



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



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with a big voice!

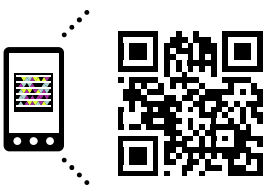
Volume 20, Issue 3 • January 9, 2025

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

Balmy!



Plungers head out of the water quickly after jumping into the icy waters for the annual New Year's Day Polar Plunge at Fort Phoenix in Fairhaven on 1/1/25, in honor of domestic violence victims. 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.

Aiyiyi! How is it possible I'm so far behind when it's only my first issue of the year? Guess I have a special talent.

We have some meeting coverage for you. Fairhaven picked someone for the interim Town administrator job (see page 3). Now, it's budget season. So, this should be fun.

David Sobral retired from the police department (see page 13). You all probably know him even if you don't know him. He does more police details than anyone. He's out there in all kinds of weather and always ready with a big smile. He'll probably be out there even now, so, be sure to wish him a happy retirement when you see him.

One thing about Lt. Sobral: He truly loved being a police officer. You could tell just by talking to him. More people should love their jobs the way he does. The world would be a better place.

See you on the street, David!

Okay, so...where to go next? Patrick Carr FINALLY disclosed a conflict of interest in the school department building fight (page 3). Then, at the hearing, he recused himself (page 4). Then he spoke anyway...as a resident, of course, not a ZBA member.

It would make a good comed except it has created a mess. The schools have an attorney, the ZBA has an attorney, and guess who's paying for it all? Yup... Fairhaven taxpayers.

Acushnet had a real tragedy over our break. Two people were killed in a fire on Christmas Eve (page 14).

The cause is undetermined, but it could have been a woodstove or it could have been electrical. Our hearts go out to the family.

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

Fairhaven Select Board chooses George Samia as interim TA

By Beth David
Editor

At its meeting on 12/23/24, the Fairhaven Select Board chose George G. Samia, a former Town Administrator and Town Accountant, to be the Interim Town

Administrator until a permanent TA can be chosen.

The board had expected to interview three candidates that night, but Leilani Dalpe, the Assistant TA in Weymouth, dropped out. Left standing were Mr. Samia

and Gregory M. Hanley, who has been County Commissioner of Plymouth since 2013, and has served as a TA and Interim Town Manager.

All five board members asked at least

SELECT: cont'd on page 17

Carr discloses conflict of interest in School Dept. appeal

By Beth David
Editor

Patrick Carr, an appointed member and chairperson of the Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals, failed in his bid to get the Select Board to allow him to chair a hearing involving the Fairhaven School Department, which is a customer of his container business, Seaspray Container Company, that he owns with his daughter. Mr. Carr is also an elected member of the Planning Board.

Mr. Carr filed a Conflict of Interest (COI) disclosure and appeared before the SB at its 12/30/24 meeting to get approval from the SB, which is the appointing body, to participate in the hearing on 1/7/25.

SB member Andrew Saunders recused himself from the proceedings, which left four members to vote. The split was 2-2, resulting in a failure of the measure to pass.

The School Department is constructing a storage building at the high school. Mr. Carr's company has two storage containers at the site, both of which will not be needed if the new building is completed. The containers have been there for several years. The company rents six containers to the school department at different sites. The two at the high school are \$99/month for a total of \$198/month. The others are \$110/month each.

The board was being asked to determine that the financial interest to Mr. Carr was not substantial enough to affect the "integrity of the services" provided by the town, as stated in the language of the statute.

Mr. Carr said he spoke with the Ethics Commission three times for an hour or more. He said he supplied the contracts and the correspondence from the Ethics

Commission to board members. Those documents, however, were not made available to the *Neighb News* by press time despite repeated requests.

Mr. Carr said he needed to participate in the appeal hearing because the matter is complex and he did not feel the alternates could step in.

The appeal was filed by 10 abutters citing a variety of complaints, including that abutters were not notified, and a claim that the Dover Amendment does not apply. That law exempts school departments from most zoning restrictions.

Mr. Carr also said he would participate in the meeting regardless of the SB decision because he would terminate the contract if necessary, although it would only give the school seven days to find new options. His daughter, Erin Carr,

CARR: cont'd on page 16



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Fairhaven ZBA revokes permit for school department building

By Beth David
Editor

At its meeting on 1/7/25, the Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals voted 4-1 to revoke the building permit for the storage building being constructed at Fairhaven High School. ZBA chairperson, Patrick Carr, recused himself from the proceedings due to a conflict of interest caused by his ownership of Seaspray Container Company, which leases containers at the high school that will no longer be needed if the storage building is completed (see page 3).

Nine abutters filed an appeal for a variety of reasons, including that they were not notified, the building is larger than bylaws allow for an accessory building, height is higher than allowed, a residential permit was issued instead of a commercial permit, and the property is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The appeal also alleges that the Dover Amendment, which exempts school departments from local zoning restrictions, does not apply.

The building is being constructed on the southwest corner of the football field between the bleachers and Huttleston Avenue (Route 6).

Resident Karen Vilandry spoke for the abutters reiterating what was in the appeal and adding that the building is an eyesore and will obstruct the view of drivers leaving FHS. She noted the traffic on Route 6 in that area is already dangerous and the new building will make it worse.

Attorney Michael Rosen, representing the School Department questioned the process of the appeal and the standing of the abutters; and then went through each point with a rebuttal of the arguments.

Mr. Rosen said the appeal was not filed when it should have been and was appealing the residential permit, which had been revoked and reissued as a commercial permit.

He also contended that the abutters did not have standing because they did not have a specific complaint/hardship directly to any one of them. He said the complaints were more general in nature.

Mr. Rosen also noted that the bus company, state police, Fairhaven police, and the public works department all had no problem with the building.

The owner of bus company drove by himself and confirmed they have no concerns.

"So this has been vetted," said Mr. Rose, adding it will continue to be vetted by Mass. DOT. Route 6 is a state road.

Mr. Rosen went through each of the points in the appeal, noting that the Dover Amendment does apply, so the size of the building is exempt, including the height.

He said there is no need to notify abutters when a building permit is pulled.

Mr. Rosen also said that the school department worked with the historical commission and redesigned the building, so the previous comments from the HC chair included in the appeal were not longer valid. Superintendent Tara Kohler produced the email from HC Chairperson Wayne Oliveira for the board to read.

Current Building Commissioner Richard Forand ran through a detailed account of each step of the project, including that three previous building commissioners/acting commissioners were involved. He was the one to revoke the residential permit and issue the commercial permit. In his letter to the abutters, he said there is no requirement to notify abutters of building permits. He also said he declined to take further enforcement action.

ZBA: cont'd on page 16




**UU Society of Fairhaven
welcomes all!**

10 a.m. Jan. 12: "The Power
of Your Story"

Faith Formation 'Second Hour':
'History and Mystery of Unitarian
Universalism' (adults);
UU Principals and Introduction to
Christianity (children)

The Rev. Maria Uitti McCabe

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



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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Scholarships

Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars announces over 40 scholarships now available for 2025. Application period is February 1, 2025 thru April 1, 2025.

Full list of scholarships and details on how to apply available at <https://fairhaven.dollarsforscholars.org>.

NEW scholarships are being added constantly. Check your profile weekly to see what NEW scholarships you qualify for both at the local and national level. Scholarships are awarded for a variety of reasons, including academics, sports, community service, chosen major, and more.

Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars chapter is a nonprofit foundation that supports academic success in our community. As part of Scholarship America's national network of locally based, volunteer-driven Dollars for Scholars chapters, our mission is to mobilize our community on behalf of postsecondary education success for our students.

Fhvn GOP

The first monthly meeting of the Fairhaven Republican Town Committee will be held at 6 pm on Tues., 1/21, at 32 Abbey St., Fairhaven. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month. Ward and town committees serve as the building blocks for political parties in Mass. Equal party representation is critical to good governance. Our Republican Town committee is growing.

We urge you to attend a meeting, get involved, join us, consider running for office. Let's start a New Year with dynamic goals and aspirations, together we can make great things happen in 2025. Contact us at fairhavenrtc@gmail.com or call RTC chair Bob McConnell, 508-863-0416

Boating Safety Class

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary's Flotilla 65 will run its 2025 SPRING SEMESTER 13-week *Boating Skills & Seamanship Course* (BS&S) from Monday, 1/27 through April 21, from 7-9 pm, at the Acushnet River Safe Boating Club (ARSBC) on 80 Middle Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719.

This 13-week comprehensive course is designed for both the experienced and the novice boater. It is taught by experienced Coast Guard Auxiliary instructors with years of

experience on local waters. It is a perfect introduction to recreational boating fundamentals, such as: boating terminology, boat equipment/handling, boat trailering, lake boating, handling a small to midsize boat, rules of the road, navigation, medical/safety awareness, understanding weather, engines, radios and how to read a nautical chart and chart plotter, buy a boat, tie a knot, handle emergencies, and call in a Mayday.

Many insurance companies will offer discounts on boat insurance to individuals who successfully complete this course. Individuals who successfully complete the course and pass the exam are awarded certificates and cards.

The \$55 fee includes the textbook, chart and all course material. Family discounts are available for shared materials.

Register online at https://wow.uscgaux.info/pe_class_flyer.php?unit=NAT&course=31597

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

Heat Assistance

It's easy to apply for Mass. Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), a free resource offered in partnership with the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities that helps eligible households pay a portion of winter heating bills.

In this area, PACE is the agency that administers the program. Visit <https://paceinfo.org/programs/fuel-assistance/> to find out if you qualify or call (508)525-4271

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; Town Clerk, with Interim TC, Elisabeth Horan's term ending; Commissioner of Trust Funds, with Barbara Acksen up for reelection.

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.

Millicent Events

The following events will be held at the Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven. Accessible. To register, or learn more call the library at 508-992-5342, email athiel@sailsinc.org, or visit <http://www.millicentlibrary.org/events>

Storytime: Baby and Toddler (to 36 months). Every Tues., 9:30–10 a.m. Bond with your baby over books! Each weekly Baby Storytime includes Early Literacy fun with board books, songs, play, and lots of love.

Winter Storytime: Ages 3+. For families. Every Wed., 10:30–11:30 a.m. Read, sing, and get up and move, and make crafts at these sessions with Allie.

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Military Talk

Joe Yukna, president of the Cape Cod Military Museum, will speak at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12 at the Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Military Museum and Veterans Memorial in New Bedford as the winter historical lecture series continues.

He will discuss the role the famous Rainbow Division played at the Battle of the Bulge during the winter of 1944, also known as the Ardennes Offensive. The Rainbow Division was created in 1917 as a United States Army National Guard outfit, formed from 27 Army National Guard units, including New Bedford.

The talk is free, as is parking. For more information about the museum, located at 1000C S. Rodney French Boulevard, call 508-994-3938 or email info@forttaber.org.

Blood Drive

Every drop counts!

The Buttonwood Park Zoo, 425 Hawthorn St., NB, is hosting the American Red Cross for a blood drive on Mon., 1/13, from 11-4:00pm. Share your gift of life and bring hope to patients in need.

Reserve your time slot: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html>/donation-time

Lane Closures

The Mass. Department of Transportation (MassDOT) will be performing overnight repairs on the bridge at Shawmut Avenue over I-195. Work will take place weekly, Sunday through Thursday night, starting on Sunday, January 12, from 8:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. the following morning. The work is anticipated to be completed by Monday morning, June 30.

Lane closures will be in place on I-195 eastbound and westbound during this time. Temporary traffic adjustments, such as lane and shoulder closures, will be implemented as needed. At least one lane of travel will remain open at all times, and police will be on-site to assist with traffic control and safety setups.

YTI Production

Your Theatre Inc. presents RED, John Logan's Tony Award-winning play about artist Mark Rothko. This is the third major production for Your

Theatre's 78th Season. This production is generously backed by Production Sponsor Servedwell Hospitality.

Mark Rothko has just landed the biggest commission in the history of modern art, a series of murals for New York's famed Four Seasons Restaurant. In the two fascinating years that follow, Rothko works feverishly with his young assistant, Ken, in his studio on the Bowery. But when Ken gains the confidence to challenge him, Rothko faces the agonizing possibility that his crowning achievement could also become his undoing. Raw and provocative, RED is a searing portrait of an artist's ambition and vulnerability.

Your Theatre is grateful for the generous support of Bank 5, sponsor of the theatre's current 78th season. Your Theatre, Inc is proud to have such a longtime partnership with a community leader like Bank 5.

RED runs two weekends in 2025: Fridays and Saturdays, January 17-18 and 24-25 at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays, March 18-19 and 25-26 at 2:00 p.m.

Performances are wheelchair accessible at The Steeple Playhouse, 159 William St. in downtown New Bedford. The accessible entrance is located on the east side of the building facing City Hall. This will be the entrance for all patrons for this show. Ample parking is available in the city lot at the corner of 6th and William, and both lot metered street parking are free nights and weekends.

Tickets are General Admission \$27; Seniors, Students and Military \$22. All seats are open seating; tickets available at <https://steepleplayhouse.ludus.com/>. Contact the box office (boxoffice@yourtheatre.org or 508-993-0772) for group rates.

Admission for EBT, WIC, and ConnectorCare cardholders, is up to 2 tickets per eligible card for each Regular Production. Admission rate is \$5.00 per person.

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 ahheard@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 ahheard@southcoastcf.org

Elect Women Training

Join us for our Roadmap for Running Workshop!

Keynote Highlight: Massachusetts State Auditor Diana DiZoglio will share her inspiring journey to public office! From breaking barriers to becoming the youngest statewide Constitutional Officer, Diana's story proves anyone can lead with passion and purpose. You won't want to miss her empowering message!

Be the first to see our 2024 data report, "South Coast Women Run," and join breakout sessions tailored to your interests: Education & Library Land Use, Planning, and Zoning, Select Board, City Council, and Finance

Sat., 1/25, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Bristol Community College, 800 Purchase Street, New Bedford, MA RSVP: bit.ly/ROADMAP25

Breakfast and lunch provided! Email telectsouthcoast@gmail.com

HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

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/>

Winter Wear 4 Vets

The Mattapoissett 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 Mattapoissett Library, 7 Barstow Street, Mattapoissett, 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!

Fish Regs Comment

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) is seeking public comment on Draft Addenda on the Recreational Measures Setting Process for Bluefish, Summer Flounder, Scup, and Black Sea Bass. The states of Maine through North Carolina have scheduled hearings to gather public input on the Draft Addenda between January 14 and January 29, 2025, and written comments will be accepted through February 15, 2025. A virtual public hearing intended for Massachusetts stakeholders will be held on January 14 at 6:00 p.m. (however, you may attend any hearing).

The Draft Addenda consider changes to the process used by the ASMFC and the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council (MAFMC) to set recreational management measures

(bag, size, and season limits) for bluefish, summer flounder, scup, and black sea bass.

The public is encouraged to submit comments at any time during the addendum process. Public comment will be accepted until 11:59 PM (EST) on 2/15/25 and should be sent to: Chelsea Tuohy, FMP Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland Street, Suite 200 A-N Arlington, Virginia 22201; or to comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Recreational Measures Setting Process)

For meeting schedule and remote access links, visit <https://asmfc.org/about-us/public-input>

Grief Group

The Lamb of God Christian Church of Mattapoissett will be holding a no-cost Grief Share® group meeting at the Mattapoissett Free Public Library (Lower Meeting Room), Mattapoissett, MA on 1/15/2025, 6:30-7:30 P.M.

This support group is for all who have had a personal loss of a loved one. This group study is moderated by Pastor Mathew (6-year seminary student) using the nationally recognized Grief Share program materials.

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

Artist Zoom Talk

Hadassah-Brandies Institute presents *Traces of a Jewish Artist: The Lost Life and Work of Rahel Szalit*, Dr. Kerry Wallach, Wed., 1/22, 7 p.m. as part of the Sandra Seltzer Silberman HBI Conversations Series

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/8vthun6>

HBI is honored to have supported Kerry Wallach's research on this with a 2019 HBI Research Award.

Graphic artist, illustrator, painter, and cartoonist Rahel Szalit (1888-1942) was among the best-known Jewish women artists in Weimar Berlin. Highly regarded by art historians and critics of her day, she made a name for herself with soulful, sometimes humorous illustrations of Jewish and world literature by Sholem Aleichem, Heinrich Heine, Leo Tolstoy, Charles Dickens, and others. After she was arrested by the French police and then murdered by the Nazis at Auschwitz, she was all

but lost to history, and most of her paintings have been destroyed or gone missing.

Wallach used primary and secondary sources and, the "Szalit recovery team," her colleagues and institutions in seven countries around the world, give us a powerfully moving account of a feminist Jewish artist, illustrator, painter, and writer who had fallen through the cracks of historic memory. This biography recovers Szalit's life and presents a stunning collection of her art.

Traces of a Jewish Artist: The Lost Life and Work of Rahel Szalit is available at Amazon, Bookshop, Penn State University Press (30% off with code NR24), and your local bookseller.

Fish Council Seats

The Commonwealth of Mass. is seeking qualified individuals for nomination to the New England Fishery Management Council. Candidates must be knowledgeable of and experienced in the fishery resources of New England, either through commercial fishing, recreational fishing, management and conservation of natural resources, as an educator or other broad categories of occupational or other experience. Qualified women, people of color, and individuals representative of historically underserved communities are encouraged to apply.

Qualified individuals interested in being considered for nomination by the Governor should contact Kelly Whitmore (Kelly.Whitmore@mass.gov). Nominated individuals are then considered for appointment by the Secretary of Commerce.

Nomination application kits will be made available upon request and are due to DMF by the end of the day on Friday, 1/31. As part of the application process, the Commonwealth will conduct an initial background check and a review panel will evaluate each applicant's relevant fisheries expertise.

For further information on the New England Fishery Management Council and the Council process, please visit <https://www.nefmc.org>

The New England Fishery Management Council is one of eight regional councils that manage most of our nation's marine fisheries seaward of state territorial waters.

Trapilo announces run for Select Board

Dear Fairhaven Community,
I humbly ask for your support and your vote to be your next Select Board member. With a lifelong commitment to service, I bring a unique combination of financial expertise, business leadership, and municipal governance experience to this vital role for our Town.

A snapshot of my qualifications:

- **Education:** MBA, BA, and International Business Program graduate
- **Municipal Leadership:** Fairhaven

Planning Board Member, South-eastern Regional Planning & Economic and Development District Commissioner & Finance Board Member, Fairhaven-New Bedford Harbor Plan Committee Member. Advocate to STOP the pollution of our waters

- **Professional Experience:** International President & Board Member in the tech industry, Business Owner & Entrepreneur, Public and Private Boards, Mass Real estate Broker.

My vision for Fairhaven is rooted in ensuring the health, safety, and prosperity of every resident. Our beloved community deserves thoughtful, innovative leadership to address the challenges we face financially, with our infrastructure, our natural resources, and Town leadership.

In the months ahead, I look forward to attending meetings and events where I can share my views and collaborate with all of you. Together, we can craft solutions that ensure a brighter future for Fairhaven.

Let's work together with transparency to build a brighter future for generations to follow!

Respectfully, Rick Trapilo

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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: 1/15, Hyannis Mall & Trader Joe's; 1/22, Providence Place Mall; 1/29, South Shore Plaza; 2/5, Tiverton Casino; 2/12, Warwick Mall.

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

Jan 13, 12:15 p.m. Featuring *Rustin*.

Activist Bayard Rustin faces racism and homophobia as he helps change the course of Civil Rights history by orchestrating the 1963 March on Washington.

Jan. 27, 12:15 p.m. Featuring *Nyad*.

The remarkable true story of athlete Diane Nyad who, at the age of 60 and with the help of her best friend and coach, commits to achieving her life-long dream.

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.

Free Acting Program

Ever dream of being an actor? No experience required! New Bedford Festival Theatre presents a free acting program, Thursdays, 2/6 to 3/13, 10:30 a.m. to noon, at the Fairhaven Senior Center.

Join NBFT Teaching Artist Derek Rivera for this six-session acting program that will take you through several introductory acting techniques that you'll then use in rehearsing a performance of a "Golden Girls" TV episode script. The program will culminate in a staged reading performance for family and friends!

Call to register, 508-979-4029.

AARP Tax-Aide

AARP TaxAide IRS Certified Volunteers will be in Fairhaven filing federal and state taxes starting in February until April 15, 9 a.m. to noon.

Please call 508-979-4029 for an appointment. This is a free service.

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. \$5. The third Tuesday of every month, 2:30–4:30 p.m. Must sign up at the front desk or call a week before.

Wellness Clinic & Blood Pressure Checks

Public Health Nurse every Wednesday at the Center from 11:15 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

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.

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.

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

Billionaire Chicken

1/4 cup all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
1/4 teaspoon paprika
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon onion powder
1 pound chicken tenderloins
3/4 cup chicken broth
1/4 cup milk
1 large egg, beaten
1 cup self-rising flour
oil, to taste, for frying
French fries, optional, cooked and hot, for serving

In a gallon-size resealable plastic bag, add the all-purpose flour, salt, black pepper, paprika, garlic powder, and onion powder, close the bag, and shake to combine.

Add the tenderloins, reseal the bag, and toss until the chicken is coated in the flour mixture.

In a large bowl, whisk together the chicken broth, milk, and egg.

Add the self-rising flour to the egg mixture and whisk until combined. The mixture will be thin.

Pour about 2 inches of the oil into a heavy-bottomed skillet. Heat the oil to 350°.

Dip the tenders into the batter, coating them and allowing any excess to drip off into the bowl.

Add the tenders very carefully to the hot oil, working in batches so they are not crowded, and fry, occasionally flipping, until they are golden-brown on both sides and have reached 165° internally, about 6-10 minutes. Immediately transfer the cooked chicken to a paper-towel-lined plate to drain.

Serve the chicken hot, with the French fries.



fix the van he drove for doggy daycare. He said he would call an Uber for me.

I texted him, "You promised,"

He replied, "What's the big deal? It was only day surgery."

When I saw him several days later, he acted like everything was fine and never mentioned anything about canceling. This isn't the first time he has broken a promise. Why doesn't he understand how hurtful this is to me?

Dear Ruby,

This isn't a "You're in the doghouse" problem.

I'm surprised the vet let you go home by yourself.

Your boyfriend didn't keep his

Dear Frankie

The Boyfriend

Dear Frankie,
My boyfriend said he would take me home after my surgery.

Just before I was discharged, he texted that he had to cancel because he had to help his friend

promise. Big deal he called an Uber. Post-surgery, you were vulnerable physically and mentally. You needed someone to attend to your basic needs, provide comfort, and monitor how you were recovering from the surgery. You could have suffered all sorts of harmful effects from the procedure, the anesthesia, or the medication.

He chose to do a favor for his friend rather than take care of you. Were the auto mechanics on strike in your town?

Why don't you understand this guy can't be trusted and doesn't care he hurts your feelings?

Get rid of him; he has nothing to offer you except a future of hurt and failed promises.

Find someone caring, dependable, and worthy of you.

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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Clown Class graduates first local students

Press Release

On Dec. 12, 2024 Our very first Unit of "Hospital Caring Clowns" graduated from The Smile Factory Clown School and immediately began their "volunteer to cheer" campaign in our three local hospitals: Charleton in Fall River, St. Luke's in New Bedford, and Tobey in Wareham.

Our graduates hail from our very own Fairhaven and surrounding towns. They have all developed their own clown names and personas, taken safety and hygiene classes, storytelling, puppetry, make-up, working with a partner and pocket magic classes.

Our new class takes place at 88 Hatch Street Suite #213 in New Bedford, MA beginning January 9th with only two spots remaining. If you would like to join in on the fun, call or text Elaine Vercellone, Director, 201-388-0225. or E-Mail thesmilefactoryclowns@gmail.com. Classes are one night a week for 10 weeks and are \$20.00 per class. One or two classes will take place at St. Luke's Hospital with a walk-around tour.

It takes a special person to be willing to learn as much as possible to

be the best "Hospital Caring Clown" and bring happiness and caring to people of all ages in the hospitals. Volunteer time required is a three-hour visit every other week with a

partner. You must take this class to become a Hospital Caring Clown for Southcoast Hospitals. Our graduates will carry the official name of "The Southcoast Funny Bones."



The 2024 Hospital Caring Clowns graduating class from The Smile Factory strike a pose for their graduation picture. FRONT, L-R: Colleen "Dr. Dot D' Macramos, Sarah "Dr. Silly Sa-Sa" (Director in charge of Shenanigans), BACK/STANDING L-R: Amy "Dr. MeMe Memes" Singelais, Jeanine "Nurse I.V. Flo' Lopes, Elaine "Dr. Daisy Spot 'n' Dot' Vercellone, Mary "Dr. Merry Moo" Freire Kellogg. Not pictured: Gail "Dr. Lucy Scatterbrain" Joseph. All appearing in a hospital near YOU! Submitted photo.





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Polar Plunge draws hundreds on mild New Year's Day

By Beth David
Editor

A balmy 50 degrees greeted hundreds of plungers and spectators on 1/1/25 for the annual Polar Plunge at Fort Phoenix in Fairhaven, honoring domestic violence victims.

Sisters, Agatha and Jessica Sils of New Bedford got dressed up as reindeer for their plunge. It was the second time for them.

"Why not?" said Jessica. "It's a good reset."

"To bring positivity to the world," said Agatha.

Roslin, 2, went in with the help of her dad, Ben, but she didn't have much to say after. However, her big sister, Mae, 5, said she went in two years ago, and that was enough for her.

"I don't want to ever go again," said Mae.

Natalie Seiders jumped in for the third time, with her brother, Jacob, and their father, Jeff, joining her.

"It was good compared to the others," said Natalie, because it was warmer this year.

She said she plunges because of her father.

"Just to start a new tradition," said dad.

"I like the cold," said Jacob

The plunge is free, but organizers sell t-shirts, with proceeds going to the Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars scholarship program.

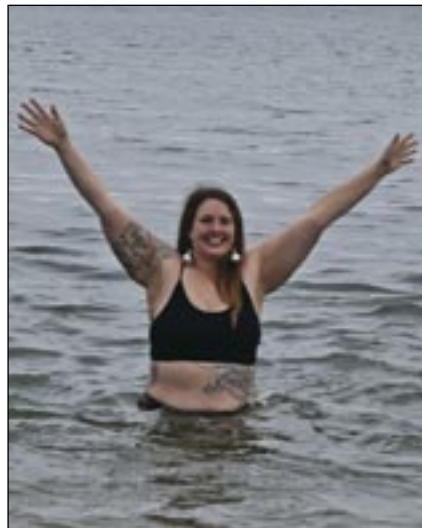
Organizers said 236 people registered to plunge, but a few more always sneak in without registering.

This year they had plungers from California, Connecticut, Florida, New Jersey and Mississippi. Mass. towns included: Acushnet, Assonet, Berkley, Bridgewater, Canton, Carver, Dartmouth, Dighton, E. Bridgewater, East Taunton, East Freetown, Easton, Fairhaven, Fall River, Franklin, Free town, Lakeville, Mattapoisett, Middleboro, N. Dighton, N. Easton, New Bedford, Norton, Raynham, Rochester, S. Dartmouth, Spencer, Swansea, Taunton, W. Dighton, and W. Wareham.

Find them on Facebook to learn more: Fort Phoenix Polar Plunge. Email Kathy Lopes, lopeska@aol.com, if you want a t-shirt. Learn more about Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars at <https://fairhaven.dollarsforscholars.org>.



ABOVE LEFT: L-R: Natalie, Jacob, and Jeff Seiders are all smiles after jumping into the icy waters for the annual New Year's Day Polar Plunge at Fort Phoenix in Fairhaven on 1/1/25, in honor of domestic violence victims. ABOVE RIGHT: Roslin, 2, gets a lift from her dad, Ben, for a smoother sail into the icy waters. BELOW LEFT: Two women are clearly feeling the chill as they run out of water. BELOW MIDDLE: A woman raises her hands in triumph after jumping into the icy waters. BELOW RIGHT, L-R: Sisters, Agatha and Jessica Sils of New Bedford, are dressed as reindeer ready to jump into the waters. *Photos by Beth David.*



Lt. David Sobral retires after 41 years with Fairhaven PD

By Beth David
Editor

An emotional Lt. David Sobral signed off to “all cars and stations” surrounded by family, friends and colleagues at the Fairhaven Police Department, where he has served for 41 years.

Starting in 1983 at the tender age of 22 as a full time officer in Fairhaven, Lt. Sobral served as patrol officer, evening supervisor, training officer, and rose to the rank of Lieutenant. He leaves as a respected officer with a legacy of hard work. There are few residents of Fairhaven, or even drivers, who have not seen him working a detail.

Some joked that he might not actually leave and might be working a detail as they waited for him on Monday, 1/6/25.

“Lt. Sobral, you have served the Town of Fairhaven with integrity, compassion, and unwavering commitment,” said his colleague over the radio. “Your leadership, expertise, and service will be missed, but your legacy will remain part of this department and this town forever.”

For this part, an emotional Lt. Sobral choked out the words of his farewell, “signing off for the last time.”

“Thank you very much for all your help and assistance over the years,” he said. “And it’s an honor to have worked with all of you.”

Police Chief Daniel Dorgan joked that he was six months old when Lt. Sobral started as a patrol officer in Fairhaven. He was the first sergeant

for a young Officer Dorgan.

Chief Dorgan said one could question Lt. Sobral’s dedication and he was different breed.

Chief Dorgan presented Lt. Sobral with his retirement badge and plaque.

Rep. Mark Sylvia, who was just elected to the Mass. House of Representatives for the first time, presented a citation to Lt. Sobral.

Mr. Sylvia noted that a citation from the state house means a different thing than a citation from the police. As Town Moderator, he said he worked with Lt. Sobral for years at Town Meeting, and it was his first official act as a representative to give the citation. He also gave Lt. Sobral a flag that flew over the state house on that day.

“I would love to see him try to relax,” said Lt. Sobral’s wife, Tammy, adding she was not sure it’s possible.

“I’m excited, happy, emotional, sad,” said Lt. Sobral, noting that for four decades he did the job. “But I enjoyed every bit of it.”

He said it’s time for the new, young guys to take over.

“I hope I left a legacy to do the job the way it should be done,” he said, adding the department has a lot of good people. “It was a pleasure working with all of them.”

Any advice for someone con-



sidering police work as a career?

“It’s a great job,” said Lt. Sobral. “It’s changed a lot, but it’s still a great job. It’s about public safety. I would do it again.”

Two of Mr. Sobral’s three sons became police officers and both are currently state troopers.

Matthew, who started with the Fairhaven PD, said it was a “proud day.”

He grew up idolizing his father, he said.

“I think we all did. Two of his three sons followed in his footsteps,” said Matthew.

He said his father was the “ideal role model with shoes they can never fill.

“But we try,” he said. “I watched him work harder than any man I know. He taught us that family is number 1. You take care of family. He represents that more than anyone.”

Nathan Sobral, who is a steel worker, said his father “gave his all to this place.”

“He loved being a cop,” said Nathan, adding it was sad that part of his life was ending. “But he has a long life to live.”

“I’m happy for him,” said Nathan. “He had a great career. He’s a great father.”

Chris Sobral also became a state trooper. He said he felt proud.

“He was always someone I looked up to,” said Chris. “He’s why I also decided to put on the badge also. He’s a role model. I always looked up to him.”

The event included the obligatory cake, lots of other goodies, and many hugs and stories.

Sources say Lt. Sobral, ret., will be out and about working details until the law prevents him from doing so.



TOP: Fairhaven Police Chief Daniel Dorgan (RIGHT), asks for the last call for Retiring Lt. David Sobral (LEFT), who starts to get a little emotional at an event celebrating his retirement at the Fairhaven PD on 1/6/25. Mr. Sobral, celebrates with his wife, sons, and granddaughter, L-R: Tammy Sobral, David, Matthew holding his daughter, Chris, Nathan. Photos by Beth David.

Fire in Acushnet claims two lives on Christmas eve

From press release materials

A fire in a multi-family home claimed the lives of two older adults early Christmas morning, injuring one adult and displacing all other residents, said Acushnet Fire Chief Thomas Farland, Acushnet Police Chief Thomas Carreau, State Fire Marshal Jon Davine, and Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III.

“On behalf of the Acushnet Fire Department, I want to express our heartfelt condolences to the victims’ family and loved ones,” said Chief Farland. “This is a heartbreaking day for them and our community.”

The Acushnet Fire Department and Acushnet Police responded to 34 Garfield Street following multiple 911 calls at about 1:50 a.m. on 12/25/24. On arrival, firefighters observed heavy smoke and flames and learned that three people were unaccounted for. One resident escaped safely after a neighbor who saw the fire pounded on his door. Another resident was later determined to be out of the country.

Firefighters immediately began

attacking the fire, which had caused a partial collapse of the roof and major structural damage to the two and a half story home. They made entry and located two residents deceased inside. Firefighters battled the flames for about an hour before bringing it under control. One firefighter was transported for evaluation but is expected to recover.

The victims were identified as 89-year-old Leo Lyonnais and 87-year-old Annette Lyonnais.

The origin and cause of the fire are under investigation by the Acushnet Fire Department, Acushnet Police Department, State Police fire investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshal’s office, and State Police assigned to the Bristol County District Attorney’s office. They are assisted by the Department of Fire Services’ Code Compliance & Enforcement Unit.

Witnesses and first responders reported that they did not hear smoke alarms sounding when they arrived, investigators said.

“Our hearts go out to the family at a time of such terrible loss,” said

State Fire Marshal Davine. “We’ve seen too many tragedies this year. Please, if you do one thing today, talk to the people you care about and be sure they have working smoke alarms on every level of their homes.”

The Fairhaven Fire Department provided mutual aid along with Mattapoisett EMS, and Providence Canteen supported personnel at the scene.

Investigators returned to the scene, identifying the front left corner of the first floor as the area of origin. After delayering this area, they found a wood stove and a wall outlet with a multiple-prong adapter plugged in. Either of these factors could have contributed to the fire, officials said.

Under the standard used by State Police fire investigators, the cause of a fire is undetermined when they are unable to rule out all but one potential factor. For this reason, the Garfield Street fire will remain undetermined but not suspicious pending any new information.

“All of us here at the Acushnet Fire Department again want to offer our

FIRE: cont’d on page 17

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ZBA: cont'd from page 4

Although he recused himself, Mr. Carr was in the room sitting with the public during the proceedings. During a recess, he spoke to acting chairperson Ruy DaSilva. Mr. Carr also spoke to the issue as a member of the public, speaking against the project. He said the original building was supposed to be for restrooms.

He asked where "honesty" was from the school department.

Mr. Carr said the project should have gone before Planning Board and ZBA, both boards he is on, but was "kicked down the road."

Not it is a "huge item" with lots of contention between the ZBA and the school department.

"That's not the fault of the ZBA," said Mr. Carr. "It's the fault of the School Department."

He said the burden of proof is on the

School Department to explain why the building is in the southwest corner instead of the northwest corner.

Rebutting the idea that parking spaces would be lost if the building were at that end of the property, Mr. Carr noted that there are two storage containers that will be removed if the building is completed, which will free up some spaces.

Erin Carr, who owns the Seaspray with her father, read about the Dover Amendment, saying the town still had some enforcement authority. She said the high school is the "gem of our town," and should be respected.

A student athlete spoke in favor of the project saying equipment is stored all around the high school. Having it in one place near the field would be much better for athletes.

At one point, Mr. DaSilva referred to the building as a "monstrosity."

Mr. Rosen asked that the chair not call

it that.

Someone in the room said it was a monstrosity. Mr. Rosen said someone in audience can say it, but not the chair.

Mr. DaSilva expressed a desire to continue the hearing, but the school department asked for a vote. He also said he would like to see the come to some kind of compromise.

Both sides noted that attorneys are being paid on both sides, but the money is coming from the same place: Fairhaven taxpayers.

In the end the required four members voted to revoke the permit, with Associate Member Derek Furtado, standing in for Mr. Carr, joining Peg Cook, Ruy DaSilva and Darryl Manchester to revoke. Amy Goyer voted "no."

Mr. Rosen said the School Department was likely to appeal the decision.

The meeting is available on demand at www.FairhavenTV.com

CARR: cont'd from page 3

however, noted later in the meeting that they had not actually discussed that option.

SB member Keith Silvia voted to allow Mr. Carr to participate, saying he had put in a lot of time and that things were not done right at the high school.

SB member Charles Murphy voted to

allow Mr. Carr to participate, saying he did not believe that \$198/ month was substantial. He did, however, encourage Mr. Carr to recuse himself, saying his business could suffer.

SB Chairperson Stasia Powers referred to the pages of documents saying there was a lot there and it was a clear conflict

of interest. She voted not to allow Mr. Carr's participation.

SB member Andrew Romano also voted not to allow the participation, noting that Mr. Carr said he would participate anyway.

The meeting is available on demand at www.FairhavenTV.com

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FIRE: cont'd from page 14
condolences to the Lyonnais family," said Chief Farland.

State Fire Marshal Davine said that electrical and heating fires are among the most common types of residential fires in Massachusetts. Last year, solid fuel heating equipment such as fireplaces, wood stoves, and chimneys contributed to 541 house fires, while electrical events contributed to 682.

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SELECT: cont'd from page 3

two questions of both candidates. It was Mr. Samia's background in finance and his experience having worked in Fairhaven on a consultant basis that tipped the votes in his favor.

All five board members noted Mr. Samia's strength with finances and creating a budget as his strong points. They also noted that Mr. Hanley had some great ideas for reeling in the budget.

In the end, though, the board voted 4-1 to choose Mr. Samia, noting that the town's main concern is budget season and a budget that is going to be extremely difficult to balance.

SB member Andrew Romano cited a number of reasons he preferred Mr. Hanley, including his ideas for saving money. Mr. Romano also said they could still use Mr. Samia as a consultant.

Mr. Romano noted that Mr. Samia used "outdated" terms, such as when he said unless you have a turban on your head, you cannot know what will happen.

Other board members agreed that Mr. Hanley's ideas were very good and looked to the future, however, the town needed to get through this very difficult budget season, which is an immediate challenge.

Mr. Samia also made it clear he had no intentions of applying for the permanent TA position.

Mr. Hanley was unclear about that during his interview, but stated in the meeting, after the choice was made, that he did intend to apply for the permanent TA position in Fairhaven.

At its meeting on 12/30, the board announced they had come to a financial agreement with Mr. Samia and he would be in the office on 1/6.

Obituary

Elizabeth Morse Read

Elizabeth Morse Read, 73, of Fairhaven died peacefully on Friday December 13, 2024. She was born in New Bedford and lived in New York

before settling in Fairhaven. She is survived by her sisters and children. A memorial will be held in private at her residence. Arrangements were by the Saunders-Dwyer Mattapoisett Home for Funerals.

Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven

Board of Public Works

Mon., 1/13 Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Capital Planning Comm.

Fri., 1/10, Arsene St., 12:30 p.m.

Commission on Disability

Thurs., 1/9, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Conservation Commission

1/27, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Council on Aging

Tues., 1/14, Sr. Ctr., 9 a.m.

Planning Board

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

School Committee

Wed., 1/22, FHS Lib., 6:30 p.m.

Select Board

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

Acushnet

Planning Board

Thurs., 1/9, Parting Ways, 6 p.m.

Board

Tues., 1/21, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Jan. 2025	HIGH a.m. p.m.	LOW a.m. p.m.	
Thursday	9	0330 1601	1015 2129	
Friday	10	0436 1705	1136 2243	
Saturday	11	0532 1758	--- 1234*	
		---	---	2344
Sunday	12	0621 1845	---	1332*
Monday	13	0707 1932	0036 1424*	
Tuesday	14	0753 2020	0132 1459*	
Wednesday	15	0839 2106	0221 1517*	
Thursday	16	0922 2149	0253 1525*	
Friday	17	1004 2232	0322 1543*	
Saturday	18	1048 2318	0352 1609	
Sunday	19	1135 ---	0427* 1641	
Monday	20	0007 1226	0509 1721	
Tuesday	21	0057 1315	0605 1813	

*= 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"

ACUSHNET CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Acushnet Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 15, 2025 beginning at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room, located at 122 Main Street, Acushnet, Massachusetts.

• **Public Hearing – RDA – James Souza / 183 Mattapoisett Road, Map 10, Lot 12 A** Request for Determination was filed by James Souza for property located at 183 Mattapoisett Road, Map 10, Lot 12. The applicant proposes to replace the existing septic tank with a 1,500-gallon concrete septic tank and install a new chamber type leaching area within the 100-ft. buffer zone to a bordering vegetated wetland. The applicant is represented by David M. Davignon of Schneider, Davignon & Leone, Inc. Plan name is "Sewage Disposal System Repair Plan" dated December 13, 2024.

• **Public Hearing – NOI – Matthew Botelho / 231 Mattapoisett Road, Map 10, Lot 14.14ASE 001-XXXX A** Notice of Intent was filed by Matthew Botelho for property located at 231 Mattapoisett Road, Map 10, Lot 14.14A. The applicant proposes to construct a single-family house with a septic system, roof area infiltration system, well, associated grading and a small portion of the paved driveway within the 100-ft. buffer zone to a bordering vegetated wetland. The applicant is represented by Alfons Koka of KBM Design Group, LLC. Plan name is "Proposed Single Family Dwelling Site Plan" dated December 16, 2024.

Mark Minton, Acushnet Conservation Agent
FNN, 1/9/25

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN Notice of uncashed checks

Notice of Names of Persons Appearing to be Owners of Payroll Checks issued by Town of Fairhaven, which have not been cashed and are Deemed Abandoned.

Dana Almeida, Caitriona Andre, Destiny Andrews, Erika Benevides, Joseph Borges, Nicholas Carvalho, Kyle Daponte, Nicolas Elliott, Jenna Gifford, Ethan Horsley, Adam Katz, Tobias Lawrence, April Morris, Robert Orr, Connor Powers, Corey Pietraszek, Nathaniel Soares, Brayden Souza

Letters are being sent to every single employee to fill out the form. If you would like to obtain information or are interested in receiving a replacement check, please send a written request to the Town of Fairhaven, Treasurer's Office, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719 within 90 Days.

FNN, 1/9/25

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 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.

Elisabeth E. Horan, Interim Town Clerk, Fairhaven
FNN, 1/9/25

TOWN OF ACUSHNET

The Acushnet Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Meeting Room located at 122 Main Street Acushnet. VERIZON NEW ENGLAND INC. and NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY d/b/a EVER-SOURCE ENERGY request permission to relocate poles, wires, cables and fixtures including the necessary anchors, guys and other such sustaining and protecting fixtures to be owned and used in common by our petitioners, along and across the following public way or ways:

MAIN STREET:

Replace one (1) jointly owned pole numbered T.120/103 / E.120/103 on the Southeast side of Main Street at a point approximately thirty-six (36) feet Northeast from the existing pole numbered T.120/103 / E.120/103. The replaced pole will more particularly be located approximately twenty (20) feet Northeast

of the intersection of Main Street and Evergreen Drive.
Reason: This work is required to provide for the distribution of intelligence and telecommunications and the transmission of high and low voltage electric current.

Board of Selectmen
Robert Hinckley, Chairman
David Wojnar, Member
Kevin Gaspar, Sr., Member
FNN, 1/9/25

Notice of Claim of Adverse Possession

I, Joseph Barroso/Shaleah Tousignant, give public notice as follows:

1. We are in actual possession of the premises legally described as follows: Parcel Number: FAIR M:00029c L:00096 S: Property Location: c/o 84 Seaview Ave, Fairhaven, Massachusetts Republic, 02719.
2. Adverse entry was made on this land by Joseph Barroso/Shaleah Tousignant on August 15, 2016 and I have been in actual possession of this land continuously since August 15, 2016
3. This possession is, and for all of such period of time has been, adverse to any claim of any other person, including Jeremiah Joseph Coonen
4. We are the only living person(s) who has claimed any part of the above mentioned land/premises and has made improvements thereon.
5. We are now the owner of the above-mentioned land/premises and have the legal and lawful right to remain the owner for the full statutory period prescribed by Massachusetts Law.
6. This Notice of Claim of Adverse Possession does not and isn't intended to Slander Title to the above mentioned land/premises. It is solely intended to establish my Adverse Possession claim.

Dated: 1/9/25, Joseph Barroso/Shaleah Tousignant, In Propria Persona Sui Juris All Rights Reserved Without Prejudice UCC 1-308

FNN, 1/9/25

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From our readers

Renewable Energy Must Not Come at the Expense of Community Rights

The transition to clean energy is critical for reducing dependence on fossil fuels and combating climate change. However, this shift must be implemented responsibly, ensuring that communities are not burdened with unintended consequences. Placing industrial wind turbines in residential neighborhoods is not just poor planning, it can infringe upon the rights and well-being of those who live there.

While wind turbines symbolize progress in renewable energy, they also pose significant challenges when located too close to homes. Noise pollution, shadow flicker, and health concerns are not abstract nuisances but documented issues. Low-frequency noise disrupts sleep and increases stress, while shadow flicker can cause migraines and even trigger seizures in sensitive individuals. These effects erode residents' ability to enjoy peace and security in their own homes.

Fairhaven offers a case study in what happens when turbines are poorly sited. The existing turbines

have demonstrated reliability and maintenance failures, along with negative community impacts. Proposing even larger turbines without addressing these concerns risks making the situation worse. A better alternative exists — solar energy. Solar farms provide clean energy without noise, flicker, or visual disruption, making them a more compatible option for residential areas.

Globally, there are models of responsible renewable energy development. In the Netherlands, wind turbines are strategically placed in industrial zones or greenfields, away from homes. This approach expands renewable infrastructure without disrupting communities. We should follow a similar principle — prioritizing locations that do not compromise residents' quality of life.

At the core of this issue is community consent. Impact studies can be influenced by those conducting them, making it essential that residents closest to these projects have a direct say. A local vote among those living within three miles of proposed turbines would ensure the voices of those most affected carry real weight in the decision-making process.

Advocating for responsible energy development requires a fact-based approach. Overstating concerns weakens credibility, while distinguishing between appropriate offshore wind projects and problematic residential turbine placements strengthens the argument. Offshore wind has proven successful, but industrial turbines in neighborhoods are a different challenge entirely.

Renewable energy is necessary, but it must not come at the cost of community health and well-being. Wind turbines do not belong in residential areas when better alternatives exist. We must pursue solutions like solar farms and thoughtful wind turbine placement, ensuring that clean energy benefits everyone without harm.

I encourage residents to attend the upcoming Selectboard meeting (1/13/25) and advocate for a process that respects both environmental progress and community rights. Together, we can achieve a sustainable future that aligns with the values and integrity of our town.

*Eric R. Dawicki, MPA, President,
Northeast Maritime Institute —College
of Maritime Science*

Hanukkah/Kwanzaa paddle celebrates everyone



Lynne Israelson Mason took to the water on her stand-up paddle on New Year's Day (brrrr) to celebrate the holidays. She took her Hanukkah Menorah and Kwanzaa decoration to celebrate the two holidays that ended on New Year's Day and paddled out into the harbor from the Pease Street boat ramp.

Lynne loves to celebrate all holidays. In the decoration she is wearing, you can see the word "Umoja," which is Swahili for "unity," the first of the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa.

LEFT: Lynne Israelson Mason takes to the water in New Bedford-Fairhaven Harbor on New Year's Day, 2025, with decorations celebrating Hanukkah and Kwanzaa that both ended on New Year's Day this year.

Submitted photos.

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