



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

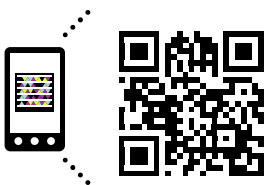
Volume 20, Issue 2 • December 19, 2024

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

Fairhaven is an Old Tyme Holiday Village



In this new addition to the event, Jill Souza stands by her special Santa's Village, which includes hundreds of pieces and is set up for viewing and taking pictures, upstairs in the town hall auditorium during the Old Tyme Holiday Village event in the center of town on 12/14/24. See page 12. Photo 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

This is it for awhile. This is our last issue of the year. Next issue is 1/9/25. Meanwhile, it's Christmas-time and New Year's, and Hanukah falls on Christmas this year, and Kwanzaa and a couple of others.

So, Happy Holidays to you and yours.

Lots of great Christmas lights on houses this year, so be sure to get out there after dark and drive around. See page 5 for details on the Gелlette Road lights and when Santa will be there.

I'll see you next year! Starting with the Polar Plunge on the first (see page 5).

So, the Interim TA Screening Committee tells me I'm wrong about the Open Meeting Law (see page 3). I'm mulling over my options here. I do not believe the case they cite is the same thing, and I have arguments for the rest of it, too. However, we have to wait 30 days anyway, so, I'm thinking about it.

We have Interim TA finalists. The Select Board will interview them Monday. See page 4 for details on that. We won't get that story to you in print until 1/9, but I'll try to get something up, even if it's just a quick couple of paragraphs, before then on the website.

And now, here we are just a few days before Christmas. I hope you are all able to do something fun that gets you in the spirit of the season. Check out ML's snowcast on page 12 and maybe build a little anticipation into the equation.

In any case, I'll be trying to keep the Christmas spirit and enjoy the holiday bustle right through the New Year, when it will be back to the grindstone.

So have fun, everyone...think hot chocolate, marshmallows, and mulled cider.

Until next year then, see ya

Glory to Ukraine!
Glory to the Heroes!

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Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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Thursday, December 19, 2024

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Editor: Beth David

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Interim TA Screening Committee responds to OML complaint

By Beth David
Editor

The *Fairhaven Neighborhood News* filed an Open Meeting Law (OML) complaint against the Fairhaven Interim Town Administrator Screening Committee (TA Committee) for a meeting they held on 11/21/24. (The complaint uses the date of 11/22 because we did not know when the committee met because it was not posted and we believed it was the Friday before the 11/25 Select Board meeting, which would have been 11/22, not 11/21.)

In the complaint the FNN alleges that the committee violated the OML by not posting the meeting and an agenda, and asks that the committee create an agenda and minutes.

In his liaison report on 11/25, SB member Andrew Saunders, who is the board's representative on that committee, said the committee met and that there was some interesting discussion between members, Jeff Osuch and Anne Carreiro. That is how the existence of the meeting became known.

At the 12/2 SB meeting, Mr.

Saunders acknowledged that there had been some questions about the TA Committee and the OML. He and Ms. Carreiro told the board that no "substantive" discussion took place, and the initial gathering of the committee members was for scheduling only. The FNN filed the complaint later that week.

In the complaint, the FNN contends that the explanation of meeting only for scheduling is not sufficient.

"They are expecting the public to take their word for it and are not allowing the scrutiny of the public or the press so they can come to their own conclusions, a key element of a healthy democracy," reads the complaint. "The public has a right to know if a quorum of committee members is meeting, no matter what they discuss. We have a right to watch the meetings and judge for ourselves."

At their meeting on 12/11/24, the TA Committee addressed the complaint and approved a response that was sent to the FNN.

Mr. Saunders referred to a 2013 decision by the Attorney General

responding to a complaint against the Lynn Water and Sewer Commission (OML 2013-145). In that decision, the AG's office defines deliberation, and notes that scheduling is explicitly excluded from the Open Meeting Law (Chapter 30A Section 18-25). Also excluded is the distribution of other procedural documents or reports as long as no opinion is expressed by a member.

"The relevance of this decision is exactly what we did on November 21st, 2024," said Mr. Saunders at the TA Committee meeting on 12/11. "We met not to deliberate over the topic of selecting an interim Town Administrator, we met simply to establish a schedule of when we would meet."

He said they decided their first meeting would be on 11/27 and that meeting was properly posted and their first order of business was to select a chairperson and a clerk.

"Based upon that I do not feel there was any violation of the Open Meeting Law," said Mr. Saunders, adding he would like to send the letter to the *Neighb News* saying they were "in

OML: cont'd on page 17



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Fairhaven Select Board to interview Interim TA finalists

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Select Board will interview three finalists for Interim Town Administrator at its next meeting. On 12/16/24, the board received three names from the Interim TA screening committee (TA Committee).

The TA Committee chairperson, Jeff Osuch, told the SB that they received 10 applications, and they interviewed five. The SB representative on that committee, Andrew Saunders, was unable to participate in the interviews due to a possible conflict of interest. He did not disclose what the conflict may have been.

"The potential conflict I had has been resolved because of the selection of these three," said Mr. Saunders when asked by fellow SB member, Andrew Romano, if he would be able to participate.

The names of those who apply are not public. Only finalists that will be interviewed by the SB in open session are made public. However, word managed to get out that at least two New Bedford City Councilors applied for the job. Mr. Saunders has business

interests in the city, so that could present a potential conflict.

The finalists, however, are not NB City Councilors, they are Leilani Dalpe, Gregory M. Hanley, and George G. Samia.

Ms. Dalpe is the Assistant TA in Weymouth; Mr. Hanley was a TA in Holbrook and is completing an interim TA position in Dracut; Mr. Samia retired from East Bridgewater, where he served as Town Administrator and Town Accountant.

Mr. Osuch, who served as Fairhaven's Executive Secretary for 27 years, said they all have budgetary experience, which is the category, he said he feels the town needs.

In the next six months, the town will need to prepare a balanced budget to present to Town Meeting in May. He said any of the three would be qualified to assist Acting TA Anne Carreiro, who is also the Town Accountant, and is on the TA Committee, to prepare a budget.

Hopefully, said Mr. Osuch, the town can present a balanced budget to Town Meeting.

"I think you'll have some problems getting there," he said.

Mr. Osuch said he believed they chose the three strongest candidates.

"And I say it from the standpoint that this is town government," said Mr. Osuch, and reiterating what he said earlier. "Your big problem in my eyes is your budget. And the process to get to a balanced budget is not going to be easy."

He reminded them that he did it for 27 years.

"I know how it cannot be a pleasant task when you have to tell certain departments you can't get what you ask for," said Mr. Osuch. "And that's something I think that has been missing in this town for last few years."

The TA Committee gave the questions they asked in the interviews to the Assistant to the TA. The board will also submit their questions and she will create a list.

The SB will interview the three candidates on Monday, 12/23, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The board also voted on six conflict of interest (COI) disclosures for town officials, including four for the fire chief.

Two Cultural Council members,
SELECT: cont'd on page 19




**UU Society of Fairhaven
welcomes all!**

10 a.m. Dec. 22: "Winter Whispers"
Christmas Eve service,
7 p.m. Dec. 24: "Silent Night"

Nursery care for ages 0-6 provided
in Harrop Center, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Sundays. Children are welcome
at the service.

The Rev. Maria Uitti McCabe

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



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Christmas dinners available for pickup.

Prime Rib: \$30
Baked Stuffed Shrimp: \$25
Stuffed Chicken: \$20
Baked Ham: \$20

All meals come with choice of mashed potato or
baked potato, green beans, roll, and dessert.
Reservations Recommended

Saturday Night Scallop Delight

Five Choices: \$15.95
Eat in/Take out • 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.



AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Solstice Stroll

Celebrate the Winter Solstice with the Buzzards Bay Coalition, with a Sunset Stroll at West Island Town Beach on Sat., 12/21, from 3:30–4:30 p.m. Walk from the eastern shore to the western edge for stunning sunset views. Bring friends, snap some photos, and soak in the beauty of the longest night with a touch of adventure!

Admission is FREE. Register today to reserve your spot! For more information, Email: Baptista@savebuzzardsbay.org Get tickets: at <https://www.savebuzzardsbay.org/activities/bay-adventures/>

Christmas Lights & Santa

Santa will be at 35 Gелlette Road on Sat., 12/21, from 5–9 p.m. Take pictures with Santa and the Grinch, and enjoy complimentary refreshments. Please bring a non-perishable, non-expired food item to be donated to the Damien's Place food pantry.

The lights at this private home are lit every night from 5–9 until Jan. 6... and maybe beyond! Enjoy a spectacular display of more than 400,000 lights spread throughout the property. If you need some Christmas Spirit, this is the place to find it.

Charlie Brown Christmas

Celebrate the holidays with the Nina Ott Trio! Pianist Nina Ott, bassist Chris Lopes, and drummer Steve Langone will perform selections from Vince Guaraldi's *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, along with other holiday gems, on Sat., 12/21, from 12:30–2 p.m. at the Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven. Use the Walnut Street entrance.

Christmas Song Night

Victory Baptist Church, 7 Park Ave., Fairhaven, Sun., 12/22, 5 p.m. Christmas Song Night, no preaching just singing. Refreshments served.

Contact: 508.997.4388, or email dnbpastor@aol.com

Polar Plunge

Come on down and take the plunge on Wed. 1/1, at 10:00 a.m. sharp. Remember the plunge is free. We sell long-sleeve t-shirts to raise funds for Fairhaven Dollars For Scholars to provide scholarships to area high school students. T-shirts are \$25. You don't have to plunge to purchase a shirt and support our cause.

This year's theme is DISCO. Wear your best DISCO costume.

Hope to see you there!

Wreaths Across Fairhaven

The Fairhaven Veterans Services Office would like to thank all the donors and the people that came out to help put the wreaths on the graves of veterans throughout Fairhaven's cemeteries.

Special thanks to: Duane Smith, Mary Olsen, Terrence Meredith (in memory of Linda Meredith), Mike Lombardo, Dennis Duval, Frank Fostin, North Fairhaven Improvement Association, Dick West, Gail Elliott, Gordon and Joyce Sykes, Alan and Linda Silveira, Richard and Nanette Spoor, Mary Lihota (in memory of Thaddeus Irzyk), Paul and Christine Wesoly, Fairhaven Improvement Association, Heidi Abendroth, Michelle Bessette Pacheco, Jean Baldwin, Joseph and Carolyn Sylvia, Charlene Rigglin.

Cmas Tree Pickup

The Town of Fairhaven Christmas Tree Pickup is January 7–10, 2025, one day after your regular trash day.

Please place trees curbside by 7:00 a.m. on day of pick up and be sure to remove all ornaments and tinsel. Also, please DO NOT place tree in plastic bag.

Missed trees may be dropped off at the gate at the Recycle Center located at 5 Arsene Street in town.

Call the BPW with questions at 508-979-4030.

Nomination Papers Available

Nomination papers for next year's Annual Town Election are available at the Town Clerk's office for interested parties.

February 12, 2025 at 5PM is the deadline for requesting papers.

The Annual Town Election is scheduled for April 7, 2025.

All elected boards have seats up for election, including: one seat on the Select Board, with Stasia Powers up for reelection; School Committee, with Erik Andersen and Brendalee Smith up for reelection; Planning Board, with Cathy Melanson and Rick Trapilo up for reelection; Board of Public Works, with Anne Morton Smith up for reelection; Board of Health, with appointed member, Brian Meneses's, term ending; Housing Authority, with Ronnie Manzone up for reelection; Town Clerk, with Interim TC, Elisabeth Horan's term ending; Commissioner of Trust Funds, with Barabara Acksen up for reelection.

As of press time, Ms. Horan, Interim Town Clerk, had taken out papers and returned them; School Committee incumbents Erik Andersen and Brendalee Smith have taken out papers but had not returned them.

Candidates for townwide office must collect 50 certified signatures from registered voters. Town Meeting candidates must get 10 certified signatures from their precincts only.

Important Dates

The Town Clerk's office will be open until 5 p.m. on the following deadline dates.

Last day to request papers is 2/12/25.

Last day to file papers with the Town Clerk's office is 2/14/25.

Last day for Town Meeting incumbents to file written request for re-election with the Town Clerk is 2/14/24/

Last day register to vote for the 4/7/25 annual town election is 3/5/25.

The polls will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day. All precincts vote at the Fairhaven Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Avenue.

You may register to vote for the Annual Town Election Monday through Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm—until Friday, March 28 at 5pm. Mail-in Voter Registration Forms are available at the Town Clerk's Office, the Millicent Library and State and Federal offices.

For more information, contact the Fairhaven Town Clerk's Office at (508) 979-4023 ext. 3.

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Swing Bridge Mtg

Mas. Dept. of Transportation is holding virtual meeting about the plans to replace the New Bedford-Fairhaven swing bridge on Thurs., 12/19, at 6 p.m..

Find more informatio on the proeject and register at <https://www.mass.gov/event/fairhaven-and-new-bedford-swing-bridge-replacement-project-121924-12-19-2024>

First Night NB

Come ring in the New Year with family and friends in New Bedford! From 5-9 PM on Tues., 12/31, enjoy family-friendly programming in historic downtown, including free concerts and music throughout downtown, food trucks, and many other activities inside and outside.

Details were not available by press time, but the night usually includes fireworks or a light show.

For more details and updates visit <https://destinationnewbedford.org/city-celebrates-new-years-eve/>

Moby-Dick Marathon

Calling all Melville fans: the New Bedford Whaling Museum has announced the dates for its beloved Moby Dick Marathon.

The 29th annual reading marathon is happening in 2025 from Jan. 3 through 5 and will be filled with Herman Melville-inspired activities, opportunities to chat with the scholars from the Melville Society Cultural Project, kids crafts, and more.

Visit <https://www.whalingmuseum.org/program/moby-dick-marathon-2025/>

NB Holiday Parking

The City's Holiday Parking Program is back in full swing this year, offering two hours of free parking at both the Elm Street Garage and the Zeiterion Garage Downtown, along with two hours of free parking at meters along Acushnet Avenue in the North End.

The program is designed to encourage shopping, dining, and retail activity in the City's Downtown and North End business districts during the month of December.

The program also features ticket forgiveness for holiday shoppers and

diners. Anyone receiving a parking ticket for an expired meter Downtown or on Acushnet Ave. can be forgiven by presenting a same-day sales receipt for at least \$10 from a merchant or restaurant in the north end business district or downtown

Receipts must be presented or mailed to the Traffic Commission Office in the Elm Street Garage within three weeks (21 days) of receiving the ticket. The parking ticket will be forgiven with the presentation of the same-day receipt.

For questions, call the Traffic Commission office at 508-961-3153.

Scholarships

The SouthCoast Community Foundation will award more than 100 local scholarships totaling over \$800,000 in 2025, and the online application is now open! Students complete just one application — no FAFSA (Free Application for Student Aid) is required — and applicants are automatically matched with all eligible scholarship opportunities.

Deadline to apply is January 21st.

Read more about scholarship opportunities and apply: <https://southcoastcf.org/receive/apply-for-scholarships/>

Please register for one of our upcoming scholarship info sessions, where we will answer all your questions about the application process:

Tuesday, January 14th – Q&A Drop-In Session – 5:00 – 6:30 pm . Find link at <https://southcoastcf.org/receive/apply-for-scholarships/>

We have over 100 scholarships to award. Read the full list at <https://southcoastcf.org/2025scholarships/>

Do you have have questions about any part of the scholarship process? Having trouble with the online application? Not sure if you're eligible for a scholarship? Questions on the statement of support? JUST ASK! We are here to help. Call or email Adrianna Heard at 508-996-8253 ext. 214 or ahead@southcoastcf.org

VOLUNTEER AS APPLICATION READER! - If you'd like to help select next year's scholarship recipients, become a 2025 volunteer scholarship application reader! This role can be done from home, during times that work for you. For more information, please contact: Adrianna Heard, 508-996-8253 ext. 214 or ahead@

southcoastcf.org

Art Grants

Wicked Cool Places and Art is Everywhere!

The two distinct grants provide a platform for artists, entrepreneurs, community groups, and organizations to make a meaningful impact on New Bedford's cultural landscape. Designed to enhance the city's unique identity, both grants aim to empower citizens to enrich neighborhoods, stimulate growth, and celebrate community.

Visiti <https://newbedfordcreative.org/grant-programs/> to learn more and access the grant applications.

Art is Everywhere supports projects that address pressing issues faced by New Bedford's residents, visitors, and businesses, utilizing arts, culture, or creative approaches to create meaningful solutions in the city's neighborhoods. Applications are currently open, and must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, January 6, 2025.

Wicked Cool Places supports projects that create or sustain vibrant, welcoming spaces that attract activity and foster community involvement, benefiting New Bedford's residents, visitors, and businesses alike. Applications are currently open, and must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Monday, January 6, 2025.

Visit <https://nbedc.submittable.com/submit> to apply for both grants.

Free Express Bus NB-Fall River

The Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) is happy to announce the Route 9 – Intercity Express is providing direct express service between the SRTA New Bedford Terminal and the SRTA Fall River Terminal. The FREE service will run hourly every day with weekday trips starting at 6:15 AM through 10:10 PM; weekend trips will start at 8:15 AM and end at 8:10 PM. Travel time between the terminals will be approximately twenty-five minutes, less than half the trip of the current Intercity Route travel time.

For more information about this service and all the services offered by SRTA, visit www.srtabus.com.

Christmas At Silverbrook Farm

Every evening from 5-9 p.m., through Dec. 25.

Experience the magic of Christmas at Silverbrook Farm, 934 Main St., Acushnet! Our family-owned farm transforms into a winter wonderland for the holiday season. Join us for festive activities, enchanting lights, and heartwarming holiday experiences perfect for families. Visit Santa's workshop, take a cozy holiday tractor ride, and enjoy seasonal treats at our farm stand.

- Santa Visits are from 5:30pm to 7:30pm each evening.
- Hop aboard a festive, tractor-drawn wagon ride through a spectacular lighted Christmas display, transforming the farm into a holiday wonderland.
- Gather 'round cozy campfires to toast marshmallows, make s'mores, and warm up with hot cocoa.
- Meet our friendly farm animals for some holiday cheer and picture-perfect moments.
- Explore our holiday gift shop filled with unique treasures and perfect gifts to complete your holiday shopping.

Get tickets online, \$15 for 1.5 hours. Kids under 2 are free: <https://www.silverbrookfarm.com/>

La Salette's Lights

La Salette's Christmas Festival of Lights, to 1/1/25, 5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M., 47 Park Street, Attleboro, MA 02703

We are thrilled to invite you to the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette for our annual Christmas Festival of Lights! All the way through 1/1/25, we will be lighting up the nights with one million sparkling lights, including 137 brand-new displays that will fill your heart with joy.

This year's theme, "Christ, Be Our Light," encourages us to embrace the true essence of the season.

For more details, visit www.lasaletteattleboroshrine.org

First Night Boston

Since 1976, Boston's First Night has been a New Year's Eve celebration of artistic performances, the wonders of the season, and the beginning of a new year. In keeping with this fantastic Boston tradition, the First

Night celebration will open 2025 with an array of performances.

Thanks to donations from area companies and individuals, First Night Boston is entirely free and open to all. No purchase is required to attend First Night events. It's the biggest party in New England and we're excited to welcome you in.

Events include fireworks at 7 p.m. and midnight. Visit <https://www.firstnightboston.org/schedule> for details.

Polar Plunge

Keep on Plungin' Polar Plunge, Wed., 1/1/25, Mattapoisett Town Beach, Noon.

Come take a plunge into the ocean, buy some baked goods, coffee and hot chocolate, make a donation, and celebrate the New Year with friends! All proceeds are donated to local families dealing with cancer to help with the "hidden costs" of cancer.

Grief Group

The Lamb of God Christian Church of Mattapoisett will be holding no-cost Grief Share group meetings at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library (Lower Meeting Room), Mattapoisett, M., and in Dartmouth, Mass. on Wednesdays at 6:30 P.M.

This is open to all who have had a personal loss of a loved one. This is a nation-wide recognized group program moderated by Pastor Mathew.

Please contact us to check on scheduled dates for Grief Share meetings.

For more information call (508) 998-6990, or E-Mail: pastor@lambogodma.org or Facebook: Mathew Vangel.

NE Boat Show

New England Boat Show, Jan. 8-12, Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, 415 Summer St, Boston MA 02210-1719. Hours: Wed-Fri., Noon - 8pm; Sat., 10am - 8pm; Sun., 10am - 6pm. Tickets \$20. Visit <https://www.newenglandboatshow.com/>

Auditions

The Marion Art Center announces auditions for their production of *Ripcord*, written by David Lindsay-Abaire and directed by John Heavey.

Auditions will be held on Jan. 4, 2025 from 9:00am-12:00pm and again Sunday January 5, 2025 from 12:00-3:00pm. Show dates are March 7-23.

A sunny room on an upper floor is prime real estate in the Bristol Place Senior Living Facility, so when the cantankerous Abby is forced to share her quarters with new-arrival Marilyn, she has no choice but to get rid of the infuriatingly chipper woman by any means necessary. A seemingly harmless bet between the old women quickly escalates into a dangerous game of one-upmanship that reveals not just the tenacity of these worthy opponents, but also deeper truths that each would rather remain hidden.

Director John Heavey will be casting three women and three men, as follows: Abby Binder (lead, 60's-70's), Marilyn Dunne (lead, 60's-70's), Scotty (supporting, 20-30's), Colleen (supporting, 30's-40's), Derek (supporting, 30's-40's), and Benjamin (supporting, 30's-40's).

The audition will consist of readings from various scenes from the script with others auditioning. A full cast description and more details can be found online at marionartcenter.org/auditions.

Winter Wear 4 Vets

The Mattapoisett Free Public Library's Teen Advisory Board (TAB) requests your help collecting NEW hats, gloves, and white socks through January 15th, 2025.

TAB understands that winter can be especially tough for veterans, so our members have partnered with The Veterans Transition House in New Bedford to help. Your donations of NEW hats, gloves, and white socks will help provide much-needed warmth and comfort to those who have served our country. You can drop off your contributions in the bins at the Mattapoisett Library, 7 Barstow Street, Mattapoisett, MA, until January 15th, 2025.

If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Lawrence, the Adult Services Librarian, at ALawrence@sailsinc.org or call the library at (508) 758-4171. Thank you for showing support and compassion for our veterans. The Teen Advisory Board and The Veterans Transition House appreciate your kindness!

Fairhaven Senior Center/Council on Aging

508-979-4029 • 229 Huttleston Ave • Fairhaven

Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.; Wed., 7:30 a.m.–8 p.m.

Visit our website at: http://fairhavenma.virtualltownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA_COA/index

Supportive Social Day Program

Supportive Social day Program is a structured and supervised program for seniors in need of socialization or for those who may have cognitive disabilities. Persons who are 60 and older, who are independent with eating, ambulation, medication administration, continent, are not an elopement risk, Please contact Sally Bourke or Debra Chmiel at 508-993-9455 for further information.

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: 12/25, Christmas Day CLOSED; 1/8, Twin River Casino; 1/15, Hyannis Mall & Trader Joe's; 1/22, Providence Place Mall; 1/29, South Shore Plaza.

Walking Schedule

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

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 \$3 (Please note price

chance). To let us know you want to join us, and to arrange for a ride, call 508-979-4029.

Monday Movie Matinees

Dec. 23, 12:15 p.m. Featuring *Falling for Christmas*. After losing her memory in a skiing accident, a spoiled heiress lands in the cozy care of a down-on-his-luck widower and his daughter at Christmastime.

Dec. 30, 12:15 p.m. Featuring *New Years Eve*. A romantic comedy film where lives of several couples and singles from New York City intertwine over the course of New Year's Eve.

If you would like lunch before the movie at 11:30 a.m., please call the center the Thursday before to reserve a meal, 508-979-4029. \$3 donation towards the meal. The movie is free.

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.

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. Time will be changing in Nov.

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.

Legal Help

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

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

Reassurance Program

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

Fitness at the Senior Ctr

Join us for the following activities:

- Chair Yoga: Wed. & Fri., 10:15–11:15, \$3
- Osteoporosis Class: Simple, safe bone boosting exercises. Mon., Wed., & Fri., 8:30 a.m.–10 a.m. \$1.00

Single Senior Supper Club

The third Tuesday of every month, 2–4:30 p.m. Call the center to sign up, 508-979-4029 a week before. \$3. Holiday party is Dec. 17.

Medical Transportation

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

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>

Youth Basketball Clinics

Join this exciting recreational clinic, led by Coach Donald Joseph, Fairhaven High School Varsity Basketball Coach! This clinic focuses on teaching the essential fundamentals of basketball. Each week participants will engage in the skill building exercises and drills, providing a supportive environment to develop their basketball skills and enhance their love for the game. Don't miss the opportunity to learn from an expert and take your skills

to the next level!

Fairhaven Rec gym, Saturday Dec 7-Jan 25 8am-9am. Member FREE Non-Member \$35.

Babysitting Workshop

Get ready for a fun babysitting adventure! This course covers everything from creative routines to first aid, diapering and discipline. Kids will also learn about contacts, ethics, safety and accident prevention. Designed for ages 10-13, this program is both educational and enjoyable. Remember to bring a

snack!

Instructor: Beth Oleson Wed, Feb 5th. 5:30-7:45pm at Fairhaven Rec Members \$40. Non-Members \$45

Pint Sized Picassos

Join us for this messy, pre-k art program and watch your little artists bloom as they paint, draw and sculpt their way to becoming creative and confident young individuals. Let the colors of imagination flourish in this enriching art adventure.

Dec 30-Jan 20 10am-10:45am Mondays Members \$35. Non-Members \$45

Recipe of the Week

Christmas Eve Cheese Dip

- 2/3 cup mayonnaise
 - 1/3 cup spreadable chive and onion cream cheese
 - 1 tbsp stone-ground mustard
 - 1/4 tsp garlic pepper spice blend
 - 3 cups Swiss cheese, shredded
 - 1 (10-ounce) package frozen chopped onions, thawed and patted dry
 - 8 slices bacon, cooked & chopped
 - 1/2 cup sliced almonds, divided
 - 1/3 c dried cranberries, chopped
 - French bread baguette, optional, to taste, sliced 1/4-inch-thick
- Preheat the oven to 325°
Grease a 2-quart baking dish.

In a large bowl, add the mayonnaise, cream cheese, mustard, and the garlic pepper, stir to combine.

Add the Swiss cheese to the mayonnaise mixture and mix well to combine.

Add the onions, bacon, 1/4 cup of the almonds, and the cranberries to the mayonnaise mixture and stir to combine.

Transfer the dip mixture to the prepared baking dish. Sprinkle the dip mixture with the remaining almonds. Transfer the baking dish to a baking sheet to catch any drippings.

Bake, uncovered, until the dip mixture is bubbly, about 25-30 minutes.

Serve the dip warm with the baguette slices.

From RecipesDirect.com

Dear Frankie



A Christmas Story

Dear Frankie,
In light of the season, I wanted to share my Christmas Story of rebirth and renewal.

I was raised by the kindest, most gentle, and loving mom who was homeless.

Life on the streets wasn't always easy, but we had one another, which got us through the tough times. Right before my ninth birthday, my mom was diagnosed with a serious illness and was told she needed months of treatment in the hospital. When we discussed the options for my future care, I said a shelter wasn't an option.

We decided we would spend one perfect day together to say our goodbyes. Then, I would be left at the pier with a letter attached to my collar explaining what a great dog I was and why I needed a new home. We chose the pier because we used to go there to watch the families and couples in love, many of whom talked to us and were so lovely to me.

My first day at the pier didn't turn out as expected. I smiled and nodded to the people as they walked by, but none were takers. When I noticed my water bowl was running low, I took a break and looked for a way to get to the river for a drink. As I walked to the railing, I never noticed the hole in the grate until I fell into it and landed on a concrete piling beneath the pier.

I barked for hours, but no one above could see or hear me. Nothing in my life compared to the terror and

despair I felt that first night. Early the following day, I was awakened by a man sitting in a kayak who told me not to be afraid and gently lifted me into his boat. At first, I didn't know what to think, but his warmth and smell were reassuring. He told me his name was Jim, and he was in a kayak tournament.

He saw I had a collar, which no longer had the note attached, and promised to help me find my owner. He said he would post pictures of me on social media and stay in New York for a few days to see if anyone would contact him. When no one responded, he asked if I would like to go with him to Boston. I gladly accepted.

Several days later, my mom called and explained why she could no longer care for me. She asked Jim if he would consider adopting me. By then, Jim and I couldn't imagine life without one another. He told her he would be honored to be my forever dad.

Jim, my mom, and I keep in touch. She is responding to the treatment and will be provided permanent housing and assistance when discharged. I'm thrilled she will finally get the life she deserves.

Jim's life has also changed. Being loved by an adoring and devoted dog is a new experience for him, and he can't do enough for me. As for me, I have been given the greatest gift of all: being deeply loved by two wonderful and amazing humans, first on the road and now by the hearth. Oh, Frankie, what a wonderful world it is.

Luna

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Comments and letters can be sent to

FRANKIE: cont'd on page 17



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201 DaCunha's Dispatches

News from the high school world

By Emma DaCunha

Special to the Neighb News



Hi everyone, I'm excited to be back with a new story for you. After a great season, Fairhaven High School's football team hit the field at Gillette Stadium on Wednesday, 12/4/24, to compete against Hudson High School for the state championship.

The first touchdown was scored by Fairhaven which gave us a great advantage and put us in the lead. During the second and third quarters, Hudson caught up and later overtook FHS. However, soon enough, Fairhaven came back in the fourth quarter but ran out of time to pull through with a win.

Although we didn't come back home with another win this year, the

football players put on an exciting fourth quarter comeback and almost caught up to the opposing team, resulting in the score 21-14.

As it being my second time attending the FHS game at Gillette Stadium, I really enjoyed the game. I think it's a perfect time for people in the community and school district to come together and acknowledge all the players' dedication and hard work this season.

We cheered for them alongside the cheerleaders and proudly showed off our school spirit and pride.

During halftime, we took a break from a long, hard two quarters of cheering and headed to the concession stand for some warm food and hot chocolate (my favorite!) that were perfect for this cold, holiday season.



Fans watch the game between the Fairhaven High School Blue Devils football team and the Hudson High School Hawks on 12/4/24 at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro for the MIAA Division 6 Super Bowl, when FHS fell to Hudson, 21-14. Photo by Emma DaCunha

During half time, we also enjoyed an amazing show put on by the cheerleaders and band.

With per-

formances from our football players, cheerleaders, and band members, all of FHS's talent was on display at Gillette.

I want to congratulate all the Fairhaven High School football players for a wonderful season full of great memories. The players put on their best performance every Friday night and never failed to make their community proud.

Even though we faced a tough loss last Wednesday, making it to Gillette for a second year in a row is an accomplishment in and of itself. We're proud of you Blue Devils!

That's all for this week, I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season full of peace and joy.

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Old Tyme Holiday Village creates real Christmas village

By Beth David
Editor

Fairhaven's 26th annual Old Tyme Holiday Village may have a new name, but it filled up the center of Fairhaven with good old-fashioned holiday fun. This year's activities included pony rides, chestnuts roasting on an open fire (yeah, for real), food trucks, an



outdoor alcohol spot, and all the same crafters and lunch possibilities of previous years.

It was the first one for Alyssa Botelho, the town's new Community Development Coordinator, which replaced the Office of Tourism.

"It's amazing, I can't believe how many people showed up," said Ms. Botelho, who estimated about 1,500 attendees. "With so many events going on, we didn't know how many people to expect, so it's really cool to see the amount of people here."

She said she has been attending the event since childhood, and events like it "bring magic to the season."

Loring Weeks, who has acted as St. Nicholas at the Unitarian Universalist Church holiday Marketplace for all 26 years, said he was pretty sure it was



the biggest one yet.

"My coin bag is almost empty," he said, a pretty good indication of how many people showed up.



TOP RIGHT: A couple of classic Old Tyme Holiday characters roam around Fairhaven Town Hall during the Old Tyme Holiday Village event in the center of town on 12/14/24. ABOVE LEFT: Jessica Fidalgo, the chairperson of the Fairhaven Belonging Committee, is a happy little elf staffing the table upstairs in the town hall auditorium. ABOVE MIDDLE: Young Eloise gets a ride on Buzz Lightyear, with a little help from mom (Alex) and Jill from Blazing Saddles, on the lawn of the Fairhaven Town Hall. RIGHT: Chris Richard is Father Christmas spreading the spirit of the season in front of Fairhaven Town Hall. *Photos by Beth David.*

Snow a no-show for Christmas '24?

By M.L. Baron

Special to the Neighb News?

If the Grinch has his way (again), Southcoast may be void of any snow on the ground or in the air, Christmas Day, 2024.

From a high of 68 degrees in 2015 to a low of 6 Below zero in 1989, the temperature spectrum is vast on Christmas Days in Southern New England.

The long range extended outlook shows a possible mix rain/snow event around Christmas Eve. (Source: <https://www.weatherforyou.com/report/fairhaven-ma-extended>. As of 12/17/24 the chances of show are increasing as we approach Christmas

Day 2024. Forecast subject to change this far out, but good confidence at this time, so snow-lovers, stay tuned!

ML's NOTE: I caution that snow in the air and snow on the ground are two different things. The extended forecast shows aggressive cold air snow support for a few systems headed our way. A snowy weekend (Dec 21-22) is very likely!

Past records indicate nothing new, with a few exceptions (Christmas Day unless otherwise noted).

Our Weather Logs at Town Beach for previous Christmas Snow:

- 2023: spring like 57.5F
- 2022: bare ground / 29.4F
- 2021: 1st White Christmas since

2009/38.9F

- 2020: snow from Dec 17/51.6F
- 2019: rain/35.9F
- 2018: bare ground/35.4F
- 2017: Intense snow squall — white-out/36.5F
- 2016: bare ground / 38.2F
- Christmas Eve 2015: 68 degrees!
- Christmas Day 2014: bare ground/48.9F
- 2013: bare ground / 23.2F
- 2012: slush/36.6F rain to snow 29th 4"
- 2011: bare ground / 36.6F
- Christmas Day 1989: 6 below zero - snow on ground

From the Archive Logs at westislandweather.com

Youth Vendor Fair draws 30 young entrepreneurs

By Beth David
Editor

The gym at the Fairhaven Recreation Center filled up with youth vendors on Saturday, giving the public a chance to buy hand made items from local youngsters just in time for holiday gift giving.

Organizer, Jessica Fidalgo, said they had 30 youth vendors, and there was a steady flow of people all day. Items for sale included hand painted

Christmas ornaments, original artwork, hand made jewelry, and even paper art.

"They're all so excited," said Ms. Fidalgo about the young entrepreneurs. "This is giving them a really good confidence boost."

Young Reagan was down to the last of the hand-strung rosaries she made, and there was still an hour to go. She and her sisters were also selling earrings, ornaments, and pot holders.

Erik and Hobie were selling hand painted and decorated Christmas ornaments made from oyster and quahog shells they found on the beach.

And Oliver Brodo was reportedly "rolling in the dough" selling his original paintings and hand painted Christmas ornaments. He even had his award-winning artwork on display, which was included in the Steamship Authority's 2025 calendar.



LEFT: With a little help from mom, Teagan staffs her Wackadoodle Wonders table selling paper creations, like dragons and fortune tellers, at the Fairhaven Youth Vendor Fair on 12/15/24 at the Recreation Center. MIDDLE: Mom supervises, while brothers (L-R), Hobie and Erik, sell their hand decorated ornaments made from shells they found on the beach. RIGHT: Oliver Brodo staffs his table of original paintings and ornaments with some help from his grandmother, Donna Byrne (LEFT), and his mother, Marianne Brodo. *Photos by Beth David*

Acushnet and Fairhaven PDs collect toys for kids

Both Acushnet and Fairhaven Police Departments participated in the annual Fill The Bus toy drives in cooperation with Tremblay Bus Company and Safe Zones. Both events were held on Saturday, 12/7. Fairhaven's was at Walmart; Acushnet's was at Town Hall. Both departments reported great turnouts, and filled their buses.

"Special thanks to Walmart, Tremblay

Bus, and Dunkin' Donuts for their assistance in this wonderful event," wrote the Fairhaven PD on its Facebook page. "A huge special thanks to Fairhaven high senior Katie Machado, who donated a van full of toys. Katie has donated every year and what she did this year was amazing."

"Once again, the Town of Acushnet has outdone themselves," wrote the

Acushnet PD on its Facebook Page. "What an amazing outpouring of support from our residents, our officers, the Chief and our families! We filled the bus and more! A special Thank You to the South Coast Firestorm 12u Travel softball team and the Acushnet Youth Soccer Boys Travel 6/7/8 team for being amazing helpers!!"



LEFT: Members of the Acushnet Police Department pose with Santa and some special volunteers during the Fill the Bus event at Town Hall on 12/7/24 to collect toys for Christmas gifts for local children. *Photo from Acushnet Police Department Facebook page.* RIGHT: Members of the Fairhaven Police Department pose with some of the toys donated by the public during the Fill the Bus event at Walmart in Fairhaven on 12/7/24 to collect toys for Christmas gifts for local children. *Photo from Fairhaven Police Department Facebook page.*

Trapilo updates public on Harbor Plan

Submitted by Rick Trapilo

Representative, Fairhaven-New Bedford Harbor Plan Committee Dear Residents and Stakeholders,

As a representative of the Town of Fairhaven on the Fairhaven-New Bedford Harbor Plan Committee, I am pleased to provide a synopsis of our inaugural meeting with the selected planning consultants, Fort Point Associates, held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024. This meeting included key officials such as Mr. Tim Cox (Fairhaven Harbor Master), Mr. H. Bruce Webb (Fairhaven Land Use Director), and Mr. Gordon Carr (Executive Director of the Port of New Bedford), alongside several representatives from the City of New Bedford.

During this initial session, the consultants outlined their approach to engaging the community to ensure the plan reflects the perspectives of residents and business owners in both Fairhaven and New Bedford. They emphasized that the plan must be created “for the community and by the community.”

In response, I underscored that while Fairhaven may be smaller in

population and commercial density, we demand equal participation in shaping the design and recommendations for the harbor and waters we share.

I shared the following key points with the consultants and our colleagues from New Bedford:

- 1. Environmental Responsibility:** A meaningful Harbor Plan cannot move forward unless the City of New Bedford addresses its combined sewer overflow (CSO) discharges, which release hundreds of millions of gallons of raw waste into the inner and outer harbor. Cities like Providence, Pawtucket, and Fall River have resolved similar issues by implementing holding tanks. Fairhaven deserves the same commitment to environmental integrity.
- 2. Smart Development:** Fairhaven recently approved a 40R district in our waterfront area — a step forward for smart, mixed-use development. Mr. Webb will provide further details to the consultants. Issues like coastal resiliency, flooding, and dredging are crucial for protecting both

current commercial activity and future development opportunities.

- 3. Bridge Renewal:** Our communities are physically connected by a bridge that, after more than a century, is finally slated for redesign. The new bridge must not only accommodate vessel traffic but also serve as a pedestrian-friendly gateway into the heart of New Bedford. Its design should honor our shared coastal heritage and support our collective future.
- 4. Preserving Fairhaven’s Coastal Character:** Fairhaven is a coastal gem where families and tourists enjoy beaches, Fort Phoenix, fishing, shell fishing, and local dining. The Harbor Plan must prioritize protecting our environment to ensure future generations can enjoy these treasured assets.
I, along with other members of the Fairhaven delegation, will actively seek input, provide updates at public meetings, and ensure that Fairhaven’s voice is heard. Though we are a smaller community, we will insist on equal representation in the planning of the harbor we share.

40R Overdue and Underdone

The 40R overlay is overdue and underdone. Even Biden, the *New York Times* and other Leftists say that anti-development, government regulations caused the housing shortage and higher prices.

Ryan Fabian (12/5/24 FNN) seems to agree and disagree as he describes his “helpless” response to the mindset of an allegedly “unsustainable constant-growth” economy. This is the unfocused mind denying the reality of our increasingly productive, scientific-industrial-capitalist civilization. And waiting for the Apocalypse as punishment for intellectual pride and stealing the fire of the gods. Man’s focused mind, protected by the right to property, production, trade and the pursuit of profit, is not part of his regressive politics.

*And how am I to face the odds
of man’s bedevilment and God’s?
I, a stranger and afraid
in a world I never made.*

[A.E. Housman]

North Hollywood “multistory hell-

boxes,” created by satanic “developers,” which attracted “blank-faced tech workers and unbridled homelessness” are his experience of California’s economy. Focused minds have been regarded with suspicion since envious, primitive tribespeople gave the evil eye to their more productive members. California’s Leftist war against development raised housing prices. Their welfare state attracted many unproductive people. Those are the causes of that state’s homelessness.

“Dinky boutique storefronts with high rents in a manufactured[!] part of town” also frighten him. Apparently, he expects towns to pop up out of Mother Earth like mushrooms after a spring rain. And both “affordable housing and luxury apartments” are oppressive. Contradictions are part of the unfocused mind.

Man’s productive mind is not part of this return to 300,000 years of pre-capitalist “sustainability, preservation, conservation, and maintenance.”

“Sustainability” is Leftist code for

the sacrifice of man, allegedly to wild nature, but, rejecting any ideals, really to nothing. Sacrifice for the sake of sacrifice.

This is merely the unfocused mind of the 1960s, New Left response to the blood-drenched failure of industrial, city-based Marxism. Cambodia’s Pol Pot, educated in Rousseau’s attack on man’s mind and its creation, civilization, forced people out of cities, murdering a third of his countrymen, some for wearing glasses. They probably read books, a possible sign of independent thought.

“The fatigue of thinking becomes everyday more painful to me,” wrote Rousseau. “To be as irresponsible as I please, finally to give myself up unconstrainedly to my fantasies.”

Sandal shops and dream-catchers are the Leftist dream. They think small. They hate bigness. As classically educated, ‘60s rocker, Marianne Faithfull, so tartly warbled, “We’ve been trying to get high without having to pay.”

Fairhaven’s government should get

LETTERS: cont’d on page 17



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FRANKIE: cont'd from page 10

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.

LETTERS: cont'd from page 14

out of its economy and limit itself to the protection of the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The mystical ideal of the common good is merely a rationalization of the sacrifice of the individual. The right to build should not be violated. Individuals who don't like crowded towns are free to move to forests, mountains and deserts. Ninety-five percent of America's territory remains undeveloped. I don't know, however, if pizza delivery is available. Maybe by drones. Or bears and wolves.

Stephen Grossman, Fairhaven

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OML: cont'd from page 3

error" over what the Open Meeting Law is.

The board voted unanimously to send the letter.

In that official response from the committee, chairperson Jeff Osuch wrote there were "no deliberations, discussions of substantive matters or expression of opinions by members" at the 11/21 "gathering."

He wrote those communications are "purely administrative" under the OML.

He also explains that the discussions between him and Ms. Carreiro were "personal in nature" and not subject to the OML requirements.

"Based on our review, the Committee does acknowledge the perception of a meeting on November 21, 2024 may exist," reads the letter. "However, the circumstances of the Committee's actions on November 21, 2024 being administrative in nature with no deliberations and no sharing of opinions related to matters within the Committee's jurisdiction prevent it from being defined as a meeting of a public body."

As of press time, the *Neighb News* had not decided if it would file the complaint with the AG's office. The statute requires a complainant to file the complaint with the chairperson of the committee and the town clerk. If the complainant (FNN) is not satisfied with the response from the municipal body, the complainant is required to wait 30 days to file with the AG for a decision.

The original OML complaint filed by the *Neighb News*, and the response are available on our website at www.neighbnews.com

Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven

Board of Public Works

Mon., 12/30 Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Conservation Commission

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

Planning Board

1/14, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 1/8, FHS Lib., 6:30 p.m.

Select Board

Mon., 12/23, Town Hall, 5 p.m.
Mon., 1/13, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet

TIDE TABLE

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

	Dec. 2024		HIGH a.m.	LOW p.m.	LOW a.m.	
Thursday	19	1034	2307	0339	1615	
Friday	20	1125	---	0417	1648	
Saturday	21	0001	1218	0501	1731	
Sunday	22	0053	1309	0605	1830	
Monday	23	0141	1358	0741	1927	
Tuesday	24	0230	1451	1010	2013	
Wednesday	25	0325	1551	1105	2057	
Thursday	26	0422	1648	1145	2146	
Friday	27	0512	1735	---	1203	
		---	---	---	2233	
Saturday	28	0553	1815	1149	2316	
Sunday	29	0632	1854	---	1218	
		---	---	---	2358	
Monday	30	0712	1937	---	1256	
Tuesday	31	0755	2021	0043*	1340*	

*= 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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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, January 6, 2025 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. M.G.L. 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:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86264908157?pwd=ytFmu71bSL38AThvsbOqeVVuhEVXdl.1>

Meeting ID: 862 6490 8157

Passcode: 579710

In-person attendance is permitted for the public at Town Hall at 40 Center Street

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold the following Public Hearing 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 023-480: 17 Shore Drive, Map 29C, Lots 619 & 620 Notice of Intent filed by Morris Goldstein to construct single-family dwelling with an open pile-type foundation in compliance with FEMA and Mass Building Code; building to have breakaway panels and a finished slab set slightly above existing grades. The house will be located within Flood Zone VE (El. 17') at Assessor's Map 29C, Lots 619 & 620.

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, Chair,
Fairhaven Conservation Commission
FNN: 12/19/24

Announcement:

The following bylaw changes which were accepted at the Fairhaven Annual Town Meeting which convened on May 4, 2024 have been approved by the Office of the Attorney General, are published herewith in accordance with the current regulations. Claims of invalidity of any of the amendments to the bylaw by reason of any defect in the procedure of the adoption or replacement may only be made within ninety days of this announcement.

Copies of the bylaw may be examined at the Town Clerk's Office, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA

ARTICLE 17 AMEND BYLAWS CHAPTER 119

Motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to amend Bylaws, Chapter 119, Section 3 Acceptance of Fee Schedule as outlined below by replacing existing language with language in bold.

ARTICLE 18 AMEND BYLAWS 87, 206 AND 405

Motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to amend Bylaws, Chapter 87, Chapter 205 and Chapter 405 as outlined in the warrant by striking some of the existing language and adding underlined language.

ARTICLE 19 AMEND BYLAWS STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to amend Bylaws, Chapter 194 Stormwater Management and 198.31.1 and 322-26 as outlined in the warrant by striking some of the existing language and adding underlined language.

ARTICLE 20 AMEND BYLAWS ZONING AND PLANNING

MOTION 6

Motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to amend Bylaws Chapters 65 as written in the warrant.

MOTION 7

Motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to amend Bylaws Chapter 306 as written in the warrant.

MOTION 8

Motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to amend Bylaws Chapter 316 as amended on the floor.

MOTION 9

Motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to amend Bylaws Chapter 322 as written in the warrant.

ARTICLE 21 BYLAW FLOW NEUTRAL

Motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to establish Bylaw Chapter 158, Section 3 Flow Neutral or take any action relative thereto:

ARTICLE 22 TREE BYLAWS

22A: AMEND BYLAWS, CHAPTER 76 TREE WARDEN

Motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to amend Bylaws, Chapter 76, § 1 as outlined in the warrant by striking some of the existing language and adding underlined language.

22B: NEW BYLAW, CHAPTER 88 PUBLIC SHADE TREE

Motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to establish Bylaw Chapter 88 Public Shade Tree

Elisabeth E. Horan, Interim Town Clerk, Fairhaven
FNN, 12/19/24

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SELECT: cont'd from page 4

John Walker and Beth Ann Gallagher, filed disclosures for appearance of COI. Both have had professional dealings with Ron Fortier of the Artists Index, who is applying for two grants from the Cultural Council. Both CC members disclosed the relationship and said it would not influence their votes.

The SB vote on the Cultural Council COIs was simply to acknowledge receipt of the Disclosures.

The four COI disclosures by Fire Chief, Todd Correia, were related to relatives who work in the fire department under his supervision.

Those votes required the board to confirm that they have reviewed the disclosures and they are allowing the chief to perform his duties because the financial interest "is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the town of Fairhaven may expect from the fire chief."

The first disclosure was for his brother, Paul Correia. Although the form says he is the Deputy Chief, Chief Correia said it needed to be changed, his brother is a Lieutenant and is Acting Captain.

The second disclosure was also for the chief's brother because the chief participates in contract negotiations for all employees.

The third disclosure was for the chief's nephew, Tyler Correia, who is a member of the department with the rank of Lieutenant, and is Paul's son.

The fourth was for his brother-in-law, who is a call firefighter with the rank of Lieutenant.

The board confirmed and approved Chief Correia to participate in all aspects of the job pertaining to the employees in question. Mr. Saunders noted, however, that Chief Correia will not participate in any assessment centers for promotions.

The votes, stressed Mr. Saunders, give the chief "safe harbor" to supervise his brother and other family members, and to participate in contract negotiations.

All six disclosure forms are available on the SB page on the town website under meeting packets. Navigate to the 12/16/24 meeting.

In another matter, the board heard from Fairhaven Firefighters Local 1555 Union President, Kevin Gonsalves, to discuss the delay in promotional exams for the fire department.

The question arises amid the confusion on whether or not the fire and police departments are in civil service or not. Both unions agreed to leave the civil service system and Town Meeting voted to approve those contracts. But during the hiring of the police chief, it was uncovered that the process may have been flawed.

The Civil Service Commission and the Attorney General's office are both considering the matter.

Mr. Gonsalves told the board that he negotiated the contract removing the department from civil service, so that was not the problem. He said whichever way it falls is okay with him, but they need to proceed with one system or the other.

Civil Service has deadlines, he said, and if they miss the promotional

The four COI disclosures by Fire Chief, Todd Correia, were related to relatives who work in the fire department under his supervision.

exams coming up in January, they have to wait a whole year.

SB Chairperson, Stasia Powers, said the board is still waiting for a determination regarding civil service.

"We believe we are in Civil Service," said Ms. Powers, although they have not heard from the AG's office.

Mr. Gonsalves countered that he believed the AG's office said they would have nothing to do with it so it is the Civil Service Commission that decides.

Ms. Powers said it should go to the attorney.

Mr. Gonsalves said department has acting positions, but acting positions are not supposed to be long term.

Mr. Gonsalves also took the opportunity to advocate for more personnel, although he acknowledged that the town is in a deficit. He referred to a couple of studies and decisions regarding other departments and asked if the town could conduct

similar studies so the incoming TA would have facts to go by.

To sum up, he said, we do not know what is happening with promotions for the Fire Department.

"We have issues we have to work out before we move forward," said Ms. Powers.

SB member Andrew Romano said he believed that the town was supposed to be acting as if it is out of Civil Service not in.

Mr. Gonsalves reiterated that he had no problem either way, but they needed to know so they could proceed using the right set of rules.

"I just wanted to be on the agenda for the record asking those questions," said Mr Gonsalves.

In another matter, the board heard from Sumul Shah of Fairhaven Wind, the owner and operator of the two wind turbines on Arsene Street.

Mr. Shah had asked the board in a previous meeting to modify the contract. The board asked him to get more information and he said he and Ms. Carreiro have had a chance to "really dive in" with the numbers.

The change he is asking for is in the transmission and distribution rate which fluctuates. If he can be assured of a fixed rate, he said, the company can secure financing to refit the turbines with new generators and blades, which will cost about \$5.7 million.

The retrofit will increase the power output of the WTs, provided Eversource allows it into the grid, and they will be quieter.

Mr. Saunders asked if the company is using the new version anywhere.

Mr. Shah said his company is not, but that it is "pretty much" all over Rhode Island, and there is one in Plymouth.

The retrofit is necessary because they cannot get parts for the current WTs and have scrambled to get service technicians.

Mr. Shah said he needed the board to agree to the concept, more than the details, so he could submit the application to Eversource. Approval from them could take two years, and it could be rejected.

The board asked for more numbers and they will vote on the proposal at their meeting in January.

The board convened in Executive Session to discuss the fire chief and police chief contracts.

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