The mural depicts the New Bedford-based 212th Artillery Battalion and its landing and march to victory across Europe in World War II.

Veterans Invited

Veterans, do you need to open a VA claim or review an existing claim? Visit the CE Burt DAV Chapter 7 at 19 Willis St., New Bedford, between 9 am. and 3 p.m. on Thurs., 5/2.

National service officers will be on hand to help file new claims and help with existing claims.

Please come early. These sessions tend to be well attended.

Diabetes Program

YMCA Southcoast has relaunched its Diabetes Prevention Program (YDPP). The YDPP is an evidence-based lifestyle change program to help people at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes prevent or prolong the development of the disease. A trained Lifestyle Coach introduces 26 modules over the course of a year and facilitates group discussions, and participants receive a free Y membership! Through June 30, 2024,

many program participants are eligible for a fee waiver!

There are ongoing YDPP cohorts in Fall River and New Bedford, and new cohorts are forming in spring 2024 in Acushnet, New Bedford, and Wareham. This re-launch is a collaboration between the YMCA, Southcoast Health, the City of New Bedford Health Department and New Bedford Community Health (formerly the Greater New Bedford Community Health Center). Classes are available in English, Portuguese and Spanish.

Contact Diabetes Prevention Program Coordinator Rutchell Charleus at rcharleus@ymcasc.org or (508) 996-9622 x131 to learn more about the YDPP and see if you're eligible to participate.

Volunteer Fairs

Share a Little Time. Make a Big Difference. Are you interested in connecting to your community? Connecting to the mission of the National Park Service? New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park will host two Volunteer Information Fairs.

Wed., 5/1, 6-7:30 p.m., at NB Whaling Park Corson Building Theater, 33 William St., New Bedford.

Thurs., 5/2, 6-7 p.m.; virtual. Please visit our Facebook Page Events or our Website for the link to the Virtual Presentation. For assistance, please contact denise_delucia@nps.gov.

Volunteers in the United States hold up the foundation of civil society. They help their neighbors, serve their communities, and provide their expertise. No matter what kind of work they do, volunteers contribute in invaluable ways. In Fiscal Year 2023, nearly 123,000 volunteers donated more than 3.7 million hours of service across the National Park Service. The most current value of a volunteer hour has been estimated at \$31.80. These 123,000 volunteers offered a value of over \$119 million of time and expertise to the Mission of the National Park Service!

There are many benefits to volunteering with the National Park Service such as after 250 hours of volunteer service, you may be awarded a free pass for two years to National Parks across the nation! Your volunteer service hours can be counted as hours worked and

experience gained, toward any position applied for with the federal government.

Black Composers

On April 28, 2024 at 3:00PM, Seaglass Theater Company will present *Not Afraid to Dare* at Gallery X in downtown New Bedford-site of the former Frederick Douglass Memorial AME Zion Church.

Tickets are \$25-30 and may be purchased online at www.notafraidtodare.eventbrite.com. Tickets may also be purchased with cash, credit card, or check the day of the concerts at Gallery X a half hour before the performance.

For more information, please visit www.seaglasstheater.com or call 508-951-7187.

Chekhov Comedies

Your Theatre Inc. presents A Chekhov Comedy Weekend, April 26 & 27 at 7:30 p.m.; April 27 & 28 at 2 p.m., at YTI Steeple Playhouse, 159 William St., New Bedford, MA; 508-993-0772; www.yourtheatre.org. Complimentary donations accepted. Reservations strongly encouraged.

Two hilarious one-act plays by Anton Chekhov

"On the Harmful Effects of Tobacco," directed by Valerie Reynolds. A man agrees, at the behest of his wife, to deliver a lecture about the perils of smoking, but instead seems to rebel against his wife's demands of him.

"A Marriage Proposal, directed by James Sanguinetti. A young Russian man comes to propose to a woman he's known his entire life, but gets interrupted over and over again by arguments over trial matters.

Learn to Row

New Bedford Rowing Center (NBRC) announces Learn To Row sessions. These Saturday and Sunday morning courses will get anyone on the water in four weeks. .

Registration is now open for Learn To Row courses, taking place on For more information about the New Bedford Rowing Center and its programs, including signing up for a Learn To Row course, please visit www.newbedfordrowing.org.

• Session 1: April 27, 28, May 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19

Community Conversation

Tritown Against Racism (TTAR) is excited to announce the the fifth in series Community Conversation: Racism - Let's Talk About It on April 27 at the Friend's Meeting House, 103 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, from 2-4 p.m. In this open and inclusive dialogue, we'll come together to explore the complexities of racism, its impacts on individuals and communities, and how we can work collectively to create a more just and equitable society. This event aims to provide a safe space for meaningful discussions, sharing personal experiences, and learning from one another. Whether you're new to these conversations or have been actively engaged in anti-racism work, your voice matters. Let's listen, learn, and take meaningful steps towards building a world where everyone is treated with dignity and respect. Together, we can spark positive change. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of the conversation.

Find more info and RSVP at <https://www.tritownagainstracism.org/events>

Writers Workshop

Writers Workshop Redux. A place to share ideas whether you are a writer or just have stories that want to be told...

Every 4th Friday, 10am til 12 pm, Next Date, 4/27, at Mattapoisett Library 7 Barstow St., Mattapoisett, basement community room.

Come to hone the craft of writing in a supportive setting. Bring a piece of writing to share aloud or just come to listen at first...memoir, poetry, fiction, essay...bring what moves you. No need to bring copies.

Come one writer, come all...if you have a story inside you, we want to hear it.

More information? Contact Lydia: artslandlady@gmail.com

Scholarships

The Mattapoisett Scholarship Committee met recently at Town Hall after being inactive since COVID school closures. The members eagerly voted to award up to \$1,500 to deserving and qualified applicants who complete the application process.

Eligibility: Mattapoisett Resident,

High School Senior

Award(s): The total Scholarship Award amount is \$1,500. The Committee reserves the right to decide how many applicants will receive a stipend that will, in total, not exceed the \$1,500 total.

Requirements: Students should submit their letters of recommendation, transcript and a cover letter addressing the following criteria: "The committee shall take into consideration each recipients financial need, character, scholastic record and involvement in community work as well as extracurricular activities." Successful applicants will be informed by 6/5/24.

Forms are available at the Town Administrator's office Submission Deadline: May 15th, 2024

Request blank and submit Completed Forms to: Mattapoisett Town Hall, c/o Christine Richards, Asst to Town Operations, P.O. Box 435, 16 Main Street, Mattapoisett, MA 02739; 508-758-4100 ext 4; crichards@mattapoisett.net

Poetry Reading

Award-winning members of the Southcoast Poets will be reading at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow St., on Tues., 4/30 at 6:30 pm. Vivian Eyre, Elizabeth Sylvia and Margot Wizansky will each be reading from their award-winning books and will be introduced by library director Susan Pizzolato, herself a member of the group.

The books by these poets will be available for purchase and signing at the reception following the reading in the community room downstairs. This event is part of the Purrington Lecture Series sponsored by the Mattapoisett Library Trust. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Meat Pie FR

Freshly Made Meat Pie by Connie, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy and Vegetable, Rolls and Dessert, 50/50 raffle and raffle items. Sat., 5/11, 5:30 p.m. (doors open at 4:30). Sponsored by VFW Auxiliary, Freetown Memorial Post 6643, 89 Middleboro Road, East Freetown, MA. Tickets \$20. Come and have a good time with friends.

For tickets call Susan LeBlanc, 508-763-9245; Connie Soares, 508-642-3443; VFW 508-763-2292

Mattapoisett Mus. Annual Mtg

The Mattapoisett Museum at 5 Church Street is pleased to announce its Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 25 at 6:00 pm. After a short business meeting, Curator Connor E. Gaudet will regale the audience with the history of the iconic bark, the Wanderer, since it was shipwrecked on the rocks of Cuttyhunk Island.

This presentation is a "teaser" to prepare the public for the launch of this summer's celebratory exhibit of the 100th anniversary since the Wanderer's shipwreck, "Wanderer 100: The Afterlife & Legacy of Mattapoisett's Last Whaler. It explores why the Wanderer has been honored, celebrated and venerated through the years and asks the questions, "Why is the Wanderer iconic?" and "Why do we love her so?"

This talk at the Annual Meeting is open to all, but only Mattapoisett Museum Members will be asked to vote on new Board Members and changes in by-laws. Self-serve refreshments will be available.

Animal Shelter

The Mattapoisett Free Public Library's Teen Advisory Board is collecting donations for the Fairhaven Animal Shelter. The shelter needs nonclumping cat litter, laundry detergent, bleach, canned dog food, Lysol cleaner, Pine Sol, and dry cat food. They would also be interested in other appropriate things, such as dog and cat toys, blankets, etc. All donations may be left in the bins at the Mattapoisett Library, 7 Barstow St., Mattapoisett, MA, until May 14th.

Contact Amanda Lawrence, the Adult Services Librarian, at ALawrence@sailsinc.org.

Seed Library

The Mattapoisett Free Public Library's seed library is restocked! Featuring a variety of options to promote planting, encourage healthy eating, and support local agriculture, including herbs, tomatoes, peppers, beans, and Brussels sprouts, flowers and milkweed. No library card? Bring your ID and sign up for one. It's free.

Visit <https://www.mattapoisettlibrary.org>, call 508-758-4171, or email mfpl@sailsinc.org.

SELECT: cont'd from page 4

details were not discussed in the meeting and the newest changes are hard to discern in the meeting packet material online.

Article 21, which is a new bylaw that would regulate who can connect to the town's sewer system, also had some changes, which were marked in red on the online packet.

In her report, Ms. Ellison told the board that the town website is transitioning to a new company. There may be some gaps in what is available online until the transition is complete, but all the information will be available on the new website.

The project has been discussed in the past, and the plan is make it easier to find things on the website. The new site will make it easier to apply for permits, etc. The transition should be done within the next couple of months.

Ms. Ellison also announced that Office of Tourism Director Chris Richard announced his retirement as of 5/31. She noted that they had talked about reshaping that position to focus more on community development. With Mr. Richard

retiring, she said, it will be a "great opportunity" to do that.

"He will be missed," said Mr. Ellison, and added that when she first met him she wanted to make him the town historian. She said it would be a great appointment now.

"As the saying goes, he knows where the skeletons are buried," said Ms. Ellison.

Mr. Romano said that it seemed "kind of sudden," considering Mr. Richard's presentation to the board recently, and some conversations they had about upcoming events. Mr. Romano asked Ms. Ellison if she had "anything to share" about why Mr. Richard suddenly decided to retire.

Ms. Ellison said one of the things she does not do is talk about staff. She said she would talk to Mr. Romano privately about it if he wanted.

Ms. Ellison also gave the board information on restructuring the permitting departments, and moving offices. She said the idea is to group together the departments that might need to see the same set of plans so that residents are not running all over

town hall. One irony, she noted, is that she is recommending that the Board of Health be relocated back to where it had been traditionally.

In another matter, the board appointed liaisons to the various boards and committees that require, or requested a Select Board representative.

The board also made several appointments, including: Bob Espindola to the Broadband Study Committee; Nicole Arruda to the Cultural Council and the Historical Commission; and chose Jessica Fidalgo to be nominated for the at-large position at SRPEDD (South-eastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District), which is a position chosen by SRPEDD from names submitted by the boards of the municipalities in the district.

The board met in executive session with the Planning Board pursuant to MGL c 30A, S 21 (a)(3) to discuss litigation, "Rodriques v. Fairaven PB).

The SB also met in executive session to discuss Civil Services (see page 3 for letter).



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Chemical Creations (Ages 6-10)

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

Pre-K Soccer at Livesey Park ages 3-5

Class introduces children to the basic concepts of soccer while emphasizing fun, imagination, and socialization. Our instructors create a positive learning atmosphere that encourages children to explore and experiment with the sport. We use various fun exercises and games to help children build a strong foundation for athletic development. In case of rain that class will be canceled and made up at the end of the session. Cleats and shin-guards are welcome but not necessary. Starts 4/23-May 28 4-4:45pm \$50/Members \$60/Non-members

Youth Soccer 6-8 5pm-6pm

Our sessions focus on developing key motor skills such as running, jumping, kicking, and coordination Starts 4/23-May 28 5-6pm \$50/Members \$60/Non-members. Cleats and shin-guards are welcome but not necessary.

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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: 5/1, Plain Ridge Park Casino; 5/8, So. Shore Plaza; 5/15, Derby St. Shops; 5/22, Plymouth Shopping; 5/29, Wrentham Village.

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

Walking Trip

Great Hill Private Estate, Marion. April 25. \$10. Discover the beauty of Great Hill, a private estate in Marion. Patsy will be your guide on your approximately two-mile walk through the estate grounds with beautiful ocean views as well as a private daffodil field. **This walk does have slight inclines and some uneven terrain.**

Please arrive at the Fairhaven COA/Senior Center for 8:30 a.m. sharp. Please bring a bagged lunch. Wear proper footwear and outerwear. Please call to sign up, 508-979-4029.

Medical Transportation

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

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

Caregivers Support Group

The first Thursday of the month, from 1-2:00 p.m. at the Fairhaven Senior Center. Please call 508-979-4029.

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Recipe of the Week

Semisweet Chocolate Mousse

- 1/4 c semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1 large egg yolk, lightly beaten
- 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- Whipped cream & raspberries

In small saucepan, melt chocolate chips with water; stir until smooth. Stir a small amount of hot chocolate mixture into egg yolk; return all to the pan, stirring constantly. Cook and stir for 2 minutes or until slightly thickened. Remove from the heat; stir in vanilla. Quickly transfer to a small bowl. Stir occasionally until completely cooled.

In a small bowl, beat whipping cream until it begins to thicken. Add sugar; beat until soft peaks form. Fold into cooled chocolate mixture. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Garnish with whipped cream and raspberries.

Makes two servings.
From TasteOfHome.com



Dear Frankie

Why Would Someone Take Their Life?

Dear Frankie,
Last month, my family buried my teenage brother Tommy. The terrible part is he chose to end his life. In the months leading up to his death,

he and my parents fought constantly about him taking drugs. My parents told him time and time again that drugs were dangerous and could kill him. But he didn't listen. He denied he was using and accused them of getting riled up over nothing.

I know he wasn't telling the truth because I saw him and his friends using drugs at our house when my parents weren't home. After they swallowed the pills, they acted like real nut cases and said crazy things about seeing scary monsters creeping around the room.

Tommy also smoked pot when he walked me at night. Yesterday, the vet told my mom that my asthma had reached the point that I needed to start on a daily drug regime to manage my symptoms. Knowing what I know about drugs, I don't want to take them. I'm afraid if I do, they might make me do what Tommy did, and I don't want to die.

Memphis

Dear Memphis,

I'm so sorry to hear about your brother. Drugs don't make people kill themselves. People who are struggling mentally, however, have been known to take drugs to escape from their troubles. The asthma drugs the vet prescribed are made in legal drug labs under strict regulations. These drugs have been tested and shown to help dogs with chronic asthma breathe more comfortably. They don't impact your mind and how you think.

The drugs Tommy took sounded like they were hallucinatory drugs. They are made in illegal drug labs by criminals to make money, not to treat

FRANKIE: cont'd on page 18

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20-year-old West Island woman looking for living kidney donor

By Beth David
Editor

A 20-year-old West Island woman is asking the public for help getting a kidney transplant. Nellie Zygiel has been sick with a variety of illnesses since she was a young child, including vasculitis at the age of 10. That left her kidneys permanently damaged. She was placed on the National Donor List this past January.

Unfortunately, the wait for a kidney is five to seven years.

Meanwhile, she will most likely have to go on dialysis, which is not a pleasant prospect.

None of this, however, has stopped Ms. Zygiel from pursuing her dreams.

The young UMassAmherst student is also a member of the Commonwealth Honors College, and is studying education and psychology. She is scheduled to graduate in 2026, and hopes to keep to that schedule.

But, she needs the public's help to

do it. If she can get a living donor, she can pursue her dreams.

"My doctors have talked about all the benefits of getting a kidney from a living donor," writes Nellie on her website, KidneyForNellie.org. "It would hopefully help me avoid dialysis, be a better match, and kidneys from living donors normally last longer."

Even so, she will likely need more than one transplant in her lifetime, because she is so young now.

Nellie had a lot of anxiety and fear when she was first told that she would need a transplant. She is trying to avoid dialysis because of the toll it takes on the body and the emotions.

"Dialysis takes a complete toll on someone's life," writes Nellie on her website. "It makes people weaker, tired, and depressed. As a 20-year-old college student, that's something I am desperately trying to avoid."

In a phone interview, Nellie said

that she does not have a lot of symptoms, now, but she does get tired.

And that's lucky, she said.

"Because when you get symptoms, you have to consider dialysis," she said.

At this point, she is still able to do all the things she wants to do, and, being a West Island kid, that means outdoor summer stuff. She kayaks, rides her bike, walks her two dogs on the beach. This summer she wants to get into paddle boarding.

She also just hangs out with friends (she's 20, right?) and goes to different workout classes at school.

This summer she will work her job again at Off The Hook at West Island Marina.

And during it all, a kidney transplant is hanging over her head.

"It's tough," she said. "Because I have to balance more than the average people that are my age."

And that includes keeping up with the website, updating things, keeping track of a whole bunch of stuff, and advocating for herself.

You may see her walking on the beach with her dogs, Hope, a gift from the Make a Wish Foundation, and Maple, who's a little bit older.

"I love to be outside," said Nellie. "Summer is my favorite."

Spoken like a true West Island kid.

Visit Nellie's page at www.kidneyfornellie.org; learn more about living donors at <http://www.bidmc.org/kidneydonor>

The website has an inquiry form and links to helpful information. You may also email her at kidneyfornellie@gmail.com

People who are not a direct match



LEFT: A 10-year-old Nellie Zygiel poses with her parents, Tom and Sheryl Zygiel, while in the hospital when she was diagnosed with vasculitis, the condition that damaged her kidneys, and now, at age 20, she needs a kidney transplant. RIGHT: Nellie holds her puppy, Hope, a gift from the Make a Wish Foundation. Photos from KidneyForNellie.org

NELLIE: cont'd on page 16

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More than 200 take to the streets in West Island run/walk

By Beth David
Editor

The 11th West Island 5K saw 209 registered runners/walkers, with 33 registered for the Kids Mile, on Sunday, 4/21/24.

For the kids, Sal Kerdi finished first in 6:25; with Denver Simala second in 6:30; and Solomom Barrett third in 7:46. For the girls, Vera Moran came in first in 8:21; Ellie Shivers took second

in 8:25; and Virginia Gonsalves came in third with 9:19.

In the 5K, top finisher was John Schilkowsky, 32, of Providence, RI, in 15:53; Robert Norcott, 42, of Berkley, MA, took second in 17:44; and third place winner was Matt Keys, 31, of Newton Center, MA, in 19:10.

For the women, Nancy McGee, 41, of Marion, came in first in 19:52; Hailey Desmarais, 18, from Assonet,

came in second in 20:13; and Mary Cass, 62, from Westport, came in third in 33:22.

The race also awarded medals for top finishers in age categories for both men and women.

Organizer Lyle Drew began the race to benefit the Fairhaven High School cross country track team. This year's proceeds benefit the team and the West Island Improvement Association.



NOTE: Names were taken from <https://my.racewire.com/results/37813> using bib numbers. LEFT: Thirty-three runners make the first turn in the Kids Mile Run at the the West Island 5K on Sunday, 4/21/24, in Fairhaven. ABOVE 2ND FROM LEFT: First place winner Sal Kerdi reaches the finish line of with a time of 6:25. ABOVE MIDDLE: Vera Moran is the first girl over the finish line with a time of 8:21. ABOVE 2ND FROM RIGHT: ive-year-old Isaac Barbosa is the youngest runner over the finish line with a time of 9:44. ABOVE RIGHT: Six-year-old Amari Sauld is all smiles as he crosses the finish line in 12:30. BELOW LEFT: Top female finishers pose with their trophies, L-R: Ellie Shivers, 2nd place; Vera Moran, 1st place; Virginia Gonsalves, 3rd place. BELOW 2ND FROM LEFT: Darrin Dupras, 58, of Fairhaven spots the camera and reacts accordingly at the start of the West Island 5K. BELOW MIDDLE: John Schilkowsky, 32, of Providence, RI, is first over the finish line in 15:53. BELOW 2ND FROM RIGHT: Nancy McGee, 41, of Marion, puts her hands up in triumph as she crosses the finish line fourth overall, and first female with a time of 19:52. BELOW RIGHT: Scott Brum, 51, of Bristol, RI, gives a thumbs up as he crosses the finish line with a time of 24:29. BOTTOM LEFT: Natalie Flynn, 8, and Joanne Jack, 56, cross the finish line together with a time of 30:38. BOTTOM MIDDLE LEFT: L-R: Amanda Pimental, 28, of East Freetown, and Ashley Lorgere, 27, of Fall River, put their hands up in triumph as they cross the finish line together. BOTTOM MIDDLE RIGHT: Jessica Anton, 34, of Taunton, gets a high five as she approaches the finish line with a time of 43:19. BOTTOM RIGHT: L-R: Elisabeth Burdick, 60, of Newtonville, MA, and Tracy Kelly, 49, of Waltham, pump up a fist and hold hands as they cross the finish line together. *Photos by Beth David.*



The Unfinished Bylaw: Accessory Dwelling Units

An Opinion Piece By Wayne Hayward
Planning Board Member
(1991-2023)

Special to the Neighb News

Town Meeting Article 20A proposes to accommodate additional living spaces in the Town of Fairhaven. There are many identified needs and depending on the intent, there are many approaches as well. Currently, Fairhaven offers and accepts application for these similar types of "Accessory Dwelling Unit": In-law Apartment Unit, Accessory Apartment Unit, Dwelling Conversion Unit, Duplex Dwelling Unit, Semi-Detached Unit, Two-Family Dwelling Unit.

For the most part, all these types of units are difficult to understand from a property owner perspective; What to apply for. We require competent, trained, seasoned employees in the administering of the town bylaws. Untrained staff tend to view some bylaws as broken, when in actuality it may be their lack of training that is at issue. We probably agree with Town/City/Regional Planners, Planning Board members, Municipal Attorneys, Engineers, General Contractors, Investors and Home-Owners from town to town, it's confusing. Each community can be quite different under Home Rule at the same time.

The approach of this article resembles a temporary, stop-gap provision action and much less a new planned path forward. The tendencies, as with other reactionary zoning issues, is to institute an over-reaction. But until the town hires a zoning consultant and the zoning laws are carefully updated, waiting with our current laws in place is safer for the general public. As opposed to authorizing unbridled uses, then trying to re-regulate them later upon advice of a consultant.

Consistent with other bylaw changes being asked in 2024, you will not be notified of a pending apartment next door. When the backhoe shows up to dig a sewer-line trench by your property side-line, new curb cut for the driveway or the new apartment building in the rear yard, five feet from your property line, that could be the first you hear about it.

As tempting as it is to allow more apartments in town, this bylaw change is not the one to do it. It

leaves behind existing language that needs to be cleaned up. It leaves out basic standards and creates a need of additional zoning language.

The Town of Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals, which has historically issued various ADU permits for decades, was recently informed by Town Counsel that a different approach would be required moving forward when acting on applications by owners requesting to be exempt from zoning bylaws. There doesn't seem to be much information whether this article impacts ADU applications, positively or negatively.

Dwelling conversions type ADU are not allowed unless the principal home was built prior to Jan 01, 1940, according to the Fairhaven definition. They also must adhere to 198-18 minimum lot sizes in each district. You would need a 15,000 square foot

This unfinished bylaw
needs much more work
before it is ready
to change our
neighborhoods forever.

lot for this ADU conversion in most districts of Fairhaven, or even 30,000 square foot lot on Sciticut Neck. None of the proposed changes produce units which are earmarked for affordable housing. These units will not count towards the 10% goal of the Subsidized Housing Inventory.

What is missing is the proven structure of even a basic state-model-bylaw that speaks to:

- There is no minimum size ADU listed. There is a minimum lot size for dwelling conversions, but not for lots with an accessory apartment.
- There are no setback requirements listed.
- There are no maximum bedrooms listed, especially on un-sewered lots.
- There is no mention of maximum number of people listed.
- Entrance can or cannot be added to the front of existing structures.
- There is no limit of one (1) ADU per

lot.

- Yes or No to new curb cuts for second driveways.
- Prevent ADU in new housing construction or allow.
- Basements, attics, garages ADU need to be expressly spelled out.
- Detached garage, large sheds, pool houses could be converted.
- No clarity on campers, seasonal RV, trailers or boats.

Now the Planning Board proposes an ADU "Accessory Dwelling Unit" up to 900 square feet in any zoning district in town, except the Park District. No zoning approval is required for new ADUs, anywhere in the Town of Fairhaven.

Here an ADU, there an ADU, everywhere an ADU

"Accessory apartment to a business". This ADU use is proposed to be expanded from the current limited provision, to 100% by right use no matter where a business is located in the Town of Fairhaven or whether the business conforms to existing zoning.

"Accessory Apartment/In-law apartment". This ADU use is proposed to be expanded from the current provision requiring a special permit to 100% by right use in the RA, RB, RC, AG, MU and WRP Districts in Fairhaven. Owner occupied requirement is strangely mentioned in the Use Schedule itself, instead of the bylaw.

When you combine the two expanded uses above to the town as a whole, it would mean just that. An industrial complex could have children live there. Small retail outlets can have their families live attached to the business. Illegal apartments would become legal. No zoning permit is required. Yet, a Building Department Shed Registration is required on your property for any sized shed.

This chapter should have been removed and then replaced in its entirety. Clearly, the proposed bylaw changes are not clearing up matters. The scalpel tool was used extensively on the existing bylaw, but the pen tool was seldom in action. This produced an unbridled bylaw, open to interpretation on a range of specific matters. There are no new, supporting code language additions included. This unfinished bylaw needs much more work before it is ready to change our neighborhoods forever.

The Yellow Tulip Project comes to Fairhaven for Trevor Veira

Press Release

For several years, across America, The Yellow Tulip Project has brought hope to young people and others struggling with mental illness. It inspires people to create yellow tulip gardens with the mission of smashing the stigma surrounding mental illness, building community, and bringing hope.

In memory of her grandson, Trevor Viera, who died of suicide in 2022 at age 23, Fairhaven resident Donna Peirce and Trevor's mom Christine Peirce and friends Bee and Lynne planted 450 yellow tulip bulbs at Livesey Park in Fairhaven last November. They obtained the bulbs through The Yellow Tulip Project. The Fairhaven Department of Public Works gave permission for the garden to be planted in Livesey Park, near a bench dedicated to Trevor.

Donna and Christine were inspired by The Yellow Tulip Project and its mission to help people know that when mental illness strikes, there are ways to get help, people there for them, and that circumstances that may seem overwhelming can and will change.

"I wanted to do something important

and visible in memory of Trevor, something that would help other young people to know that there are people who care and who can help them through difficult times," said Donna. "We hope that people will come to Trevor's garden and be uplifted by the yellow tulips and feel

better able to get on with their lives and also be inspired to help others."

The yellow tulip represents happiness and hope — when yellow tulip gardens spring up in communities, people realize that even in the darkest times, hope is always there and suicide should never be an option.



450 tulips bloom in a "Hope Garden" at Livesey Park in Fairhaven near the skatepark, where a bench was also installed in memory of Trevor Viera, who died by suicide at the age of 23 and frequented the skatepark when he was a teenager. *Photos by Beth David.*

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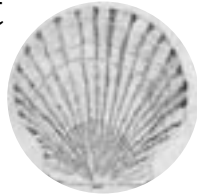
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Public Hearings/Legal Notices

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Fairhaven Conservation Commission

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

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be at 40

Center Street, and it is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of the public. MGL, Ch. 30a, § 20(f) requires anyone that intends to record any portions of a public meeting, either by audio or video, or both, to notify the Chair at the beginning of the meeting.

Anyone wishing to access the meeting via remote means may do so in the following manner:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86953155076?pwd=VFBUQkxzZDZlYVJlZjI0QkktVi9XSzRlZz09>
or CALL 1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 869 5315 5076
Passcode: 633695

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

a. SE 023-___, CON 023-417: 27 Nakata Avenue, Map 43, Lot 120 Notice of Intent (after-the-fact) filed by Katie Medeiros for concrete repair on patio,

replace existing deck, restore grass area to grade, convert driveway to crushed shell, install 75 feet of shadowbox style fence, and repair 50 feet of existing post and beam fence. Work to take place within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF) – FEMA Flood Zone VE (EI.20') and Buffer Zone to Salt Marsh and Coastal Beach at Assessor's Map 43, Lot 120.

b. CON 023-418: 16 Bayview Avenue, Map 28A, Lot 453 Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Linda Marchand to construct a 14' x 9' 6" sunroom in the rear of the house. Work to take place within FEMA Flood Zone VE (EI.16') at Assessor's Map 28A, Lot 453.

c. CON 023-419: 0 Goulart Memorial, Map 42, Lot 21C Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Robert Desroches to level waterfront lot with crushed shells in driveway area (15' in length). Work to take place within Barrier Beach, Salt Marsh, and Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF) at Map 42, Lot 21C.

d. SE 023-___, CON 023-420: Rear Sycamore Street, Map 20, Lots 4 & 325 Notice of Intent filed by Bennett Amos of RemBac Environmental LLC to conduct a study in East Zone 4 (EZ4) of the New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site (NBHSS). The two-year study aims to evaluate the efficacy of a cost-effective and environmentally sustainable technology that employs activated carbon and PCB-degrading microorganisms to both sequester and degrade sediment-associated PCBs in situ. Work to take place within EZ4, specifically parcels 20-4 and 20-325.

e. SE 023-___, CON 023-421: 93 Raymond Street, Map 29D, Lots 94 & 95 Notice of Intent filed by James & Kathleen Grace to demolish existing cottage and build FEMA compliant 2-story single

family dwelling with an enclosed porch and second floor deck. Project to include removal of approximately 373 sq. ft. of paved driveway and replace with 268 sq. ft. of paved driveway to relocate lost parking space. The site falls within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF), with northerly portion within Flood Zone VE (EI.17'), and southerly portion within Flood Zone AE (EI. 14'), located at Assessor's Map 29D, Lots 94 & 95.

f. SE 023-1387, CON 023-288: 5 Sippican Street, Map 42A, Lot 261 Request for an Amended Order of Conditions by Clarisse Fairbanks to install aluminum staircase, which will be anchored to the new boulder seawall. Work to take place within Rocky Intertidal Shore, Coastal Bank, Land Containing Shellfish, and Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF) at Assessor's Map 42A, Lot 261.

g. CON 023-422: 23 Goulart Memorial Drive, Map 42, Lot 22B Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Chanda Kale to install dune fencing and plant native shrubs along the edge of the dune for erosion control. Work to take place along Coastal Dune, Coastal Beach, and Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF) at Assessor's Map 42, Lot 22B.

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

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

Karen Isherwood, Vice Chair
Fairhaven Conservation Commission
FNN: 4/25/24

NELLIE: cont'd from page 11

can still help by entering into a kidney swap. Donors will be evaluated at Beth Israel Hospital and all medical costs will be covered by Nellie's insurance.

Nellie's parents, Tom and Sheryl Zygiel of Fairhaven, have also created a GoFundMe page at <https://tinyurl.com/bdkd8j9r>.

"I also hope this post inspires people to register to be an organ donor, so they can help the hundreds of thousands of people on lists, and hopefully make the waiting period shorter," Nellie writes on her page.

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HAPPS/FHVN: cont'd from page 5

class in May. Each class is 2½ hours long and is designed to instruct those not generally at the vessel helm in the critical basics in case of an emergency. Would you know what to do if the Captain of the boat became ill? What if a passenger falls over board or the boat runs aground? When bad things happen you may be "Suddenly In Command". The class is FREE but is expected to fill up quickly. Register online for either May 4, 9am to 11:30am at <https://lnkw.co/SIC4> or May 23, 7pm to 9:30pm at <https://lnkw.co/SIC23>.

Both classes will be held at the Acushnet River Safe Boating Club (ARSBC) on 80 Middle Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719. If you have any

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

Spring Fair

Elizabeth Hastings Middle School invites you to its Spring Market Fair on Sat., 5/11, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m., at 30 School St., Fairhaven. Featuring family activities, including Mothers' Day crafts, psychic readings and Tarot cards, food, music, shopping, with indoor and outdoor vendors, fire truck K9 Blue, Gnome Surfing, Soares Martial Arts, 9:30 a.m. BOOT Camp by Gina & Wayne. Proceeds benefits EHMS PTO.


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FRANKIE: cont'd from page 10

illnesses. Hallucinatory drugs change the way the person taking them experiences the world around them. They are taken to have fun.

I can understand why you might be resistant to taking drugs. But as I explained, the drugs the vet prescribed are not like the drugs Tommy took. I suggest you follow your vet's advice for a few weeks to see if the drug lessens your asthma symptoms. The worst that can happen is it won't, but I can assure you it won't make you take your life.

Best, Frankie

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Comments and letters can be sent to Frankie at dearfrankiecolumn@gmail.com. The Fairhaven Neighborhood News publishes the Dear Frankie column. To receive a free online subscription, readers can email neighbnews@comcast.net, request their name be added to the email list or visit www.neighbnews.com to read the paper online or to download the latest issue.

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Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Mon., 5/6, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Livable Streets

Thurs., 4/25, Remote, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 5/8, Media Ctr/Lib., 6:30 p.m

Select Board

Mon., 5/13, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Annual Town Meeting

Sat., 5/4, Hastings MS, 9 a.m.

Acushnet

ELECTION

Sat. 5/18, Acushnet Elementary School/all precincts, 8 a.m.–6 p.m.

Planning Commission

Thurs., 4/25, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Selectboard

Tues., 4/30, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	April 2024	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	25	0940	2157	0255	1449
Friday	26	1022	2240	0334	1531
Saturday	27	1105	2325	0413	1613*
Sunday	28	1155	---	0454	1657
Monday	29	0019	1254	0539	1746
Tuesday	30	0119	1355	0636	1853

	May 2024	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Wednesday	1	0218	1452	0749	2014
Thursday	2	0316	1552	0858	2129
Friday	3	0419	1656	1000	2247
Saturday	4	0524	1755	1102*	2359*
Sunday	5	0620	1845	1158*	---
Monday	6	0708	1930	0054*	1245*
Tuesday	7	0754	2016	0144*	1330*
Wednesday	8	0842	2104	0238*	1417*
Thursday	9	0931	2154	0329*	1507*

*= 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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From our readers

Fairhaven Needs to Prioritize Spending

Local municipalities across the Commonwealth are facing significant shortfalls in revenue at the same time federal COVID and stimulus funds are ending. This is creating immense fiscal pressure on local budgets, forcing tough decisions between cutting essential services or raising taxes on already stretched citizens.

At a time when municipal budgets are stretched thin, economic pressures are growing, and federal support is dwindling, the urgency to prioritize municipal spending on critical needs has never been greater, and the consequences of misplaced priorities can be dire.

As an organization created to urge wise stewardship of taxpayer dollars in Commonwealth communities, Mass Priorities is gravely concerned about Article 11 of the Fairhaven Annual Town Meeting Warrant, which would authorize borrowing over \$20 million to implement a municipal broadband network owned by the Town of Fairhaven. This proposed project raises significant concerns that merit critical examination, not

the least of which is the lack of detail included in the proposal as submitted.

Fairhaven is currently facing significant financial challenges, including a budget deficit that has prompted the introduction of a \$100 trash fee to generate additional revenue. Given Fairhaven's current fiscal challenges, it's crucial to prioritize spending on essential services such as education and public safety. Services fundamental to the well-being of the town's residents should always take precedence over pet projects, particularly in times of budget constraints.

Government-owned broadband networks have proven to be high-risk ventures where the risk lies solely with taxpayers rather than network operators. The failures of government-owned networks have already put taxpayers in Massachusetts on the hook for tens of millions of dollars. The experience of Braintree serves as a cautionary tale. The town's foray into municipal broadband ended in a financial quagmire, with the network sold off for a fraction of its value.

The risk of financial overruns from building and maintaining a municipal broadband project, and the consequent strain on Fairhaven's budget, could

compromise vital services like much-needed support for schools. It is disconcerting that an unnecessary government-owned broadband network could suddenly leapfrog fundamental community priorities.

In deliberating the path forward, it is crucial to engage in a comprehensive and transparent evaluation of the project's costs, benefits, and risks, and to ensure that every tax dollar spent reflects a clear and present priority with a tangible return on investment for the community at large.

The fiscal challenges confronting Fairhaven and municipalities across the Commonwealth are profound and well known. Instead of drafting articles mandating millions of dollars of taxpayer funds to be wasted on unnecessary projects, we should exercise fiscal prudence and a focus on safeguarding and enhancing the community.

I applaud the Select Board for voting to pass over this ill-advised warrant article and urge Fairhaven's leaders and fellow citizens to approach any future deliberations with a mindset of cautious stewardship. It is essential that Fairhaven prioritize the pillars of any thriving community — education, public safety, and critical infrastructure — over unneeded, unwanted pet projects with uncertain costs and unintended consequences.

Christopher Thrasher, Westport, MA; Policy Director, Mass Priorities



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