



# Fairhaven

# Neighborhood News

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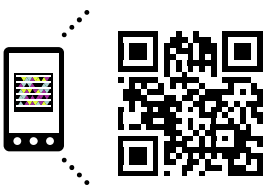
Volume 20, Issue 44 • November 6, 2025

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

## Acushnet Special TM approves golf clubhouse



Jr. Miss Apple Peach 2025, Aubrey Sousa, leads the crowd in the pledge of allegiance at the Acushnet Special Town Meeting on 11/3/25 at Ford Middle School. See page 12 for story *Photo by Beth David.*



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### First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

#### **Judge Murray Gurfein, Pentagon Papers case, June 17, 1971:**

*"The security of the Nation is not at the ramparts alone. Security also lies in the value of our free institutions. A cantankerous press, an obstinate press, a ubiquitous press must be suffered by those in authority in order to preserve the even greater values of freedom of expression and the right of the people to know."*

# From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —  
A day late and many dollars short.



Publisher Beth David with  
Charlie, aka Evil Dog

Veterans Day is Tuesday. We have three parades you can choose from. Acushnet, Fairhaven, and New Bedford are all having parades. Acushnet's will be on Saturday, not Tuesday. See page 3 for details. Try to get to one of them and line the route to show our veterans that we appreciate their service

Old Colony Voc-Tech is wanting to build a new school, to the tune of \$288 million. Yeah, 288....not 28. My finger did not stutter. See page 11 for some details on that. All the member communities will vote on 11/18 to approve (or NOT) the spending.

I'm still just flabbergasted at the cost. I mean, really, are they using gold trim or something?

Marsh Island got reopened. See page 13 for some info on the project that restored the marsh. Should be fun to go hiking around there now.

Meanwhile, the Big Buffoon continues to use the National Guard like it's his own personal army; sent intimidators in to interfere in the vote in California on Tuesday; and refuses to pay SNAP (food stamps) benefits to tens of millions of Americans, even though a court ordered it.

When will his supporters finally realize how he's destroying our democracy more and more each day?

Oh, right stock market/401K, that's all that matters.

The fact that we qualify as a country to stay away from because of human rights violations doesn't bother his supporters either. Because they don't think it will happen to them. But close to 200 American citizens have been snatched off the streets to get thrown in jail for days, simply because they look to be the right color, or they stood up for themselves or others. How said is that?

And to top it off, the House is still not in session, because they are cowards.

Ugh... Guess that's it for now.

Be sure to 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!*

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# Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Volume 20, Issue 44

Thursday, November 6, 2025

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Editor: Beth David

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## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In the letter by Wayne Hayward in last week's issue, we added the date of the issue he referred to, but we made a typo. That issue was 10/23/25. We apologize for any confusion our error may have caused.

# Veterans Day celebrations coming up

## Acushnet

The public is invited to attend the Acushnet Veterans Day Parade which will be held on Sat., 11/8. The parade will assemble at 9:30 at Town Hall and kick off at 10:00 a.m.; head down Main St. to Veterans Park where we will hold a short ceremony. We will have refreshments after the ceremony at the Acushnet VFW. In case of inclement weather a small ceremony will be held at VFW 10 a.m.

If interested in participating, please contact Veterans Services Officer, Brad Fish at 508-998-0207, Ext. 4207.

## Fairhaven

The Fairhaven Office of Veterans Services will hold a Veterans Day Parade on 11/11. Parade participants will assemble at Benoit Square at 8:30 AM and begin marching at 9:00 AM south on Main Street to Fairhaven High School. There will be a program at the High School with speakers and the Big Flag will be raised to honor our Veterans. In the event of inclement weather, a ceremony will be held at the Fairhaven Senior Center, 229 Huttleston Avenue, at 10 a.m.

The public is encouraged to line the route and attend the ceremony at the high school to show support for those who have served in the military.

If you are a veteran or the loved one of a veteran, the Fairhaven Senior Center invites you to ride in the van in the parade. We will board the van at 8 a.m. Please call 508-979-4029 to save your seat.

## New Bedford

New Bedford's Veterans' Advisory Board and the City of New Bedford are proud to announce the 2025 New Bedford Veterans Day Parade.

The parade will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 11. It will begin forming at the intersection of Rockdale Avenue and Union Street by Buttonwood Park around 10 a.m. with the parade stepping off at 11 a.m.

The parade will march east on Union Street to County Street, then turn left and head north on County Street to William Street, then turn right onto William Street and head east to City Hall, and end at the reviewing stand in front of the New Bedford Main Library, at the

intersection of Pleasant and William streets. The address for the end of the parade is 613 Pleasant St. in Downtown New Bedford.

A Veterans Day service will be held at the reviewing stand following the conclusion of the parade, and all are invited to attend. Seating will be reserved near the reviewing stand for elderly veterans and veterans with disabilities. After the ceremony, all are invited to visit the Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Military Museum for light refreshments, located at 1000C Rodney French Blvd.

This year's parade Grand Marshal is Command Sergeant Major James H. Rollins, U.S. Army Retired, who joined the Army in 1960 and served 25 years. A Vietnam Veteran and decorated soldier, CSM Rollins volunteers as a Service Officer at the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 7 and serves as its Sergeant of Arms.

In the case of inclement weather, there will be a service at the Fort Taber Community Center at Fort Taber Park, 1000A S. Rodney French Blvd., beginning at 12 p.m.

CONT'D on page 20

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# Fairhaven Select Board makes no change to Atlas Tack Group

By Beth David  
Editor

The Fairhaven Select Board had two separate items on the agenda relating to the Atlas Tack Working Group at its meeting on 10/27/25.

The board first discussed the way the ATWG operates, and then discussed whether or not they should change it to a committee instead of a working group. The SB had received a complaint that the public as prohibited from attending a meeting. The main difference between a working group and a committee is that a committee has to post agendas on the town's website 48 before the meeting; the meeting has to be recorded by government access; and the public is allowed to attend. A working group has no rules regulating public access.

ATWG chairperson, Rick Trapilo, told the board that it was out of an "over abundance of caution" that the group felt the meetings should be closed to the public. He said the group wanted to be focused solely on Atlas Tack.

Mr. Trapilo said they would be

happy to have the meetings open to the public, but still want the flexibility they have by not being a committee.

Town Administrator, Keith Hickey, said a reasonable alternative would be to allow the group to stay a working group, and they will live stream the meetings via Zoom. The meetings would also be available on demand.

SB member Andrew Romano asked if there was a financial difference.

Mr. Hickey said there is. A committee would have to be recorded in the room, requiring an employee to work the cameras and computers. For a Zoom meeting, any staff member can set it up. He also noted they do not have the ability to live shoot when the group is on site, but they can post when a site visit will occur so the public can attend.

Karen Vilandry, President of Hands Across the River Coalition, submitted a letter asking the board to make the WG a committee so the public can attend.

"In so doing, Fairhaven residents can attend and for example, may offer information about individuals going

into the building, vandalizing the property, etc.," she wrote.

She also wrote that nearby residents would be kept abreast of the Superfund site so close to their homes.

"So will you please make it a Committee?" she wrote. "It's crucial to allow Fairhaven residents to know what's going on with that Superfund Site!"

In the end, the board did not vote to make any change, being satisfied with the compromise outlined by Mr. Hickey.

Mr. Romano said it was what he was looking for.

"I applaud the compromise that was reached," said SB member, Natalie Mello, adding that having people having access to the meetings should satisfy people who felt they were being shut out.

Mr. Trapilo also gave a brief update on the WG's progress. He said they are trying to find out ownership of the different parcels in the 44-acre property. He also said the owner of

SELECT: cont'd on page 17

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# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## Veterans Support

The Fairhaven Veterans Services Office, Fairhaven Police & Fire Departments, and Bristol County Outreach will hold a veterans outreach and support event on Thurs., 11/13, from 10 a.m.–2 p.m. at the Fairhaven Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven. Open to ALL local communities.

Participants include: Local Veterans Services Officers; The Veterans Transition House; The Vet Center; The Veterans Association of Bristol County and Veterans Activities Programs; Seven Hills; Stepping Stone Peer-to-Peer; Community Counseling & Southeastern Mass. Public Health Collaborative (blood pressure clinic).

## Compost Pumpkins

The Fairhaven Sustainability Committee is pleased to announce again that community members can compost their pumpkins instead of throwing them in the trash. Starting on Saturday, 11/2 residents can bring their pumpkins to one of the three community gardens for composting. The three gardens are at Wood, East and Hastings Middle Schools. Each garden will have a marked location for composting the pumpkins.

Composting pumpkins not only helps reduce waste from the trash but also will create garden compost for our gardens next year.

If people are not able to bring their pumpkins to the community gardens, find a small spot in your yard and smash the pumpkin, next spring you may see a new plant growing in that spot, a complete pumpkin circle.

Please remove any candles or lights and do not include any pumpkins with glitter or paint. For any questions please contact Ann Richard at [ann.richard@gmail.com](mailto:ann.richard@gmail.com)

Visit [www.fairhavencommunitygarden.org](http://www.fairhavencommunitygarden.org)

## Leaf Collection

This year's curbside leaf collection will be from November 17th through December 12th. Leaves must be placed at the curb by 7 a.m.

Leaves will be picked up the day after your regular trash day. After a holiday collection will be one day later. Place leaves in boxes, barrels or paper leaf bags.

**NO PLASTIC BAGS. DO NOT USE**

YOUR TRASH OR RECYCLE BIN (ABC CARTS). Limit of 25 per stop. Brush and vines are NOT accepted. Contact the Board of Public Works office, 508-979-4031 for further information.

Visit <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/2025-leaf-collection/>

## Hoops for All

FREE Unified Basketball Clinic, Sundays, through 11/23, Northeast Maritime Institute, 32 Washington St., Fairhaven. Contact Krystal Lunn, [krystal.lunn@gmail.com](mailto:krystal.lunn@gmail.com)

Ages 12 & under: 11 a.m.–noon; ages 13+: noon–1 p.m.

## Author Event

Mon., 11/17, 6:30 p.m., Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven (use Walnut St. entrance).

Geneva Woodruff will discuss her book, "Dear Frankie: What Dogs Really Think." See ad on page 6.

## Winter Market

At the Fairhaven Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven, the second Saturday of each month from Nov.–April, 9 a.m.–1 p.m. Start date, 11/8. Featuring produce, baked goods, breads, and a rotation of local vendors.

Contact Jessica Fidalgo, [jessfidalgo121313@gmail.com](mailto:jessfidalgo121313@gmail.com) for more information.

## Vets Legacy Trail

The Mass. Veterans Legacy Trail, is a first-of-its-kind project cataloging more than 1,200 war memorials across Mass. Developed as a signature initiative of the Mass. 250th Anniversary commemoration, the Trail honors the service and sacrifice of veterans and military service from the Revolutionary War to the present day. The new initiative features both an interactive website and a companion brochure, designed to help residents and visitors explore Massachusetts' military history in engaging and accessible ways.

The Veterans Legacy Trail website (<https://tinyurl.com/3mxx2u6n>) offers a searchable map of more than 1,200 memorials statewide. Each entry includes location information, photographs, and historical context. Users can search by region, war era, or community.

Visit [www.massachusetts250.org](http://www.massachusetts250.org).

## Original Play

When a mutual friend introduced Mark Twain and Henry Huttleston Rogers, it was the beginning of a friendship that lasted until Rogers' death. "Twain and Rogers: In Their Own Words" is a play about that friendship, based on the letters the two men exchanged.

The play is a very Fairhaven production: Some of the letters are in the Millicent Library; the chairs on the set came from the Rogers Mansion (courtesy of the library and the Fairhaven Historical Society); the playwright, Beth Luey, lives in Fairhaven; producer/director Kiah Allaire is a recent Fairhaven High School graduate; Twain writes about his visits to Fairhaven, and Rogers tells what he really thought about the selectmen, the water company, and the fire department.

As you'd expect from Twain, there's plenty of humor, but there's also tragedy and the men's efforts to console each other. And, of course, it's being staged in the Fairhaven Town Center at the Shepherd Center for the Performing Arts.

The play will be performed on Sat., 11/15 (NOTE date correction), at 7 p.m. at the Shepherd Center for the Performing Arts, 34 Center St. (William St. entrance), Fairhaven. For tickets visit <https://tinyurl.com/434fvpe9> or <https://theshepherdcenter.org/> Tickets: \$20 online, \$25 at the door. The performance is a benefit for The Fairhaven Historical Society.

## SAVE THE DATES:

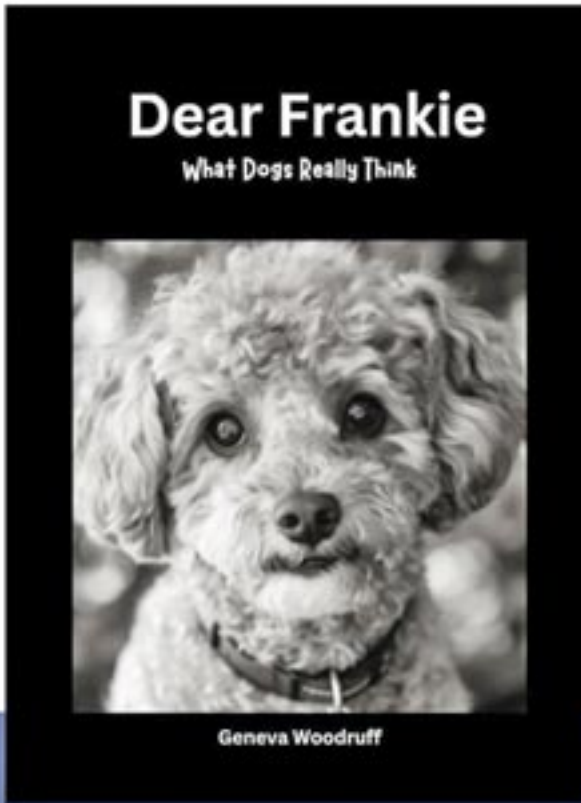
### Blue Devil Craft Fair

5th Annual Blue Devil Craft Fair. Nov 22, 2025, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Fairhaven High School, 12 Huttleston Ave, Fairhaven. All proceeds support the FHS Classes of 2026 & 2027 and FHS PTO.

Join the FHS PTO for a fun-filled craft and vendor fair featuring over 100 local crafters and vendors spread throughout the gym, library, cafeteria, and small cafeteria!

Enjoy delicious food, exciting raffles, and a 50/50 drawing. Plus, Texas Roadhouse will be on-site selling gift cards, with 10% of proceeds benefiting the event.

Find them on Facebook to RSVP



# BOOK TALK

with local author  
**Geneva Woodruff**



## Dear Frankie *What Dogs Really Think*

Join author Geneva Woodruff for a lively talk on her book *Dear Frankie: What Dogs Really Think*, a collection of humorous letters from her long-running Neighborhood News column. Written from the perspective of Frankie, a perceptive pup with plenty to say, the letters offer "first-paw" accounts of the inner lives of pets and their humans. With wit and heart, *Dear Frankie* explores themes like family, love, and loyalty—sharing a canine's candid take that people can learn from, too.

This Book Talk  
presented by the Friends of  
the Millicent Library.



Monday, Nov. 17  
at 6:30pm  
in the Auditorium at  
the Millicent Library  
45 Center St., Fairhaven MA 02719

# Fairhaven Sustainability receives Bee-eautiful grant

*Press Release From Keep Massachusetts Beautiful*

The Fairhaven Sustainability Committee was recently awarded a \$500 Plant Something Bee-eautiful grant from Keep Massachusetts Beautiful to help beautify Macomber Pimental Park with a new pollinator-friendly garden.

“When complete, this will be Fairhaven’s largest public garden dedicated exclusively to plants native to coastal Massachusetts,” said Christin Ritz, a member of the Fairhaven Sustainability Committee. “A variety of native trees, flowering perennials, and berry-producing shrubs will increase flood resiliency, benefit birds and pollinators, and be a unique, immersive, and educational experience for visitors during all four seasons.”

Keep Massachusetts Beautiful’s Plant Something Bee-eautiful program provides \$10,000 in annual grants to support the planting of pollinator-friendly public gardens, with financial support from Edrington, a Scottish purveyor of premium spirits.

“Our Plant Something Bee-eautiful

program beautifies public spaces while also restoring natural habitats for pollinators,” said Neil Rhein, founder and executive director of Keep Massachusetts Beautiful. “Bees and other pollinators are an essential link in our food chain and this program provides funding to help protect and restore essential habitats. We’re pleased to support the Fairhaven Sustainability Committee in this joint effort.”

Bees and other pollinators are in serious decline around the world. According to the Pollinator Partnership, the monarch butterfly population has declined by 90% over the past 20 years. Pollinators, including 20,000 species of wild bees,



Christin Ritz, a Fairhaven Sustainability Committee member, and Wendy Drumm, Vice Chair of the Conservation Commission, discuss design ideas for Macomber Pimental Park after the committee was awarded a \$500 grant from Keep Massachusetts Beautiful to plant a variety of flowers, shrubs, and trees. *Photo submitted by Keep Massachusetts Beautiful.*

contribute to the growth of fruit, vegetables, and flowering plants. Plants that depend on pollination make up 35 percent of global crop production volume.

The decline of pollinators is caused by habitat destruction, the overuse of pesticides that include neonicotinoids, farming practices that eliminate patches of wildflowers

**BEE: cont'd on page 17**



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# Fairhaven Senior Center/Council on Aging

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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: 11/12, Hyannis Mall, Trader Joe's; 11/19, First Light Casino; 11/26, Providence Place Mall; 12/3, Tiverton Casino

## 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.

## Movie Mondays

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. All shows at 12:15.

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.

**Nov 17. What's Cooking?** Comedy, Drama & Romance. Four families in LA of different ethnicities (Latino, Asian/Vietnamese, African and Jewish) gather together for Thanksgiving dinner.

## Veterans Outreach & Support

Nov. 13, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Fairhaven Recreation, 277 Huttleston Ave. (adjacent to the Sr. Center). Open to all local communities. Learn about support services for veterans from a variety of organizations.

## Medicare Open Enrollment

Medicare Open Enrollment is your chance to review your coverage for 2026. You can review changes to your current plan options for 2026, and learn if you qualify for programs to help you with your out-of-pocket costs. The Fairhaven COA is fully booked. If you are a Fairhaven resident you may call to be placed on a waiting list. Please call the Middleborough COA for assistance with open enrollment, 508-946-2490.

## State Rep Mark Sylvia

State Rep. Mark Sylvia will hold an office hour every second Monday of the month at the Fairhaven Council on Aging/Senior Center, from 9–10 a.m. **Next date: Nov. 10.** If you need to speak with him before then, call 617-722-2400.

## Walking Group is Back!

Walk with friends at the Rec Center gym next door from 12–12:30 p.m., Monday–Friday. FREE. So lace up those sneakers and let's get our steps in together!

# 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>**

## Neurodiversity Yoga

With Cheryl Rocha. Move gently. Breathe deeply. Restore your mind and body. This adaptive slow yoga class is designed for all bodies and abilities — whether you're new to yoga or seeking a more supportive experience. Each session emphasizes mindful movement, relaxation, and connecting with your breath. No prior experience needed. Just bring yourself, maybe a yoga mat, and the intention to unwind. Individuals are encouraged to bring their own mat and a support person if needed. Join us and let your practice begin. Every Thursday at 1:00 PM. Starting November 6th \$10. Drop in class paid to instructor @ class

## Anti-Bullying 3-on-3 Youth Basketball Tournament

Join us for a fun, competitive day of basketball and positivity at the

Fairhaven Rec Center on Tues., 11/11 from 10 AM – 3 PM! This 3-on-3 basketball tournament is all about teamwork, respect, and standing up against bullying. Registration Fee: \$25 per person (includes official event t-shirt!) Divisions: 5th & 6th Grade (Co-Ed), 7th & 8th Grade Boys, 7th & 8th Grade Girls. Positive vibes all day! Let's stand strong together and show that bullying has no place on or off the court. Register now and bring your best game! \$25.00

## Babysitting

Get ready for an exciting and engaging babysitting adventure! This fun-filled course introduces children to all aspects of babysitting, from creative mealtime and bedtime routines to essential first aid and choke-saving techniques. Participants will also master diapering and effective discipline strategies, mak-

ing them confident and capable sitters. The class dives into important topics like contracts and ethics, all while keeping things lively and interactive. With safety as a top priority, kids will learn how to handle door and telephone answering, and how to prevent accidents and fires. Perfect for children ages 10-13, this program is designed to be both educational and enjoyable. Don't forget to bring a snack for the break! Nov 4th 5:30-7:30pm Instructor: Beth Oleson. Member \$45 Non-member \$50.

## Family Bingo Night

Join us for an evening of fun, pizza, punch, and exciting prizes on November 6th, from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. We kindly ask that you bring a canned item for donation to the Good Shepherd's Pantry, if possible. Please register online, in person, or by phone to secure your spot.

# Recipe of the Week

## Two Beef Chili

*Easy to make ahead and even better the next day. Just heat it up, pile on the toppings.*

- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 3 lb. chuck, cut into 1-inch pieces
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 2 lb. ground beef
- 8 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 Tbsp. chili powder
- 2 Tbsp. ground cumin
- 2 tsp. red pepper flakes
- 2 cups beef broth
- 2 (28-ounce) cans diced tomatoes
- Chopped scallions, grated

Cheddar, sour cream, and diced avocado, for serving  
Heat oil in a large Dutch oven or pot over medium heat. Season chuck with salt and pepper. Cook, in batches, until brown on all sides, 6 to 8 minutes; transfer to a plate.

Add onion to pot and season with salt and pepper. Cook, stirring occasionally, until soft, 8 to 10 minutes. Add ground beef and cook, stirring occasionally, just until beef is no longer pink, 10 to 12 minutes. Add garlic, chili powder, cumin, and red pepper flakes. Cook, stirring, 1 minute. Add broth, tomatoes, and browned chuck. Cover and cook, stirring occasionally, until chuck is very tender, 2 to 2 1/2 hours.

Serve with desired toppings alongside.

*From countryliving.com*



# Dear Frankie

## Living With a Sibling With a Disability

*Dear Frankie,*

My parents and my brother, Louie, were in a serious car accident several years ago. At the time, Louie was only four years old, and he suffered a brain injury. He spent months in the hospital and underwent extensive therapy, but unfortunately, the therapy did not help much.

Now, my parents must do everything for Louie because he is unable to walk, talk, feed, or dress himself. They also need to take him to frequent medical and therapy appointments. Louie requires all of my parents' time, attention, and money, which means there isn't much left for me.

I wonder if there are places where Louie could live with other kids who have similar needs. I love my brother and feel awful about what happened to him, but the prospect of his lifelong care feels terrible.

*Flicker*

*Dear Flicker,*

I understand that you feel overlooked and that you have lost the childhood you once knew. The reality of a serious head injury is that it lasts forever. Unless your parents have significant finan-

cial resources, there are generally few options for Louie to live elsewhere. Even if such places were available, your parents might prefer to keep Louie at home and in their care.

Consider sharing your feelings with your parents. Doing so might encourage them to hire someone or ask a family member to help care for Louie, allowing them to spend more time and attention on you.

If that isn't possible, they could look into hiring or finding someone to be a big brother or sister for you. There are also community support and activity groups specifically for siblings of children with disabilities. These organizations can help your parents better understand your experience and learn from what other families have done for their children.

Don't lose hope; many siblings in your community are facing situations similar to yours, and one or two of them might become lifelong friends.

*Best, Frankie*

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



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# Acushnet voters to decide on \$55m for Old Colony building

By Beth David  
Editor

Acushnet and other towns that contract with Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School will vote on 11/18/25 on whether or not they will fund their share of the \$288,743,683 building project at the school. The Mass. School Building Association is expected to reimburse the district \$129,675,235, leaving \$159,068,448 for the district members to pay.

Acushnet's share will be \$55.4 million. Other communities are: Carver, \$26.2m; Lakeville, \$39.6m; Mattapoisett, \$8.8m; Rochester, \$28.8m.

The costs to repair the existing building are not much better: Acushnet, \$46.8m; Carver, 22.1m; Lakeville, \$33.5m; Mattapoisett, \$7.4m; Rochester, \$23.3m.

The projected tax impact for individual residents in Acushnet is \$722 per year, based on an average single family home assessed at \$471,732.

Old Colony opened in 1975 and is limited by its physical footprint. The school needs to expand to provide students with their preference for vocational training, according to the presentation.

The district wants to expand its offerings to add Plumbing, HVAC-R, and Dental Assisting.

The school's students have worked on projects in all the member communities, including building COA sheds in Acushnet and Rochester;

installing electric car charging stations in Acushnet; and a variety of other projects in each town.

"With the addition of Plumbing and HVAC programs, Old Colony will function as a fully integrated construction workforce, providing even greater benefits for our towns and taxpayers," reads the presentation. "Our vision for the new school is to create a modern facility designed to integrate vocational and academic learning while empowering students with voice, independence, and exploration."

The presentation notes that demand for quality vocational technical training is at an all-time high.

"Old Colony aspires to provide vocational training beyond the traditional school day in collaboration with work-force partners to support economic development," reads the presentation. "Equipment upgrades and appropriate space are a necessary component for this work to effectively take place."

The presentation outlines maintenance efforts at the school in recent years, but space constraints are evident throughout the programs.

The school is significantly under the minimum square footage recommended per pupil for every program.

Other problems include: storage space; staff using supply closets as offices; piping and fixtures starting to rot and fail completely; inoperable floor drains; drinking water contamination; plumbing issues; flooring that

needs replacing in the gym and kitchen; carpeting that needs replacing; no climate control in some areas.

Restrooms are not ADA compliant, and the lavatory ratio for female to male students is not equitable. To access the lavatories, female students in non-traditional shops have to walk twice the distance of their male counterparts.

Outside, asphalt and paving are in need of considerable repair. Windows and doors are original to the building and have failing seals that increase energy costs.

The masonry outside is deteriorating; parking is insufficient; and parking lots need stormwater and site drainage upgrades as parking lots flood up to 10 inches.

The new building will be on the same site, next to the existing building and will not disrupt teaching and learning.

The new building will allow the school to add more than 200 students. This year, 300 students applied for 150 spots.

The new building will have sustainability features including: stormwater managed on site; a minimum of 50% of energy will be from renewable sources; 75% of regularly occupied spaces will have views to nature and have natural light; landscape design will include outdoor classroom, 100% native planting.

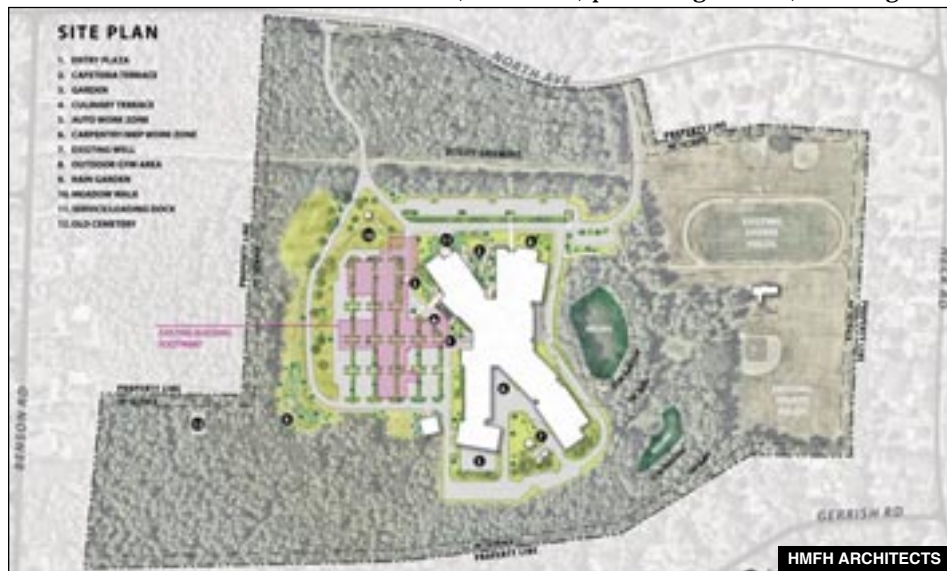
The town will vote on 11/18 to see if voters will approve the district's borrowing of \$288,743,683, reduced by any grant money received.

Polls will be open from noon to 8 p.m. All precincts vote at the Acushnet Elementary School, 800 Middle Road. If you have any questions about the status of your voter registration, call the Town Clerk's office at 508-998-0215.

The presentation is available online at <https://oldcolonybuildingproject.com>

The Acushnet Selectboard held a joint meeting with the Finance Committee and Old Colony representatives on 9/9/25. It is available on the town's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gDMeZelyBk>

The SB also held a meeting for the public with Old Colony representatives on 10/27/25, available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PuxvyC7WiV8>



The site plan for the proposed new Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School that will cost \$288,743,683 to build and requires a vote from district member communities that will take place on 11/18/25. From page 38 of Old Colony presentation.

# Acushnet Town Meeting passes spending for golf clubhouse

By Beth David

Editor

Acushnet voters made quick work of voting on more than \$5 million in spending items at a special Town Meeting on 11/3/25, at Ford Middle School, adjourning in just over an hour.

With his usual flair, Garry Rawcliffe asked more than once how much of the money in free cash came from the school department. Mostly, he was shut down with Town Moderator, Les Dakin, telling Mr. Rawcliffe that his question was not within the scope of whatever article was up for discussion. At some point, he got Selectboard member Kevin Gaspar to estimate that the school department generally turns back about \$300,000.

All articles were approved, except Article 8, which was Indefinitely Postponed, and would have funded the clerical union contract. Mr. Dakin explained that the town and union failed to finalize the contract prior to the meeting.

The largest single spending item was Article 11, which authorized \$3,500,000 to build and equip a Golf Course Clubhouse, with \$1.25 million coming from the Golf Enterprise Retained Earnings, and \$2.25 through Bond Anticipatory Notes, which are short-term borrowing instruments.

"We have a world class golf course with no club house," said Finance Committee Chairperson, Mike Boucher. He said the FinCom felt the town should invest in the golf course. He noted the money is not coming from taxpayer funds. The BAN would be paid from

the Golf Fund.

SB chairperson, David Wojnar, said they had spoken to a lot of golf customers and the town and committee decided to move forward with the project. He said he was "thrilled" with the "all star" group that came together to form the exploratory committee. He said they worked "countless hours" on it. He also noted that SB member Kevin Gaspar was "very creative" looking at the financial aspects of the project.

Mr. Gaspar said that \$3.5 million is a lot of money, so they will have to improve revenues. With a new clubhouse to do that, he said, he thinks they can pay off the loan in five years.

"I think \$3,500,000 is a pretty good number," said Mr. Gaspar.

Golf committee member, David Flynn, said the golf course brings in 200,000 to 300,000 people a year to Acushnet.

He said the current clubhouse is a trailer that has been there "since day one." The town has owned the golf course for 27 years.

"We know this is feasible and affordable," said Mr. Flynn.

Town Meeting passed the article with very little opposition.

Article 6 was one of the few to get some discussion. It funded the purchase of a new ambulance for \$475,000, with \$275,000 from free cash, and \$200,000 from the ambulance fund which currently has \$1,090,900.

Deborah Medeiros asked why the whole amount was not coming from

the ambulance fund.

Mr Gaspar explained that the fund is used for purchasing other equipment, and is also used to balance the department budget. He said they did not want to take too much from that account, but wanted to make it "balanced approach."

Article 5 rescinded the vote from June that would have borrowed the money for the ambulance.

Town Meeting also approved:

- \$625,000 from free cash to fund health insurance past claims and litigation that result from the unexpected costs of catastrophic cases and associated litigation.
- \$190,000 to amend the capital budget from last June's TM, including adding \$170,000 from Free Cash for two police cruisers, and \$7,000 for repair to the Parting Ways Building;
- \$49,000 from Cable TV funds to buy and equip a utility van with mounted aerial lift.
- the transfer of \$295K to pay off the borrowing for the school roof project, with \$242,352 from free cash, and \$52,648 from the Solar Tax Revenue fund.

Mr. Wojnar also repeated his announcement that he would not be seeking re-election next year. He encouraged people to run, saying it was a "great vocation" and a great job, and a great "use of your time."

The meeting is available on the town's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FP1AJmUUWU>

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## Suspect search causes school lockdown

Press Release

Chief Daniel M. Dorgan reports that the Fairhaven Police Department worked closely with the Fairhaven Public Schools as officers pursued and apprehended a fleeing suspect on Wednesday afternoon.

Around 2 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 29, Fairhaven Police received a call reporting a person with an outstanding warrant had been spotted at a car wash at 128 Huttleston Ave.

The man was cleaning out a vehicle and fled from officers as they approached. The suspect fled north, behind Hastings Middle School.

The incident coincided with school dismissal. Fairhaven Police notified the School Department immediately, and out of an abundance of caution

the District responded by initiating a "Stay Put" order at the Fairhaven Middle School and two nearby elementary schools.

Students at Fairhaven High School had already been dismissed for the day.

Officers searched the wooded area to the east of the Middle School and quickly located the suspect. He was unarmed and taken into custody without further incident.

At no point were students in danger or in contact with the suspect and all established protocols were followed as Wednesday's incident unfolded. The Fairhaven Police School Resource Officer was also on scene and positioned at the rear of the middle school, adding an extra layer of security.

Fairhaven Public Schools shared the following message on the District's website: "Thank you to the Fairhaven Police for their collaboration, communication and commitment to the safety of our students, staff, and the Fairhaven Public Schools.

"Thank you for your continued understanding and support as safety is our top priority."

"We are very proud of the professional working relationship we have with the Fairhaven School Department," said Chief Daniel M. Dorgan. "Today was an outstanding example of how our two organizations work together seamlessly to help ensure the safety of the youth of our community."

# Marsh Island Reopens to the public

*Press Release from the Buzzards Bay Coalition*

Restoration efforts at Marsh Island, which began nearly three years ago, have brought six acres of salt marsh on this peninsula back to life, which had been lost since the late 1930s.

On October 28, the Buzzards Bay Coalition and its partners welcomed local residents and the public to enjoy the paths and great views of the refurbished marsh and the New Bedford skyline across the Harbor in a grand opening. Attendees had the chance to walk the perimeter of the site through the access point at Taber Street.

"It was a lot of work over a long time, but come on out and take a look," says Brendan Annett, Buzzards Bay Coalition Vice President of Watershed Protection. "It is really something to see! This beautiful, natural, waterfront area was brought back to life for everyone to enjoy. Birds, wildlife, fish and the green marsh right here in the middle of busy New Bedford Harbor, for the surrounding communities to enjoy."

Marsh Island is the largest restoration of nature ever on New Bedford Harbor. Located at the site of a former quarry and, later, filled in with dredged sand from the harbor, this area was referred to by locals as "Tin Can Island."

The Buzzards Bay Coalition and its partners have completed the first half of the salt marsh's restoration. The second and final phase will begin in 2030 when the current radio lease ends and the giant towers are removed.

During these intervening years, the Coalition is opening the northern half

of the property to the public so that the public can become an active observer in its restoration.

"The Marsh Island Restoration Project is a great example of what we can achieve when we work together," said Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game's Division of Ecological Restoration Director Beth Lambert. "By restoring this salt marsh, we're not only bringing back vital habitat for fish and

wildlife but also strengthening the coastline against the impacts of climate change. This project shows that healthy ecosystems are our best defense."

Marsh Island originally contained extensive salt marsh. Part of the site was then turned into a granite quarry in the 1800s. Between the 1930s and mid-1950s, the site was filled with sediment dredged from New Bedford Harbor navigation channels. The Buzzards Bay Coalition worked with key partners to secure the land for conservation in two parts, in 2002 and 2007, and today, Marsh Island is jointly owned by Buzzards Bay Coalition and the Fairhaven-Acushnet Land Preservation Trust.

"The Headwaters of the Acushnet River were once referred to as the Isle of Marsh. We welcome all Wampanoag communities to celebrate this site and for our neighbors to enjoy this spectacular ecosystem. Grab a pair of binoculars and watch our seasonal visitors upon this newly reclaimed Marsh," says Cora Peirce, President of



Cora Peirce, President of the Fairhaven-Acushnet Land Preservation Trust, takes a selfie before the start of the speechmaking at the official reopening of Marsh Island on 10/28/25 after years of marsh restoration, a joint project by the FALPT, Buzzards Bay Coalition, local, state, and federal agencies. BELOW: State Rep. Mark Sylvia speaks to the crowd. Photos courtesy of Cora Peirce.

Fairhaven Acushnet Land Preservation Trust. "FALPT is thrilled to see this project finally come to fruition with the help of many partners over the last few decades."

Town officials from Fairhaven and New Bedford attended the opening as did representatives Steve Ouellette and Mark Sylvia. Sylvia grew up nearby and presented a citation from the State House to Buzzards Bay Coalition President Mark Rasmussen at the opening. Staff representing state senator Mark Montigny and US Representative Bill Keating also attended.

Work to restore the marsh in the southern half of the property is delayed until the lease for the active radio towers on the site ends in 2030. This phase of the project will uncover additional sediment from the filled marsh and restore native plants and tidal flow, improving water quality and wildlife habitat, further expanding the restored marsh. Once completed, the restored site will feature an expanded perimeter trail, pedestrian bridge, scenic overlooks, and a trailhead parking area, making this natural gem accessible to the public.

Engineering design was completed by WSP USA (formerly Louis Berger). Luciano's Excavation Inc. performed the construction.



**MARSH: cont'd on page 17**

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

the building seems to be receptive to fixing some of the security issues, such as repairs to the fencing, but nothing definitive has happened yet.

He said the best result it to tear the building down and remove the debris from the site. The WG is looking at options involving the federal Environmental Protection agency, state Department of Environmental Protection, and other agencies.

**BEE: cont'd from page 7**

and cover crops, parasites, pathogens, as well as climate change.

Keep Massachusetts Beautiful is taking action to make Massachusetts a cleaner, greener, litter-free place to live, work, and play. Learn more at [www.keepmassbeautiful.org](http://www.keepmassbeautiful.org).

The Fairhaven Sustainability Committee is dedicated to providing the town, its residents, and businesses with ways in which direct or indirect actions positively affect our future.

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**MARSH: cont'd from page 13**

The project is a conservation partnership of the New Bedford Harbor Trustee Council, NOAA Restoration Center, Massachusetts Department of Fish & Game's Division of Ecological Restoration, the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, and the Fairhaven-Acushnet Land Preservation Trust and others with the Buzzards Bay Coalition.

The Buzzards Bay Coalition is a membership-supported nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection, restoration, and sustainable use and enjoyment of Buzzards Bay and its watershed. Supported by over 12,000 members, the Coalition works to improve the health of the Bay ecosystem for all through education, conservation, research and advocacy.

## Upcoming Meetings

### Fairhaven Atlas Tack WG

Thurs., 11/6, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

### Commission on Disability

Thurs., 11/13, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

### Community Preservation

Wed., 11/12, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Cultural Council

Wed., 11/12, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Finance Committee

Thurs., 11/13, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

### Marine Resources

Thurs., 11/6, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Planning Board

Tues., 11/18, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Public Safety Complex

Wed., 11/12, Westport PD/Tour, 2 p.

### School Committee

Wed., 11/12, FHS Media Lib., 6:30 p.m.

### Select Board

Mon., 11/10, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### (Special) Town Meeting

Wed., 11/19, Hastings MS, 7 p.m.

Precinct Mtgs & STM preview:

Thurs., 11/13, 6:30 pm

## Acushnet

### Board of Appeals

Wed., 11/19, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Board of Assessors

Wed., 11/12, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

### Conservation Comm

Wed., 11/12, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

### Selectboard

Fri. 10/31, Town Hall, noon

Tues., 11/4, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

### Special Election/Old Colony Building Ballot Question

Tues., 11/18, polls open Noon-8 p.m.

### TIDE TABLE

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

	Nov. 2025	HIGH a.m.	LOW p.m.	HIGH a.m.	LOW p.m.
Thursday	6	0754	2021	0057*	1354*
Friday	7	0846	2114	0150*	1447*
Saturday	8	0939	2208	0244*	1534*
Sunday	9	1033	2307	0334*	1620
Monday	10	1133	---	0423	1717
Tuesday	11	0011	1236	0526	1937
Wednesday	12	0112	1335	0810	2052
Thursday	13	0209	1431	0933	2156

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

# The Dark Road Of Grief: Remembering Marin Stackpole

By Christian Cordeiro

## Special to the Neighb News

Hello, my name is Christian Cordeiro. I am a freshman at Roger Williams University pursuing a dual major in criminal justice and psychology. I was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and grew up in the Greater New Bedford Area. I attended Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School, where I met some of my closest friends from the towns of Dartmouth, New Bedford, and Fairhaven. One of these friends, who bred countless memories, was a part of this very community.

I would like to introduce you to a dear friend of mine, Marin Celia Stackpole. I met Marin during my freshman year of high school, her eighth-grade year. She was a resident of Fairhaven and was the life-of-the-party type of friend, always finding enjoyment in the most menial of things. She always dressed for the occasion, whether it was a Red Sox game, a dinner, or just going to a friend's house. The one constant with her outfits was a set of nails done by her friend Joebaliet, and occasionally a walking boot. The design would change from set to set, but the color complemented the current season, creating a sort of radiance about them.

Following her middle school graduation, she began her high school career with me at GNB Voc-Tech where we grew extremely close.

Where she lived, on a street adjacent to Route 6 in Fairhaven, multiple spots lack infrastructure. There are only a handful of street lights and minimal speed limit enforcement. The speeds are between 35 to 45 miles per hour, which people rarely obey. This road fills one with anxiety on every turn.

Often, when driving this road, I imagine someone could be driving civilly, safely, and have everything ripped away from them by an ignorant driver. I always knew it was a possibility, but I did not think it would affect me personally.

Marin got her license this past year and immediately took to the roads. Having a car gives a teenager a sort of freedom like no other. The ability to

go wherever you want, whenever you want, with parental approval, of course. I trained to be a mechanic at GNB Voc-Tech, and have seen my fair share of accidents. Even though Marin weighed the risks of driving, there was still everything to lose.

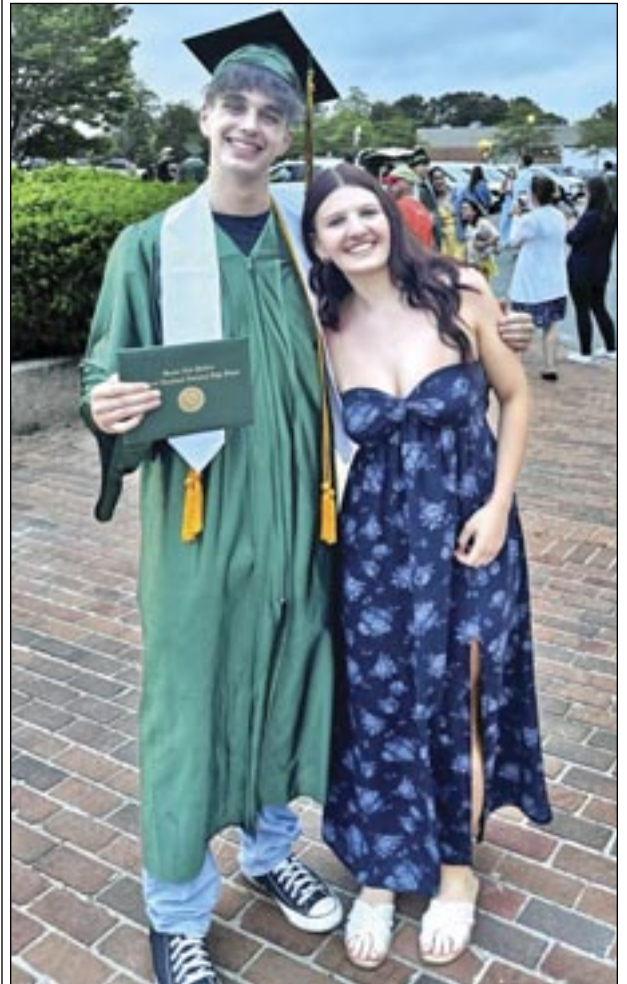
It was around 9:40 at night on July 5th, 2025. I had just gotten home from a graduation party for the past three days. I had just gotten off the phone with Marin around 8:45. She told me she was heading home from Fort Phoenix, where she had just watched the sunset, where she always watched the sunset.

As I start getting comfortable in my bed, I see a text from an old teammate of mine asking if I had heard about Marin. I thought he was going to tell me something pointless, so I didn't pay it much mind. In fact, it was not pointless at all.

It felt as though the world stopped spinning. Pacing around my room, I was trying to hold onto the little bit of hope I had. There is no way this could happen to someone so pure, I thought to myself. In the end, none of it mattered. At 9:13 PM, on July 5th, 2025, Marin Stackpole was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident, on that dark raceway that always lingered in my mind.

Imagine having such a consistent part of your day, something you looked forward to daily, ripped away from you in a single moment. To this day, I still have the instinct to text or call Marin about things I knew she'd find enjoyable or funny.

The accident occurred a street away from where she lived; she was involved in an accident with a truck in a residential area with no streetlights, no stoplights, and a 45-mile-per-hour speed limit. Good people, like Marin,



L-R: The author, Christian Cordeiro, at his graduation from Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School on 6/6/25, poses with his close friend, Marin Stackpole, 17, who was killed in a car crash on 7/5/25. Submitted photo.

drove and walked those streets with cars coming at near freeway speeds, unintentionally putting their lives at risk.

Although I am speaking passionately on this topic, I can't help admit my ignorance of the situation. I have sped on this road unintentionally, like many others.

I never realized the implications of my actions.

As a community, we need to change the way we view and drive these roads until there is a solution.

Currently, the town of Fairhaven is discussing potential improvements to the situation along Route 6, but no action has been taken. Marin's death should not be in vain. If nothing is done, your best friend, your loved one, could be next.

## From our readers

### Kevin Grant Supports Lucas

I am writing to endorse applicant Jeff Lucas to serve as the interim Planning Board member.

Jeff is well-trusted, well-respected and well liked. He has years upon years of experience in planning, which has been sorely lacking on the Board. The public would — and should — view Jeff as a return to normalcy and proper policy and procedure at a time when we very desperately need it.

Although I myself nominated Diane [Tomassetti] to the Chair and was quite happy that she accepted and was then appointed as such, her push back against requests for town counsel to be present at our first attempt of a Timothy/Hiller Q&A, coupled with denials that such requests were ever made, have resulted in a serious loss of trust and credibility with the public at a time when we must do everything we can to rebuild such trust. A return to the Planning Board after submitting a resignation just weeks ago will further erode the confidence of the voters.

I therefore cannot support her as a candidate.

I am writing on my own behalf and am in no way writing as a spokesperson of the Planning Board.

*Kevin Grant, Fairhaven*

### Why I Volunteer

Several years ago, I was asked by Major BethEllen Parkhurst of the Salvation Army in New Bedford, MA why I volunteered my time there. After some serious thought, this was my answer:

When I think of all the teams, civic groups, business associations, and committees I have been on during my 79 years of life, volunteering at the Salvation Army has been my most rewarding experience.

Jesus, in Matthew Chapter 25:31-46, shared something vital with those in the position to help. His pleasure lies with the compassionate folks who sacrifice to meet the needs of the less

fortunate. How encouraging it is to see this in action at the Salvation Army in New Bedford!

In my estimation, the local outreach ministry of the Salvation Army superbly represents the working church of Christ and shines as our area's Center of eternal hope. For over 135 years, it has faithfully and effectively served others, transformed lives, and brought hope.

Admittedly, there are no perfect people or organizations. The highly effective missionary work of the Salvation Army, however, speaks for itself. On a Christ-like basis, multitudes of the least, last, and lost among us are fed, clothed, supported, and encouraged. The labor of love saturates the atmosphere in this New Bedford service community.

My reader friend, please consider how you are investing your time, talents, treasures, and energies. The work to be done in our communities for those in dire need is constant, comprehensive, complex, and challenging. By God's grace and your willingness to join the cause, your local Salvation Army or comparable Christ-driven organization will have the human power and resources necessary to not only fight poverty and despair, but to win the battle in dramatic fashion.

With Thanksgiving and Christmas soon approaching, will you consider joining me as a volunteer at a Salvation Army facility or similar ministry near you? I promise — you will find it more than worth it!

*Steven J. Bouley, Fairhaven*

### No Kings, Now What?

The "No Kings" protests have surged across the country, with tens of thousands flooding city and town streets, their voices reverberating off marble facades, glass towers, and small-town intersections. On that crisp autumn day, Americans stood united, rejecting the slow erosion of democracy and the rise of unchecked power. It was a breathtaking moment,

one that felt like a reckoning.

But here is the hard truth: without action, this moment will fade. If the energy in those streets is

not channeled into strategy, the "No Kings" movement risks becoming a beautiful, fleeting memory, powerful in image, powerless in outcome.

Marches do not dismantle systems. Hashtags do not pass legislation. And outrage, no matter how righteous, means little if it does not translate into votes, policy, and sustained civic engagement.

So, the question is not what we are angry about; we know that. The question is: what now?

Is there a plan for the midterms? Are we cultivating candidates, not career politicians, but everyday citizens, who will carry the "No Kings" ethos into office? Are we building the infrastructure to turn protest into policy, to hold power accountable?

And what do we do in the meantime? Wait for the next election and hope for the best? Or do we build something lasting, something that cannot be ignored, bought, or co-opted?

History offers a blueprint. When colonists dumped tea into Boston Harbor in 1773, it was not for spectacle; it was a declaration. The Boston Tea Party ignited a revolution, challenging the idea that power could be inherited or unaccountable. It was bold. It was followed by action.

America was born from those who believed the people have the power. Today, as we march under "No Kings" banners, we stand at a similar crossroads.

Will this generation rise to the challenge, or let the moment dissolve into nostalgia? Will we forge a movement, or settle for a memory?

Because power yields nothing without pressure, slogans mean nothing without strategy. Marches mean nothing without votes.

If we believe in "No Kings," we must act like founders of our own future. That means organizing locally, voting in every election, and demanding integrity from those in the U.S. Congress, those in power. It means building a movement that does not wait for permission.

"No Kings" is more than a chant; it is a call to reclaim democracy. The world is watching. History is listening. The next chapter is ours to write.

*Eileen J. Marum, Marion*



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# HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

If you plan on marching in this year's parade and have yet to RSVP, please email Veterans' Agent Christopher Gomes at [cgomes@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:cgomes@newbedford-ma.gov) or call the New Bedford Veteran's Services Department at (508) 991-6184.

If you have not sent an RSVP but still would like to march, we invite you to still show up to the parade. All who want to participate in the parade will be given the opportunity.

## Artist Event

The Southcoast Artists Index, 16 South Water Street, NB. Wed., 11/12, from 6pm to 7pm Free appetizers. Cash bar available.

We welcome Zarla Ludin, founder of The Spare Studio—a creative reuse and second-hand retail art supplier that collects, redistributes, and sells new, nearly new, and still-usable artists' materials gathered from artists' estates and other sources.

The Artists Index Salon Series is designed to inform, inspire, and connect local artists through a series of engaging workshops and conversations. Each session features an expert speaker addressing a key topic—from managing artists' estates and auctions, to the logistics of shipping art, to exploring tools and resources, and understanding the ins and outs of fine art reproduction. Alongside these presentations, the series provides valuable opportunities for networking, sharing experiences, and building connections across the South Coast's creative community.

The Salon Series is funded in part by a grant from the New Bedford Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

## YTI Production

Your Theatre Inc. presents "The Humans" at the Steeple Playhouse, 159 William St., NB. Accessible. Ample parking is available in the city lot at the corner of 6th and William, and both lot and metered street parking are free nights and weekends.

Delve into the heart of contemporary anxieties with unflinching honesty and surprising humor in Stephen Karam's Tony Award-winning masterpiece, *THE HUMANS*. The delicate balance between familial love and the pressures of modern life—

financial strain, aging parents, and the fear of the unknown—is upset over a family's Thanksgiving dinner. This deeply resonant and powerful story offers a profound reflection on what it means to be human in an uncertain world.

Breaking with tradition Erik Blake has brought his Pennsylvania family to celebrate Thanksgiving at his daughter's apartment in lower Manhattan, as darkness falls outside the ramshackle pre-war duplex, eerie things start to go bump in the night, and the heart horrors of the Blake clan are exposed.

Presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, servicing the Dramatists Play Service collection. ([www.dramatists.com](http://www.dramatists.com))

Seven performances over two weekends: Fri. & Sat., 11/7, 11/8, 11/14, 11/15 at 7:30 p.m.; Sun., 11/9, 11/16 at 2 p.m.; Sat., 11/15 at 2 p.m.

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](mailto:boxoffice@yourtheatre.org) or 508-993-0772) for group rates.

## Birding Workshop

The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum is partnering with Mass Audubon for a workshop on birding on Thursday, 11/13 at 5:30pm held at the museum on 396 County Street. This workshop, *Birding Past & Present*, explores the birding basics from how to identify different bird families to the various tools and resources at your disposal. Participants will find out what makes birds unique in the animal kingdom; where and how to locate birds in urban, suburban, and rural communities; and learn about basic bird biology and behavior. All levels are invited to join one of the fastest growing hobbies in North America. This event is free as part of AHA night in New Bedford.

## AHA!

Thurs., 11/13, downtown New Bedford. AHA! Night: Made in NB is a celebration of the art, artistry, and artists of New Bedford and beyond. Join us for a free and fun evening enjoying and exploring downtown.

For schedule, visit <https://>

[ahanewbedford.org/next-aha/](http://ahanewbedford.org/next-aha/)

## SAVE THE DATES:

### Christmas Bazaar

Kick off the holiday season with us at Our Lady of the Assumption's Annual Holiday Bazaar!

Sat., 11/15, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sun., 11/16, 10 a.m.–1 p.m., at OLOA, 47 S. 6th Street, New Bedford, MA 02740

Bring the whole family for two days of festive fun! Shop for unique gifts, clothing, gift baskets, handmade crafts, and more, savor Cape Verdean dishes and baked goods, try your luck at exciting raffles, and enjoy the warm, welcoming holiday spirit of our community.

Don't miss this beloved community tradition: the perfect way to start your holiday season!

### Lebanese Christmas Bazaar

It's time for the annual Lebanese Holiday/Christmas Bazaar by Our Lady of Purgatory Maronite Catholic Church, featuring delicious Lebanese food & tasty desserts, draft tables, raffles, silent auctions & our caravan of values.

Join us at our community center, 4254 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford, on Sat., 11/15 from 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; and Sun., 11/16, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

For more information contact us at [officeolop@gmail.com](mailto:officeolop@gmail.com) or (508) 996-8934. See you there!

### Greens Market

The Garden Club of Buzzards Bay invites the community to celebrate the season at its Holiday Greens Market, held on Sat., 12/6, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum Coach House, located at 396 County Street, New Bedford.

Admission: Free; purchases include complimentary museum tour

For more information, visit the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay website: [www.gardenclubbuzzardsbay.org](http://www.gardenclubbuzzardsbay.org)

### Turkey Shoot

Sun., 11/23, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at New Bedford Revolver and Rifle Club, 246 Bolton St., NB. \$1/lucky target/3 shots. All ages accepted, no license required. Door prices, auction, 50/50 raffle, food, fun prizes. All profits to be donated to local charities.

Visit <https://www.nbrrc.com/>.

# HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

## Nutcracker Tea

Sun., 11/23, 1-3 p.m., at The Country Club of New Bedford, 585 Slocum Rd., No. Dartmouth, by New Bedford Ballet. Email office@newbedfordballet.org or visit www.newbedfordballet.org

Seating is limited, so buy your tickets now. **Last call for ticket purchase is Sat., 11/15.** \$50 for adults and \$35 for children 12 and under. All proceeds support the non-profit New Bedford Ballet Foundation.

Escape to the Land of Sweets this holiday season by attending New Bedford Ballet's inaugural Nutcracker Tea at The Country Club of New Bedford. At this magical event, you will mingle with the Nutcracker dancers while enjoying a variety of sweet and savory treats. Children will create seasonal-themed crafts to take home in our craft room. Enter a raffle to win a Deluxe Class excursion for four on the Cape Cod Railway's Polar Express. Shop for Christmas items in our Holiday Shop, and prepare for New Bedford Ballet's performance of A New England Nutcracker at Keith Middle School on December 13.

## At Acushnet Library

The following events are at the Acushnet Public Library, 232 Middle Road. Visit <https://acupl.org>

### For Adults

- Mon., 11/10, @ 2:00 pm Movie Matinee, *Moonrise Kingdom*, PG-13
- Mon., 11/10, 6:00 pm Knitting & Crocheting Group
- Mon., 11/17, 2025, 2:00 pm - A Special screening of the *Women of Truth and Courage: The Widows of Kalangarai* by filmmaker Karen Kayser, followed by Q & A. For centuries, widowed and abandoned women in India have been treated as outcasts by Indian Society. They are among the poorest of the poor in India, especially if they are low-caste women. This documentary traces the footsteps of a widowed woman, Mrs. Manjula, who joins other widows in a movement to challenge cultural and social ostracism. The women's stories of courage and hope in the face of adversity provide us with a vision of how women can be empowered to change their lives and society.

- Thurs., 11/20, 11:00 am History Coffee Hour - Join this group and gather round, share photos and stories of Acushnet's past.

### Children

- Fall Storytime: Wedn. (Nov. 12, 19) at 11:00 a.m.
- Tweens Book Club: Tues., 11/25, at 4:00 p.m.
- LEGO Club: Sat., 11/8 at 11:00 a.m., and Tues., 11/18 at 2:00 p.m.
- Drop-In Fall Craft: Sat., 11/15, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

## Mattapoisett GOP

The Mattapoisett Republican Town Committee will hold a public meeting on Thurs., 11/13, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Neimad Facility, 57 Fairhaven Road, Mattapoisett, MA 02739.

The meeting will address important community concerns.

The evening will also feature light refreshments, a cash bar, and open conversation among community members. Please visit [Facebook.com/MattapoisettGOP](https://facebook.com/MattapoisettGOP) for information on our scheduled monthly speaker.

For more information, please contact: Paul Criscuolo, Chairperson, Email: [PCMattyGOP@proton.me](mailto:PCMattyGOP@proton.me)

## Music at the MAC

On Sat., 11/8, Putnam Murdock returns to the Marion Art Center for what has become a highly anticipated annual event. Joined by an ever-changing array of friends and collaborators, Putnam's shows always feel fresh and new. The performance will start at 7:00pm in the MAC's Anne Braitmayer Webb Theater, located at 80 Pleasant St. Marion, MA. Tickets are \$25 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. More information and tickets at [marionartcenter.org/events](https://marionartcenter.org/events).

## Acushnet Election

The Acushnet Town Clerk's Office reminds residents that all eligible voters (age 18 and older) must be registered by Friday, November 7th, at 5:00 p.m. to participate in the Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School District Special Election on Tuesday, November 18th, held at the Acushnet Elementary School gymnasium from noon to 8:00 p.m.

Absentee ballots are available through 5:00 p.m., Friday, November 7th, for qualified voters.

Voter registration and absentee ballot applications are available at the Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Tuesday: 8:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.; Friday: 8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. (extended to 5:00 p.m. on November 7th)

For more information, contact the Town Clerk's Office at (508) 998-0215.

## ORR Presents

The Old Rochester Regional High School Drama Club will present "Murder Mystery at the Murder Mystery," a comic murder mystery with a storyline that features a play-within-a-play.

The comedic play will be performed at the Old Rochester Regional High School Auditorium, 135 Marion Road, Mattapoisett, at 7 p.m. on Nov. 20-22, as well as 2 p.m. on Nov. 23. General admission is \$12 per ticket, and \$10 for students and senior citizens. Tickets can be purchased by visiting Eventbrite: <https://tinyurl.com/2ty3722p>.

Set at the fictional "Murder Mystery Playhouse," this fast-paced and hilarious whodunit written by playwright Brian D. Taylor follows a troupe of actors rehearsing a delightfully corny production called "Putting A Little Southern On It."

But when the lights go down during a scene and come up on a very real corpse, the performers find themselves caught in a real-life mystery. As police investigators, critics and playwrights descend upon the chaos, the actors must replay the scene again and again — each time with another shocking "victim."

What follows is a play-within-a-play filled with outrageous accents, theatrical satire, and a mind-bending finale that turns the murder-mystery genre on its head.

## Food Drive

The Mattapoisett Free Public Library is partnering with the student Community Service Club of Old Rochester Regional High School to collect donations for a local food pantry. For each non-perishable, non-expired item donated, the library will waive \$1.00 in overdue fines

Please visit us at 7 Barstow Street, Visit [www.mattapoisettlibrary.org](http://www.mattapoisettlibrary.org) or call 508-758-4171.

# 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"

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Monday, November 17, 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=VFBUQkhkdVYrNzJlQktlVl9XSzGppZz09>

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:

- a. **CON 023-539: Shady Drive, Map 38, Lot 013H**  
Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Ryan & Stacey Nunes to construct a single-family dwelling, install paved driveway, septic system, underground utilities and to fill and grade on the vacant property, which falls within the Nasketucket River Basin; the northwesterly lot corner falls within the 100-foot Buffer Zone of an off-site delineated BVW. Existing vacant lot is open grass field primarily void of trees.
- b. **CON 023-540, SE 023-\_\_\_: Ebony Street, Map 43A, Lot 322** Notice of Intent filed by Jake Galary (Relentless Real Estate Group) for the construction

of a single-family dwelling & associated work. The septic system will be installed outside of the 100' buffer zone of the BVW. The portion of the proposed house, as well as filling & grading will take place ~70' from the existing BVW.

- c. **CON 023-541: 4 Hemlock Street, Map 24, Lot 70**  
Request for Determination filed by John Rapoza to remove the existing stone driveway & walkway and replace with cement. Property within 200 feet of Riverfront

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.

Brandon J. Estrella, Chair  
Fairhaven Conservation Commission  
FNN: 11/6/25

## FAIRHAVEN PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at 6:30 pm  
Town Hall, 40 Center Street  
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Notice is hereby given that the Fairhaven Planning Board will conduct a Public Hearing at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at Town Hall, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA. The Planning Board Meeting will be conducted in Town Hall and remotely and will be televised live on Fairhaven TV Channel 18 and fairhaventv.com.

To Join the Meeting from home Log on to:  
<https://zoom.us/j/93163358101?pwd=NXg5WnUxZ3lK3drSVBMM2JPTXE0QT09>

or call 1-929-205-6099 - Meeting ID: 931 6335 8101

Passcode: 740257

Live on Fairhaven TV Channel 18 and fairhaventv.com

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

1. For the Planning Board to receive information, hear public comment, and consider whether to modify,

rescind, or take other action with respect to the constructive approval of an application for approval of a definitive subdivision plan dated March 24, 2025 submitted by Robert Roderiques d/b/a Windmill Acres LLC for the Hiller Avenue and Timothy Street Subdivision proposed for Map 28C / Parcel 071 and 71A.

A copy of the plans and application are 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 plans and application or other information please call the Land Use & Planning Department at (508) 979-4023 Ext. 8123

Jessica Fidalgo, Acting Planning Board Chair  
FNN: 11/6/25, 11/13/25

## Acushnet Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

The Zoning Board of Appeals is hereby giving notice that a meeting will be held by the Board on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 6:30 PM. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room located at 122 Main Street, Acushnet, MA 02743.

- **Case #2025.11.19A** A case of Carlos Mota for property located at 14 Ludlow Street, Map 24, Lot 15B. The Petitioner seeks a Special Permit to have one commercial van and a trailer in driveway pursuant to Sec 3.3.1B.8.
- **Case #2025.11.19B** A case of Keith Tavares for property located at 229 Peckham Road, Map 2, Lot 14B. The Petitioner seeks a Special Permit for his small business for storage of equipment, and earth removal machines pursuant to Sec 3.3.1B.8.
- **Case #2025.11.19C** A case of Paul Nosworthy for property located at 36 Hathaway Road, Map 14, Lot 2. The Petitioner seeks a Variance to construct a new 30' X 28' barn. The proposed barn fails to meet the required 15-foot sideline setback pursuant to Sec 3.3.1E (3) (c).

\*\*\*Plans are available for public view in the Town Clerk's office, 130 Main St., Acushnet, during their normal business hours\*\*\*

FNN, 11/30/25, 11/6/25

# Volunteers Needed for AARP Tax Aide Program

Kathy Schulman

## AARP Tax-Aide Volunteer

Tax season is still months away, but the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program is already busy recruiting volunteers for the 2026 tax season. AARP is the largest of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs in the nation, both IRS-supported initiatives. The program benefits low to moderate income families, primarily seniors, by providing free tax services at the local councils on aging (COA).

Frank Murphy, district coordinator for Fairhaven and surrounding towns, has been a Tax-Aide volunteer for the last 11 years. He hears the stories every year, from seniors who cannot afford to pay someone to file their taxes and yet, Murphy notes, the number of adults we can help is dependent on how many volunteers we are able to recruit, train and support. It's difficult but we have to turn people away every year.

Volunteer tax preparers work directly with clients to prepare and file returns. Their backgrounds are varied. While some do have backgrounds in quantitative disciplines such as finance or engineering, others do not. No previous tax experience is required because volunteers receive extensive training, culminating in IRS certification. The training begins in December and runs through January. Volunteers are then paired with an experienced preparer when tax season kicks off in February.

The majority of volunteers work two half-day shifts a week with flexible scheduling available to fit a variety of needs. When asked why people commit to such an intensive volunteer program, the refrain is unanimous — because they enjoy helping people and having fun while doing it.

Those interested can learn more and apply at [aarpfoundation.org/TaxaideVolunteer](http://aarpfoundation.org/TaxaideVolunteer).

For those who are interested in receiving help from Tax-Aide, calls for

appointments will be accepted starting the second week of January. Low to moderate income residents can call the local COA's in Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Marion, New Bedford or Rochester. You do not need to be a town resident to make an appointment at a given COA. In fact, since spots in the larger towns fill quickly, residents may need to also call COA's in other towns to secure a spot.

One last thing to note: Residents who've been told they don't need to file taxes may want to make an appointment anyway as they may be eligible for financial relief via the Massachusetts Senior Circuit Breaker program. This program provides a refundable tax credit to help seniors, age 65 and older, to help offset rent and property taxes paid on a principal Massachusetts residence. The program was recently expanded by Governor Healey to offset rising property taxes and rents.

Won't you volunteer to help a neighbor today?

THE SHEPHERD CENTER PRESENTS

ROGERS & TWAIN

# *In Their Own Words*

A play by Fairhaven resident Beth Luey  
based on the letters between Henry Huttleston Rogers and Mark Twain

**November 15, 2025 @7:00 pm**

The performance is a benefit for  
THE FAIRHAVEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY.



**\$20 online  
\$25 at the door**

1/2 price for students w/ ID  
Children 12 and under FREE

**Doors open  
at 6:30 pm**

Shepherd Center for the Performing Arts,  
34 Center St, Fairhaven, MA 02719  
Concessions available!

Written by: Beth Luey  
Directed by: Kiah Allaire  
Starring: Allie Goodman,  
Ron Biever & Gary Souza

<https://theshepherdcenter.ticketspice.com/twain-rogers-in-their-own-words>

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