



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

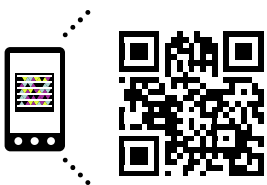
Volume 20, Issue 4 • January 16, 2025

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

Acushnet Fairhaven fourth-graders winning big



The Acushnet/Fairhaven 4th Grade Metrowest team improved to an unblemished 5-0 this season with their win over Dighton/Rehoboth on Saturday 1/11/25 at Hastings Middle School. Front row L-R: Conor Pacheco, Nolan Hevey, Brantley Soucy, Owen Sullivan, Jack Tavares. Back row L-R: Coach Nate Silva, Jameson Silva, Rex Lee, Hudson Desroches, Head Coach Scott Tavares. See page 12. *Photo by Bruce 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

Oh...what a marathon meeting that was (see page 4). The Fairhaven Select Board heard from lots of residents this week. We tried to sum it up, but, might be fun to watch that one. Don't worry, the first hour and ten minutes or so was executive session. You can fast forward, right?

We also have fun stuff in here.

The cover shot was a surprise. My cousin, Bruce, was shooting the game for the fourth-graders, who are undefeated so far. They deserve to be on the cover, dontchathink? See page 12 for some more cool pics of the game.

The election season is heating up. We have the potential for a few contested races. Of course, that's not real until people return the papers. But, pulling the papers is the first step. So...let's go. See page 5 for a summary of what's what in Fairhaven. Acushnet's local election later in the year, so they haven't started yet.

So, a couple of residents decided to start a new initiative this year (can you say "grassroots"?). They wanted to make everyone feel welcome to celebrate their own holidays this season without feeling out of place if it wasn't Christmas decorations. So, they sent an email to some people encouraging them to display decorations for Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and other holidays. The result was that some people who felt uncomfortable displaying their non-Christmas decorations, felt they could express themselves this year. I hope this trend continues and expands next year.

No one in this country should be uncomfortable displaying symbols of their religion. It truly upsets me that some Jewish families felt that way.

Only Nazis should feel that way. Forever and always.

Let's hope we can buck the national trend and stop that foolishness. Support your neighbors. We're all facing the same crap. Let's try to make it easier on each other.

Until next week then, see ya

*Glory to Ukraine!
Glory to the Heroes!*

Support local journalism

No one does local like a local newspaper. And it does not get more local than the *Neighb News*. Any small amount will help. Just clip the coupon and send check or money order to *Fairhaven Neighborhood News*, 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719. Ask for a bumper sticker that says "I Support the *Neighb News*." And thank you for reading *the little paper with a big voice*.

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Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Volume 20, Issue 4

Thursday, January 16, 2025

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Editor: Beth David

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our story on the retirement of Lt. Sobral, we mixed up the names on one of the photos. The caption should have read: L-R: Tammy Sobral, David, Matthew holding his daughter, Nathan, Chris.

We apologize for any confusion our error may have caused.

MLK events this weekend, and coming up

Monday, 1/20/25, is Martin Luther King, Jr., Day. Here are few events honoring the legacy of Dr. King, a national leader in the Civil Rights movement, who was assassinated in 1968. To learn more about the life and legacy of Dr. King, visit <https://the.kingcenter.org>. The national theme for 2025 is "Mission Possible: Protecting Freedom, Justice, and Democracy in the Spirit of Nonviolence365."

New Bedford

The City of New Bedford presents the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Community Program, Bridging Divides: The Legacy of Hope, on Sun., 1/19, 3-4:30 p.m., at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 136 Rivet St., New Bedford (entrance on County Street).

Keynote speaker is Dr. Melanie Edwards-Tavares, President and CEO of the SouthCoast Community Foundation. Creative Expression contest winners and special performances by Candida Rose, Aaliyah Turner, Bree LeFavor, Deolinda Mendes, Elario Burgo, Elliot Talley, and more.

Sponsored by: City of New Bedford Department of Community Services,

Human Rights Commission.

23rd Annual MLK Breakfast

Each year, UMass Dartmouth hosts a special event to honor and celebrate the enduring legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The event will feature student performances, readings, and a keynote address from esteemed speaker Imari K. Paris Jeffries, Ph.D., as a tribute to Dr. King's vision, leadership, and commitment to equality and justice, on Frid., 1/31, The Marketplace, 285 Old Westport Rd., Dartmouth.

Admission for students, faculty, and staff is complimentary. However, since seating is limited, you must register for the event at <https://tinyurl.com/7skbyed9>

Community guests can purchase tickets for \$35.

Event Highlights

Imari K. Paris Jeffries, Ph.D., is the President and CEO of Embrace Boston, where he is leading a citywide racial equity transformation through The Embrace monument, the Embrace Center, and ongoing community

organizing efforts. Imari is also a member of the University of Mass. Board of Trustees.

Imari brings a wealth of experience from the nonprofit management, racial equity, community activism, education reform, and social justice sectors and has served in executive roles at Parenting Journey, Jumpstart, Boston Rising, and Friends of The Children. Imari was recently named one of Boston's most Influential Bostonians by Boston Magazine and the Boston Business Journal's Power 50. He is a four-time graduate of UMass Boston and received his Ph.D. through UMass Boston's Higher Education Program in June 2023.

The morning will feature a full breakfast, remarks from Chancellor Mark A. Fuller and UMassD students, and live musical performances. Breakfast is sponsored by the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion.

The Marketplace is located across from the Campus Center and above the Frederick Douglass Unity House. Parking is available in Lots 5 and 6.



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Select Board holds marathon meeting on Wind Turbines, Tree

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Select Board held a marathon meeting on Monday, 1/13/25 with a long agenda that included more than an hour talking about wind turbines; an hour or more on a tree removal, and more than an hour in executive session.

About 20 residents showed up to voice their opposition to the proposal by Sumul Shah of Palmer Capital/Fairhaven Wind, the owner/operator of the two wind turbines (WTs) near the Wastewater Treatment Plant on Arsene Street.

Mr. Shah has appeared before the board asking for a change to the contract, and was asked to attend the 1/13 meeting with more information.

Mr. Shah said he sent the board members the detailed information they asked for, but they did not get all the information. Mr. Shah made his presentation of the materials, and many residents spoke in opposition.

Mr. Shah is asking the board to change rate the town pays the company for transmission and distribution costs. In the current

contract, the rate varies. Mr. Shah said he needs a constant rate so he can get financing to refurbish the turbines.

The WTs use an old technology and maintenance and repairs are getting more difficult. The company wants to replace the top of the turbines and replace the generator and associated equipment with updated technology.

Neighbors complained about the noise, and noted that a construction project has begun clearing trees near the WTs, eliminating what little buffer they had from sound and shadow flicker.

Ann Ponichtera DeNardis told the board that when the project was first presented to the town in 2024, it was going to be "the greatest thing since sliced bread."

"We were sold a bill of goods then," said Ms. DeNardis, and they are doing the same now.

She and other residents complained about the noise, a drop in property values because of the WTs, and questionable revenue received by the town.

Ms. DeNardis accused the company of being dishonest on a number of fronts, including how often the shut off turbines to mitigate sound, and how much the town is actually making from them.

"It's the same old song and dance, my friend," said John Methia, adding that the room would not be filled if people actually got used to the sound and flicker.

He encouraged the board to use an independent contractor for any studies and not to believe anything Mr. Shah said.

"They have not been a good partner, nor have they been a good neighbor," said Mr. Methia.

SB member Andrew said the board was not voting to take down the WTs, they were voting to amend the contract.

One resident said that it seemed clear to him that the WTs would not last till the end of the contract if the board votes not to amend the contract.

"So in essence that is what you're voting for and what I would ask you to

SELECT: cont'd to page 16



**UU Society of Fairhaven
welcomes all!**


10 a.m. Jan. 19: "The Final
Sermon of the Rev. Dr. Martin
Luther King Jr."

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

Susan Jennings, Faith Formation director

The Rev. Maria Uitti McCabe

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



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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 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; Incumbent Anne Morton Smith has taken out papers or her seat on the BPW, but had not returned them; Rick Trapilo had taken out papers for Select Board; Kelly Ochoa has taken out papers for School Committee and returned them; Natalie Mello has taken out papers for Select Board; Sean Powers has taken out papers for Planning Board; Incumbent Cathy Melanson has taken out papers for her seat on the Planning Board.

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.

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 (ARSB) 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://tinyurl.com/9taexs5n>

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

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

YTI Production

Your Theatre Inc. presents RED, John Logan's Tony Award-winning play about artist Mark Rothko. 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, Jan. 17-18 and 24-25 at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays, Jan. 18-19 & 25-26 at 2 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 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

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

RJD Free to Acush

The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum (RJD) is welcoming visitation from Acushnet residents by offering free admission for the month of January 2025. Ring in the new year with a visit to one of New Bedford's most grand whaling estates.

Upon arrival, individuals are asked to produce proof of residency with a piece of current mail, or I.D. For more information about hours of operation and current exhibitions, visit the Museum's website, rjdmuseum.org.

Women On Target

Sun., 2/23, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at New Bedford Rifle and Revolver Club, 246 Bolton St., New Bedford, MA 02744

Women's Instructional Shooting Clinic. Come join us and receive a basic level of firearm safety instruction so that you will know how to safely handle firearms.

Then under the direct supervision of Certified Firearms Instructors, you will enjoy some hands on experience with both revolvers and semi-automatic handguns. This clinic is FREE for any woman. Learn the safe and proper Way to handle firearms.

This event does NOT fulfill the requirements to obtain your Massachusetts LTC License

Class is limited to 45 participants. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/48tmehnt> at least one week before the event. For info contact Michael DaRoza 508-294-4082

SAVE THE DATE:

Lebanese Hafli

Our Lady of Purgatory Church presents their annual St. Maron's Feast Day Hafli on Sat., 2/1, at OLOP Church Hall, 4254 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford. Featuring cash bar & mezza at 7 p.m.; dinner served at 8. Live entertainment by Rami Badr and Bachir Khoury Band.

Tickets: Dance floor seating, \$100 (all ages); general seating, \$75; Children (8-17), \$40; under 8, N/C.

For tickets, contact the church office, 508-996-8934; Sousou Maalouf, 508-916-1523.

Hot Cocoa Hike

A Hike, Hot Cocoa, a Campfire and a Craft. Connect with Nature with the Mattapoissett Land Trust

Looking for something to do on Monday January 20 to get you and the kids out of the house and into the woods? The Mattapoissett Land Trust is combining two of its most popular events into one to celebrate Martin Luther King Day!

Won't you join us at 1PM at the Oliver Wendell Holmes Junior Foundation on Angelica Ave for our popular Hot Chocolate Hike. We will take a slow and easy 45 minute hike through the Old Aucoot District Woods. We'll return to the foundation for a campfire and hot chocolate, and an opportunity for your family to make a pine cone bird feeder to hang in your yard. Instructions and materials will be provided.

It's the perfect event for the family to get out of the house and into Nature! Please dress for the weather and wear sturdy shoes. Only the worst weather will cancel an MLT hike!

No RSVP required for this free hike. Email manager@mattlandtrust.org or call 774-377-9191 with any questions. Check our Facebook page for any event updates.

Ocean Encounters

Ice Insights from frozen frontiers on Earth and beyond. Wed., 1/22, 7:30 p.m., webinar.

Frozen landscapes have captivated imaginations for generations. But what kinds of life can survive in these harsh environments? What can ice tell us about Earth's past—and future? And what could we discover by peering beneath the thick, icy surface of ocean worlds elsewhere in our solar system? Join three WHOI researchers as we explore these questions and more

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/mus52thd>

Visit <https://www.who.edu/>

GOP Mattapoissett

The Mattapoissett Republican Town Committee welcomes members, guests and community members to join us on Thurs., 1/23 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM to attend our monthly meeting. At 7:00 pm we are excited to welcome local resident, Steve Miller, to present his personal slide show on

three historical events from his travels to Washington D.C. The slideshow will feature November 2020 Stop the Steal, January 6 Election Certification Debacle and January 20, 2025 Trump Inauguration. The location is at the Niemad Facility, 57 Fairhaven Rd., Mattapoissett, MA.

You will not want to miss this unique opportunity to view snapshots unfolding the story of such momentous events. Come join us to celebrate. There will be light snacks, cash bar and good conversation.

If you have any questions contact Paul Criscuolo, Chairperson PCMattyGOP@proton.me

EZ Drive Scam

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is once again reminding customers to be mindful of text message-based scams, also known as smishing. The scammers are claiming to represent the tolling agency and requesting payment for unpaid tolls.

MassDOT urges customers to be cautious about email, text, and phone scams demanding payment of outstanding toll balances. Some attempts have been made to trick customers into sharing credit card numbers and other sensitive information by directing them to a website to pay their outstanding balances. MassDOT strongly encourages customers not to click the link contained in those messages.

MassDOT is underscoring that:

- EZDriveMA will never request payment by text.
- All links associated with EZDriveMA will include www.EZDriveMA.com

The EZDrive "smishing" scam is part of a series of smishing scams which the FBI is aware of. Smishing is when unscrupulous actors send deceptive text messages to get someone to reveal confidential or financial information.

The FBI recommends individuals that receive the fraudulent messages do the following:

- File a complaint with the IC3, www.ic3.gov and be sure to include: a) the phone number from where the text originated; b) the website listed within the text.
- Check your account using the toll service's legitimate website.
- Contact the toll service's customer

service phone number, 877-627-7745.

- Delete any smishing texts received.
- If you clicked any link or provided your information, take efforts to secure your personal information and financial accounts. Dispute any unfamiliar charges.

MassDOT encourages all customers to stay alert to these types of scams and to contact EZDriveMA at www.EZDriveMA.com with any questions about notifications.

Play

The Marion Art Center presents *Sailing Towards My Father - Herman Melville* performed by Stephen Collins. The only performance will be Fri., 1/24 at 6:30pm at the MAC's Anne Braitmayer Webb Theater at 80 Pleasant St, Marion.

Sailing Towards My Father, written and directed by Carl A. Rossi, is a one-man play about Herman Melville (1819-1891), the American author best known for his whaling epic *Moby-Dick*. The play chronicles Melville's life from youth to old age, concentrating on his evolution as a writer and his complex relations with God, his parents and siblings, his wife and children, and Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Tickets are \$15 for members, \$18 for non-members, and \$10 for students under 18. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit marionartcenter.org/events.

Auditions

Bill Hanney's Theatre By the Sea announces Equity and Non-Equity Adult Auditions for its 2025 Summer Season. Seeking strong singers, dancers, and actors. Performers must be available for all rehearsal and performance dates. Local talent is strongly encouraged to audition for the following productions: *Always... Patsy Cline* to be presented from May 28 – June 21 (Please note: The roles of Patsy Cline and Louise Seger have been cast. Seeking understudy to cover both roles); *Waitress* to be presented from June 25 – July 19; *Hairspray* to be presented from July 23 – August 16; *Heartbreak Hotel* to be presented from Aug. 20 – Sept. 14

Auditions will be held on Saturday, January 25 and Sunday, January 26, 2025, at: The Talent Factory, 46 Frenchtown Road, North Kingstown, RI 02852. Find more info at <https://www.theatrebythesea.com>

Ochoa announces run for School Committee

Dear residents of Fairhaven,
My name is Kelly McGowan Ochoa and I am running for one of the seats on the School Committee.

I have been a lifelong resident of the South Coast and raised my children here in Fairhaven. I am well qualified to represent the residents of Fairhaven on the school committee. Let me share some of the reasons why.

Education is one of the best gifts we can give our children. I believe that all students have the right to receive the best possible education and opportunities. Being an educator for over 30 years, I feel like I can bring a new perspective to the school committee.

I have also been an active participant in our town as an elected town meeting member for several years. Currently I am a member of the

town's Belonging Committee. I feel that, with this experience, I have demonstrated the leadership qualities needed to be a school committee member.

As a school committee member I will work to ensure that the school system meets the evolving needs of students and families.

One of the jobs of a school committee is to ensure responsible and transparent use of school funds and to ensure that taxpayer money is being used effectively. My experience as a town meeting member, voting on the annual budget and other financial matters and as a taxpayer I am able and committed to being that voice.

Over 30 years ago, I served as a Peace Corps volunteer working in Honduras. One of the things that I did while working with teachers there

was to find creative ways to develop materials for their classrooms with little to no money. This is a lesson that has never left me. As a teacher now, I am always seeking creative ways to enhance my lessons with little to no money. And as a member of the School Committee I will do the same.

As an educator, I know that it is important to promote a safe, healthy, and welcoming school environment for everyone. I would like to be a voice for change and progress in Fairhaven while working to ensure that the school system meets the evolving needs of students and families.

I hope you will consider voting for me for School Committee on April 7th.

Sincerely, Kelly M. Ochoa

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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: 1/22, Providence Place Mall; 1/29, South Shore Plaza; 2/5, Tiverton Casino; 2/12, Warwick Mall; 2/19, Providence Place.

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 Matinee

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 lifelong 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.

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.

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

Cream Cheese Cookies

1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
 1/2 c unsalted butter, room temp
 4 oz cream cheese, room temp
 1 cup granulated sugar
 1 egg, room temperature
 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
 Powdered sugar, optional, to taste,
 for garnish

Whisk together the flour, the salt, and the baking powder in a medium bowl.

Using a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment or an electric hand mixer, cream the butter and the cream cheese together.

Add the sugar to the creamed butter mixture and beat until light and fluffy.

Add the egg and the vanilla to the butter mixture and mix until combined.

Scrape down the sides of the bowl and mix one more time.

Add the dry mixture to the wet mixture and mix on low speed until just combined.

Using a spatula, give the mixture one last mix.

Cover and chill the dough for at least 1 hour.

Preheat the oven to 375°.

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Dampen your hands slightly, as the dough will be sticky. Portion the dough into 2-tablespoon-sized balls.

Place the dough balls on the prepared baking sheet about 2 inches apart.

Bake until the edges are set and just turn golden, about 10 minutes.

Serve garnished with the powdered sugar.



Florida and asked they let her know what they wanted.

Most of the stuff nobody wanted, and some of the stuff they all wanted. She can't believe no one wanted some of the items passed down by the family, like the cuckoo clock and grandma's sewing machine table. Now, she doesn't know how to handle who gets the stuff they all want.

My dad offered a few suggestions, and she accused him of favoring Joseph, the only boy in the family. They haven't been talking since. The siblings have also been calling and threatening my mom by saying if they don't get an item grandma said was theirs before she died, don't plan on them for Christmas.

My mom is a wreck. It's only stuff. Why is stuff such a big deal for humans? On a personal note, I'm thrilled they are leaving my doghouse.

Felix

Dear Frankie

It's Just Stuff

Dear Frankie,
 My parents are selling our house and moving to a much smaller condo in Florida. My mom texted my siblings with a list of things they would not be moving to

Dear Felix,

Stuff is an addiction for some humans. Just look at the amount of credit card debt and the amount of stuff you see in the dumps, in recycling plants, floating a mile long in the ocean, and the thrift stores filled with a gazillion tee shirts, furniture, and household items.

For other humans, stuff represents status, indicated by the desired logo on their handbag, shirt, or luggage.

Some humans cherish stuff because it belongs to someone special to them.

I'm sure there are many more reasons why the humans want and don't want all kinds of stuff. Suggest to your mom that your siblings draw a number, and the person who draws the number one gets to pick first, number two draws second, etc., until everything is gone, and call it a day.

Good news on the dog house.

Best, Frankie

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Comments and letters can be sent to Frankie at dearfrankiecolumn@gmail.com. The Fairhaven Neighborhood News

FRANKIE: cont'd on page 17



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Mark Sylvia sworn in as state rep

Press Release

State Representative Mark D. Sylvia (D-Fairhaven) was officially sworn in on January 1, 2025, as a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives and the 194th General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Rep. Sylvia succeeds former Representative William Straus, who retired after 32 years of distinguished service to the 10th Bristol District.

“I am ready to get to work on the issues that matter most to our district,” said Rep. Sylvia. “I am deeply grateful for this incredible opportunity and thank everyone who supported me along the way.”

Rep. Sylvia brings a wealth of experience to Beacon Hill. He previously served as Town Manager in Plymouth and spent six years in the Patrick Administration, where he played a pivotal role in advancing public policy initiatives. Additionally, he has served as Town Moderator in Fairhaven for over a decade and has 10 years of private-sector experience in the energy industry. His extensive background in government and



Mass. state Rep. Mark D. Sylvia (D-Fairhaven), was sworn in on 1/1/25, succeeding Rep William Straus, who retired after 32 years. Submitted photo.

business will be an invaluable asset in his new role.

A lifelong resident of Fairhaven, Rep. Sylvia is honored to represent the 10th Bristol District, which includes Precincts 1 and 2A of the town of Acushnet; the town of Fairhaven; Ward 1, Precincts A, B, and C1 of the city of New Bedford, all in the county of Bristol; and the towns of Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester, all in the county of Plymouth.

As his first act as State Representative, Rep. Sylvia is excited to announce the appointment of Betty DeBenedictis as his Legislative Director. Betty is an experienced legislative professional, having spent eighteen years in the House of Representatives working for former Rep. Tom Calter (D-Kingston) and former Rep. Matt Muratore (R-Plymouth).

Rep. Sylvia commented that “Betty’s experience, accomplishments, approachability and her reputation among her colleagues in the House, are exactly what we need to hit the ground running for the people of the 10th Bristol District.

Constituents can contact Rep. Sylvia at (617) 722-2800 ext. 7320 or via email at Mark.Sylvia@mahouse.gov. Betty can be contacted at Betty.DeBenedictis@mahouse.gov.

For more information about his legislative priorities, to request a meeting, or to stay updated on his work, visit <https://malegislature.gov/Legislators/Profile/MDS1>. Follow him on Facebook, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter) for updates.

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Basketball fourth-graders winning big this season

By Beth David
Editor

Acushnet Fairhaven Basketball, which plays in the Metrowest Basketball Association, is made up of kids from the elementary and middle school. This year's fourth-graders are winning big, hitting a 5-0 record after their 48-10 win on Saturday, 1/11/25, against Dighton-Rehobeth at Hastings Middle School in Fairhaven.

Jameson Silva led his team in scoring with 16* points.

"They are an absolute machine today," said one observer.

The team, coached by Scott Tavares and Nate Silva, has won by an average of 30 to 40 points this season.

Their next game is on Saturday, 1/18, against Westport at Hastings Middle School, at 3:10 p.m.

You go kids, you go. We're rooting for you.

To learn more about the league and get the schedule, visit <https://metrowestbball.com/launch.php>

*Fixes error from previous versions



TOP: Head coach Scott Tavares goes over a play with his Acushnet Fairhaven Basketball League fourth-grade team during a timeout at the Metrowest League game against Dighton-Rehobeth at Hastings Middle School on Saturday, 1/11/25, when the AFBL team won in convincing fashion 48-10. ABOVE LEFT: AFBL's Jameson Silvagoes up with a jump shot while teammate Jack Tavares gets ready to crash the boards. ABOVE RIGHT: AFBL's Brantley Soucy fires a pass upcourt. BELOW LEFT: AFBL's Conor Pacheco goes hard to the basket during the third quarter. BELOW MIDDLE: AFBL's Brantley Soucy fakes a shot against a Dighton/Rehoboth defender. BELOW RIGHT: AFBL's Jameson Silva (11) rises over his opponent to win the opening tip off. Photos by Bruce David



Rescued owl in Acushnet had to be euthanized

By Beth David
Editor

Acushnet Animal Control Officer, Becky Tomlinson, with the help of Douglas Layport, rescued a barred owl that was hit by a car on January 7.

Mr. Layport posted a few pictures on Facebook, writing that the owl was standing in Middle Road the day before, but then took off. The owls are

known for their camouflage abilities, so they could not find it that night.

The next morning, they were able to catch it and take it to the vet.

The bird suffered significant damage to its wing and a detached retina.

The owl was taken to Mattapoisett Animal Hospital and then to Cape Wildlife, where it was euthanized.

“Thank you Doug Layport for helping me getting this little guy to safety and out of harms way,” wrote Ms. Tomlinson on Facebook. “Also, thank you to Dr. Jill O’Brien and her staff at Mattapoisett Animal Hospital. Also thank you Cape Wildlife & all the rehabbers that help these helpless critters!”



LEFT & MIDDLE: A barred owl looks quite content in the arms of Acushnet Animal Control Officer Becky Tomlinson on 1/7/25 after it was injured when it was hit by a car, unfortunately, however, it had to be euthanized because its injuries were too severe. RIGHT: The owl seems to stare right at the photographer while eluding capture. Photos left & right Courtesy of Douglas Layport. Middle photo courtesy of Acushnet Animal Control.

Fairhaven resident donates item to Museum of Fine Arts

Press Release

The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, is pleased to announce the donation of an important 18th-century silver tankard, the gift of Fairhaven, Mass. resident Thomas E. Linzee, Jr. The tankard descended in Mr. Linzee’s family over the last 260+ years.

Made in the 1750s by noted Boston silversmith Samuel Minott (1732-1803), the form conforms to the standard size and shape in fashion at the time: straight, canted sides with a base molding, an applied mid-band, and a stepped, domed lid capped with a flame finial. A tall thumbpiece with scrolled top sits above a hollow s-curved handle decorated with applied cutwork and terminating in a plain circular, domed disk. Yet, this tankard has a highly unusual characteristic: it is engraved with not one, but two family coats of arms.

A coat of arms is a visual design that represents an individual or a family, and is usually composed of a group of symbols and shapes on a shield. The custom originated among European nobility in the Middle Ages when a king or queen bestowed the



This silver tankard, created around 1755 by noted Boston silversmith, Samuel Minott, was donated to the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, by Fairhaven resident Thomas E. Linzee, Jr. Photo © Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

“right to bear arms” to an individual or a family. In the British North American colonies, far from the central powers in London, numerous wealthy families used coats of arms to signify their status — some

legitimately, and others not. Both coats of arms on the silver tankard appear to be legitimately passed down in their respective families.

The first coat of arms on the tankard, belonging to the Cary family of Boston, features three roses with a swan crest and appears on the body of the piece opposite the handle above the mid-band. The second coat of arms represents the Soley family of Charlestown and includes three expertly engraved fish, with a fourth fish above a helmet for the crest. It is engraved directly beneath the Cary arms, below the mid-band.

Why would someone engrave two coats of arms on a tankard? After examination under high magnification, both are believed to have been applied in the 18th century, and each appears to be the work of at least two different hands. It is possible that the Soley crest was added to the tankard when John Soley (1722-1801) married Hannah Cary (ca. 1729-1798) in 1759, but we may never know for sure.

Mr. Linzee would like to thank his great grandmother, Katherine Codman Soley Spooner for gifting him the tankard.

Residents show support with Hanukkah/Kwanzaa decorations

Amy DeSalvatore

Special to the Neighb News

Thank-you Fairhaven:

I want to thank all the members of our community in the Fairhaven area that responded to a request to display Menorahs, and decorations for Hanukkah and Kwanzaa and other less represented holidays this past Holiday season.

At the December meeting of the local group "Fairhaven for All," it was noted that many Jewish families felt uncomfortable about displaying Hanukkah menorahs in their windows this year. Fairhaven for All sent emails out and asked folks as a show of support to consider putting a menorah, Kwanzaa and/or other holiday decorations. up. The intention was to make all members of our community feel safer* and more welcomed this year*. I think it worked!

One Jewish family said, "It made it so much easier to put my Menorah and Kwanzaa decorations in my windows this year with my neighbors doing the same. I felt welcomed, safe and accepted by my town. I am really touched by my neighbors' caring actions. Getting the emails about Lighting up Fairhaven with Menorahs and Kwanzaa decorations from Fairhaven for All, seeing the educational display of Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and Devali holidays by Jessica

Fidalgo at Town Hall, the contest tree #5 in front of our Town Hall with the Star of David garland, the Hanukkah sign at Benoit square, along with buying a Hanukkah themed craft at the Old Fashion Holiday Fair at F i r s t Congregation Church of Fairhaven, being able to purchase most of my Hanukkah & Holiday gifts at the Holiday Fair at the Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven and at our local Fairhaven shops, and then to top it off seeing the Gelette Road lights for the first time. All these Holiday events combined to make it a wonderful holiday community experience in Fairhaven for us."



A Hanukkah flag flies on a house in Fairhaven for the first time during the 2024 holiday season after an effort by residents to foster a welcoming atmosphere for all religions gave the owner the confidence to display the flag. Submitted photo.

M.D.C., Fairhaven
"First time I put my Menorah flag out in public."

R.A., Fairhaven
Another neighbor said, "I hope there will be even more Menorahs, Kwanzaa and decorations of less

included holidays next year."

M.L., Fairhaven
Thank-you to all those in our community that were able to respond so quickly to this request especially during the busy holiday season..

*<https://newbedfordlight.org/neonazis-on-south-coast-local-lgbtq-group-concerned-but-says-we-will-move-forward/>

*<https://newbedfordlight.org/hate-groups-flyers-target-new-bedford-neighborhood/>



LEFT: A Kwanzaa decoration is displayed in a window in Fairhaven during the 2024 holiday season as part of an effort by residents to foster a welcoming atmosphere for all religions. RIGHT: A Menorah display is outside on a front porch in Fairhaven. Submitted photos.



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vote for," he said.

The board did not take a vote to have more time to review the new material. The matter will be on the next agenda.

In another hot topic, the board discussed the removal of three trees on Union Street to allow Eversource to run larger capacity power lines as part of the project updating electricity at the Millicent Library.

The Board of Public Works, which includes the tree department, held a public hearing on 12/18/24. There was opposition to the removal of the trees, so the matter needed to go to the Select Board.

Highway Superintendent Joshua Crabb reminded the board that they had voted to approve the pole relocation.

Brian Mello, who is Eversource's project manager for the Millicent project, said he was hired to look at the alternatives. He and the engineers decided the most cost effective way was to run the lines along Union Street and remove the trees.

Residents objected to the removal of the two old oak trees, which are

healthy and provide shade. Residents also objected because they said they had no idea the trees were coming down until they saw the notice posted on the trees.

Michael Botelho said he did not feel Eversource looked at alternatives, but just chose the cheapest route.

Different options included running the lines underground.

Mr. Mello said Eversource does not care how they get the power to the building, the extra cost would be paid by the library, which received Community Preservation funds for the project. The cost is not being paid by Eversource.

Trees in the historic and picturesque center of town are an "important feature of our town," said Realtor Howe Allen, adding that property values are affected by aesthetics.

He said it all came to the attention of the neighbors when the metal pole went up on Union Street, adding he was surprised the board allowed that.

Board members said they had no idea the pole would be metal. They thought it would be a wooden one.

Jim Anderson submitted a letter to

the board, noting that no one could answer his questions at the 12/18 meeting. He said residents do not really have a say in the matter, and expressed his disappointment in it all being a rubber stamp or done deal.

Millicent Library trustee, John Whelan, said the cost to go underground would be about \$800,00. Any change in design would cause delays, and they would have to apply for more funds from the CPC.

Board of Trustees president, Kath Lopes, said they would be replacing the trees. She noted that the cost is not the library's as though it is a separate entity from the town. The money comes from taxpayers.

In the end the board voted to allow the trees to come down.

The board also:

- Announced new labor counsel: Jane Medeiros Friedman of Mead, Talerman & Costa.
- Convened in Executive Session to discuss litigation with the Rogers School and Rasputin's Tavern; and complaints or charges against Fire Chief Todd Correia.

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

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We've become, now, an oligarchy instead of a democracy. I think that's been the worst damage to the basic moral and ethical standards to the American political system that I've ever seen in my life.

Jimmy Carter

FRANKIE: cont'd from page 10
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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—Margaret Sullivan, “Ghosting The News”

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Thank you for reading the *Neighb News*.

Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven

Board of Public Works

Mon., 1/27 Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Capital Planning Comm.

Fri., 1/17, Arsene St., 12:30 p.m.

Community Preservation

Wed., 1/22, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Council on Aging

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

Planning Board

1/28, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

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

Select Board

Mon., 1/27, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet

Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety

Thrus., 1/16, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Select Board

Thurs., 1/16, Town Hall, 10:30 a.m.

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

Planning Commission

Thurs., 1/16, Parting Ways, 6 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

Jan. 2025		HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
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
Wednesday	22	0145	1405	0714	1911
Thursday	23	0236	1501	0814	2004
Friday	24	0336	1606	1114	2057
Saturday	25	0437	1704	1056	2156
Sunday	26	0527	1750	1123	2252
Monday	27	0609	1831	1157	2342
Tuesday	28	0650	1913	---	1235
Wednesday	29	0733	1958	0031*	1318*
Thursday	30	0818	2045	0123*	1404*
Friday	31	0905	2132	0217*	1446*

*= Predicted minus tides from -0.1 ft. to -1.0 ft
**Predicted minus tides from -1.1 ft to -2.0 ft or more

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"

Town of Fairhaven Marine Resources Department

40 Center St., Fairhaven, MA 02719

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on 02/10/2025 at the Select Board meeting, in the Banquet Room of Town Hall, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA at 6:30 pm at the request of Shawn Skinner of 12 Ocean Ave., Fairhaven, MA 02719. The named party is requesting permission to operate a two-acre Aquaculture Site for a three year lease. Objections to the site should be made in person or via zoom at this meeting. Proposed location: NW Lat: 41.6061713 Long: -70.8462899, NE Lat: 41.6059606 Long: -70.8451769, SW Lat: 41.6053579 Long: -70.8465488, SW Lat 41.6052124 Long: -70.8455440

Timothy Cox, Harbormaster/Shellfish Warden
FNN 1/16/25

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Fairhaven

Conservation Commission

Monday, January 27, 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. MGL, Ch. 30a, § 20(f) requires anyone that intends to record any portions of a public meeting, either by audio or video, or both, to notify the Chair at the beginning of the meeting.

Anyone wishing to access the meeting via remote means may do so in the following manner:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86953155076?pwd=VFdUQkhzdVYrNzJlQktlVj9XSgppZz09>
Meeting ID: 869 5315 5076
Passcode: 633695
Or call: 1-929-205-6099

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

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

- CON 023-481: 29 Shore Drive, Map 29C, Lot 613**
After-the-fact Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Brian Reis to raise flooded driveway area with gravel located within Flood Zone VE (E1.17) at Assessor's Map 29C, Lot 613.
- SE 023-1492, CON 023-482: 10 Wilbur's Point Drive, Map 43, Lots 81-83**
Notice of Intent filed by Lars Vinjerud to demolish existing cottage and build a dwelling in compliance with FEMA and Mass Building Code for construction within FEMA Flood Zone VE (E1.19) at Assessor's Map 43, Lots 81-83.
- SE 023-___, CON 023-483: Intersection of Mill Road ROW to 280 Bridge Street**
Notice of Intent filed by Karen Goodhue to extend an existing sewer line of approximately 880 L.F. from the intersection of Mill Road to service 3-house lots at 280 Bridge Street. The proposed work falls and within the Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and within the public right-of-way.

The agenda will be posted on the Town's website at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Copies of the applications and site plans 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 under current filings.

Karen Isherwood, Chair,
Fairhaven Conservation Commission
FNN: 1/16/25

Notice of Counter Claim of Adverse Possession Filed by Jeremiah Joseph Coonen

This Counter Claim is in response to the Adverse Possession claim published for Joseph Barroso and Sheleah Topusignant. It was published in the January 9th 2025 edition of the *Fairhaven Neighborhood News*.

You are not legally occupying the house located on 84 Seaview Ave. That house is under constant surveillance and it is not currently occupied. You have a known residence and it is not this property. And not even within the boundaries of Fairhaven Massachusetts.

After misleading neighbors on Seaview Avenue that you had permission to be on the property a neighbor called the owner and was told by the owner that you did not have permission to be on the property at 84 Seaview Ave in Fairhaven and they said they would make sure no squatting would occur.

So you were told to leave and from my last report you have not returned

Also you have not occupied or been in possession of the property continually for 20 years which is a requirement for a Claim of Adverse Possession.

In 2020 you had tried to execute and file a quit Claim deed on the property claiming as a Native American Indian you had a right to the property. A letter was sent to your Rhode Island address to cease and desist any further attempts to bully this property from the rightful owner.

The rightful owner has been paying property taxes since it was purchased in 1988. He has made upgrades to the property and it is not abandoned.

That letter sent to you in 2020 as well as testimony from neighbors as well as pictures of the property showing its vacancy will be provided to the court for them to take under advisement.

FNN, 1/16/25



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From our readers

Thank you from Friends of the Mattapoissett Library

The recent Annual Jewelry and Accessory Sale held by the Friends of the Mattapoissett Library sale was a tremendous success thanks to the support and generosity of the community. Thank you to all those that donated items, volunteered their time, and participated in the sale. A

special shout out to Caroline Percy Marcoux, Goldsmith/Graduate Gemologist of Fairhaven, who donated her time appraising, repairing and cleaning our fine jewelry, and to Village Signs of Mattapoissett for the banner. 100% of the proceeds will go to supporting library programs for children, teens, and adults, including the purchase of all museum, zoo, and park passes.

The Friends will be accepting donations of jewelry and accessories (in good condition) throughout the year, or until further notice. Please drop off your donations at the Mattapoissett Library circulation desk. Everyone's generosity supports the Library.

The Board of the Friends of the Mattapoissett Library, Frances-Feliz Kearns Acting Secretary

New safe boater education law signed

Press Release

On Wednesday, 1/8/25, Governor Maura Healey signed a safe boater bill establishing a boater education program, the Hanson-Milone Act (S3011 Amendment to H4941). This legislation will mandate that boat operators in the Commonwealth obtain a boater safety certificate. The legislation was first drafted over ten years ago by previous State Rep. Thomas Calter. It was most recently sponsored and championed by Rep. Kathleen LaNatra (Democrat 12th Plymouth) and former State Senator Susan Moran.

"I am so proud to see the Hanson-Milone Act finally become law," said State Rep. Kathleen LaNatra. "Massachusetts is home to some of the most beautiful waterways in the world. Still, too often, a day of fun on the water ends in tragedy because someone operates a boat without proper safety training; this legislation establishes a straightforward program to ensure anyone operating a boat in the Commonwealth has the necessary safety knowledge to keep themselves and others safe."

The new law will require all who operate a boat in the Commonwealth first to pass a boater safety test and be issued a boater safety certificate,

which must be present on the boat being operated at all times. The legislation provides certain exemptions to the requirements for individuals such as merchant mariners, active members of the Armed Forces who are qualified to operate motorboats, or students of a secondary or maritime school or college who operate motorboats as part of instruction. Individuals who previously possessed a boater safety certificate will not be required to receive another certificate or retake an examination. There are also inclusions for reciprocity for boaters with NASBLA-approved certificates from other states or MA boaters who already have a boater safety certificate.

"The signing of the Hanson Milone safe boating bill provides a gateway to further education for the recreational boating industry in Massachusetts, leading to lives saved on the waterways for years to come," said Mass. Marine Trades Association Executive Director Randall Lyons. "Thank you to many involved in passing the bill, especially Rep. LaNatra and Christopher Jean, her Chief of Staff, for their many years of working on this bill. Thank you also to Governor Healey, Lt. Governor Driscoll, Chairman Aaron Michlewitz, and Chairman Michael Rodrigues for their support and final approval of the bill. An element of the new law can be directly related to

a recent statistic released by the US Coast Guard: 'Where instruction was known, 75% of deaths occurred on boats where the operator did not receive boating safety education.' As the late great Paul Milone frequently said, 'Safe Boating is no Accident.'"

The bill is named after David Hanson, a young man who tragically lost his life in a boating accident in 2010, and Paul Milone, the late harbormaster from Weymouth who dedicated his life to boat safety and was a major proponent and advocate for this legislation.

The Hanson and Milone families have been strong advocates for passing this crucial legislation and were able to participate in the official announcement of the bill passing at an event at the Discover Boating New England Boat Show on Wednesday night.

Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll presented the signed bill to Lisa Milone, Paul's widow, and Eric Hanson, David's brother.

The timeline for implementation of the Hanson-Milone Act is as follows:

- Guidance will be published by the office of law enforcement no later than October 1, 2025
- Anyone born after January 1, 1989, has until April 1, 2026, to obtain their certificate, provided that no operator shall be assessed a penalty until September 1, 2026.
- Anyone born on or before January 1, 1989, must obtain their certificate before April 1, 2028.

For additional details on the bill, please visit, Amendment S.3011 (<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/S3011>)

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