



# Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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



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with a big voice!

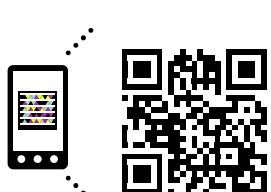
Volume 20, Issue 45 • November 13, 2025

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

## Fairhaven parade honors veterans



The Big Flag flutters in the wind in front of Fairhaven High School during the ceremony after the Fairhaven Veterans Day parade on 11/11/25. 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.

I don't have time for anything this week, folks. Sorry.

You wouldn't even believe how late it is getting this to the printer.

So, no profundities on the Big Buffoon this week.

I will say, however, that the Democrats are extraordinarily expert at snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. Numbnuts. They were winning this shut down thing.

Honestly, most of them really need to go home and go to sleep. Let the young'uns take over, okay?

We have two parades for you this year. See the center spread, pages 12 and 13 for that. Acushnet's of course, got rained on. But that didn't stop them.

Fairhaven had alternating clouds and sun, but WOW was it cold! The wind didn't help much, either, but it did make that big flag flutter in the wind. So cool to see.

Acushnet facing the big vote on the Old Colony building project. See page 3 for that. The vote is Tuesday, so it's your last chance to look up stuff.

And we have a celebrity piece in this week. I don't usually do those kinds of profiles and things. Honestly, you think you've got a good subject and he or she turns out to be a shmuck and you're left looking like a jerk. So, yeah, I don't usually do these kinds of profiles.

But, this subject is totally different from anyone I've ever written about. And, well, I didn't write it. So, see page 7 and if you know he's a jerk, well, can you just keep it to yourself?

Thanks.

There's other stuff in here, of course. See the happenings pages for some of the holiday fairs coming up including my parish's Lebanese bazaar with all that great Lebanese food. See pages 5, 20, 21.

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!*



Publisher Beth David with Charlie, aka Evil Dog

## Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Volume 20, Issue 45

Thursday, November 13, 2025

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Editor: Beth David

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# Old Colony building vote is next week for Acushnet

By Beth David  
**Editor**

The Acushnet Selectboard and Finance Committee held another joint meeting with representatives of Old Colony Regional Vocational Technical High School (OC) on 11/10/25 to get more information on the proposed new school building and its financial impact on Acushnet taxpayers. The meeting was the third and was requested by the FinCom.

FinCom chair, Mike Boucher, said inaccurate information was being circulated on social media, so he wanted to be able to clarify some issues.

The five member communities of the district will vote on 11/18/25 on whether or not they will fund 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, but could go down to \$40 million with added incentives and other savings such as MassSave and

other programs.

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.

The vote will be decided by a majority of the aggregated votes of all five communities, not by individual community votes. All communities will have to abide by the decision, whether or not their individual community supported it.

The new school will increase student population by more than 200 to 776. It will add three new programs: Plumbing, HVAC-R, and Dental Assisting.

The new building will be 270,000 square feet. The current building, built in 1975, is 104,395 sf.

At the 11/10 meeting, much of the discussion revolved around the pros

and cons of building new vs. repairing the current building. Repairing the current building will not be reimbursed by the state.

The structure needs extensive plumbing work, electrical work, and needs to be brought up to American with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

The current building also does not have fire suppression (sprinklers).

Repairing the current building also does not address space issues or allow the district to add new programs.

SB member Kevin Gaspar and Mr. Boucher, both pointed out, however, that repairs would not have to be done all at once. The district could schedule different repairs on different parts of the building for different years. That would allow the towns to fund their shares in smaller chunks instead of borrowing tens of millions of dollars for 20 years.

The boards also discussed specific numbers of students enrolled now and predictions for future years. The town will be assessed its share of paying the bond based on enrollment. Right now, Acushnet has the largest

OC: cont'd on page 18

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# Jeff Lucas is chosen for Planning Board vacancy

By Beth David  
Editor

The Fairhaven Planning Board met jointly with the Select Board on 11/10/25 to choose a replacement for Dianne Tomassetti, who resigned on 10/20, and then tried to rescind her resignation. She applied to fill that vacancy, along with former PB member, Rick Trapilo; and long time PB member, Jeff Lucas. Michelle Costen also applied, but then withdrew her application.

The three candidates gave opening statements and then were asked questions by SB chair, Charles Murphy, and PB chair, Jessica Fidalgo.

In his opening statement, Mr. Trapilo said he was raised to believe deeply in public service. He said he also witnessed how difficult it was to move a community forward during the 40R process. He said PB members were sometimes subjected to personal attacks and it was disheartening.

He said Ms. Tomassetti was treated with a lack of respect and said he "wholeheartedly" supported her to be reinstated, and encouraged the

board members to vote for her. He said if they allow hostility or personal attacks to determine who steps forward then we compromise the "very heart of democracy."

He did not, however, withdraw his name, and stayed to answer questions.

Mr. Lucas talked about his qualifications as a PB member for 25 years. He said he has knowledge of the bylaws and would like to think he would be open minded in how he treats people. He said his goal is to work with the current bylaws as they stand.

"When I look at a project, I don't look at who the person is," said Mr. Lucas, adding he looks at how the project affects the town.

He also said he expects people to be respectful: "It shouldn't have to be asked for."

Mr. Lucas also said he did not intent to run for the seat next year.

Ms. Tomassetti said she wanted to take a moment to speak to residents, saying the comments of her last meeting got the better of her.

She called her resignation a "knee-jerk reaction."

"My feelings were hurt, I was stressed and felt extremely bullied," she said, adding that she tendered her resignation when she felt she was under "significant pressure and negativity that seemed to compromise my reputation, integrity, both personally and as Planning Board Chair."

"For that decision, I apologize," she said.

She said she felt that continuing on the board would bring a level of positive direction and support to the town.

Ms. Tomassetti also said she had an "obligation to the people of Fairhaven to return to the Planning Board."

She promised to provide unbiased research and communicate with board members and "town entities" to ensure the accuracy of board items.

"As a cohesive board, our impact can reach beyond individuals, reshaping our community and neighborhoods," said Ms. Tomassetti.

The applicants faced three questions, about their experience with

SB: cont'd on page 18



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# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## 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. 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

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

## Fhvn GOP

We urge all concerned Fairhaven Republican and unenrolled voters to consider attending our Monthly Fairhaven Republican meeting.

Our meetings are held at 32 Abbey Street, Fairhaven at 6pm on the third Tuesday of each Month. We will be discussing local election results and the Wed., 11/19 Special Town meeting Articles. All civic minded citizens are welcome to attend, easy ground floor access to accommodate all. We represent the Republican Party at a local and neighborhood level. Sharing ideas and information, making plans to recruit, nominate and elect Republican candidates.

You can contact us at [fairhavenrtc@gmail.com](mailto:fairhavenrtc@gmail.com), on Facebook at Fairhaven Republican town committee or call Chair Bob McConnell @ 508-863-0416. Please join us you are most welcome."

## 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/>

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/434fvp9> or <https://theshepherdcenter.org/Tickets>: \$20 online, \$25 at the door. The performance is a benefit for The Fairhaven Historical Society.

## Young Vendors

CALLING ALL OUR CREATIVE KIDS & YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS! Mark your calendar for December 7, 12-2p 227 Huttleston Ave Fairhaven MA for our Youth Vendor Fair.

Artists-Creatives-Crafters-Bakers-Food-Entertainment-Characters wanted!

Support a fun youth led event with your participation! It is with community support events like this succeed. Let's show our next generation what entrepreneurship and community support look like!

Sign Up Registration at <https://gqr.sh/rHgH> Questions and additional information: Jess Fidalgo [jessfidalgo121313@gmail.com](mailto:jessfidalgo121313@gmail.com)

## Tax Aide Volunteers

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.

Volunteer tax preparers work directly with clients to prepare and file returns. No previous tax experience is required because volunteers receive extensive training, culminating in IRS certification.

Learn more and apply at [aarpfoundation.org/TaxAideVolunteer](http://aarpfoundation.org/TaxAideVolunteer)  
**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

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

# Millicent completes electrical, begins HVAC improvements

## Submitted

The Millicent Library, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation independent of the Town of Fairhaven, is responsible for the maintenance and preservation of the historic, town-owned building listed on the National Register of Historic Places, at 45 Center Street, Fairhaven.

## Electric Upgrade Completed

Late this past summer, the Millicent Library completed a \$468,000 electrical upgrade, made possible through the support of the Fairhaven Community Preservation Committee (CPC). The project addressed numerous electrical code violations, relocated panels from egress including stairways, and replaced aging components that posed safety risks with potential fire hazards.

As part of the upgrade, the building's electrical service was expanded from 400 amps to 800 amps to support modern operations and future improvements, including the planned installation of a new central cooling and ventilation system.

Throughout February and March, crews from Levangie Electric Company of Hanover installed new electrical panels, including a main distribution panel, and ran new conduits to relocated and replaced panels. The work also included adding emergency lighting and fire alarm smoke detectors at each panel location.

To minimize disruptions to public service, the team used the April 21 holiday closure to energize the new system. During this scheduled power shutdown, workers transferred service from each panel and began safely demolishing the old ones.

The upgrade project was managed by GGD Consulting Engineers of Dartmouth.

This upgrade marks a critical step toward the library's HVAC modernization project, which will replace the aging furnace and add much-needed cooling. In recent summers, extreme heat forced the library to close several times due to unsafe and uncomfortable indoor conditions.

The Millicent Library's electrical system has come a long way since the building's original construction. In December 1891, the Fairhaven Star reported:

"The electricians and gas fitters are finishing up their work. There will be two independent circuits in the building, the four cables or feed wires of which each contain 20 copper wires. The rooms may be lighted by one of these if the other should be deranged."

Funding for this project was made possible by the Fairhaven Community Preservation Committee through the Community Preservation Act (CPA). This act serves as a crucial tool in preserving our town's open spaces, historic resources, land for recreation, and community housing.

The Millicent Library extends its sincere thanks to the Fairhaven Community Preservation Committee for its continued support and to the community for their patience and understanding during the project.

## HVAC Schematic Design Phase Begins

In September, the Millicent Library selected NV5 Planning & Design of Andover to complete the schematic design for a new, energy-efficient HVAC system tailored to the library's

historic building. Torrey Architecture of Boston will serve as the historic architecture consultant for the project.

Both NV5 and Torrey Architecture bring extensive experience with historic and landmark properties, including buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Their past work includes the Peabody Institute (Public) Library, City of Chicopee City Hall, and the City of Melrose Memorial Hall. Other notable projects include the Lincoln (MA) Public Library, Brown University's Rhode Island Hall, the Massachusetts State House, and the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building in Boston.

During this schematic design phase, the team will document existing conditions through site investigations and 3D laser scanning, evaluate system options, and develop a conceptual plan that enhances comfort and energy efficiency while maintaining the building's historic integrity. The schematic design will guide the next phase of detailed engineering and construction planning.

The planned HVAC system will replace the library's aging furnace and introduce building wide cooling and fresh air for the first time. In recent summers, the library has been forced to close several times due to high indoor temperatures. These upgrades will allow for temperature and humidity control, helping protect the library's historic collections and provide a more comfortable environment for patrons and staff year-round.

The Millicent Library is grateful for the ongoing support of the Fairhaven Community Preservation Committee which is providing funding for this project.

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# Meet Buddy, King of William Street

By Tim Garcia

## Special to the Neighb News

On William Street in the heart of Fairhaven's town center lives a cat who is more than just a cat — he's a legend. His name is Buddy, and if you've ever walked through the center, there's a good chance you've met him.

With a coat of glowing orange fur and a swagger in his step that can only be described as royal, Buddy has become the unofficial king of William Street. I've never been a lover of cats, I'm a dog person for sure, but this cat is different. I suggest we make it official.

Every morning, Buddy begins his rounds. Where? No one knows fully, but I've gathered enough information over the years to take an educated guess. While most cats prefer napping in quiet corners, Buddy enjoys being where the people are. Taking his slow stroll, he's easily spotted with his tail held high like a

flag of friendliness.

Neighbors call out, "Hey Buddy!" and he always responds with a slow blink or a soft head bump to a leg. Children squeal with delight when he saunters over, giving them the honor of scratching him behind the ears.

What makes Buddy special isn't just his striking orange Mane or the unmistakable strut that sets him apart from any other cat. It's his personality — easygoing, curious, and endlessly friendly.

He doesn't just exist in Fairhaven's center; he belongs to it. It's rare for a cat to earn such

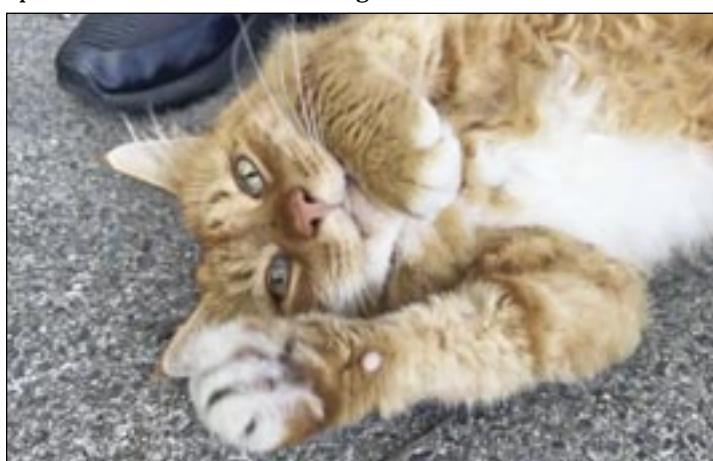


probably knows more people than some officials do. Tourists have spotted him and have been known to ask about him.

Locals just smile and say, "That's Buddy. He runs this place."

In a town that bustles with history, from cobblestone buildings to ships resting in the harbor, Buddy adds his own small but vibrant chapter. He is living proof that community doesn't just come from people; it can come from one cat who loves everyone he meets. His days are filled with pats, greetings, and the occasional treat slipped to him by someone who knows he deserves it.

At the end of the day, when the sidewalks grow quiet and the shops close, Buddy finds his way back to William Street. In a large yard, under an Evergreen tree and the slight glow of the streetlamps, he sits tall. His orange fur glowing like fire in the night. For Fairhaven, he isn't just a cat. He's the heartbeat of the town center — the king of William Street, who rules not with power, but with love.



TOP: Buddy, the king of William Street in Fairhaven, Mass., looks plump and happy as he makes himself comfortable on a lawn in the center of town. Buddy looks squarely at the camera as he works his charm on the photographer. *Photos courtesy of Tim Garcia.*

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## **Supportive Social Day Program**

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

## **Mall Trips**

Reservations accepted for mall trips at beginning the 15th of the prior month. There is a \$6 charge unless otherwise noted. Please bring exact amount. The van leaves the Fairhaven Senior Center promptly at 9: 11/19, First Light Casino; 11/26, Providence Place Mall; 12/3, Tiverton Casino; 12/10, 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.

**Nov. 24. The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society.** Romance, Period Drama & War. In the aftermath of World War II, a writer forms an unexpected bond with the residents of Guernsey Island when she decides to write a book about their experiences

during the war. Then she learns the secret they are afraid to reveal.

## **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.

## **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!

## **Thanksgiving Day Dinner**

Call by 11/17, 508-979-4029. Limited to 50 people. Tossed salad, roasted turkey, gravy, stuffing, red bliss mashed potato, butternut squash, cranberry sauce, rolls & butter, apple pie.

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## **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

## Lamb Stew

1 Tbsp. vegetable oil  
2 lb. lamb shoulder roast, cubed into 1" pieces  
1 onion, chopped  
2 carrots, peeled & cut into rounds  
2 stalks celery, chopped  
Kosher salt  
Freshly ground black pepper  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
1/4 cup tomato paste  
1 tsp. ground cumin  
1 tsp. smoked paprika  
6 cups low-sodium beef broth  
1 cup red wine  
1 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce  
3 sprigs fresh rosemary  
2 bay leaves  
2 lb. baby potatoes, halved  
2 tsp. cornstarch, optional  
2 tsp. cold water, optional  
1/4 cup freshly chopped parsley, for garnish

In a large dutch oven or pot over medium-high heat, heat oil. Add lamb and cook on all sides until seared, 10 minutes, working in batches if necessary. Transfer to a plate.

In the same pot, cook onion, carrots, and celery until soft, 5 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Add garlic, tomato paste, cumin, and paprika and cook until garlic is fragrant and tomato paste has darkened, 2 minutes.

Add lamb back to dutch oven then add broth, wine, Worcestershire sauce, rosemary, and bay leaves.

Bring to a boil then reduce heat to a simmer. Season with salt and pepper. Cover and let simmer until lamb is tender, 30 minutes.

Add potatoes and simmer, covered, until potatoes are tender and stew has thickened, 30 minutes. (If potatoes are tender but stew is not as thick as desired, whisk cornstarch with 2 teaspoons cold water in a small bowl until dissolved, then add to stew, bring to a boil, and stir until thickened, about 1 minute.)

Remove bay leaves and rosemary and garnish with parsley before serving.

From *Delish.com*



we like to do guy things like wrestle and throw a ball.

She said she feels unappreciated because she is the one who does all the heavy lifting for me. She not only feeds me, but takes me for walks, to the dog park, and to my medical, dental, and grooming appointments.

He just laughed and said he couldn't help it that he had a great personality and was fun to be with, wasn't that the reason she married him.

Now she's not talking to him or me.

Ricky

Dear Ricky,

Oh dear, talk about making matters worse.

I think you should tell your dad

## Dear Frankie

### Liking One Parent More

Dear Frankie,

The other day, I heard my mom complaining to my dad that I liked him more than her.

I do love my mom but in a different way than my dad. He's a guy and

that his response didn't help matters. He needs to tell your mom how much he appreciates all she does for you, and that he was only kidding and didn't mean to hurt her feelings.

He might explain that love has many expressions and that the way you respond to him doesn't mean that you love him more, just in a different way.

You might also talk about ways that you could respond to your mom that would make her feel more loved and appreciated. A wink here and there, a big toothy smile, a wag and a twirl on occasion, could do wonders.

Your dad might suggest to your mom that not speaking to you, because she is mad at him, isn't the best way to win you over.

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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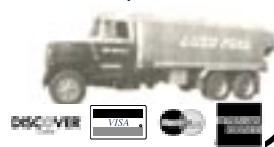
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# Fairhaven Town Mtg to face spending articles, bylaw change

By Beth David  
Editor

Fairhaven Town Meeting members will face seven articles at a Special TM on Wednesday, 11/19/25.

Articles include spending items totalling just under \$1 million, and a bylaws change that would significantly increase fees at the Animal Shelter. (See related article in 10/16/25 issue.)

The largest spending item is Article 6, asking for \$500,000 in borrowing for water main replacement on Glenhaven Avenue. It will require a 2/3 vote for borrowing.

The next largest item is article 3 asking for \$297,803 to be transferred from the Sewer Enterprise Fund to

the Sewer Nitrogen Plant Article 15A from 2022.

Article 4 requests a transfer of \$40,000 from Free Cash to go into General Fund Reserves, and \$30,000 into the Preventative Maintenance Article 10-5 of the May 3, 2025 TM. The funds are for the Town Hall East Retaining wall emergency repairs. The Finance Committee had to use reserve funds for the project because the scope of the project expanded due to unexpected complications.

Article 5 requests \$50,000 to hire a consultant for the Public Safety Complex.

Article 2 requests \$82,185 for labor contracts, but the number has not been finalized.

Article 7 would amend the bylaws to increase fees at the animal shelter.

If passed, the boarding fee would go from \$25/day to \$50/day; adoption fees for cats would go from \$200 to \$300, and from \$300 to \$600 for dogs.

Special Town Meeting will be held at Hastings Middle School, 30 School Street, Fairhaven, on Wednesday, 11/19, at 7 p.m. Precinct meetings will be on Thursday, 11/13, at 6:30 p.m. at HMS, followed by a Special Town Meeting Preview.

The warrant is available on the town moderator page on the town website: <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/town-moderator/> or from the Select Board office in town hall.

## VETS: cont'd from page 12

very afraid. As a parent, I had spent my efforts keeping my children out of danger, and here he was, walking right into it."

Ms. Mello gave some examples of her son's sensitivity.

"I couldn't imagine the horrors he would be witness to and I desperately wanted to shield him from that," she said.

But he was over 18 and had signed a contract.

Ms. Mello recounted his first few posts and how they corresponded while he was in basic training and became closer.

Then he went to Iraq, to Camp Cropper, where Saddam Hussein had

been held, and where high level detainees were still being held.

"Dan earned more commendations while there but that experience fundamentally changed him," said Ms. Mello. "I will never know the extent of the trauma that he experienced but it profoundly affected him. All my worst fears were realized."

Ms. Mello said we often hear about bravery and heroism displayed by military service members for the greater good of our nation. But there are battles that continue long after the uniform comes off.

Her son served with courage and pride, leaving home ready to make a difference. But the realities of war have left a mark that "words cannot fully describe."

"It is struggle that no one can truly understand unless they have lived it," she said.

PTSD is often a silent battle that affects friends, families and communities.

"And while the wounds may not be seen, they are no less real," she said. "As a parent,

watching my son grapple with PTSD has been heart-wrenching."

Recovery is a long and difficult journey, she said, requiring patience, support and compassion.

"It's easy to forget that the scars of war don't just fade away, and that veterans need more than just thanks," said Ms. Mello. "They need real support."

She thanked the veterans there for their service, saying their sacrifice has not gone unnoticed.

"You are seen. You are valued. And we owe it to you to make sure you are not forgotten," she said.

To all those fighting PTSD, she said they are not defined by their trauma.

"You are defined by your courage, your resilience, and your willingness to keep moving forward, no matter how hard the path may be," said Ms. Mello. "We will walk this journey together."

The ceremony also included the reading of the governor's proclamation by Select Board chairperson, Charles Murphy; an opening and closing prayer; selections by the Fairhaven High School band; bagpipes by Bruce Webb; and remarks from state rep. Mark Sylvia. The public was invited to the senior center for refreshments after the ceremony.

The event will be available soon at FairhavenTV.com under community media.



L-R: Siblings Hudson and Parker Horsley wave flags with their cousin, Daniel Fernandes, while waiting for the Fairhaven Veterans Day parade to go by on Main Street on 11/11/25. Photo by Beth David.

# Fairhaven honors veterans with parade, ceremony

By Beth David  
Editor

During the first cold snap of the season, at about 32°, Fairhaven celebrated Veterans Day on 11/11/25 with a parade down Main Street. People bundled up to line the street and attend the ceremony at the high school where they raised the Big Flag and listened to some speechmaking and music.

Mackenzie hung out with her daughters, Mae and Roslyn, eating a donut while waiting for the parade to reach the high school. Mackenzie said her father was Peter Reid, well known for his work at Riverside Cemetery.

"It's the first time without him," said Mackenzie. "So it's a little sad."

But, she admitted, the donut helped a little.

Guest speaker, SFC Bill Kigel, a 30-year veteran of combined service in the US Navy and Army, gave a little background on himself and his family. Then he gave the background of where all veterans began, noting it is the 250th birthday of the US Army, established on June 14, 1775.

The oldest branch, now the National Guard, started on December 13, 1636, as the Massachusetts Militiamen, making it 389 years old. In the 1930's, the Army reserves formed and the Guard, reserves and regular Army became the "All One Army."

The newest branch, the US Space Force, was formed on December 20, 2019 as the sixth armed service. Space force was originally referred to

as Air Force's "Star Wars" on March 23, 1983, established by President Reagan. Other branches he noted are: Marines, 11/10/1775; Navy, 10/13/1775; Air Force, 9/18/1947; Coast Guard, 8/4/1790.

"I took the time to list all our branches so we may remember where our veterans come from and how long we have been around," said SFC Kigel. "The original term "veterans" was legally determined by the Veteran's Administration, or VA, for purpose of benefit, and did not include National Guard status until 1980."

He claims, he said that a veteran is a person who guarantees our future



freedom and American way.

"A friend who I now call is my brother or sister in my second



family," he said. "One who knows the torment we seldom speak of and our struggle to never forget the bond that no one or any enemy will ever break."

He said veterans put trust in each other and brings true love to our flat and our country.

"And when we call them they will always be there to defend freedom," he said. "We do this freely for all of you."

Select Board member Natalie Mello also spoke, sharing with the world the struggles her son has faced after being deployed to Iraq.

Ms. Mello recounted some of his childhood, his dreams and activities. Then, he told her "casually," while she was driving, that he had enlisted in the Army.

"I almost drove off the road," said Ms. Mello. "I was stunned and very,

VETS: cont'd on page 11



TOP: Fairhaven Select Board member, Natalie Mello, speaks during the ceremony after the Fairhaven Veterans Day parade on 11/11/25. ABOVE LEFT: L-R: Veteran Louis Matos and SFC Bill Kigel pose for the local free sheet after the ceremony. ABOVE RIGHT: Veterans and the Fairhaven Police march in the parade. Photos by Beth David.

# Rain does not stop Acushnet from honoring veterans

By Beth David  
Editor

Acushnet held a parade on 11/8/25 braving the rain to honor veterans for Veterans Day. Local veterans and civic groups, and the State Police Mounted Unit marched along Main Street from Town Hall to the Veterans Memorial Park.

The Ford Middle School led the crowd in song and the Pledge of Allegiance. Bruce Webb played the bagpipes. And the ceremony included an invocation and readings. Acushnet Veterans Service Officer, Brad Fish, emceed.

David Pinto of the Disabled American Veterans in New Bedford, was guest speaker.

He told a story about being in Korea at the same time his brother was there, but never being able to see him. He just missed him.

All three Pinto brothers served at the same time. When David's father sent a letter saying he wanted to get David out, David called him up and said "no way." He said all three brothers served.

Veterans day is a time to "reflect remember, and honor all veterans," he told the crowd, past, present and those yet to come.

Wars that never should have happened have caused thousands of lost lives and scarred so many who live with memories all the time, he said. Their wars never end, their peace never comes.

Veterans Day is not just a day off

work or school, it's a day to give thanks for our freedom.

"For those who chose not to serve their country, thank the veterans who have given you your freedom," he said, adding in memory of his brothers, James Pinto and Robert Pinto, U.S. Army and Marines.

Selectboard chairperson, David Wojnar, said they looked at the forecast and it said maybe rain.

"No, it's Acushnet," he said. "We'll be out here in the rain. And what do you know, we have more people out here than I've seen on a beautiful day."

He thanked people for being there and especially thanked veterans.

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you do," he said.

Deven Robitaille, Commander of the VFW in Acushnet, said all veterans served. They served differently, but "we all served."

"Veterans gave their all, so it's our duty to give our best," said Cdr. Robitaille, to make our country and society a place that people look upon as an example.

"Go out there and make the world a better place," she said. "Because they gave us their all, so, again, we have to give them our best."

She invited the crowd to the VFW for refreshments.

She also gave a shout out to her



brother, who was there, and had just been promoted to Lt. Colonel.

Kaleigh was there with her two young'uns still in a stroller. She said they were there to see her husband who was riding on one of the horses in the State Police Mounted Unit.

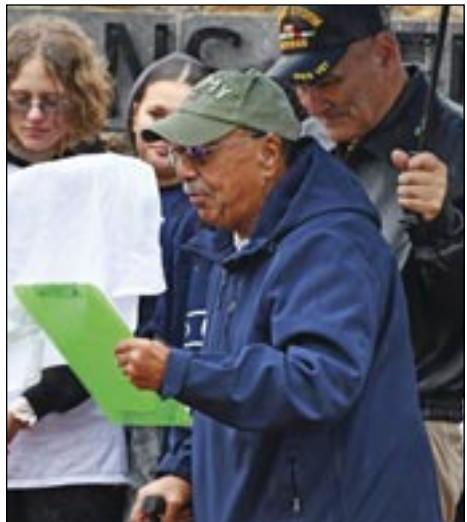
"We love and support our veterans, said Kaleigh, adding it's a great family affair.

She even had her two neighbors, Pat and Rita Ansay, join her.

"I was nice of our neighbor to invite us," said Pat. "And I get to see Tyler ride a horse."

She said her father as a WWII veteran and they used to go to every parade.

Mr. Fish read the governor's proclamation, and Mike Jenney read the Veterans Day Celebration Poem by Felicia Young.



TOP: The Mass. State Police Mounted Unit marches in the parade before the ceremony honoring Veterans Day at Acushnet's Veterans Memorial on 11/8/25. ABOVE LEFT: David Pinto of the Disabled American Veterans speaks during the ceremony ABOVE RIGHT: The Ford Middle School Chorus sings "God Bless America" during the ceremony. Photos by Beth David.

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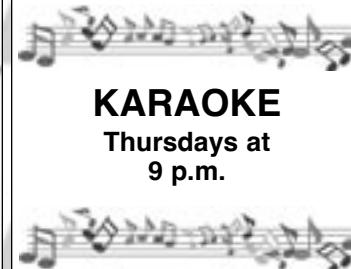
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**PERSONAL DRIVER** Hi there! I've been serving the communities in Fairhaven, Acushnet, Tri-Town, and points beyond since 2017. Comfortable vehicles, safe driving, stress-free trips, reliable service. Trips to/from Green/Logan airports, round trips to appointments and events. Accommodating your unique needs! Text or call Jon the Driver, 508-951-8223, to get info or reserve a ride.

### HOUSE CLEANING

Experienced cleaner, \$15/hour  
Call 508-991-1104

**MARK'S PAINTING** Specializing in interior and exterior painting. Landscaping, carpentry, power washing and much more. Call for estimate. Call 508-405-5625. Many references upon request.

**FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE** State approved for Mass. license to carry firearms or FID card. Call Phil Lacerda, 508-989-6093.

**SELLING SOMETHING? Place a classified ad!** Only \$7 for three lines, \$1 each additional line. Call Beth at 508-979-5593.

### HAPPS: cont'd from page 5

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

### Children's Books Wanted

At this year's Old Tyme Holiday, the Friends of the Millicent Library will be helping Santa by giving free books to children 12 and under. If you have children's books that you are no longer reading, please consider contributing them. We especially need board books and picture books.

Donations may be brought to the circulation desk at the library, or to 19 Judson Drive between November 17 and December 11.

### Santa Bowl/Register NOW

Join us for the 2nd Annual Fairhaven Acushnet Youth Athletics Santa Bowl! Sat., 12/6, Livesey Park, 15 Glenhaven Avenue, Fairhaven, MA

### LOCAL ELECTRICIAN:

35 years' experience. Lic. #13901A. Small jobs preferred. *Old houses a specialty.* Generator hook-ups. Eric, 774-849-0425.

### RAY THE PLUMBER:

Professional plumbing and heating service you can afford. License #16266. Call 508-958-0925.

### PLUMBING, HEATING, COOLING

Wall hung tankless water heater maint. Repairs: water heaters, gas heat, dishwasher. 35+ years' exp. Master Plumber #12990. Call Ralph, 508-717-1550.

### TED SILVA

### PRIVATE INVESTIGATION

TEL: 508-965-6072.

**GT CARPENTRY** Exterior, interior painting and repairs, sheetrock, siding, yard cleanup. Call George, 774-810-5008.

### David J. Dias Plumbing

Local Plumber. 50 years. License # 8366, 508-965-6584  
Small jobs preferred/semi retired.

### SHEA DOONAN

### ATTORNEY AT LAW

774-202-3972

### RETIRING MAINTENANCE WORKER

Looking for work, small jobs: carpentry, plumbing, landscaping, etc. Call me, tell me what you have. John 508-951-2113.

### TRUSTED HANDYMAN FOR ALL HOME REPAIRS

Carpentry, Drywall & Plaster, Painting, Plumbing Leaks, Sump Pumps, Kitchen & Bath, Safety Grab Bars, Remodeling, Decks, Emergency Repairs, Skilled, prompt, and dependable. Home Improvement Consulting, Plan It Right the First Time. Licensed, Insured, Local Family Owned, Serving Property Management Firms. Call 774-361-5520. Ask for Mack

02719.

Get ready for a day filled with football, fun, and festive cheer, plus special appearances from Santa (and maybe even The Grinch!) Put together your group of 10: name yourselves, dress up like elves, or wear your ugly Christmas sweaters and join us. \$100/team (teams of 10)

We are partnering with the United Way so please bring non-perishables or an unwrapped, new toy so we can spread holiday cheer in the community!

Register at <https://form.jotform.com/253056857701157>

### FHA Crafters Fair

Join us for the third annual Resident Crafters Holiday Fair at Fairhaven Housing Authority on Sat., 12/6, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Oxford Terrace Community Room, 275 Main St. Featuring hand made items from our residents, including a baked goods table. Free door prizes, complimentary popcorn, hot chocolate, coffee, tea, apple cider.

Come out and start or finish your Christmas shopping.

## Upcoming Meetings

### Fairhaven

### Belonging Committee

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

### Board of Public Works

Mon, 11/17, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

### Commission on Disability

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

### Conservation Commission

Mon., 11/17, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

### Finance Committee

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

### Lagoa Friendship Comm

Mon., 11/17, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Livable Streets

Thurs., 11/20, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Planning Board

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

### School Committee

Wed., 12/10, FHS Media Lib., 6:30 p.m.

### Select Board

Mon., 11/24, 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.

### Historical Commission

Tues., 11/18, Town Hall, 6:30 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	LOW	
	a.m.	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
Friday	14 0308	1532	1038 2249
Saturday	15 0408	1633	1129 2330
Sunday	16 0500	1721	---
Monday	17 0541	1801	0000 1255

\* = Predicted minus tides from -0.1 ft. to -1.0 ft

\*\*Predicted minus tides from -1.1 ft to -2.0 ft or more

## OC: cont'd from page 3

share at 35%. Estimates for future enrollment are 160 to 200.

On 11/10, Mr. Boucher said the financial impact on the town's budget is troublesome. He said they are likely looking at a Proposition 2 1/2 override. He noted that the town also faces increases in health insurance and pension costs.

It puts too much on the backs of residents, said Mr. Boucher.

Mr. Gaspar said that if the district decided on repairs, the town would not necessarily have to go for an override. They could go for a debt exclusion for a smaller amount, around \$4 million.

Mr. Boucher noted that the schools are already 60% of the town's budget.

"Our kids are nomads," said SB member David Wojnar. "They don't have a home."

He said it might be time for Acushnet to talk about how the town approaches 9-12 education, and this project might be the catalyst.

Acushnet students in high school attend Fairhaven HS or Old Colony. He said they are lucky to have them. But the contract with Fairhaven is up

for renewal, and Acushnet has been looking at other high schools.

Parents with eighth-graders have been calling, he said, because they have no idea where their children will be going next year.

Board members also discussed the consequences of waiting, with rising costs every making the building even more expensive.

Aaron Polansky, Superintendent-Director at OC, said that OC is not just a place where kids get an education. It is a service based organization that gives back to each community. He listed a number of projects built by students in each member community.

He cautioned against putting Band-aids on a 50 year old building.

"Years from now I can't even imaging what this will cost," said Mr. Polansky.

Resident Rod Gomes said he was "staggered" when he saw the numbers. But he also said it would be fiscally irresponsible to renovate the existing building that was built to last 30 years and is now 50 years old.

He also noted that building the new school allows the students to

stay in the old building during construction. If they remodel, the students can't use it.

"We have no other school to send them to," he said.

Mr. Gaspar said he would not say which way the town will vote, and he said he would not tell people how to vote. It is up to the individual, based on what they can afford, he said.

Taxpayers can visit the tax calculator to see how much the project will cost them individually: <https://oldcolonybuildingproject.com/tax-impact-calculator/>

Polls will be open from noon to 8 p.m. this Tuesday, 11/18/25. 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 11/10/25 meeting is available at <https://tinyurl.com/2z67dfu7>. All other meetings are also available on the town's YouTube channel: <https://tinyurl.com/4ferxrz6>

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

## SB: cont'd from page 4

technical documents and site plans, and their ability to conduct site visits; how they would make sure the public is considered for projects, especially those facing strong community opposition; and how the would approach conflicts of interest and their own bias.

At the end of the questioning, PB member, Patrick Carr, said SB member, Andrew Romano (who beat Mr. Carr in the election for the SB seat in 2024), should recuse himself from the vote because Romano and Lucas are both members of the North Fairhaven Improvement Association.

Mr. Carr questioned why Mr. Romano was not stepping aside, noting that he has said in the past that any appearance of a Conflict of Interest should be reason enough for a board member to recuse himself. Mr. Carr cited several instances, with dates, quoting Mr. Romano.

Mr. Romano was ready, saying he filed the disclosure because he had a feeling the issue would come up. He also said he checked with the state Ethics Commission. He has no

financial relationship with Mr. Lucas, he said, so there is no COI.

He went through each of the cited cases and explained his position.

In the end the board took a vote for Ms. Tomassetti first, with SB member Keith Silvia nominating her, seconded by SB member Andrew Saunders.

The vote ended in a tie. PB is an eight-member board, minus Ms. Tomassetti, leaving seven to vote; SB is a five member board, 12 total.

A tie vote means the motion dies.

"Yes" votes for Ms. Tomassetti were SB members, Mr. Saunders, Mr. Silvia, and Mr. Murphy; and PB members, Mr. Carr, Sharon Simmons, Ruy DaSilva.

The second vote was for Mr. Lucas, nominated by SB member Natalie Mello and seconded by Mr Romano, which passed 7-5, with "yes" votes for Mr. Lucas being SB members, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Romano, and Ms. Mello; and PB members, Miles Grant, Sean Powers, Kevin Grant, Jessica Fidalgo.

Mr. Lucas and Ms. Tomassetti shook hands after the vote.

In another matter, the SB tabled an

item for an update on the zoning bylaw project. Town Administrator, Keith Hickey, was not at the meeting, so the board decided to wait until he could give the update.

The board also approved a change to the flag/banner policy, and the use of town hall process.

The Flag/Banner policy will now require a 30 day notice for a request to hang a flag or banner on town property, instead of 60 days.

A requests for use of town hall will also require 30 days instead of 60 days. The policy also changes the fee to \$150/hour for all groups, except Town government groups.

In other business the board:

- Voted to reclassify the Treasurer/Collector position to Grade 20 from Grade 19, to be competitive with other municipalities competing for talent. The current Treasurer/Collector has announced her retirement.
- Appointed Timothy Cox to the Public Safety Complex Committee, replacing the Planning Director, who resigned.

## From our readers

### **Neighbors Oppose Hiller/Timothy Project, Appeal Building Permits**

#### **Congratulations Robbie Roderiques**

After years of trying to get your 16 home subdivision through the Planning Board, being denied every time on the basis it was not a good fit at that scale for the location, you chose to sue the Town.

When that failed (at every level of the court system) you created a new LLC and submitted the same 16 home subdivision plans then sat quietly, waiting for the Town to slip up and not act on them, knowing full well that if no action was taken you could bypass due process and get your way. You intentionally deceived the Town Government and an entire neighborhood in the Town in which you live.

Congratulations on your continued stiff-arming of Town Government as you build new homes on lots that do not match those designated on the Building Permits, all while holding the Town at bay with regard to the surety bond the Town Bylaws require. This places the Town at financial risk. On October 15th, the day after the Planning Board meeting, you received a request for a site visit by the Planning Board. One month later, you have yet to allow that to happen. How's that for cooperation from a Town based business?

#### **Congratulations Pat Carr**

For a period of at least 6 months, while holding the positions of Chair, Vice Chair, and member of the Planning Board, you knew about the plans submitted by Windmill Acres, LLC and you were fully aware that if the Town did not take action for 155 days, "Constructive Approval" would be granted to the applicant, bypassing the entire Planning Process. Every single one of those 155 days was a new opportunity for you to do the right thing, and make it known to your fellow Board members that those plans had been submitted — yet you kept silent. We have learned that you, Ms. Tomasetti and Select Board member, Keith Silvia, called for a meeting with the Town Administrator trying to extract a pound of flesh from the now resigned Planning Director, but let's be real... in your role, YOU had the responsibility to act and failed to do so.

The Mission Statement of the Planning Board calls for the Board to pay particular attention to "conditions affecting public welfare and safety related to land use and development... with special attention to the proper housing of Town residents". Are you proud of the way you served your community on this one, leaving the Town with no say on a project that has left abutters with flooded yards, no tree buffer between them and the wastewater treatment plant and wind turbines, etc.?

A group of abutters has filed an Administrative Appeal to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)\* claiming that the Building Permits for five homes should never have been issued for a host of reasons. That meeting will take place on December 4th. Given your history with this subdivision project, will you do the right thing and recuse yourself from deliberations on that agenda item?

#### **Congratulations Cathy Melanson**

In your role as Chair of the Planning Board before the last election you could and should have made this all known to the Planning Board. Even after the election, as an ordinary citizen, if you had any regard for your community, your Town Government, and due process, you could have acted. You had the same 155 days that Mr. Carr did to notify Planning Board members about this proposed subdivision that you too knew would go to "constructive approval" if not acted on. Like Mr. Carr, your lips were sealed. Furthermore, you are the only one of 18 people who has not complied with a records request made on September 24th.

Unfortunately, the inaction of just a few people on a housing development worth on the order of \$8-12M will permanently alter a neighborhood to an extent that was not necessary (or desired by the Planning Board). We deserve answers, transparency, accountability, and assurances this will not happen again. On October 23rd, we called for the Select Board to place an item on their next meeting agenda (October 28th) to consider calling for an investigation. Two Select Board meetings have passed without that agenda item. We will not stop asking. We hope others in the community will support us by advocating for openness, transparency

and accountability from our Elected Officials and Town Government with an eye toward ensuring something like this will never happen again.

*The following 28 signees all live in the immediate vicinity of the project: Ann Espindola, Bob Espindola, Tara Dwelly, Ben Dwelly Eric Harne, Kim Harne, Pauline Mello, Joan Gallagher, Mike Starr, Kathy Starr, Sue Powers, Erin Saraiva, 15 Jacqueline Rosparka, Jeanne Green, Jennifer Carter, Victoria Carter, Louis Braga, Janet Braga, Donna McKenna, Wayne Gifford, Rachel Thomas, Mike Thomas, Gail Branco, David Branco, Kraig Perry, Donna Perry, Kellie McCarthy, Mike McCarthy*

*\*Mr. Carr is a member of both the Planning Board, an elected position, and the ZBA, an appointed position. He is the chairperson ZB.*

### **Support Climate Superfund bills, H.1014 and S.588.**

*The following is testimony given by the undersigned to the Massachusetts State House Joint Committee for Environment and Natural Resources on September 2, 2025..*

Good Afternoon, Chair Barber, Chair Rausch and Honorable Members of the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

My name is Mona Phillips, and I live in Fairhaven, a small town located on the Massachusetts Southcoast. I am affiliated with The Climate Reality Project and 350 Mass.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on my strong support for the Climate Superfund bills, H.1014 and S.588. These bills will help Massachusetts communities prepare for the damaging climate change effects Big Fossil Fuel companies predicted 50 years ago.

The Southcoast includes 11 communities along Buzzards Bay, with a total population of over 320,000. The Port of New Bedford, the largest \$\$ grossing fishery in the US, and Dartmouth's UMASS campus are both located here. In 2023, 52M visitors enjoyed our beaches, marinas, nature preserves and museums. There's a lot going on here we need to protect.

Fairhaven is a purple town, but

**LETTERS: cont'd on page 22**

# HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

## Remember Road Victims

Community members from Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, and New Bedford will gather this Sunday, 11/16, to honor those lost to traffic crashes and call for safer streets. Small neighborhood gatherings will begin at 1:00 PM at several memorial sites, before converging at Pope's Island in New Bedford near Noah's Place Playground for a shared remembrance ceremony from 2:30 to 3:00 PM.

The event, part of the global World Day of Remembrance, is sponsored by MassBike and organized by friends of the victims, SouthCoast Places for People, and the South Coast Bikeway Alliance.

Visit the event page here for more info: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1CMnLbJBzH/>

## Food Drive

LUCE Immigrant Justice Network of Mass. and Humanity at Work, will hold a food drive on Sat., 11/15, from 1-4 p.m., at Buttonwood Park. They will be accepting both non-perishable food items and fresh produce. All food will be donated to the St. Anthony of Padua food pantry to help restock their shelves.

Humanity at Work is a true mutual aid network. We are local residents who care about our fellow community members, and want to keep our neighbors safe and healthy. We work together to support each other, and use all funds raised to go directly back to community members facing challenges. Learn more and donate at <https://givebutter.com/xMkiZZ>

## 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/>

## 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](mailto:office@newbedfordballet.org) or visit [www.newbedfordballet.org](http://www.newbedfordballet.org)

[newbedfordballet.org](http://newbedfordballet.org) Seating is limited, so buy your tickets now. **Last call for ticket purchase is Saturday, November 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.

## Holiday Parking

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

New Bedford's Holiday Parking Program is designed to encourage shopping, dining, and retail activity in the City's Downtown and North End business districts during the holiday season. Traditionally launched after Thanksgiving, the Program is starting early this year to encourage more people to explore the unique shops and restaurants Downtown and in the North End.

The program also features ticket forgiveness for holiday shoppers and diners. Anyone receiving a parking ticket for an expired meter Downtown can be forgiven by presenting a same-day sales receipt for at least \$20 from a Downtown merchant or restaurant.

Questions regarding the Holiday Parking Program can be directed to the Traffic Commission office at 508-961-3153.

## 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.

## 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!

## SAVE THE DATES:

### 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/>.

Visit <https://www.nbrrc.com/>. Shooting: 25 targets per relay, prizes awarded to the highest score per relay. So, there are prizes all day long. Children's sized rifles and ammunition supplied.

# 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](mailto:office@newbedfordballet.org) or visit [www.newbedfordballet.org](http://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.

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## At Acushnet Library

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

### For Adults

- 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: Wed., 11/19, 11 a.m.
- Tweens Book Club: Tues., 11/25, at 4:00 p.m.
- LEGO Club: Sat., Tues., 11/18, 2 p.m.
- Drop-In Fall Craft: Sat., 11/15, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

## 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.

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

## Bird Club

Counting for Conservation: Stories and Trends from the Massachusetts Christmas Bird Count. Wed., 11/19, at 6:00pm at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow St, Mattapoisett, MA

Each winter, birders across Massachusetts brave the cold to take part in the Christmas Bird Count (CBC)— one of the longest-running community science projects in North America. Hear highlights from recent counts, surprising species sightings, and stories from the field that reveal how local observations are shaping global bird conservation. Presented by Justin Barrett, Nasketucket Bird Club president

All meetings are free and open to all. Check our website at: <https://www.nbcbirdclub.com>

## 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.

## Author Event

The public is invited to the book launch of Spinner Publications' newest book, *Shipwreck! Horseneck Point Lifesaving Station & South Coast Rescuers* taking place at Partners Village Store, 865 Main Road, Westport MA, Sat., 11/22, from 10am to 1pm. Author, Charles McGrath will discuss the book, sign copies and be available for a Q&A afterwards.

*Shipwreck!* tells the story of the brave sea rescuers who, at personal peril, risked their lives and heroically ventured out in open boats into treacherous waters and heavy windstorms to save shipwrecked sailors and survivors who were stranded at sea.

For more information, contact Spinner Publications at 508-994-4564, email [spinner@spinnerpub.com](mailto:spinner@spinnerpub.com) and visit [spinnerpub.com](http://spinnerpub.com).

## SAVE THE DATES:

### Bike Run and Toy Drive

The Acushnet Lions Club and the Rivers' End Cafe, proudly sponsor their annual Toy & Food Drive/Motorcycle Run on Sun., 11/30. \$10 or unwrapped toy donation (no stuffed animals please), and non-perishable food donation gets you in.

Now accepting food and toys at the Rivers End Cafe, 7 Tarkiln Hill Road, Acushnet. Starts at 10 a.m. at the River's End Cafe. Kickstands up at noon for ride to the Shepherd's Pantry in Acushnet. Then back to the Rivers End.

# 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"

## ACUSHNET CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Acushnet Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 24, 2025 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Meeting Room, located at 122 Main Street, Acushnet, Massachusetts.

• Public Hearing NOI – Gary Nichols at Thomas Hill Road / Map 3 and Lot 8.4. A Notice of Intent was filed by Gary Nichols for property located at Thomas Hill Road, Map 3, Lot 8.4. The applicant proposes to construct a sewage disposal system, grading, driveway, and roof infiltration within the buffer zone.

James Souza, Chair  
FNN, 11/13/25

## ACUSHNET CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Acushnet Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 24, 2025 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Meeting Room, located at 122 Main Street, Acushnet, Massachusetts.

• Public Hearing NOI – Edward P. Silva, 49 Hathaway Road, Acushnet MA, Map 12 Lot 9-D. A Request for Determination of Applicability was filed by Edward P. Silva for property located at 49 Hathaway Road, shown as Assessors' Map 12 Lot 9-D. The applicant proposes to install a new septic system within the buffer zone of bordering wetlands. The proposed work is shown on a plan titled "Plan of Site & Repair of Subsurface Sewage Disposal" dated October 27, 2025 by Charon Associates Inc. The

applicant is represented by Rick Charon, P.E. of Charon Associates Inc.

James Souza, Chair  
FNN, 11/13/25

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](http://fairhaventv.com).

To Join the Meeting from home Log on to:  
<https://zoom.us/j/93163358101?pwd=NXg5WnUxZ3ILK3drSVBBM2JPTXEOQT09>

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

Passcode: 740257

Live on Fairhaven TV Channel 18 and [fairhaventv.com](http://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

## Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

Tuesday December 2nd, at 6:00 p.m.  
Town Hall Banquet Room, 40 Center Street  
Fairhaven, Massachusetts  
Public Hearing In-Person in Banquet Room  
or via Zoom. Join the Zoom Meeting  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94115137952?pwd=MXPoVWpKTFBEUmluT1pWSTciVzJCQT09>  
or call 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 941 15137952 Passcode: 361259

1. REF# ZBA-025-038: 14 Hawthorne Street, Map 22, Lot 217. Applicant and Owner seeks a Special Permit for an in-home office for a construction business. Asking for storage of a dump trailer and pickup truck. Pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-23 & 198-33B Regulation Schedule.
2. REF# ZBA-25-039: Applicants seek administrative appeal on permits issued on the Hiller Subdivision Project.

Patrick Carr, Chair, Fairhaven ZBA  
FNN: 11/13/25, 11/20/25

## FAIRHAVEN PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

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

## LETTERS: cont'd from page 19

despite diverse political views, we share a common living experience with our neighbors. We've...

SEEN: beach erosion and salt marsh degradation

LIVED: through more severe and frequent storms

EXPERIENCED: the flooding/drought see-saw that's the NEW NORMAL

Like other towns, Fairhaven has developed mitigation plans to protect our community. I'll highlight one.

This is a \$100 million infrastructure plan to raise a town-owned, structurally sound causeway nine feet, preserving the only evacuation route for Fairhaven West Island residents. Without Superfund support, the enormous cost of this project will fall on local taxpayers.

This is one project in one small town. Extrapolate this out across the State and the tax burden is staggering.

For the past 50 years, the fossil fuel industry has pursued a delay strategy of climate change denial, skepticism, and more recently promoting non-starter carbon capture and hydrogen energy technologies. These technologies will not address global warming but will allow the six largest

fossil fuel polluters in our State to continue amassing record profits selling more climate damaging product.

When you were a kid, and you spilled your milk, what would you do? You'd clean it up!!! It's that simple.

We're asking the top six fossil fuel companies to take responsibility for the damage their products have caused by funding Massachusetts' mitigation and resilience projects.

BUT... they won't do it unless they're legislated to. Please support the Climate Superfund bills.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Mona Phillips, Fairhaven

## Trump's Fear is the Greatest threat to America

Donald Trump has mastered the art of diversionary tactics.

Just as the Epstein files were about to be exposed with allegedly incriminating evidence that threatens Trump's presidency, he announces an outrageous plan, threatens allies or foes, and creates a literal or figurative blow to American institutions.

The country is in the throes of a shutdown and instead of concentrating his attention to remedy this calamity he provokes Venezuela,

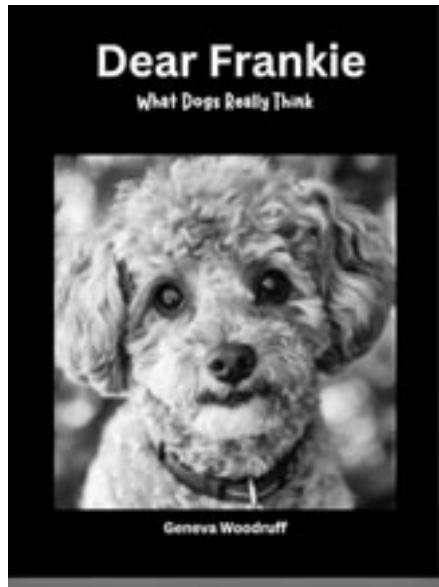
Canada, Zelensky and initiates the prosecution of political adversaries. Even if insincere, he has chastised Putin for not ending the war with Ukraine. Each executive action, outrageous and humiliating speech and fabricated statistic, draws attention away from what may be his indefensible involvement with a proven pedophile.

Trump has employed venomous reprisals against his enemies from spite but his reaction to the Epstein issue is obviously fear. And the closer to full disclosure the more Trump will take a sledgehammer to all that may have kept America democratic and universally respected. All we have to fear is Trump's fear itself!

Betty Ussach, Dartmouth

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# FREE BOOK TALK

*Dear Frankie What Dogs Really Think*

By Geneva Woodruff

Millicent Library Auditorium • 45 Center St. •

Fairhaven

Use Walnut Street Entrance

6:30pm, Monday, November 17, 2025



Join author,  
Geneva  
Woodruff, for a  
lively talk on  
her book,  
“Dear Frankie:  
What Dogs  
Really Think.”

THE SHEPHERD CENTER PRESENTS

ROGERS & TWAIN

*In Their  
Own Words*

A play by Fairhaven resident Beth Lucy  
based on the letters between Henry Hurlston 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 Lucy  
Directed by: Kiah Allaire  
Starring: Allie Goodman,  
Ron Blever & Gary Souza

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

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