



# Fairhaven

# Neighborhood News

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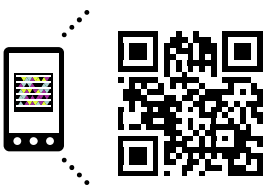
Volume 20, Issue 15 • April 3, 2025

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

## Candidates make last pitch to voters



Fairhaven Select Board candidates, Natalie Mello and Rick Trapilo, each answer a question during the candidates night sponsored by the Government Access Department in collaboration with the West Island Improvement Association on 3/27/25. See page 4 for stor. Photos 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.

It's game time!

The Fairhaven election is this Monday. And pretty much this whole issue is filled up with election stuff.

The candidates night story is a long one, but I broke it up into races for you. Each race actually deserves its own story. but we just don't have the extra week to split it up. See page 3 for the start of that recap.

And letters to the editor....pages of 'em. We even have a couple we'll put online because we just don't have the room for them.

And, I totally blew off the Select Board budget meeting that was supposed to go on page 3, but I used that page for the candidate night instead. Hopefully we'll get to that next week. Although, things have changed...

On deadline day, the Big Buffoon in DC decided to cut off \$106 million in funding to Massachusetts schools. So, keep that in mind as you read the candidate story about school funding. Candidates mentioned \$1 million less in funding if that happened, but I'm not sure how accurate that number is now that we have the amount that idiot is stealing from us. Yeah, stealing. This state gives way more in income taxes to the federal government than we get back. I think it's time to seriously stop sending them our money. I'd gladly give it directly to the state to stay here where we can use it for our own stuff like...oh, gee I don't know, schools? Highways? We shouldn't have to beg the feds when we give them way more than we get back to begin with. Let those other states who voted for this buffoon pay for his tax cuts to billionaires and his golf trips and corporate subsidies to his biggest campaign donor, oh and attacking Greenland of all places.

Meanwhile...VOTE on Monday 4/7. Polls are open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., at the Recreation Center

We also have a fun story about bottling wine on page 18, and some tips for an eco-friendly lawn on page 16.

Please notice who our advertisers are so you can tell them you saw their ads in the *Neighb News*.

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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# VOTE

Mon., 4/7, in Fairhaven

## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

# Candidates make final pitch to voters

By Beth David  
Editor

Fairhaven candidates had two events to make their cases to voters this past week. On Thursday, 3/27/25, the Fairhaven Government Access Department in collaboration with the West Island Improvement Association held a candidates night where they answered questions asked by WIIA's Bob Pink, while Derek Frates, Media Director, Fairhaven TV, emceed. All the candidates in the four contested races attended that event.

On Sunday, 3/30, Select Board member, Keith Silvia, held an event paid for by his election committee, causing a bit of controversy, because Mr. Silvia has made no secret of his support for Rick Trapilo, who is facing Natalie Mello for an open seat on the Select Board.

Ms. Mello did not attend that event, posting on Facebook that she had notified the host more than a week before that she would not be attending, and writing: "I chose not to attend today's debate as it did not align with my values to participate in an unsanctioned conversation hosted by a sitting elected official who has campaigned for my opponent."

Mr. Trapilo had taken to Facebook to chastise Ms. Mello for not attending.

At the Cable Access event on 3/27 held in the Town Hall auditorium, candidates gave opening and closing statements, and answered the same questions.

## Select Board

Select Board candidates were asked their top priorities; how they would handle differences of opinions with the new Town Administrator; which budget categories need more or less funding; and if they would commit to improving the town's resilience to climate change-related coastal hazards, like flooding.

In her opening and closing statements, Ms. Mello said she "won the lottery" when she discovered Fairhaven almost 20 years ago. She stressed her experience in both management and municipal budgeting. She said she will collaborate, listen, learn, and make decisions based on facts.

Ms. Mello also said she supports dynamic growth to reduce the tax burden. The role of the SB is to manage the next Town Administrator for success.

Ms. Mello also asked what is to be gained by looking backward and trying to re-litigate events in the rearview mirror. She asked if people are ready for a fresh perspective.

"Fairhaven's future is bright and with the right leadership, this town will retain its amazing character, grow thoughtfully, and prosper," she said.

Mr. Trapilo stressed his business background, saying that running Fairhaven,

with its \$63 million budget takes "sound business expertise, and that is exactly what I bring to the table."

He also stressed his roles as husband, father, grandfather, coach and member of St. Joseph Parish.

Mr. Trapilo said he has a completely different perspective than Ms. Mello.

"My resume is based on a sound business education and a lifelong dynamic business career," said Mr. Trapilo, adding he is "strategically focused as a business executive," with no social agenda.

He said the town is at a crossroads facing financial challenges that require innovative thinking and financial responsibility.

Ms. Mello said her top priority will include pursuing a new public safety complex that will meet the needs of modern fire and police departments.

Mr. Trapilo said the SB acts as the Chief Financial Officer and that town hall is in "disarray."

He will also find ways to increase revenues, including asking the state to disburse funds from the interest on the rainy day fund.

Mr. Trapilo said the SB has to work collaboratively with the TA. The new TA needs to bring out the best in town employees. What happened with the last TA hurt the town as much as her.

Ms. Mello said she agreed with him, adding that she did not, however, hear the word "listening" in his answer.

By listening to the person you disagree with, she said, you are seeking to understand, "and that is the way we get to a true collaboration and how we solve problems."

Neither candidate came up with a department that needed less funding.

Ms. Mello said the schools need more and suggested regular joint meetings between the SB and the School Committee.

Ms. Trapilo said the school budget was "very well thought out."

He said the fire and police departments need more funding and the town should get more funding from the state for emergency services.

Both candidates agreed that climate resiliency is an important issue.

Mr. Trapilo said the utility companies should be putting the lines underground. He also said the hurricane barrier needs to be functioning and the fire and police departments need to be prepared for disasters.

Ms. Mello said things are happening faster than people imagined. She said she had to study risks and mitigate risk and plan accordingly. She said the town has to start immediately.

She said she supports the municipal empowerment act, which would allow the

town to raise the hotel tax, which is not a tax on residents.

## School Committee

Four candidates for two seats on the School Committee faced four questions each. Incumbents Erik Andersen, and Brendalee Smith, who was appointed to fill a vacancy, are facing challenges from Kelly McGowan Ochoa, and Pattie Pacella.

They were asked what their priorities would be if federal funding for schools is cut; how they plan on building a stronger relationship with town officials and the community; if they would support continuing training for SC members; and if there are budget cuts, what would have the most impact on students.

In his statements, Mr. Andersen stressed his background in mental health working with kids. He said he has two children in Fairhaven schools, one in the middle school and one in high school. He said his time on the committee included the COVID pandemic.

"I bring a unique perspective," about going through COVID, looking at it from a mental health standpoint, adding students really struggled.

He said he is ready to continue to serve with the passion and dedication he has already shown. He noted that he did teach for two years, but decided to go the mental health route. His wife is a teacher.

Mr. Andersen said he has experience with special education plans for students, medical plans, and experience with nonverbal kids. He said both his children had special needs.

He said he hoped he would get to continue on the SC, and noted his passion, dedication, authenticity, genuineness and experience.

"I love serving the town, I love serving the kids," he said.

Ms. Smith said that after being appointed, she poured her heart into the role, making meaningful progress.

"I'm just getting started, and I'm more committed than ever to seeing it through," she said.

Ms. Smith noted some achievements of the SC recently, and said she supported the hardship fund.

"I also stood with our community by voting against the Title IX procedures before their repeal," she said.

She said she founded "Stop Abduction," an education program that helps students identify threats. She noted her business experience, but said her most "cherished role" is as a mom to four children.

In closing she said it has been an honor to serve the community. Students deserve a system that exceeds expectations.

She said what sets her apart is her

**CANDIDATES: cont'd on page 12**

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10 a.m. April 6: "Afraid of Joy"

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

Parental Stress Roundtable: Building resilience within families and communities. Free and public. Dinner at 6 p.m., program at 6:30 p.m. April 11

Email [dff@uufairhaven.org](mailto:dff@uufairhaven.org) to arrange childcare

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# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## Fill-a-Bag Sale

Fill-a-Bag sale, Sat., 4/5, \$5 per bag. Clothing and shoes only. Heavenly Treasures Thrift Shop at First Congregational Church, UUC, 34 Center St., Fairhaven (use William St. entrance). Open Wednesdays & Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

## Our Coastal Birds

Free talk. Mon., 4/7, 6:30–7:30 p.m. Our Coastal Birds is part of the Natural Heritage of Fairhaven series, a collaboration between the Millicent Library and the UUSF. This program is held in the UU Auditorium, located across from the library at 102 Green Street.

Join Gina Purtell, Mass Audubon Conservation Projects Manager, and consider the past, present, and future of three coastal nesting bird species which are on the cutting edge of changing shorelines. Learn how community involvement and partnerships drive conservation locally and beyond.

## Storytime Election

Storytime Election: Sat., 4/5, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Town Election is coming up... but did you hear that The Millicent Library and Fairhaven Town Clerk's Office are holding a very special election, too?

The Town Clerk's Office will certify the results, and the winning princess will come and read to us (and help us create themed crafts) at storytime on Saturday, April 5th at 11:00 AM. Feel free to dress like a princess, a suffragist, or both!

To register for the event, visit [millicentlibrary.org/events-calendar](http://millicentlibrary.org/events-calendar)

## Absentee Ballot

Last day to apply for absentee/in-person absentee ballot is Fri., 4/4, until 5 p.m., for the 4/7 Fairhaven election, town clerk's office, 508-979-4023, Ext. 3; 40 Center St., Fairhaven.

ELECTION is on Mon., 4/7, polls open 10 a.m.–8 p.m. All precincts vote at the Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Ave. (behind Stop & Shop).

## Seussical

The Fairhaven High School Theatre Company is thrilled to announce the production of this year's spring musical, *Seussical*. Experience the

magical world of Dr. Seuss and his most famous characters in this musical for all ages!

*Seussical* will be performed at Fairhaven High School on April 3rd, 4th, and 5th at 7PM, with a matinee on April 6th at 2PM. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students, and \$10 for FHS students and staff (ID required at the door).

Tickets are assigned seating and can be purchased online at [https://gofan.co/app/school/MA22183\\_1](https://gofan.co/app/school/MA22183_1). Please note this production is expected to sell out, and tickets may not be available at the door. For more information, please email [mrebello@fairhavenps.net](mailto:mrebello@fairhavenps.net).

## SRTA to Train

With MicroConnector, you can get to and from the New Bedford, Church St, and Fall River SCR stations for just \$1 or less. MicroConnector is a new on-demand transportation service that makes it easy to connect to South Coast Rail stations. When you're ready to go, book a ride in our easy to use app and we'll pick you up and bring you either to or from the station. You'll never have to worry about parking again when riding MicroConnector.

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Visit <https://tinyurl.com/bddpy24c> No smartphone? No problem. Book a ride by calling 774-220-6961.

## Civic Engagement

Morgan G. Dawicki is hosting a this Thursday, 4/3, at 6:30 pm at Brigantine Hall, 15 Center Street, Fairhaven. Please consider joining to discuss important local and national topics, listen to different perspectives and learn how we can all make a difference! Visit <https://www.facebook.com/share/16HU5tCpn8/> for more details.

The discussion is aimed at learning how to communicate with kindness, fairness, and understanding for each other. A movement for a new Washington starts at the local level.

As citizens we are all responsible for changing the status quo, restoring faith in government, and putting power back in the hands of the people.

## Boater Safety

The Boat Massachusetts course is now mandatory for anyone who wishes to operate a motorboat on Massachusetts waterways. The course is available in two formats: a full in-person format that runs approximately 10-12 hours in length, generally over the course of several days, or a fully online education course. All full in-person classes are free of charge. There is an associated fee for the online program. All courses are NASBLA accredited and reciprocal nationwide..

Classes are for adults and youth 12 years of age and older.

- U.S. Coast Auxiliary Building; 80 Middle St., Fairhaven, MA 02719. Class ID 5100. April 12–13 (must attend all sessions) 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Marion Police Department; 550 Mill St, Marion, MA 02738. Class ID 5131. April 26–27 (must attend all sessions). 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Register online: <https://www.mass.gov/take-a-boating-safety-course>

## Parental Stress

UUSF presents Parental Stress Roundtable by the Faith Formation team of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven and South Coast Progressive Voices, Fri., 4/11, 6–8 p.m. Dinner at 6, Presentation 6:30–8. The parish house at 102 Green St., Fairhaven is handicapped accessible via a ramp off Center Street

Parental and childhood stress are at all-time highs. Loneliness, isolation, economic challenges, and social media concerns place burdens on many families. Join us as we gather to discuss what we are experiencing in our communities, and the individual and collective solutions we can engage with together.

Church members Mary O'Sullivan EDD, a clinical Psychologist with years of experience working with children and families of all ages, and Deb Becker, former early childhood educator and certified Pre-K Director, will lead the discussion. A light dinner will be served, and childcare is

HAPPS: cont'd on page 16

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“I know Rick from our Parish and am impressed with his values and what he will bring to the Town with his business background. I am voting for Rick.”

***Melissa DeTerra***

“I met Rick at our parish and was impressed with his kindness and believe his business experience will be invaluable to our Fairhaven select board. I’m voting for Rick.”

***Anne Silvia***

“Rick will bring professionalism and much needed business experience to our Board. I am voting for Rick.”

***Gigi Howland***

“Rick has independently taken head on the leadership to advocate for a regional solution to stop the pollution from our neighbors New Bedford’s antique waste system. I am voting for Rick.”

***Tracie Blanchard***

“I first met Rick at St Joseph parish and found him Honorable man I reviewed his resume and realized I wanted his extensive business background and common-sense approach to decision making. I am voting for Rick.”

***Tracy Travers***

“Ricks leadership fosters inclusivity and encourages community engagement I care deeply about the future of our town... we need rick at this crucial time. I am voting for Rick.”

***Sharon Dufresne***

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

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

## Supportive Social Day Program

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

## Mall Trips

Reservations accepted for mall trips at beginning the 15th of the prior month. There is a \$6 charge unless otherwise noted. Please bring exact amount. The van leaves the Fairhaven Senior Center promptly at 9: 4/9, Hyannis Mall & Trader Joe's; 4/16, Mashpee Commons; 4/23, Wrentham Village Outlets; 4/30, K&A Creations/Fairhaven.

## 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

**April 14, 12:15 p.m.** Featuring *You're Cordially Invited*. Comedy. When two weddings are double-booked at the same venue, the father of one bride and the sister of the other bride try to preserve the wedding weekend.

Popcorn, pretzels and candy are part of the movie experience. If you would like a drink other than water, please feel free to bring your own. No alcohol. Thank you.

Would you like to have lunch before the movie? Please call us the Thursday before the movie to reserve yourself a lunch. \$3 donation for the meal. Call 508-979-4029. The movie is free.

## 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.

## Easter Dinner

Join us for a special Easter Dinner hosted by the Fairhaven Council on Aging, on Sun. 4/20, 11–1 p.m.

Come celebrate the season of renewal and joy with us! Enjoy a delicious meal surrounded by good company. RSVP. Please call to sign up at 508-973-4029 by April 14th.

## Attention Veteran Women

We would love to include more images of the veteran women from Fairhaven to be featured alongside their fellow veterans.

If you have served and would like to contribute a photo, we would be honored to display it. We kindly request that the photo be unmounted, in either 8x10 or 5x7 size, with the name of the individual written on the back. Additionally, if someone other than the veteran submits a photo, we ask that permission from the family be obtained.

Thank you for your service and for helping us recognize and celebrate the contributions of our veteran women.

# 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>**

## 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.

April 14-May 12th 10am-10:45am Mondays Members \$35. Non-Members \$45

## Flashlight Egg Hunt

**24th Annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt (pre registration is required)** Join us for the annual flashlight egg hunt. Children will search for their eggs on the Recreation center grounds and return them to the Easter Bunny for a special treat. Don't forget to bring your flashlight & camera for pictures with the

Easter Bunny. In the event of Rain, the event will be held indoors at the Center. Date: April 11th Time: 7:15 PM for ages up to 5, Time 7:45pm for ages 6-11

\$7 due at registration Deadline to register is Tuesday April 8th. No late registrations will be accepted. No walk-ins will be allowed on the night of the event

## Kool Kids April Vacation

Get ready for a fantastic time at the April Vacation program. Designed for children in kindergarten through 6th grade, each day is packed with fun activities, including games, team building challenges, STEAM projects and art. Your child will make new friends and create lasting memories. Don't forget to pack a lunch, snacks, a reusable water bottle, and be sure

to wear comfy clothes and sneakers! Program runs April 22nd-25th (Tuesday-Friday) 8am-4pm Member \$42, non member \$45. per day

## Kool Kids Summer 2025 Register Now!

Get ready for an unforgettable summer with Kool Kids Camp!

Fairhaven Recreation's premier summer camp experience is designed for children entering 1st grade to 7th grade. Every day, our campers will enjoy a diverse range of sports, games, art and STEM activities. Children will enjoy Special themed events, Friday pizza lunches, cool water activities and exciting field trips. For more information and pricing visit the Rec center or go online at <https://fairhavenrecreation.activityreg.com/> 9 weekly sessions

# Recipe of the Week

## S'Mores Tart

- 1/4 cup whole milk
- 1 cup milk chocolate chips, plus 1 tablespoon for garnish
- One 6-ounce prepared graham cracker crust, chilled
- 3 egg whites, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup marshmallow cream

In a small pan over medium heat, warm the milk until it just begins to bubble around the edges. Turn off the heat and add 1 cup chocolate chips. Let sit for a few minutes to melt the chocolate, and then whisk to combine. Pour into the pie crust and put into the freezer until set, about 20 minutes.

Preheat the broiler to high.

In a large, clean glass or metal bowl, add the egg whites. Using an electric hand mixer, whisk the egg whites to get them frothy. With the mixer running, slowly beat in the sugar. Continue until they begin to form stiff peaks, 3 to 4 minutes. Beat in the vanilla and marshmallow cream.

Spoon the mixture over the chocolate, making sure to cover all the way to the edges of the crust. Put on the middle rack of the oven and broil until the top is lightly browned, 2 to 3 minutes.

Garnish with the remaining chocolate chips. Allow to cool for 10 minutes before slicing.

*From FoodNetwork.com*



commercial dog food is poisonous and the cause of many canine illnesses.

At a recent play date, Skipper's mom called us into the kitchen for a snack she made of kibble and doggie liver paste from a can. When I saw what it was, I panicked. I knew I needed time to think about how to handle the situation. So, I went to the door to indicate I wanted to go out, and thankfully, Skipper's mom understood and opened the door. I had no cell phone so I couldn't call home for advice. So, I decided to act sick when I returned to the house.

# Dear Frankie

## Healthy Food

*Dear Frankie,*  
My parents are health nuts. Everything they eat and wear is organic. They have always cooked my food and prepared me a lunch box for doggie day-care. They think

As soon as Skipper's mom opened the door for me to come in, I started gagging and retching. She tried to help me, but when she couldn't, she called my mom. On the ride home, I told my mom I had pretended I was sick to avoid eating the poisoned food. She complimented me for my quick thinking and said in the future, I should say I was highly allergic and on a restricted diet when offered food.

Since the playdate, Skipper hasn't talked to me. A mutual friend told me Skipper thinks I pretended to be sick because I thought his food wasn't fancy enough. Should I tell him the truth about the food he is eating?

*Tick*

*Dear Tick,*

I don't think he would believe you if you told him his food was unhealthy and poisonous, just as you wouldn't believe him if he told you his food was healthy and nutritious.

I don't condone lying, but feigning an allergy might be the most diplomatic way to handle such a situation. Doing so would avoid what Skipper might perceive as judgmental

FRANKIE: cont'd on page 17

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## From our readers

### Ochoa Possesses Qualities and Skills for SC

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Kelly Ochoa for a position on the Fairhaven School Committee. I have had the pleasure of knowing Kelly for over 20 years as a friend, fellow Mom of twins, and committee member. I can confidently say that she possesses the qualities and skills necessary to make a significant positive impact on our school system and community.

Kelly is a dedicated and passionate individual who has consistently demonstrated her commitment to our community as an educator, parent, organizer, and volunteer. As a teacher she is knowledgeable about the importance of education for all, and the challenges faced by today's students, teachers, administrators and parents.

One of Kelly's most admirable qualities is her ability to listen and understand the needs of students, parents, and educators. She is always approachable and willing to engage in meaningful conversations to address concerns and find solutions. Her strong communication skills and empathetic nature make her an excellent advocate for our school community.

Kelly's vision for the future of our schools is both ambitious and realistic. She is committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment where every student can thrive. Her dedication to continuous improvement and her ability to think strategically will undoubtedly benefit our school committee and the broader community.

I wholeheartedly support Kelly Ochoa's candidacy for the school committee and believe she will be an asset to our town and schools. Hope you will join me in supporting Kelly Ochoa for School Committee on April 7.

*Paige Roth, Fairhaven*

### Town is at Pivotal Moment

I am writing to convey my enthusiasm and support for several candidates running in this year's town election.

Recently, we have witnessed a trend where Town officials have been elected to oversee the same industries in which they are employed. Additionally, experienced profes-

sionals who once served the Town have been removed, and their positions eliminated. This has resulted in a reliance on last-minute consultations with Town Counsel, often for damage control, which has led to legal fees significantly surpassing the modest salaries of the removed staff.

Essentially, we are spending dimes to save nickels while facing a looming budget deficit. Furthermore, any suggestion for enhanced training requirements for public officials, which would incur little to no cost, is often met with resistance and controversy. This lack of training has contributed to costly litigation, and we have come to accept it as normal for decisions to be made behind closed doors, with information provided to the public in an incomplete or delayed manner.

I believe we are at a pivotal moment for a fundamental reset of our Town government. Collectively, the candidates I support show a genuine commitment to a broad array of social causes. They are well-educated and dedicated to ethical accountability in politics. I feel more optimistic than I have in a long time about the potential direction we may take.

I am proud to endorse Natalie Mello for the Select Board, Miles Grant and Sean Powers for the Planning Board, and Kelly McGowan Ochoa for the School Committee. I would like to thank them for their willingness to enter this race.

*Kevin Grant, Fairhaven*

*Mr. Grant is a member of the Planning Board. He notes: My views are my own and do not represent those of the Planning Board, in addition I am not related to Miles Grant.*

### Straus Supports Mello

I am writing to encourage voters in Fairhaven to support Natalie Mello for the open Select Board seat in the coming Town elec(on on April 7th.

During my thirty plus years representing Fairhaven in the State Legislature I rarely, if ever, expressed a view about candidates running in a town election. This year feels different to me, however, so I wanted to share some thoughts about Natalie and why I am respectfully urging voters in Fairhaven to support her candidacy. I know both candidates in

this race and I endorse Natalie Mello as a positive affirmation about Natalie and in no way intend to criticize her opponent's 2025 campaign for public office.

I have known and worked with over a hundred elected and appointed town officials in Fairhaven over the years and have learned about the qualities and character which contribute to individual and community success. Chief among them is a willingness to engage in an open minded and respectful exchange with others on the issues of the day; in this sense, I have found that listening is often more important than speaking when engaging with others on difficult policy issues.

Through this lens I am confident that Natalie's life experience, work history and attitude towards others suits her well for the Fairhaven Select Board. Her election would contribute I believe to good things happening in Fairhaven.

Clearly, I am not a Fairhaven resident, but I offer these thoughts with respect to the town's voters as someone who had the honor of representing you for many years in Boston.

*Bill Straus, Mattapoisett*

*Mr. Straus was the elected state representative in the 10th Bristol District, which includes Fairhaven, for 32 years.*

### Melanson Demonstrates Dedication

This letter is in support of Cathy Melanson for re-election to the Fairhaven Planning Board.

In my opinion, there isn't another resident in town that continually demonstrates a love and dedication to our community more than Cathy.

She has volunteered to help organize fun, family friendly events, has celebrated new business openings, and has served for many years on several boards and committees including the planning board for eight years, the economic development committee and the charter committee to name a few. She has selflessly given back to this town and used her business and entrepreneurial skills for the betterment of Fairhaven as a whole, not for just some, but with the best interest of the entire town at heart.

**LETTERS: cont'd on page 14**

**CANDIDATES: cont'd from page 4**

ability to listen.

"Your voice matters," she said.

Ms. Ochoa told voters she is a lifelong educator who has lived in Fairhaven for 25 years.

"I feel like maybe now is the chance I have to give back," said Ms. Ochoa, adding that having an educator on the SC can only be a positive thing for the town..

She said she has done a lot of work in New Bedford with the homeless population and English as a Second Language (ESL) speakers. She is on the town's Belonging Committee and a Town Meeting member.

In closing, Ms. Ochoa said she hoped they never faced the "awful scenario" of a budget cut, calling it a nightmare.

She asked people to think about the last time there was an educator on the SC, "Someone who's been in the trenches and who knows exactly what is being faced... every day?"

Ms. Pacella told voters she is a Fairhaven High School graduate.

"I'm a mom to a very special little girl who teaches me daily about patience, determination and perseverance," said Ms. Pacella.

As a Finance Committee member she is not afraid to ask questions. All budgets are hurting, expenses are getting higher for the town, community, and families.

"Fairhaven is a high needs community. I didn't say special needs," said Ms. Pacella, noting that 40% of Fairhaven students are low income, 18% have special abilities. You'll never hear me say 'disability' as my daughter is proof of special abilities."

She said she hopes she can be "part of a positive process by learning, listening and collaborating to make our children be the best to their ability."

When asked about budget cuts, all four candidates said they could not think of any programs that would be okay to cut.

Mr Andersen said the funding mostly comes from the town.

"We need to rely on the town," he said, adding that a healthy school system means a healthy town. "Public schools are the backbone of the country."

He said the town has to "step up" and show the schools that it has their back.



**Pattie Pacella/School Committee**

Ms. Smith said the SC talked about creating a contingency fund, although they do not know where the money will come from.

She said first and foremost is to keep the teachers.

She said the budget needs to be increased by an additional \$1 million if federal cuts are made as predicted.

"I think we can do it if we work together and we talk about every aspect of student life, so that not one student is left out of the equation," said Ms. Smith.

Ms. Ochoa said she agreed with the idea of a contingency fund. She said state legislators are hoping to get more state aid to schools, but the town has to figure out a way to move forward.

She said public schools make us a great community.

"People want to come and live here for our public schools," she said. "Obviously we can't cut complete programs. We're going to have to whittle away a little bit from each."

She said they need to keep the student-



**Kelly McGowan Ochoa/School Committee**

teacher ratio.

Ms. Pacella said she would hate to see any cut in the school budget.

She said any cuts could be "detrimental to our most vulnerable children."

When asked about building stronger relationships with the town and community, Ms. Smith said there will be disagreements, but people need to listen quietly, and give people time to process the information.

Ms. Ochoa said the schools need to communicate better on what they are doing. She said some students won a national award and she did not know about it, noting the town still as a local paper to help, and that social media has become divisive.

Ms. Pacella said the schools need more



**Brendalee Smith/School Committee**



**Erik Andersen/School Committee**

transparency. She suggested small working groups between the public and SC and they could bring things to the attention of the Select Board.

Mr. Andersen said transparency and being genuine and authentic are mottos in his life.

He said transparency is key to any committee, and people just have to watch the meetings.

"People want to know what we're doing," said Mr. Andersen.

For the third question, they all agreed that extra training would be valuable to SC members.

The fourth question pressed the issue of what they would cut if forced to by budget constraints.

Mr. Pacella pointed to the last SC meeting when transportation was discussed as a possible place to save, by maybe merging bus routes or eliminating some. Mr. Andersen and Ms. Smith both included that in their answers.

Mr. Andersen said, "There's no easy answer to this one."

He added that he hoped the town would help them out.

Ms. Smith said they would have to look at each department. She said the suggestion to cut the middle school athletic program does not make sense because athletics help students with mental and emotional health.

Ms. Ochoa said she cannot even imagine getting a 25% cut. She said they could add fees for athletic programs and clubs, or maybe consolidate or eliminate some administrative positions.

"We can't cut classroom teachers, we can't cut classrooms," she said, adding they are already "pretty bare bones."

**Planning Board**

Three candidates for two seats on the Planning Board faced three questions: Incumbent Cathy Melanson, and newcomers, Miles Grant, and Sean Powers.

They were asked if Fairhaven's zoning bylaws were too restrictive, or not restrictive enough; what the PB can do to address affordable housing while maintaining the character of Fairhaven; what training they have received and if they will take more trainings if elected.

In her opening and closing statements

**CANDIDATES: cont'd next page**

**CANDIDATES: cont'd from previous page**

Ms. Melanson said she has lived in Fairhaven all her life, has four daughters, 13 grandchildren, and one great granddaughter. She highlighted changes to the bylaws while she has been on the board including the adoption of the 40R overlay district, and changes to the ADU bylaw. She also highlighted her volunteer service when the town planner position was vacant, and streamlining the permitting process with the building department.

She said her experience on the board has given her an understanding of past projects and plans for future growth, and the board needs experience and guidance to address new growth.

"Our journey together doesn't end after I've been re-elected. It begins anew," she said.

Mr. Grant told voters that he grew up visiting his grandparents in Fairhaven, where he could walk to a little store, and now he walks to an ice cream shop, adding it is "just a fantastic place to live."

"We need some fresh voices and fresh perspective," said Mr. Grant, adding that projects like the Oxford Residences might be a model for the town, and noting he is a member of the Livable Streets Committee and volunteers with the New Bedford Science Cafe, the SouthCoast LGBTQ+ Network, Buzzards Bay Coalition, and coaches Mariner Soccer.

He said he had no business interests in town, and was running because he loves Fairhaven and wants to make it an even greater place.

Mr. Powers said he is a lifelong resident of Fairhaven, attended the Rogers School, Hastings Middle School, and FHS, and raised his family here.

"I love this town," said Mr. Powers, adding he promised to go to every meeting prepared. "I'm passionate about contributing to the growth and development of Fairhaven."

He said he is dedicated to ensuring residents' voices are heard, and he wants to modernize the town's bylaws.

"I'm here to do the research. I'm here to do the trainings. I'm here to ask questions," said Mr. Powers.

All three said that some of the town's bylaws were too restrictive.

Ms. Melanson said some strike the



**Brian Meneses/Board of Health**



**Cristina Lopes/Board of Health**

right balance.

They all spoke favorably about making the ADUs easier to build to create more affordable housing, and agreed that converting homes to two or three families is one of the things they can look at.

Mr. Powers noted that a lot of single family homes in the center had been two or three families in the past and could be converted back.

**Board of Health**

Two candidates are running for one seat on the Board of Health: Cristina Lopes, and Brian Meneses, who was appointed to fill a vacancy. They faced two questions: what are the most pressing issues for the BOH; and with the measles outbreak in Texas and New Mexico resulting in two deaths of unvaccinated people, are they in favor of the MMR vaccine and would they support a town clinic to vaccinate if the outbreak reaches this area.

In her opening and closing, Ms. Lopes said in her work in the medical field conducting home visits she saw people experiencing poor living conditions from economic hardship, hoarding, and factors beyond their control.

"My experience in the medical field is characterized by its broad and diverse nature," she said, and includes direct patient care, infection control, and disease prevention

She said she had ideas for addressing public health issues such as mosquito and tick disease prevention

She pledged to maintain openness and honesty when faced with uncertainty, will work collaboratively with boards and committees, and will strive to empower staff.

Mr. Meneses, a pharmacist, said he has lived in Fairhaven his whole life, and owns an independent pharmacy in town, and

owns a qualified health center in Fall River which serves uninsured and underserved people. He said he is a member of several professional organizations, and was nominated in 2019 for the SouthCoast Emerging Leaders Award, and is a precept for students at two colleges.

He said he has a responsibility to approach issues with an open mind, examine the applicable public health regulations, and apply good considered judgment.

He said not every issue can be solved to the complete satisfaction of all parties.

"But I strive to do the most good for the majority of our residents," said Mr. Meneses.

Both said the most pressing issue facing the board is the effect the wind turbines are having on residents. They both said the BOH is in the process of drafting a letter to the Select Board with three mitigation plans.

Both said they would support an MMR clinic if there is an outbreak locally.

Mr. Meneses said he vaccinates people at his pharmacy for other disease, but has not yet given the MMR vaccine.

He said he would "definitely" look into running a clinic.

Ms. Lopes said giving resources to people is vital.

"One of the things that I believe in also is rights," said Ms. Lopes. "You know, religious freedoms and stuff."

Both events are available on FairhavenTV.com (find Election Candidate Events under Government Meeting Videos), or at <https://vimeo.com/showcase/10977750>.

The election is Monday, 4/7. Polls are open 10 a.m.-8 p.m. All precincts vote at the Rec Center, 227 Huttleston Ave.



**Miles Grant/Planning Board**



**Cathy Melanson/Planning Board**



**Sean Powers/Planning Board**

# LETTERS: cont'd from page 11

Cathy is a strong willed, confident, take charge type of person. She has a clear vision of goals for Fairhaven that has, and will continue, to make our community a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Please vote with me to return Cathy Melanson to the Planning Board to allow her to continue to make sure we maintain the charm and beauty of our community while encouraging smart economic growth.

*Tracie Blanchard, Fairhaven*

## **Andersen Demonstrates Unwavering Commitment**

I am writing to offer my full endorsement of Erik Andersen in his bid for re-election to the Fairhaven School Committee. Over the past four years, Erik has proven to be an invaluable asset to our community and has demonstrated unwavering commitment to the betterment of Fairhaven Schools.

As a member of the School Committee, Erik has championed key initiatives that have had a lasting impact on our students and teachers. Under his leadership, we've seen the implementation of Unified Sports, the recognition of our AP Department at the state level, a revitalization of the Music Department, and the expansion of after-school enrichment programs.

Most recently, Erik's dedication helped our district achieve a historic milestone by becoming the first fully accredited school district in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This achievement speaks volumes about the quality of leadership he provides.

What truly sets Erik apart is his background as a licensed mental health therapist. His deep understanding of emotional development and regulation for students, paired with his career experience in crisis work, social work, and substance abuse counseling, has allowed him to advocate for the mental well-being of all students.

Erik's passion for public education, high standards, and equity for all students is evident in everything he does. He has always prioritized transparency, integrity, and dedication in his work, both as a member of the School Committee and as an active volunteer in our community. Whether coaching Mariners Soccer, participating in local fund-

raisers, or attending Town Meetings, Erik consistently goes above and beyond to make Fairhaven a better place.

I wholeheartedly support Erik Andersen for re-election to the Fairhaven School Committee. His leadership, vision, and dedication will continue to ensure that Fairhaven Schools remain a place where students thrive, regardless of the challenges they may face.

*Brian Monroe, Fairhaven*

*Mr. Monroe is a member of the Fairhaven School Committee. His opinion is his own and do not reflect the views of the School Committee.*

## **Powers Will Serve With Integrity**

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Sean Powers as he campaigns for a position on the Fairhaven Planning Board. Having known Sean since our high school days, I can confidently say that he is a dedicated, thoughtful, and community-minded individual who will serve our town with integrity and commitment.

Sean and I shared many experiences growing up, and over the years I have seen firsthand his ability to connect with people, listen to differing viewpoints, and thoughtfully approach challenges.

Our shared love of golf has provided me with countless opportunities to witness his patience, strategic thinking, and determination — qualities that I believe will translate directly into his work on the Planning Board. Sean values collaboration and is deeply invested in ensuring that Fairhaven continues to grow and thrive in a way that benefits all residents.

His passion for responsible development, combined with his ability to engage in respectful dialogue, makes him the ideal candidate to help shape Fairhaven's future. I am confident that Sean will bring fresh ideas, strong leadership, and a focus on practical solutions to the Planning Board.

I encourage my fellow residents to join me in supporting Sean Powers with my vote on April 7. His dedication to our community and his thoughtful approach to decision-making will undoubtedly make him an invaluable asset to the Fairhaven

Planning Board.

*Martha Silveira, Fairhaven*

## **Powers has Sharp Mind**

It's with genuine enthusiasm that I recommend my friend Sean Powers for a seat on the Fairhaven Planning Board. Having known him since our junior high school days at Hastings Middle School, then Fairhaven High, I've seen firsthand his deep connection to this community develop and grow.

One thing that always impressed me about him is his sharp mind and ability to grasp complex information quickly. With an early background in economics, Sean like many of us made a shift to the technology field. That experience set has given him a knack for understanding the nitty-gritty details, like reading and understanding technical plans, while also keeping the big picture in focus. That's a rare and valuable combination, especially when it comes to town planning.

More than that, his love for our town runs deep. He's lived here his entire life, witnessed its evolution and challenges, and truly cherishes what makes it special. He's not just interested in development for the sake of it; he's passionate about seeing our town thrive while preserving the unique character we all love, the beauty, charm, and small town feel that keeps so many of us anchored to its rich history. I know he'll bring a thoughtful and balanced perspective to the board, always considering how decisions today will shape our town for generations to come.

I truly believe Sean will be a dedicated and insightful member of the planning board and the honest, level-headed presence that we need to help shape decision-making. We would be hard-pressed to find someone who cares more deeply about the future of our town.

*Steven Pereira, Fairhaven*

## **Mello has Knowledge and Experience**

I write in support of Natalie Mello, a candidate for Fairhaven's Select Board. Natalie is a person of intelligence, empathy and integrity. Her strong work ethic, collaborative leadership style and ability to truly listen to the concerns of others are

**LETTERS: cont'd on page 23**



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# Tips for an Eco-Friendly Lawn

By Christin Ritz on behalf of the Fairhaven Sustainability Committee

What's the best thing you can do for an eco-friendly lawn? The answer might surprise you. Do nothing!

## Resist Spring Fever

Don't clean up the yard too soon! The first pollinators appear in April, most wait for warmer May temperatures. Last year's leaf litter provides habitat and protection from late season frosts. Butterfly chrysalides cling to dried stems and twigs. If overnight temps aren't consistently over 50 degrees, wait on garden clean up!

## No Mow May + Slow Mow Spring

40 million acres of land in the United States is lawns! In early spring, floral resources are scarce for newly hatched bees in the suburbs. By not mowing in May, clover and dandelion provide essential food for pollinators. For the rest of spring, reduce mowing to once every 2-3 weeks. Researchers in MA found 93 species of bees on lawns following this practice.

## Leave Leaves Alone

Save money and time! Raking, blowing, piling, bagging, and hauling

away leaves take time (and taxpayer dollars on municipal property). In fall use leaves as free mulch around trees and shrubs. They suppress weeds, support biodiversity, encourage mycorrhizae, and nourish soil. By mulch mowing leaves with a lawn mower in the fall, nutrients are added to the soil and reduce the need for fertilizer.

## Never Use Pesticides or Mosquito Spray

Because they kill all the good guys too... butterflies, ladybugs, bees, invertebrates...

# HAPPS: cont'd from page 5

available to those who register with [dff@uufairhaven.org](mailto:dff@uufairhaven.org).

BIFANA. Ticket: \$15. Call or text Joe Mello, 508-733-4608, for tickets.

We meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 32 Abbey Street, Fairhaven at 6pm. All are welcome to attend our next meeting on Tues., 4/15. Contact us at [fairhavenrtc@gmail.com](mailto:fairhavenrtc@gmail.com) or call

## OLOA Annual Dinner

Our Lady of Angels Club will hold its annual dinner on Sat., 4/12, from 5-8 p.m., at 7 Jesse St., Fairhaven. Choice of Chicken Mozambique or

## SAVE THE DATE: Fhvn Repub Comm

Please join us, be part of something bigger in your community. The Fairhaven Republican Town Committee membership is growing!

Committee Chair Bob McConnell at 508-863-0416 with any questions or concerns. We welcome any guest speaker interested in addressing our Committee.

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**FRANKIE: cont'd from page 10**  
comments about the food he eats.

Give Skipper a little time to cool down. Then tell him you don't want your friendship to end. Emphasize how much you enjoy his company and suggest you spend time playing rather than eating together.

*Best, Frankie*

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

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**LETTERS: cont'd from page 23**

her. Together we can ensure a healthier future for Fairhaven.

*Sharon M. Dufresne, Fairhaven*

### Lopes has Exceptional Leadership Skills

Cristina Lopes, a candidate for Fairhaven board of health, has consistently demonstrated her exceptional leadership skills as the administrator of a local Facebook group, Old Town Fairhaven, where she has successfully fostered a culture of civil engagement and disseminated valuable educational announcements.

Her genuine passion for the well-being of our community is truly inspiring, and her extensive background in home care across Massachusetts and Rhode Island has equipped her with a profound understanding of the community's needs. Cristina's tireless advocacy for those in need and her unwavering commitment to our community make her an outstanding candidate for the board of health.

*Loel C. Botelho, Fairhaven*

### Lopes Will Take on Challenges

As we look to the future for the Board of Health, we require a leader who will take on challenges with passion and purpose, someone who can share their insights in a way that educates and motivates, and a committed individual who is dedicated to personal growth and service to our community, which is why I am honored to endorse Cristina Lopes for Board of Health.

*Douglas Brady & Lee Baumgartner,  
Fairhaven*

Visit [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com) for more letters.

## Upcoming Meetings

### Fairhaven

#### Charter Committee

Thurs., 4/10, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

#### Conservation Commission

Mon., 4/7, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

#### Finance Committee

Thurs., 4/3, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

#### Lagoa Friendship

Mon., 4/7, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

#### Livable Streets Comm

Thurs., 4/3, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

#### Marine Resources Comm

Thurs., 4/3, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

#### Planning Board

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

#### School Committee

Wed., 4/9, FHS Lib., 6:30 p.m.

#### Select Board

Mon., 4/7 (Election), Town Hall 8 p.m.  
Mon., 4/14, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

### Acushnet

#### Historical Commission

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

#### Planning Board

Thurs., 4/3, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

#### School Comm/Selectboard

Joint meeting/Debt Exclusion  
Wed., 4/16, Ford MS, 6 p.m.

### TIDE TABLE

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

	Apr. 2025	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	3	0023	1254	0600	1803
Friday	4	0125	1357	0721	1919
Saturday	5	0226	1458	0950	2158
Sunday	6	0327	1602	1107	2329
Monday	7	0433	1711	---	1205
Tuesday	8	0538	1807	0027	1251
Wednesday	9	0628	1850	0114	1331
Thursday	10	0708	1926	0158	1404
Friday	11	0744	2001	0239	1409
Saturday	12	0820	2037	0308	1352
Sunday	13	0857	2114	0244	1415

\*= 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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# First they get bottled up, then....

By Beth David  
Editor

It's springtime at the winery! And that means bottling up, cutting vines, and burning vines (cane).

The crew at Nasketucket Bay Vineyard in Fairhaven is busy getting ready for the season. One of those tasks is bottling the wine for sale.

Last fall the grapes were picked and crushed. Then they were added to the barrels with some yeast and left alone for awhile to ferment. The precious material, aka, "must" is fermented in oak barrels for primary fermentation, and then the precious liquid is siphoned off to finis fermenting in large tanks.

In the next phase, the yeast dies off, the liquid is removed, the tanks cleaned, and the liquid returned.

Most of the wine gets filtered

before it is bottled, but some, the Tempranillo, is not, to preserve those beautiful tannins.

That wine is a new one this year, said Angel Castriano, Marketing and Events Manager. It is a red wine, aged in oak barrels. It's the one wine that they buy the grapes for instead of growing their own. Tempranillo is a Spanish grape, known as "Tinta Roriz" in Portugal.

This year has some other changes, too. It's the first year with the big steel tanks, which makes the work a lot easier. Last year, it was small plastic barrels and oak barrels.

The winery made four times as much wine this year as last year. Which is good, because they had to start rationing it last year, as they started to run low at the end of the season.

The winery has four acres of grapevines, and a small orchard in front with apples, pears, peaches, plums, and cherries. The fruit can be used for mash for distilling liquor (not to be confused with must), which is something Nasketucket may do in the future.



But, first things first.

This is opening weekend and Saturday, 4/5, at 3 p.m., the winery will host a Burning of the Canes Party, when they will burn all the clippings from the grapevines that they cut in February.

Ms. Castriano said they used to burn them as one of the chores of the business, but then saw that in Europe they make a big bonfire and make it a celebration.

So they said, "Let's do it," and have a big party.

"It's also very symbolic," said Ms. Castriano. "To shed last year, renewal, spring. It's how we will kick off every year now."

Nasketucket Bay Winery is at 237 New Boston Road, Fairhaven. Visit <https://www.peacelovevino.net/> to learn more and find upcoming events.



TOP: The crew shares a laugh while bottling wine at Nasketucket Bay Vineyard during bottling week to get ready for the season opening on 4/3/25, L-R: Sarah Gustafsen placing labels on bottles, Andrea Charbonneau operating the bottle corker, Angel Castriano filling bottles. MIDDLE: Andrea Charbonneau concentrates as she tops off the bottles. ABOVE LEFT: Oak barrels are tapped one at a time for bottling Tempranillo, a red wine, that is new to the vineyard this year. ABOVE RIGHT: Bottles get filled with Tempranillo. *Photos by Beth David.*

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# Public Hearings/Legal Notices

NOTE: All legal notices are available on the Neighb News website, [www.NeighbNews.com](http://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 ACUSHNET PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A Section 5, you are hereby notified of a public hearing.

The Acushnet Planning Board will hold a hearing on Thursday April 17, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., to consider three proposed amendments to the Town of Acushnet General By-laws Article VIII Zoning, which was submitted for the 2025 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The proposed amendments are summarized as follows: 1.) to remove all references to Accessory Apartments; 2.) amend Section 8 Large-Scale Ground-Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installations; 3.) amend the Town of Acushnet Zoning Map.

This meeting will be held hybrid, at the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, 122 Main Street, Acushnet, MA 02743, and over Teams.

The text of these proposed amendments may be viewed at the office of the Town Clerk and the Planning Board office, at Acushnet Parting Ways, 130 Main Street, MA 02743, during normal business hours. The legal notice is also available on [www.masspublicnotices.org](http://www.masspublicnotices.org). All persons, parties, or corporations interested therein may appear and be heard in relation thereto.

Mark Francios, Chairman Acushnet Planning Board  
FNN, 4/3/25, 4/10/25

## TOWN OF ACUSHNET Public Hearing Notice

The Acushnet Board of Selectmen will hold a joint public hearing with the Acushnet School Committee on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Ford Middle School in the auditorium located at 708 Middle Road, Acushnet. This hearing is on the topic of the debt exclusion, for the Acushnet Elementary School's HVAC installation, that will be on the Town's annual election ballot.

Board of Selectmen  
Robert Hinckley, Chairman  
David Wojnar, Member  
Kevin Gaspar, Sr., Member  
FNN, 3/27/25, 4/3/25

## FAIRHAVEN PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 6:30 pm

And

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 6:30 pm

Town Hall, 40 Center Street

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

To access remotely Log onto:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85937000162?pwd=OlwGga24UFefJjrrADLL347zq7bf9Y.1>

or call 1-689-278-1000 - Meeting ID: 859 3700 0162 -

Passcode: 353776

Live on Fairhaven TV Channel 18 and

[fairhaventv.com](http://fairhaventv.com)

On March 24, 2023, the bill to extend Open Meeting Law regulations governing remote participation has passed MA legislation and been signed by the Governor. This bill will allow remote and hybrid meeting options for public bodies through March 31, 2025.

Pursuant to an amendment to Town Bylaw Chapter 50 § 13, all government meetings are available through web/video conference and are recorded.

Notice is hereby given that the Fairhaven Planning Board will conduct a public hearing at the above date and remote and physical location.

1. Vote on whether the Planning Board should vote to recommend the warrant article adding 0 Alden Rd., Map 28 / Parcel 022B to the Fairhaven Smart Growth Overlay District – Plaza District.

The purpose of the hearing will be to receive information and public comment on a proposed addition of 0 Alden Rd., Map 28 / Parcel 022B, 1.02 acres, to the Fairhaven Smart Growth Overlay District (FSGOD) – Plaza District, to be considered at Special Town meeting on May 3rd 2025, and to decide whether to

recommend approval to the Select Board or not. The lot is currently zoned Business, as is the rest of the FSGOD – Plaza District, and would remain so, but would have the overlay district applied to it.

A copy of the warrant is on file for public review at the Land Use & Planning Office, Fairhaven Town Hall from 8:30 am until 4:30 am, and is available online at: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/land-use-planning/>

To schedule an appointment to review the warrant or other information please call the Land Use & Planning Department at (508) 979-4023 Ext. 8123

Cathy Melanson, Planning Board Chair  
FNN: 4/3/25, 4/10/25

## Town of Fairhaven Public Hearings

The Fairhaven Charter Committee will hold two public hearings, on Thursday, April 10, 2025 at 6:30PM and Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 6:30PM at Town Hall. The hearings are on the topic of the proposed Charter. A Working Draft is available on the Town of Fairhaven website. Attendance is available for both in-person and online, with Zoom links available on the website.

Fairhaven Charter Committee,  
Morgan Dawicki, Chairman  
FNN 3/27/25, 4/3/25

## Fairhaven Select Board Public Hearings

Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Center St.,  
Fairhaven, MA 02719

Notice is hereby given that the Fairhaven Select Board will vote on two action items at the above location.

Monday April 14, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider approval for the transfer of an Annual All Alcohol Liquor License for JPTS Wine & Spirits dba Southcoast Wine & Spirits, 355 Huttleston Ave Fairhaven, MA 02719

For: Jason O. Silva, 195 Bonney St., New Bedford, MA 02740

Monday April 14, 2025 at 6:05 p.m.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider approval for the transfer of an Annual All Alcohol License for Fairhaven Wine & Spirits, 105 Scoticut Neck Rd. Fairhaven, MA 02179.

For: Jayshreeben S. Patel, 3 Winter St., Fairhaven, MA 02719

Fairhaven Select Board  
FNN: 4/3/25

## TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN INVITATION TO BID

The Select Board of the Town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from General Contractors for the roof replacement for Contractors for the roof replacement for the council on aging and recreational center in Fairhaven, MA at 227 Huttleston Ave., in accordance with the documents prepared by DHK architects

The scope of the work includes:

• Replacement of both roofs according to specifications in bid package.

General bidders and sub bidders must meet all Chapter 149 guidelines and must be DCAMM certified. All bids must include a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Update Statement. General Bidders shall have completed similar work on at least five buildings

ITEM: General

BIDS DUE: Bids: Filed sub bids are due May 8th by 3:00 pm the General contractor is due May 15th 2025 by 3pm

A Pre-Bid Conference is to be held on April 17th at 10:00 am at 227 Huttleston Ave.

All bids for this project are subject to applicable public bidding laws of Massachusetts, including G.L. c.149, §44A through 44H, as amended.

Attention is directed to the minimum wage rates to be paid as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Industries and the weekly payroll record submittal requirements under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 26 through 27D inclusive.

Attention is further directed to the requirements of G.L. c.149, §44D requiring submission of a Division of Capital Asset Management-approved Certificate of

Eligibility and Update Statement with all bids.

Selection of the contractor will be based upon bidder qualifications, including evidence of past performance in similar projects, and bid price. The contract will be awarded to the bidder deemed by the awarding authority to be the lowest responsible and eligible bidder.

The Town of Fairhaven is an affirmative action/equal opportunity owner/purchaser.

The Town of Fairhaven reserves the right to waive any informalities, to accept or reject, in whole or in part any or all bids, or take whatever other action may be deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.

Select Board, Town of Fairhaven,  
40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719  
FNN, 3/27/25, 4/3/25, 4/10/25

## Announcement:

The following bylaw changes which were accepted at the Fairhaven Special Town Meeting which convened on November 19, 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 1: CHAPTER 40R ZONING BYLAW AND MAP AMENDMENTS

By majority vote, the Town voted to amend Chapter 198 of the Fairhaven Town Code, entitled "Zoning," a.k.a. the Town of Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw, as follows: i. by adding to Section 198-14, entitled "Establishment of districts," at the end of Subsection A, the following new overlay district:

Fairhaven Smart Growth Overlay District (FSGOD)

and

ii by adding a new Section 198-29.9 thereto, entitled "Fairhaven Smart Growth Overlay District (FSGOD)," as follows:

Appendix A will contain the full text with markup to be delivered under separate cover and will be posted online at <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/town-moderator>

and, further, to amend the "Town of Fairhaven Zoning Map," as referenced in Section I 98-I 4(B) of the aforementioned Code, by adding thereto, or supplementing the same with, maps entitled "Fairhaven 40R Smart Growth Overlay 4-2 Smart Growth Zoning Map (Plaza Area SGOD)," dated 6/19/24, and "Fairhaven 40R Smart Growth Overlay 4-2 Smart Growth Zoning Map (Waterfront Area SGOD)," dated 6/19/24, "both prepared by Dodson & Plinker; or take any action relative thereto."

### ARTICLE 14: BYLAW, COMMISSION ON DISABILITY

By majority vote, the Town will voted to establish a bylaw, Chapter 5 Commission on Disability, or take any action relative thereto.

Elisabeth E. Horan, Interim Town Clerk, Fairhaven  
FNN, 4/3/25, 4/10/25

The accumulation of all powers legislative, executive and judiciary in the same hands, whether of one, a few or many, and whether hereditary, self appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny.

James Madison, *The Federalist*  
Number 47, 1788

# HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

## OLOP Fish Fry

Please join us on April 4 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM for Our Lady of Purgatory's final Lenten Fish Fry at the OLOP Parish Center, 4254 Acushnet Avenue, New Bedford, MA. It's a great opportunity to enjoy baked or fried fish & chips (cole slaw, rolls, dessert, and a beverage) all for a donation of \$15.00. It's also a great time to share some laughter and fellowship.

Purchase your tickets today by contacting us at (508) 996-8934 or [officeolop@gmail.com](mailto:officeolop@gmail.com)

## Live Music

First Fridays After Dark: A Night of Live Music, Cocktails, and Culture at the Whaling Museum!

Another unforgettable evening awaits at the New Bedford Whaling Museum as they continue their thrilling First Fridays After Dark series on April 4th! This dynamic event blends art, history, science, and entertainment into a truly unique experience. Enjoy cocktails from the cash bar, savor complimentary lite bites, and immerse yourself in the magic of the Museum after hours!

Under the towering whale skeletons in the Jacobs Family Gallery, the talented Moonbellies will take the stage at 6:00 p.m., delivering their captivating mix of original music, Americana, Old-Time, Québécois, Irish, and Cajun tunes. This charismatic ensemble represents the next wave of string band musicians, seamlessly blending the energy of a new generation with the rich soul of folk music traditions.

Doors open at 5:00 p.m. New Bedford Whaling Museum, 18 Johnny Cake Hill, NB. Fri.. 4/4, 6-8 p.m.

RSVP: RSVPs required via the New Bedford Whaling Museum website, <https://www.whalingmuseum.org>

Cost: Tickets are \$10 for museum members or \$20 general public.

## Free YTI Prod.

The unique vision of Your Theatre's newest show directors, Lauren R. Helley of Dartmouth and Nicole Perullo of Westport, takes center stage in "When the Clock Stops," a program featuring two one-act plays, running one weekend only. This special New Director's Showcase takes place at the Steeple Playhouse.

159 William St., in downtown New Bedford and is made possible in part by the Mass Cultural Council. ]

Fri. & Sat., 4/4 & 4/5, 7:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 4/5 & 4/6, 2 p.m.

"All Sales Final," an absurdist comedy, tells of an unfortunate life at an abrupt end.

"Tracks." What will happen when a group of strangers meet on a dirty subway platform, with few belongings and stopped watches?

Tickets are complimentary, with donations gratefully accepted. All seats are open seating; for free and "choose what you pay tickets" go to <https://steepleplayhouse.ludus.com/>. Contact the box office ([boxoffice@yourtheatre.org](mailto:boxoffice@yourtheatre.org) or 508-993-0772) with questions.

## ADU Workshop

SouthCoast Places for People is hosting an ADU Accelerator by Fairhaven's Will Gardner to help people learn about the new state law regarding Accessory Dwelling Units, on Wed., 4/9, 5 p.m., New Bedford Library, 613 Pleasant St., downtown.

Join us for a hands-on workshop where we'll cover the basics of ADUs, including zoning regulations, permitting, costs, and design considerations. Whether you're looking to create a rental unit, a space for family, or just maximize your property's potential, this session will provide the insights and resources you need to get started.

We believe that everyone deserves abundant housing, safe and accessible ways to get around, and vibrant places to gather.

More information and registration at <https://lu.ma/hvkk4x4o>

## AHA!

AHA! Night: Project Planet is our annual celebration of the Earth, and more specifically, what we can do here to preserve our sustainable South Coast.

Join or enjoy the Project Planet Procession as it moves through downtown New Bedford. It will feature our newly-crowned Mother Earth and Father Ocean, an appearance by Miss New Bedford, the return of the Creature of the Plasticine Era, and more! T'em Blessed also returns as host of the parade festivities.

Local businesses, galleries, and museums are planning special events for you, including arts & crafts, music, and conversations. Plus, it's the opening night of the 2nd annual New Bedford Film Festival!

To join the procession, register by April 4: <https://ahanewbedford.org/next-aha/> where you will also find the full schedule of events.

## NB Film Fest

Are you ready for the New Bedford Film Festival 2025? April 10-13, 2025, we will celebrate bold and diverse cinematic stories and storytellers in the whaling city of New Bedford, Massachusetts!

Film lovers and makers, save these dates to experience the New Bedford Film Festival for your first or second time!

The New Bedford Film Festival showcases authentic and powerful cinematic stories, cultivates emerging storytellers, and promotes the city's growing creative economy.

Visit <https://filmfreeway.com/NewBedfordFilmFestival/> for schedule and tickets.

## Art Reception

Artist Melinda Lane unveils Calm, her newest series of paintings, at the Colo Colo Gallery in the Kilburn Mill, 127 W. Rodney French Blvd., New Bedford. Exhibition opens April 2, with a reception on Sunday, April 6, from 1-5 pm.

Melinda Lane is a representational painter from the South Shore of Mass. Her work can be seen at the Colo Colo gallery and on her website [www.mslanefineart.com](http://www.mslanefineart.com)

## Bunny Shoot

Food, fun prizes! The New Bedford Rifle and Revolver Club, 246 Bolton St., New Bedford, will sponsor a Bunny Shoot on Sun., 4/13 from noon to 4 p.m. No...no actual bunnies are harmed in this event, honest.

All ages are accepted, no license required. Door prizes, caravan auction, 50/50 raffle.

All profits benefit Troop 3 for camp scholarships.

Cost: \$1 per target; 3 shots/target.

Visit <http://www.nbrcc.com/clubevents.html> or email [secretary@nbrcc.com](mailto:secretary@nbrcc.com); 508-990-2523.

# HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

## Vendors Wanted

The Dartmouth Farmers Market is seeking farms, food vendors, and artisans to join us on Fridays!

We are located in South Dartmouth at 789 Dartmouth Street, behind St. Mary's Church, en route to picturesque Padanaram Village. Our market hours are 12 PM to 5 PM, from June 6 to October 24, with bundled pricing options available.

Application is on our website [www.dartmouthfarmersmarket.com](http://www.dartmouthfarmersmarket.com)

Email: [info@dartmouthfarmersmarket.com](mailto:info@dartmouthfarmersmarket.com), find us on Facebook.

## Art Exhibit

The Marion Art Center is pleased to present its newest exhibition, the Pastel Paintings of Janet Schwartz & Dave Kaphammer, which features two artists working in pastels. The exhibit runs April 5 through May 16 with an artists' reception on Saturday, April 5th from 3:00-5:00pm at the MAC, located at 80 Pleasant Street, Marion.

Although trained as an art teacher, Janet Schwartz initially put off her artistic interests to pursue a corporate career. During her lengthy work commutes, she was inspired by the energy and chaos of highway lights and reflections and began painting in earnest in her free time. In 2021, she traded in her corporate career for a full life of painting and teaching painting – and she hasn't turned back.

Strong light and cast shadows can make the most ordinary scenes appear magical in the works of Dave Kaphammer. He is inspired by late afternoon light breaking through trees, reflecting off water, or falling across an old tractor, casting interesting shadow shapes. Recently his interest has expanded to the old New England architecture in his neighborhood..

For more information visit [marionartcenter.org/on-exhibit](http://marionartcenter.org/on-exhibit)

## At Acushnet Library

The following events are at the Acushnet Public Library, 232 Middle Road.

**Train Tech Hours:** Tuesdays and Thursdays through April at 2 pm. Drop in to learn how to ride the Fall

River/New Bedford Line. Learn how to get the MTicket app, a Senior Charlie Card for discount tickets, pay for parking, and more!

**Movie Matinee: Mon., 4/14, 2-4 p.m.** featuring *Fall Guy*. He's a stuntman, and like everyone in the stunt community, he gets blown up, shot, crashed, thrown through windows, and dropped from the highest of heights, all for our entertainment. And now, fresh off an almost career-ending accident, this working-class hero has to track down a missing movie star, solve a conspiracy, and try to win back the love of his life while still doing his day job. Join us in the Community Room. Please bring a covered beverage and a snack if you wish. The Movie Matinee is for ages 18+, 2 hrs, PG-13.

**History Coffee Hour: Thurs., 4/17 at 11 am.** A new group is gathering to discuss Acushnet's history. Join the conversation and share stories or photos from the past. Bring your coffee and memories. We will supply historic documents, photos, newspaper clippings, and more!

For more details, see our online calendar at [acupl.org](http://acupl.org).

## Art Exhibit

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For more information visit [marionartcenter.org/on-exhibit](http://marionartcenter.org/on-exhibit)

## Spring Book Sale

The Friends of the Mattapoisett Library invite book lovers of all ages to their upcoming Spring Book Sale on Friday, April 12, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Library Community Room at 7 Barstow Street, Mattapoisett. This event is a great opportunity to find gently used books at affordable prices while supporting the library's valuable programs and activities.

In preparation for the sale, the Friends of the Mattapoisett Library

will also be accepting book donations on Thursday, April 10, and Friday, April 11, from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM. Community members are encouraged to donate gently used books to help make the event a success.

All proceeds from the sale directly benefit the library, funding programs, events, and resources that enrich the Mattapoisett community.

For more info, email friends of [mattapoisettlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:mattapoisettlibrary@gmail.com).

## Music in the Library

On April 12, 2025 at 11:00 AM and 2:00PM and May 10, 2025 at 11:00 AM and 2:00PM, Seaglass Theater Company and the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra will present Music in the Library at four libraries across the SouthCoast. Due to space constrictions at the library, the 4/12 concert is presented in partnership with the Millicent Library at the historic Unitarian Church in Fairhaven.

The concerts are free and all are welcome. The May 10th concerts are part of ArtWeek SouthCoast- a multi-day festival connecting innovative, creative, and affordable art and cultural events in communities from Fall River to Wareham from May 8-18..

Music for string quartet and voice  
**April 12 11:00AM** Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven 102 Greet St. (in partnership with the Millicent Library)

**April 12 2:00PM** Mattapoisett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow St.

**May 10 11:00AM** Dartmouth Library North Branch, 211 Cross Rd.

**May 10 2:00PM** New Bedford Free Public Library Main Branch, 613 Pleasant St., Downtown

Featuring Addison Pattillo, Soprano; Marcus Huber, Tenor; and instrumentalists from the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra

The Music in the Library series is supported in part by grants from the Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett and New Bedford Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

For more information, please visit [www.seaglasstheater.com](http://www.seaglasstheater.com) or call 508-951-7187.

widely acknowledged.

Natalie has the knowledge and experience to meet the challenges facing Fairhaven. In addition, she has demonstrated her commitment to the Town over many years. Natalie Mello is worthy of your consideration and your vote!

*Cindy Johnson, Fairhaven*

**Mello Brings Deep Professional Experience**

I am writing in full support of Natalie Mello as our next member of the Fairhaven Select Board.

Natalie brings deep professional experience in executive management from her years in higher education, on-the-ground experience from municipal board membership, and a fresh perspective on Fairhaven town politics.

She doesn't come to the job with an agenda, a chosen side or alliance, or seeking a steppingstone to acclaim. To Natalie it is very clear that hot-button cultural issues do not affect how Fairhaven's town services should support the needs of every resident while providing for sustainable growth. She understands the boundaries of the job description, and further that participation, advocacy, and regionalized efforts falling outside our town borders can be critical to effecting positive change.

Natalie recognizes all the wonderful things we already have in Fairhaven, and the passionate work so many individual citizens and staff members do to both sustain and improve the experience for us all. When funds are short, arguments abound — and just as in any family, they aren't always about the money itself. It's difficult to watch us fight over scraps and debate the best use of funds when we all just want what is best for everyone.

It's time to take a breath.

Natalie Mello is deeply committed not only to working collaboratively with fellow members of the Select Board but also to joining with them to ally with other governing boards. We must stop dwelling on the contentions and conflicts of the past, take what we've learned, and commit to all that the future holds. No one person can save our future, but one person can help set the tone for a collective effort that advances our success. Natalie is that person.

It is time to start anew and

recommit to moving Fairhaven and the lives of its residents into our next great chapter. Please join me in voting for Natalie Mello for Fairhaven Select Board on Monday, April 7.

Anne Morton Smith, Fairhaven

*Ms. Morton Smith is a member of the Fairhaven Board of Public Works. Her views are her own, not the board's.*

**Ochoa Gets All A's**

*Fairhaven School Committee Report*

*Card: Kelly Ochoa*

IQ	HIGH
Qualified: (only teacher candidate)	A++
Works well with others	A++
Communication skills	A++
Doesn't run with scissors	A++
Conflict resolution skills	A++
Multilingual	A++
Volunteerism (Peace Corps, Welcome Committee, etc)	A++
Community Service	A++
Behavior issues	None
School, Teacher Parent and student experience	A++
Listening skills	A++
Communication	A++
Focus	A++
Completes assignments on time	A++
Attendance	A++
Completes Research, comes prepared	A++
Leadership experience	A++

*Lynne Mason, Fairhaven*

**Government and Business are Not the Same**

Some folks like to think business experience is relevant to government. That's because they haven't worked in government. I have, and so has my wife on a much higher level. Business and government have one thing in common. Money. In business you try and get a bunch of it and hopefully keep a lot. In government you get a bunch through taxes, and get rid of most of it, or else you're taxing too much.

People talk about efficiency and how important it is in government. That would be great except for the favors and cronyism, that happens a lot, and right here too. I'll share some that I learned about during my three year tenure as your tree warden in the near future. You'll shake your head and wonder how it could be.

My personal opinion about qualifications in regards to any political candidate is that first and foremost they listen. When you have a meeting with someone and they tell you "go

ahead, I'm just going to write a memo while you talk about your important issue", it aint gonna work out well for your cause.

When you call a board member and they hang up on you, yah for real, it shows immature behavior and you wonder how that person got elected. When you reach out to a board chair numerous times and they refuse to try and talk things out, how's that supposed to be good government?

This town needs real listeners and thinkers. Not slick Willes who are all about doing favors for friends, but do things that should be done to make the town better for everyone.

Ask yourself before you fill out your ballot. Who really cares about everyone in this town. Who will be fair and listen attentively about what you care about.

Don C. Collasius, Fairhaven

*Mr. Collasius is the last elected Tree Warden, which is now an appointed position.*

**Lopes is Dedicated**

I am proud to endorse Cristina Lopes for the Fairhaven Board Of Health. Cristina is a dedicated and hardworking individual whose passion for our community is evident in everything she does. With a strong background in public health and a commitment to serving the residents of Fairhaven, she has the skills and experience necessary to make a meaningful impact in this role.

Cristina understands the pressing health challenges our town faces and is committed to addressing them through practical and effective solutions. She believes in the importance of transparent communication and community engagement ensuring the voices of all residents are heard and considered in decision-making processes.

Her proactive approach to health education and preventive care will empower our community to make well informed choices about their well being.

In these times of uncertainty the Town Of Fairhaven needs a leader

who can think clearly and act decisively. Cristina's straightforward thinking and ability to collaborate with diverse stakeholders will guide our health initiatives in the right direction.

I wholeheartedly support Cristina Lopes and encourage others in our community to join me in voting for



**VOTE**

**MONDAY**

**April 7<sup>th</sup>**



**NATALIE**

**MELLO**

**SELECT BOARD**

Paid for by The Committee to Elect Natalie Mello