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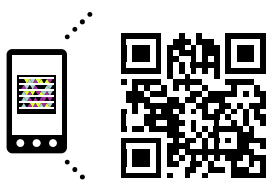
Volume 20, Issue 47 • November 27, 2025

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

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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.

Well, at least I got the Special Town Meeting story in here (see page 3), but I never made it to the Select Board meeting, and I didn't have time to watch it either.

My mother has been in declining health for a long time. On Monday, she took her last breath. Since we are going to press a day early because of the holiday, I didn't even have time to get a proper obituary written. There is a death notice on page 17. I'll run the full obit next week.

My mother was one of the original super-moms. And because she was such a pioneer, I don't think she ever got recognized as such: Five kids, running the house, the kids, and running a very successful business with dad. And, all the while, welcoming a slew of nieces and nephews, relatives from Lebanon, and anyone looking for a job.

Dad's attitude was, "Everyone has a right to work," and he found some doozies, I'll tell you. Mom, of course, had to deal with them, too.

She was very much loved by many people, and she will be remembered by many.

Rest in peace, Mom. Nice touch leaving this earth on my deadline day. But, hey...this isn't about me, right?

Back to the SB meeting. I understand they voted to have an external investigation into the travesty-fiasco-mess that is the Timothy-Hiller subdivision, AKA, a blighted neighborhood in the making from the start. Shame on you, Robbie Roderigues. Really.

This will come up again. So we will have a chance to write about it again...and probably again...and...

I just couldn't do it all this week. Priorities, y'know?

Anyway, there's a ton of happenings in here this week to help you get ready for the holidays. The NFIA can use some help decorating Benoit Square (see page 5); and there's a toy drive outside with crazy motorcycle riders BRRR.... (page 21).

Oh, and the FHS football team is going back to Gillette. How cool is that! See page 23 for how to go or watch from home.

And of course it's our annual Shopping Issue, making it super easy 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

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Editor: Beth David

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## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our story about the Marsh Island cleanup last week, we made a mistake in the headline. The amount of debris collected was more than 27,400 pounds. The amount was correct in the body of story. We apologize for any confusion our error may have caused.

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# Fairhaven STM approves new animal fees; safety complex funds

By Beth David  
Editor

Fairhaven Town Meeting members made quick work of seven articles at a Special TM on 11/19/25.

Most articles passed with little or no discussion, but a couple garnered some debate.

TM members supported all spending articles as presented, including labor contracts. The new total after numbers were updated for wages and non-union Cost of Living Allowance increases, was \$136,024. Funds for the increases came from enterprise funds (funds designated for specific departments, such as sewer and water), the wage reserve fund, and annual TM in May.

Two articles had proposed amendments that resulted in some discussion, including Article 5 which requested \$50K from the Public Safety Complex (PSC) Stabilization Fund for a consultant, and Article 7, which proposed significant increases in Animal Shelter fees.

Bob Espindola proposed an amendment to Article 5. He said he was not opposed to the \$50,000 for a

consultant, but felt that the money should not be spent until after the Select Board approves the 2027 Capital Improvement Plan. He said before any funds are expended there should be a sense that the town will be moving forward with the project.

He said spending \$50,000 and then find out it is not going to fit into the big picture makes no sense.

Fire Chief Todd Correia said that the money was already transferred to the PSC fund. He said they are just asking to have it set aside to be used for a consultant. Right no, he said, they do not know if they should build one complex for both fire and police, or split them up.

They also need to look at appropriate properties in town. They need to consult with an architect about what would work for what they need.

Mr. Espindola said it was only a matter of a couple of months of delay.

Patrick Carr advocated for releasing the funds now. He said the Select Board created the committee and they have been working hard. He said not giving the committee the

\$50,000 will "handcuff" them. It will just "kick the can down the road" like in the past.

In the end, the amendment was voted down and the original article passed as written in the warrant.

Article 7, proposing the increase in Animal Shelter fees, garnered the most discussion, with three amendments proposed.

The bylaw called for the boarding fee to be increased from \$25 per day to \$50 per day; adoption fees for cats to increase from \$200 to \$300, and for dogs from \$300 to \$600.

Police Chief, Daniel Dorgan, said the increases were necessary to cover veterinarian fees. He said the goal is the long term financial sustainability of the shelter.

TM member Cameron Durant said that with the town facing a budget shortfall of possibly up to \$1.5 million, services that run with a loss of revenue will be the first to be cut. Those include the animal shelter and the recreation center, he said.

One amendment proposed changing the dog adoption fee to \$400; the

STM: cont'd on page 17



**UU Society of Fairhaven welcomes all!**

**10 a.m. Nov. 30: "The Diversity of Our First Nations"**

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

Open discussion AA meetings at 7 p.m. Wednesdays, Parish House

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## Choral Society to present Holiday Concert

Greater New Bedford Choral Society's Holiday Concert on Sunday, December 7th at 3:00 pm, Grace Episcopal Church, 133 School St., New Bedford. Tickets: \$20

Join GNBCS for a magical start to the holidays! Our holiday concert will explore how composers of different eras, religions, and backgrounds use music to celebrate the holiday season.

### January Open Rehearsals for New Members

GNBCS is a non-audition SATB choir under the direction of Raymond Buttero. This year's holiday concert at the beautiful Grace Episcopal Church will include selections ranging from the Renaissance to the contemporary, original works celebrating both Hanukkah and Christmas, and timeless holiday favorites.

The Greater New Bedford Choral Society has been bringing classical choral music to listeners in southeastern Massachusetts since its founding in 1964. Everyone is welcome to sing with us—no experi-

ence is necessary! Our members come from surrounding communities including Westport, Dartmouth, Acushnet, Lakeville, New Bedford, and Fairhaven.

Join us in honoring six decades of bringing classical choral music to Southeastern Mass. Whether you're an experienced singer or simply love to sing, GNBCS welcomes you to join our vibrant community.

Founded in 1964, the Greater New Bedford Choral Society has been a cornerstone of the arts in our community. Raymond Buttero directs our non-audition SATB choir, which draws members from New Bedford, Fairhaven, Dartmouth, Westport, Acushnet, and Lakeville.

We present one winter concert in either December or January and another in the spring. Our concerts typically include one major choral work plus a selection of shorter pieces chosen for the season of the year and are performed in area churches. We have combined with the New Bedford Symphony, the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Chorus, and other area choral

societies to perform larger works.

This program is supported in part by grants from the Dartmouth Cultural Council, the Freetown Cultural Council, and the Westport Cultural Council, local agencies supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Visit our website at <https://www.gnbcs.org/> for more information or follow us on Facebook.

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## AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

### Decorate Benoit Sq

The North Fairhaven Improvement Association will be decorating our wonderful Benoit Square on Saturday, 11/29, at 9:00 a.m., 267 Adams St. (at the merger of Adams and Main Street at Howland Road).

If you have the following, please bring them with you: drill, step ladder, mallet. Many hands make light work. Please join us.

The official lighting of the square will be on Friday, 12/5.

### Turkey Trot

Join us on Thanksgiving morning to walk, trot, jog, or run the beautiful streets of Fairhaven! You'll enjoy fresh air, friends, family, exercise, and knowing that your participation is helping support those in need.

Register at <https://www.fairhaventurkeytrot.net>, \$30 until 17:45 a.m. on 11/27.

Proceeds from this event support Shepherd's Pantry Food Pantry. Please bring non-perishable food items. Additional donations made support Shepherd's Pantry.

Race Start: Thurs., 11/27, at 8:00am at Green Street near Cushman Park

Learn more and sign up at <https://www.fairhaventurkeytrot.net>

### Artist Talk

The Art of Seeing: Natural Heritage of Fairhaven. Mon., 12/1, 6:30—8:00 PM in the UUSF Auditorium at 102 Green Street, Fairhaven, MA, 02719

Join local artist John Vliet for a thought-provoking talk on creativity as a source of personal agency in an increasingly impersonal world.

Drawing from his practice of sketching and sharing scenes of the Fairhaven landscape, Vliet explores how the creative process—blending intention, emotion, and craft—can help us connect more deeply with ourselves, our community, and the world around us. This conversation invites reflection on how personal creativity can ground us, inspire growth, and bring greater meaning to our everyday life.

The Natural Heritage of Fairhaven series is a collaboration between the Millicent Library, the UUSF Green Sanctuaries, and Climate Reality MA SouthCoast. The Natural Heritage of Fairhaven Series offers free and

ongoing programming exploring the rich connections between landscape, ecology, and culture in our coastal community. Through talks on biology, history, art, and more, the series aims to deepen our understanding and appreciation for the natural beauty of our town.

### Puzzle Race

Puzzle Race: Holiday Edition, Wed., 12/3, 4:00—5:00 PM in the Main Library of Millicent Library, 45 Center St, Fairhaven, MA, 02719

Which team can make the puzzle first? Teams of four will have 60 minutes to put together a 500 piece holiday themed puzzle. The team who completes their puzzle first (or is the closest to finishing) wins!

No team? No problem! Register a team of four OR as many players as you have - we will do our best to make teams the day of.

### TA Update

Find the latest recorded update from Fairhaven Town Administrator, Keith Hickey, at <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/news/> Mr. Hickey uploads a weekly report on Fridays.

### Deck the Doors

The Fairhaven Historical Society presents the 2025 Holiday Deck the Door Contest. See ad on back cover for details.

### Photo Contest

The Fairhaven Select Board Office is calling for submissions for the 2025 Annual Town Report cover photo\*

Maximum of two photos per person. Deadline: Wed., 1/7/26 Submit via email to [ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:ahart@fairhaven-ma.gov)

*\*Photos must be taken by the submitter; no screenshots or copy-righted images and should be Fairhaven based*

Visit <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/2025-annual-report-photo-submissions/>

### Food Drive

Marsh Island, located at the site of a former quarry and, later, filled in with dredged sand from the harbor, came to be known by locals as "Tin Can Island" for its reputation as a party spot and for the litter that accumulated there.

After a massive cleanup two weeks

ago, in which tons of trash were collected—from plastics to Styrofoam to cans of assorted metals—the Buzzards Bay Coalition wishes to attract some tin cans back to the site in a different way.

The BBC will be collecting all non-perishable food items—not just tin cans—from those visiting Marsh Island through December. Tubs will be located near the trailhead and items will be picked up frequently. Items will be donated to the First Congregational Church in Fairhaven, which has an emergency food pantry.

ad been lost since the late 1930s. On October 28, the Buzzards Bay Coalition and its partners opened up this much-loved piece of New Bedford Harbor waterfront to the public to enjoy the paths and great views of the refurbished marsh. The site features a perimeter trail, scenic overlooks, and all new signage.

### Wreaths Across Fairhaven

The Fairhaven Veterans Service Office will be placing wreaths on the graves of veterans on Sat., 12/13 (rain date 12/14).

Volunteers are welcome and are asked to meet at Riverside Cemetery, 274 Main St., at 10:00.

We are also taking donations for the wreaths which can be dropped off at the senior center or mailed to the Veterans office at 229 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven, MA 02719. Any questions please call Mike or Jane at 508-202-4603.

### 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/>

CONT'd on page 20

# A Partnership Worth Preserving: Acushnet-Fairhaven students

## A Partnership Worth Preserving: Fairhaven, Acushnet, and the Responsibility of Funding Public Education Fairly

*By Brian Monroe*  
**Chairperson,**

### **Fairhaven School Committee**

For 118 years, Fairhaven has proudly welcomed high school students from Acushnet. Since Fairhaven High School (FHS) opened in 1906, Acushnet families have entrusted us with educating their teenagers, and that relationship has become deeply woven into the fabric of both communities. Our children grow up together. They play on the same youth sports teams from the time they are little. By the time they enter FHS, they are already teammates and friends. Fairhaven has never viewed Acushnet students as outsiders, nor as a source of profit. They are part of who we are.

As Chairperson of the Fairhaven School Committee, I want to be clear at the outset: Fairhaven wants this long-standing relationship to continue. We value Acushnet's students and families and hope they remain with us for another century.

However, we believe that Fairhaven taxpayers deserve fairness. As Acushnet seeks new tuition agreements, it is essential that our community, and theirs, understands the financial realities behind these decisions.

### **Why Acushnet Must Pay Tuition: What the Law Requires**

Massachusetts General Law Chapter 71, Section 68 requires every town "provide and maintain a sufficient number of schoolhouses.... for the accommodation of all children" in grades K-12. If a town doesn't operate a high school, it must secure an agreement with another district. Acushnet has never built or operated a high school. As a result, it has fulfilled its legal obligation through agreements with Fairhaven and New Bedford.

This relationship is distinctly different from school choice. School choice allows districts to accept out-of-district students and is only meant to fill a small number of available seats in specific grades or schools. It is not meant to fill empty classrooms

or hire additional staff. When school choice was first created, the state developed a formula to set the actual tuition for a district that accepts school choice students. In 1991, the state capped this tuition at \$5,000 per child because it was never meant to take the place of having an actual high school. This amount is not the actual school choice tuition rate calculated by the state. Fairhaven does not accept school choice students because we guarantee space at FHS for all Acushnet students that want to attend.

### **What Acushnet Currently Pays and What It Actually Costs**

Acushnet pays Fairhaven the actual school choice tuition rate, which is approximately \$12,500 per high school student which is based on a state formula. Interestingly, other districts in the Commonwealth with a tuition agreement pay the receiving district's full per-pupil cost, which for Fairhaven is approximately \$16,800.

Based on the most recently certified state data, Acushnet's per-pupil expenditure for educating its own K-8 students was about \$15,000. Of that, about \$6,700 came from Chapter 70 state aid, and the remaining \$8,300 was Acushnet's local taxpayer contribution, most of which is required by law.

After paying Fairhaven's tuition rate, Acushnet keeps roughly \$2,500 per student. In other words, sending students to Fairhaven costs Acushnet less than educating their K-8 students.

### **Fairhaven has never billed nor asked Acushnet to pay for:**

- Capital Projects (e.g. turf field)
- High school renovations (e.g. roof and window replacement, gable project, etc).

Fairhaven taxpayers alone have carried every one of those expenses.

### **Acushnet's New Proposal: Paying Less Than Ever Before**

Acushnet is now soliciting proposals from Fairhaven, New Bedford, Freetown/Lakeville, and Old Rochester, because the current contract is expiring.

The criteria they are asking districts to accept are unprecedented.

Acushnet's proposal would pay receiving districts only \$8,200 per student, a reduction of roughly \$4,300 per student from what they currently pay Fairhaven. The \$8,200 number is not based on Chapter 70 aid as was stated, but instead on a number that the state uses to determine the bare minimum they must spend to educate a high school student.

If Fairhaven accepted that rate, Acushnet Public Schools would pocket approximately \$6,800 per student from funding they receive to educate their children. Fairhaven taxpayers would be forced to make up the difference.

### **Point of Clarification**

At a recent meeting, Acushnet Superintendent Dr. Paula Bailey stated that Acushnet is "overpaying" because Fairhaven and New Bedford receive additional state reimbursement for low-income and special education students. While receiving districts do receive these funds, this is not relevant to what Acushnet must legally spend. If Acushnet operated its own high school, it would receive the same reimbursements, but it would still need to fund the full cost of educating its students. These state dollars cannot be deducted from required spending. Since Fairhaven and New Bedford are the districts educating Acushnet's students, the state allocates those funds to us to support their needs and ensure they are successful.

### **To the Old Rochester Regional Taxpayer**

According to published data, Old Rochester's per-pupil expenditure is about \$21,000. Due to its demographics and state aid formula, ORR receives only about \$3,000 per student from the Commonwealth, leaving local taxpayers (Marion, Mattapoisett, Rochester) to fund roughly \$18,000 per student.

Is it reasonable to ask ORR taxpayers to subsidize Acushnet's students by accepting only \$8,200 per student, less than half of their own investment? Is that sustainable? Would those communities support it? These are important questions.

### **Valuing Acushnet Students and Fairhaven Taxpayers**

Acushnet has never invested in

**SCHOOLS: cont'd next page**

## SCHOOLS: cont'd from previous page

constructing, renovating, or maintaining a high school. Fairhaven has and does so every year. Acushnet is now seeking a tuition agreement that would not only relieve them of those responsibilities while shifting a substantial portion of their students' educational costs onto the taxpayers of whichever district accepts them.

This is not sustainable for Fairhaven. It is not fair to our taxpayers. And it is not what long-standing partnerships are built on.

Fairhaven wants to continue educating Acushnet's students. They are part of our school community's DNA. We want them in our classrooms, on our athletic fields, in our band, and on our stage. Their families are part of our extended school community.

But Fairhaven cannot accept an agreement that shifts a significant financial burden onto our taxpayers. The cost to educate a high school student does not disappear simply because Acushnet prefers to pay less. Someone must cover that cost and it cannot be Fairhaven taxpayers alone. Acushnet already receives a

favorable rate, paying less than our actual cost and contributing nothing toward capital expenses.

Fairhaven believes in strong fiscal accountability. We cannot risk the financial instability seen in districts like Brockton or Whitman-Hanson.

A fair, reasonable tuition agreement is the only way to ensure this historic partnership continues.

Acushnet votes on December 9.

Fairhaven will discuss this issue on December 3. Please attend and share your perspective. All of the data discussed can be found at <https://profiles.doe.mass.edu/>

Fairhaven stands ready to work with Acushnet toward a solution that



Fairhaven High School opened in 1906 and has welcomed Acushnet students from the beginning. *Neighb News file photo by Beth David from Memorial Day, 5/26/25.*

is equitable, transparent, and financially responsible. We hope they will join us in honoring the tradition our communities share while respecting the taxpayers who fund the education our children deserve.

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# Fairhaven Senior Center/Council on Aging

508-979-4029 • 229 Huttleston Ave • Fairhaven

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

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

## Supportive Social Day Program

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

## Mall Trips

Reservations accepted for mall trips at beginning the 15th of the prior month. There is a \$6 charge unless otherwise noted. Please bring exact amount. The van leaves the Fairhaven Senior Center promptly at 9: 12/3, Tiverton Casino; 12/10, Hyannis Mall, Trader Joe's; 12/17, Providence Place Mall; 1/7/26, Twin River 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.

## 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.

## 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.

**Dec 1. *The Christmas Chronicles.*** Comedy. The story of sister and brother, Kate and Teddy Pierce, whose Christmas Eve plan to catch Santa Claus on camera turns into an unexpected journey that most kids could only dream about.

**Dec 8. *Snowed Inn Christmas.*** Comedy, Romance, Drama. Two rival journalists get stuck together at an inn during the holidays.

**Dec 15. *A Castle for Christmas.*** Comedy, Romance, Drama. Two escape a scandal, a bestselling author journeys to Scotland, where she falls in love with a castle — and faces off with the grumpy duke who owns it.

**Dec 22. *Best. Christmas. Ever.*** Comedy & Romance. Friendships are put to the ultimate test over a boastful holiday newsletter.

**Dec 29 *While You Were Sleeping.*** Comedy, Romance, Drama. A hopelessly romantic Chicago Transit Authority ticket booth operator is mistaken for the fiancée of a comatose patient.

## Toys for Tots

A Toys for Tots bin will be available at the COA. Please drop off NEW and UNWRAPPED gifts.

If you have any questions, call Jane or Mike at the Fairhaven Veterans Services Office, 508-979-4603.

## Walking Group

Walk with friends at the Rec Center gym next door from 12–12:30 p.m., Monday–Friday. FREE.

# 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>

## Winter Brochure is Out

Come by to grab a copy or visit our Facebook page (link above).

## Paint Night

**Go With The Flow Paint Night** Join us for a relaxing and creative evening as we go with the flow! Explore your artistic side with guidance from Susan Drayton of SOCO Art Labs. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned painter, this class is all about having fun and letting your creativity take shape. Bring a friend, paint, and unwind and let your imagination free! Spaces are limited! Register early to save your spot! Check out Susan's creations at SOCO Art Labs online! Instructor Susan Drayton Fairhaven Recreation

Center Thursdays Jan 15 at 6PM – 8PM Cost: \$30 per member \$35 non-member— all supplies included

## KoolKid Christmas

Get ready for a jolly good time at the Kool Kids Christmas Vacation program! Designed for children in kindergarten through 6th grade, each day is packed with festive fun and exciting activities. From active recreation games, team building activities, STEAM challenges, art projects and more, there's something for everyone. Your child will make new friends and create lasting memories. Remember to pack a lunch, snacks, and a reusable water bottle. Sneakers and comfy, active clothes are a must each day to ensure

your child is ready for all the fun! Dec 26, 29, 30 8am-4pm \$30 per day for members, \$35 a day for non members.

## Shop & Drop

Give yourself the gift of time this holiday season! Drop the kids off for an evening of festive fun while you get your last-minute shopping (or relaxing!) done. Saturday, December 20, 2025 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM Fairhaven Recreation Center 227 Huttleston Ave, Fairhaven, MA Ages: 5–12 What's Included: Holiday crafts & games, pizza dinner & snacks Movie on the big screen. Fun with Fairhaven Rec staff in a safe, festive environment! Cost: Members: \$35 Non-Members: \$40 Sibling Discount: \$5 off each additional child

# Recipe of the Week

## Irish Stew

3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided  
2 pounds beef chuck stew meat, cubed into 1-inch pieces  
kosher salt, to taste  
black pepper, to taste  
1 yellow onion, chopped  
2 medium carrots, peeled and cut into rounds  
2 ribs celery, chopped  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
3 medium russet potatoes, peeled and cut into large chunks  
4 cups low-sodium beef broth  
1 (16-ounce) bottle dark stout, such as Guinness™  
2 teaspoons fresh thyme  
Parsley, optional, freshly chopped, for serving

In a large Dutch oven over medium heat, heat 2 tablespoons of the olive oil.

Season the beef with the salt and the pepper.

Add the beef to the hot oil and cook until seared on all sides, about 10 minutes. Work in batches if necessary.

Transfer the beef to a plate.

In the same pot, add the remaining oil.

Add the onions, the carrots, and the celery and cook until soft, about 5 minutes.

Season the vegetable mixture with the salt and the pepper.

Add the garlic and cook until fragrant, about 1 minute.

Add the beef back to the Dutch oven. Add the potatoes, the broth, the beer, and the thyme, scraping the bottom of the pot to incorporate the browned bits at the bottom.

Bring the mixture to a boil and then immediately reduce the heat to a simmer.

Season the soup with the salt and the pepper.

Cover and let simmer until the beef and potatoes are tender, about 30 minutes.

Garnish with parsley and serve.

# Dear Frankie



## Accusations

Dear Frankie,  
I have a friend who often accuses me of having feelings I don't have.

Yesterday, for instance, he said I liked a mutual friend more than I liked him, which isn't true. Last week, he said I disliked someone I hardly knew and had no feelings about one way or the other.

When I asked him what it was I said or did to lead him to these conclusions. He said there was nothing specific that he could put his paw on; it was just a feeling he had.

I'm at a loss for what I can say to convince him that he is misinterpreting my feelings.

Angi

Dear Angi,

It sounds to me like your friend is trying to gauge your feelings about

him. He appears to be insecure and seeking validation that you care about him. So, assure him that you genuinely care and reinforce it by throwing in a few reasons why.

I would tell him, however, that if he is interested in knowing what you think or feel, it would be best that he ask you rather than make assumptions.

If his accusations persist because he believes he understands your feelings better than you do, you should seriously consider distancing yourself from him. This is not the way friends communicate in a healthy or equal relationship.

Best, Frankie

© 2025 Geneva Woodruff

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.

## Support Local Journalism!

Donate to the Neighb News through a PayPal link on our website: [www.neighbnews.com](http://www.neighbnews.com) Or send check or money order to Neighb News, 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719.

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# RMV cautions public to beware of scam texts

*Press Release*

**Customers should not click on links in texts**

**Delete texts asking for payments**

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) is alerting the public to a scam circulating currently which involves texts stating a person owes money for outstanding motor vehicle violations and that the individual should contact the RMV immediately.

The RMV will never text residents looking for payment for fines or for transactions. The RMV only accepts payments in-person or on the official RMV website: [www.mass.gov/RMV](http://www.mass.gov/RMV).

“Scam artists often create urgency to manipulate members of the public into paying fees which are fraudulent and we urge everyone to be vigilant when they receive a communication stating they owe money,” said Registrar of Motor Vehicles Colleen Ogilvie. “Please delete texts stating you owe money and alert friends and family members to this scam so our most vulnerable residents can avoid being taken advantage of.”

A text scam targeting individuals notifies those individuals in part that, the communication is a, “Final Notice: Unpaid Traffic Violation – Payment Required...”

The scam threatens “enforcement actions” if the payment is not made including the loss of a driving license and vehicle registration. The text should be deleted.

In addition, customers should beware of text messages or emails which claim to be from MassDOT, perhaps fraudulently claiming money is owed for tolls.

These communications often are dangerous phishing scams and not official MassDOT and RMV sources. These fraudulent texts and emails may include links, which do not lead to official MassDOT or RMV websites, and customers should not follow the links nor reply to these messages with personal information.

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The RMV will never  
text residents looking  
for payment for fines  
or for transactions.

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Additional scams that have been reported in recent years, include the use of fake websites, purported to be official government websites. Residents should avoid using any unofficial third-party websites claiming to assist with RMV services. Only Mass.Gov/RMV should be used online for information or to perform many transactions, including when

trying to renew a license or registration.

The following guidance is from the RMV:

- In Massachusetts, the term “Registry of Motor Vehicles” and “RMV” are used, so log-off if the site references the “DMV” or the “Department of Motor Vehicles.”
- At Mass.Gov/RMV, a person will never be charged to check on the status of a license, registration or title.
- At Mass.Gov/RMV, there is no charge to access Registry forms and information.
- At Mass.Gov/RMV, there is no charge to change an address on file.

The Registry actively posts online to warn about scams, including on X @MassRMV, and a warning regarding third party websites remains featured in the RMV’s Driver’s Manual: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/drivers-manuals>

Reports of fraudulent websites can be directed to the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office at <http://www.mass.gov/ago/consumer-resources/consumer-assistance/consumer-complaint.html> and the Federal Trade Commission: <https://www.ftc.gov/>.

Customers with additional questions about how to identify and avoid scams can contact the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation by calling the Consumer Hotline at (617) 973-8787, or toll-free in Massachusetts at (888) 283-3757.

## Stellar Studios Brings “Seussical the Musical” to Life

*Press Release*

Get ready to think big, think bright, and think Seuss! Stellar Studios is thrilled to present *Seussical the Musical*, a family-friendly celebration of imagination at heart, opening December 4th at the Steeple Playhouse - 159 William Street, New Bedford, MA.

Based on the beloved stories of Dr. Seuss, *Seussical* brings together favorite characters like the Cat in the Hat, Horton the Elephant, Gertrude McFuzz, and the Grinch in a whimsical musical adventure that reminds audiences that “a person’s a person, no matter how small.”

Music Direction by Nathan Tarantino and Choreography by

Tiffany Pinaretta, this vibrant production features local performers of all ages! The inventive costumes, elaborate set, and dynamic choreography are sure to delight audiences of all ages.

“We wanted to tap deep into the theme of imagination to create a show that captures the joy and creativity of Dr. Seuss’s world. Everything in our lives was spawned inside someone’s imagination; from phones to forks, curtains to cars, someone had “an idea” and made it a reality. The show is full of laughter, heart, and the message to follow your ‘thinks’ wherever they may lead! We certainly did, and Stellar Studios was born!” - Tarantino

Performances will run December 4th - 7th, with evening shows at 6:30 pm and matinees at 1:00 pm. Tickets are \$26–\$31 and are available now at [www.stellarstudiostheater.com](http://www.stellarstudiostheater.com), by calling 401-374-8278, or by emailing [tickets@stellarstudiostheater.com](mailto:tickets@stellarstudiostheater.com)

Founded in 2025, Stellar Studios is dedicated to producing high quality theater that fosters a strong sense of community amongst performers and audiences alike. Each production offers audiences the chance to engage with the magic of live performance while giving back — Stellar Studios proudly partners with local charities for every show, ensuring the arts continue to uplift the communities they serve.

# Shopping with the *Neighb News*

*A decidedly biased piece by*  
**Beth David**  
**Editor**

It's time for one of our favorite annual stories: Shopping with the *Neighb News*!

After the Thanksgiving Day feast is over and you're looking for a way to work off some of it, it's time to buy gifts for your precious loved ones, whether you want to or not!

No need to get all stressed out, the *Neighb News* is here to take some of the anxiety out of your Christmas and holiday shopping journey. You need only to look within these pages to find all you need for even the hardest-to-buy-for relative.

Here, you will learn how you can find gifts for everyone on your list, a few things for yourself, and spend some fun time exploring all that *Neighb News* advertisers have to offer.

First, you'll want to call **Cyclone Cleaning** to get the house spruced up. The drop-off center is open, so you can swing by with your area carpets. While you're there, grab a gift certificate for your parents' place.

Don't forget the outside. Decorate with flags and banners with all kinds of fun stuff on them. Take a peek at the selection of old favorites and original designs from **Brewer Banner Designs**. It's the simplest way to dress up the outside to match the inside, and show your holiday spirit to the world. And don't forget a banner or two for indoors, for that young'un who just got an apartment.

This Friday is the big shopping day, of course. So, you'll want to start as early as possible. At just about the crack of dawn, you'll want to start with a hearty breakfast and we've got a great spot for you.

**Mac's Soda Bar** is our go-to place for breakfast anytime. And lunch, too (but let's not get ahead of ourselves).

They also cater, and you can get great holiday meals, so you have the special dinner without all the hassle.

And they have gift certificates, too. So, while you're planning your own party, check a couple of people off your list.

Right about the time you're done with breakfast, the banks will be opening. We've got just the hometown spot for you. Visit **Alltrust Credit Union**. They offer car loans and CDs. Now *that's* a great gift!

Speaking of cars....

**A&A Auto** has a great selection of used cars to fit any budget. I'll bet Alex will even put one of those big red bows on it, too, if you ask. Of course, they also do repairs, and have gift certificates. An oil change or A/C recharge is a great gift for the person who has everything.

Maybe you need something to get you in the spirit of the season? How about some homemade wreaths, Christmas trees and basket? We've got just the place for you: **Roxanne's Garden Center**. You will not be disappointed!

Looking for that home-town New-Englandly village experience? Well, Fairhaven's got it all here, as New England as it gets in the center of town. Park the car and walk around our fabulous town center.

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No need to get all  
stressed out, the  
*Neighb News* is here  
to take some of the  
anxiety out of your  
Christmas and holiday  
shopping journey

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Take a stroll by our magnificent town hall, Millicent Library, and Unitarian Church. These spectacular buildings were gifts from town benefactor Henry Huttleston Rogers. Hmm...what about a picture in front of one of them for your annual Christmas card?

In any case, be sure to have your camera with you to get some great shots of our architectural wonders, and be sure to check out the doors in the decorated door contest sponsored by the **Fairhaven Historical Society**.

And after you get familiar with the territory, be sure to save the date! December 13 will be absolutely hopping with all kinds of Christmas-y activities, brought to you by **Discover Fairhaven**. Food and fun all day long in a bunch of places, indoor and outside, in our beautiful center.

Now you've worked up an appetite

with all that walking and oohing and aahing over our town center, so mosey on over to **Wah May's Restaurant** while you're in the neighborhood. Have some tea to warm you up, and grab a couple of gift certificates to hand out on the big day.

Now it's time to take care of that young couple who just bought their first house — a real fixer-upper, and they need all the help they can get.

Maybe the old place just needs some TLC? Well, check out our **classifieds**. They are loaded with people who can help out with those little jobs, and cool stuff for sale — cheap.

For electrical work, you'll want Eric from **Eric Sylvia**. He can do it all, big or small.

And now that they've got all upgraded electrical, they can plug in all their gadgets. New house, new electric, they definitely need new gadgets too, or at least an upgrade. But it's such a hassle to update and reconnect and make sure the security software is up to date and all the other stuff that makes you just want to scream.

He can fix what you've got, or fix you up with new stuff.

Maybe the old place should have an alarm, huh? Yeah, I thought so, now that you've got all those new, shiny gadgets. Call **Wayne Electric**. They do alarms, and that's a cool gift!

You'll want **Robert Furtado** to do those other projects, from cabinet making to the new bathroom.

We have other choices for the exterior work and for that combo interior/exterior work that the old house is bound to need.

Check out **Marc Gadbois**, whether it's time to replace the siding, roof, or fix what's there. He does everything, no matter how big the job seems to be.

I'm willing to bet that big old monster has a big old monster of a heating system, too. If so, they'll be using up a little more fuel than they like for a year or two until they can replace that antique. Send **Luzo Fuel** over to fill up the oil tank. Now *that's* a gift!

And maybe the kids are thinking they should just replace that old boiler with one of the renewables, huh? Time for **Portside Renewables** to tell them their options.

**SHOP: cont'd next page**



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Maybe you want to give the kids a little bit of family history to warm up the place in a different way. Grandma's old hutch? Grandpa's old work cabinets? They do need some TLC, though before you can give them away. Just hop online and visit **Fernandes Family Furniture**. They have just the expertise you need to get that piece ready for displaying or using in that big old wooden wonder of a house.

That old yard will definitely need some clearing out, too.

**Fairways** can take care of those neglected spaces and trimming back those bushes that are wildly out of control in that yard. And they do snow removal, too. How about a winter's worth of snow plowing? Oh yeah. That's a good one.

And be sure to call **Fitzgerald Tree Service** to see what they can do about clearing out some of those old trees. Of course that wood won't be ready for burning just yet, and an old house like that is sure to have a wood stove or fireplace. So grab a cord of seasoned wood from them to make Christmas morning nice and toasty.

Before you burn it, though, call **Jake Fleurent** to make sure the chimney is in tip top shape, and while he's there, have him work on that old stone wall, or have him waterproof the basement.

Uh-oh. After all that yard clearing, did they actually find an old vehicle buried in the brush? Or maybe just a pile of old metal and other craa...I mean scrap? Then they'll need **Mid City Scrap** for sure.

Now for the inside. Don't forget, the **Neighb News** sells pictures of events we've covered, to decorate those new walls.

Okay, no one wants to say it out loud. But you know...you just KNOW that the old place has all manner of holes and sneaky places for critters to get in. **Profishant** is the place you need. They'll get rid of the critters, disinfect the place, and make sure the only roommates in the place are invited ones.

While they were rummaging around, did they find some cool old stuff in some drawers tucked away? Maybe some old rings, gold chains? Or maybe a big old jar full of big old coins? Either way they'll need **Marc Folco** to assess their value and maybe take those broken old pieces of

jewelry off their hands.

And how about the kids themselves? Maybe they love those brand names but hate the prices? Maybe they don't care about brand names at all, but just love a treasure hunt? Then **Walt's Consignment** is the place for them, for all manner of gently used clothing, shoes, handbags. Send 'em on over. And they have gift certificates, too.

That should do it for stuff. What about protecting it all now? Call **Vieira Insurance Agency** for that. They specialize in insuring houses in seashore towns. Does it get any better than that?

Still don't have something for the person who has everything?

Now, I know that no one wants to think of the bad stuff during the

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Okay, so now you  
know: there's no  
reason to shop  
outside the  
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holidays, but then you watch some sappy old Christmas movie with the obligatory hospital scene. And then you realize no one has updated the will in forever. Time to call **Surprenant & Beneski**, which specializes in elder law. It'll be a load off your mind and you'll be happy you did it.

Let's see... what did we forget? Oh, right, houses and apartments. You know what happens: People come "home" for the holidays and they think, shoot...why did I ever leave? We have several options for you. Call **Howe Allen Real Estate** and they'll find the perfect house or apartment for your prodigal relatives. **Jane Paul** can also help you and yours find a spot to call home. And so can **Catherine Costa**. All of them are pros and you'll have fun helping the relatives look around.

Maybe you've decided to buy that house next to the kids? (*My Big Fat Greek Wedding* anyone?) Well, any of them can help you make the purchase and make sure it goes smoothly.

Maybe your wayward relatives want to move back but are getting up there in age and don't want the hassle of home ownership. Take 'em on over to **Fairhaven Village**. It's right on the bus route to shopping or heading out of town.

Or, quite possibly, they need a little help in their day-to-day lives. Check out **Atria Senior Living**. They have elegant accommodations for seniors who just need a little help to live independently.

Or, if they need more than that, take 'em for a tour of **Alden Court** while they're in town. They have some fun activities that you can join in on. You don't have to live there to enjoy some music.

And while they're trying to decide, take them to **Fairhaven Pharmacy** to experience a good old fashioned service based pharmacy. And, guess what's coming next? C'mon...think Norman Rockwell...an old fashioned soda fountain, for real. Not sure it'll be open by Christmas, but stop by and check out the place anyway.

Did you notice how often they say, "what?" Or "huh?" Or "what did you say?"

Yeah, I thought so: Way more often than last year. Take them to **Ascent Audiology** to find out what kind of good things the newest technology offers.

Okay, now you're done. Time to sit with a drink and some friendly faces.

The **Bayside Lounge** is the place to see someone you know, like the old jingle...where they know your name. You can eat, drink, maybe dance or sing, even, all while you brag about how you got almost all your shopping done at all local places. They have gift certificates, too. So don't just feed yourself, check someone off your list.

If you still need stuff and you're looking for unique offerings, be sure to check out the shops during the Old Tyme Holiday in Fairhaven's Center on 12/13; and other vendor fairs everywhere from now until Christmas. Like the Youth Vendor fair coming up and...oh, so many more. See our Happenings pages for that kind of stuff.

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Maybe you don't want stuff? Maybe the people you celebrate with have all the stuff they need or want (and then some, right?). So, give them an experience. Take them to **Nasketucket Bay Vineyard** where December is Christmas Central! They even have an ornament market that is open now until just a few days before Christmas.

Maybe your experiences need to be more low-key or wellness focused? We've got you covered there, too. Check out **Reflex To Balance** to destress and relax and pamper your mind, body, and soul.

No, we didn't forget about one of our favorite Yuletide traditions. What's Christmas without a heart-warming and fun tale? Snuggle up with a good story about Christmas magic on a small island. If you have a

Nook or Kindle, you can get my short story, *Who Makes the Magic?* with a shorter, bedtime version for younger children. I'm working on a paperback version, but, alas, it won't be ready for this year's gift giving. But, we have birthdays all year, right? So visit [www.zorena.com](http://www.zorena.com) for info on all my fiction and travel pieces.

There's my fantasy novel, *Zorena and the Medallion of Corandu*, (no, I haven't finished the sequel yet...I'm working on it!); and hopefully soon a couple of others I've been working on.

Yeah, I know, would've been perfect for Christmas, but, well, that seems rather ambitious. However, keep your eye on these pages. You never know, a little Christmas magic might just happen to make it all so.

Be sure to keep an eye on my Amazon author page because I've

been working on some other stories that I hope will be ready soon. And I'm working on turning a couple of those ebooks into hardcovers.

Speaking of traditions. Maybe you're hoping to get back to the reason for the season?

Check out **St. Gabriel's** and their fair on 12/14 and the **Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven**, which is having its fair on 12/14. And they are in that beautiful architectural wonder in the center of town. (Psst...they give tours.)

Okay, so now you know: there's no reason to shop outside the *Neighb News* family of advertisers. You'll find everything you need, and you'll be supporting local businesses at the same time.

Merry shopping to all and to all a good holiday season! •••

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SECOND ANNUAL

# ORNAMENT MARKET

Sip local wine, indulge in homemade recipes and shop thousands of locally handmade holiday ornaments at the **Nasketucket Bay Vineyard Holiday Ornament Market**

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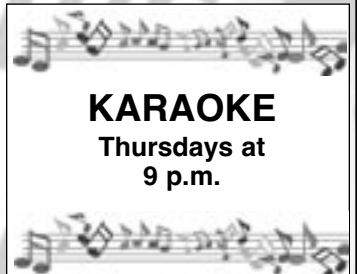


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**STM: cont'd from page 3**

second amendment proposed changing all the fees to \$40 for boarding, \$250 for cat adoption, and \$450 for dogs; the third proposed changing the dog adoption fee to \$500.

All three amendments failed and the original motion passed by a large margin.

Other spending articles that passed easily included Article 3 to transfer \$297,803 from Sewer Retained Earnings to the Sewer Plant Article 15A from the 6/18/22 TM; Article 4 transferrin \$40,000 from Free Cash to the General Fund Reserves and \$30,00 for the Town Hall Retaining Wall emergency repairs from Article 10-5 of the 5/3/25 TM.

TM members also voted to allow borrowing \$500,000 for additional costs of the Glenhaven Avenue water main replacement.

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## Death Notice

**Octavia (Peters) David, 95**, died on 11/24/25. Visitation at Fairhaven Funeral Home, 117 Main St., Fairhaven, MA 02719, on Sunday, 11/30, from 2-5 p.m. Divine Liturgy of the Resurrection will be held on Monday, December 1, at 10:00 am, at Our Lady of Purgatory Church, 4254 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford, followed by burial at St. Mary's.

She leaves behind her children, Elizabeth David of Fairhaven, Catherine Thomas and her husband Matthew of New Bedford, Anthony David and his wife Marcelle of Dartmouth, and Marie Borges and her husband George of Rochester; grandchildren, Victoria, Samuel, and David Thomas, and Thomas David; her sisters, Mary Ann Chomak of Dartmouth, and Norma Thomas of Fairhaven; and many nieces and nephews.

Arrangements are by Fairhaven Funeral Home, 117 Main St., Fairhaven, <https://www.hathawayfunerals.com/location-fairhaven>

## Upcoming Meetings

### Fairhaven

#### Board of Appeals

Tues., 12/2, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

#### Board of Health

Wed., 12/3, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

#### Board of Public Works

Mon, 12/1, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

#### Community Preservation

Wed., 12/10, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

#### Conservation Comm

Mon., 12/8, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

#### Council on Aging

Tues., 12/9, Sr. Ctr., 9 a.m.

#### Historical Commission

Tues., 12/2, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

#### School Committee

Wed., 12/3, FHS Media Lib., 6:30 p.m.

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

#### Select Board

Mon., 12/1, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Acushnet

#### Board of Appeals

Mon., 12/1, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

#### Selectboard

Mon., 12/1, Town Hall, 1 p.m.

Mon., 12/6, Town Hall, TBA

Mon., 12/30, Town Hall, TBA

### TIDE TABLE

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

Nov. 2025		HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	27	0036	1254	0526	1807
Friday	28	0128	1346	0641	1911
Saturday	29	0220	1441	0752	2008
Sunday	30	0316	1543	0856	2103*

Dec. 2025		HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Monday	1	0417	1644	1003	2200*
Tuesday	2	0511	1736	1103*	2255*
Wednesday	3	0559	1823	1156*	2347*
Thursday	4	0646	1912	---	1248*
Friday	5	0736	2004	0039*	1347*
Saturday	6	0829	2059	0136*	1443*
Sunday	7	0922	2152	0234*	1528*
Monday	8	1014	2247	0325*	1609*
Tuesday	9	1109	2346	0413	1654
Wednesday	10	---	1207	0506	1757

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

# Grade school girls and boys compete in basketball Jamboree



Girls and boys from grades three through eight competed in the Acushnet/Fairhaven Metro-West Basketball Jamboree on Friday, 11/21/25 at Hastings Middle School in Fairhaven. Teams played each other for 10 minutes, with two five-minute periods. The Acushnet/Fairhaven Basketball League squared off with Dartmouth Youth Basketball/Metrowest at Hastings Middle School in Fairhaven to a packed gym with enthusiasm high for the upcoming season. ABOVE LEFT: The eyes of Avery Christopher of Acushnet/Fairhaven 6th Grade Metro-West tell the story as she takes a free throw against the Dartmouth 6th Grade squad during the basketball Jamboree on Friday, 11/21/25, at Hastings Middle School in Fairhaven. MIDDLE: Brynn Goyette of the Grade 4 Dartmouth team goes up strong Fairhaven's Ivy Desroches defends on the play. RIGHT: Jameson Silva of the Fairhaven Metro-West 5th Grade team drives to the basket as the Dartmouth defender attempts to draw an offensive foul. LEFT: London Hennessy of the Fairhaven 6th Grade team is guarded by Samantha Lauzon of Dartmouth. *Photos courtesy of Bruce David*



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Town Hall, Unitarian Church,  
First Congregational Church

**BOOK SALE**  
10AM-2PM  
Millicent Library

**FOR LITTLE ELVES**

**\$10 PONY RIDES**  
11AM-2PM  
Town Hall William St Lawn

**MILlicENT'S MAGIC MAIL**  
10AM-3PM  
Millicent Library / Town Hall

**BACK IN TYME**

**GEORGE H TABER MASONIC  
LODGE BUILDING TOURS**  
10AM-3PM

**CHRISTMAS CAROLS**  
11AM  
Unitarian Church Sanctuary

**TASTY TREATS**

**BAKE SALES**  
10AM-3PM  
Town Hall, Unitarian Church,  
First Congregational Church

**SANTA'S SWEET SHOP**  
11AM-2PM  
NEMI Integrity Hall  
(29 Center St)

**FESTIVE FEAST**

**NFIA HOLIDAY CAFE  
& BOY SCOUT SALE**  
10AM-3PM  
Town Hall

**TRAVELER'S SEAFOOD**  
Walnut Street  
10:00AM-5:30PM

**VOTE FOR YOUR  
FAVORITE TREE**  
10AM-3PM  
Town Hall

**REC CENTER  
REINDEER GAMES**  
2:30PM-4:30PM  
Millicent Library Lawn

**SANTA'S GRAND ARRIVAL!**  
4:30PM-5:30PM  
Town Hall

**FIDDLERS**  
12:30PM-2:30PM  
Millicent Library

**CHURCH BELL CONCERT**  
1PM  
Unitarian Church

**TALES OF AN OLD SEAPORT  
VILLAGE WALKING TOUR**  
3PM-4:30PM  
Begins on Center Street

**COCKTAILS & WINE**  
10AM-5PM  
Walnut Street

**TRUCK TREATS**  
10AM-5:30PM  
Walnut Street

**DOUGH & BASIL PIZZA**  
Walnut Street  
10:00AM-5:30PM

**SOUP & SANDWICHES**  
Unitarian Church Harrop Center  
11:30AM-2PM



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DECEMBER 13, 2025





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## STILL IN TOWN

### SAVE THE DATES: Benoit Square Lighting & Singalong

Join the North Fairhaven Improvement Association for the annual lighting of Benoit Square, on Fri., 12/5, at 6:30 p.m., at the intersection of Main St. and Howland Rd., Fairhaven.

The lights will be turned on for the season and we will sing Christmas carols with Mrs. Claus and Friends. And you can even see Santa! Don't miss this fun kickoff to the holiday season with hot cocoa and Santa's elves.

### Santa Bowl/Register NOW

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

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.

### Business After Hours

The Fairhaven Economic Development Committee invites business owners on 12/11 at 5:30 PM for an engaging evening of networking, learning, and collaboration with local business owners and community leaders! This session, hosted by Tropical Smoothie Cafe (15 Sarah's Wy), features State Representative

Mark Sylvia, who will share insights about his role and answer your questions. Don't miss this chance to connect and engage with our community!

Whether you're a business owner, entrepreneur, or simply interested in Fairhaven's economic growth, this is a fantastic opportunity to connect and collaborate. We look forward to seeing you there!

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

### Children's Books Wanted

At this year's Old Tyme Holiday, the Friends of the Millicent Library

## HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

### Science Cafe

Tues., 12/2, from 6–8 p.m., The Last Round Bar & Grille, 908 Purchase St., New Bedford

Our guest Seth Lederman, MD, CEO of Tonix Pharmaceuticals, will discuss "No Fairytale: The Story Behind a New FDA-Approved Fibromyalgia Drug." Tonix owns & operates a biologicals manufacturing facility in the New Bedford Business Park.

In August, Tonix received FDA-approval for the drug Tonmya, the first new treatment for fibromyalgia in over 15 years. A chronic pain condition that affects millions of adults, fibromyalgia has been an elusive target for drugmakers due to its widespread symptoms.

It's said that the princess in Hans Christian Andersen's fairytale "The Princess and The Pea" must have had fibromyalgia, given her body's hypersensitivity to pain and poor sleep. Seth will intertwine this backstory with how, by analyzing the condition's Achilles Heel, Tonix researchers brought this drug from

concept to FDA approval.

Free parking in rear of building.

### Maker's Market

A Very Merry Maker's Market

A rotating lineup of local small businesses like jewelers, bakers, ceramic artists, woodworkers, tarot readers, and more! Come shop, support local and get in the holiday spirit! Located inside Shimmer's new community space, 185 Union Street.

Sat., 11/29, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.; Thurs., 12/11, 4–7 p.m.; Sat., 12/13, Noon to 5 p.m.

### One Person Show

Thurs., 12/4, 6 p.m., at New Bedford Whaling Museum Cook Memorial Theater, 18 Johnny Cake Hill, NB. Tickets: \$10–\$20. Visit <https://www.whalingmuseum.org/>

*Sailing Towards My Father* is a one-man play, starring Stephen Collins, about Herman Melville (1819–1891), the American author best known for his whaling epic *Moby-Dick*.

Written and directed by Carl A. Rossi, the play chronicles Melville's

life from youth to old age, concentrating on his evolution as a writer and his complex relationships with God, his parents and siblings, his wife and children, and fellow author Nathaniel Hawthorne. This insightful production offers audiences a vivid and intimate portrayal of one of America's most influential literary figures.

Tickets are \$10 for Members and \$20 for Non-Members

### SAVE THE DATES: Tree Lighting/Sing Along/ Parade

Mayor Jon Mitchell announced that the City's holiday season will kick off on Saturday, Dec. 6 with the tree lighting Downtown and continue on Sunday the 7th at Clasky Common.

### City of New Bedford Downtown Tree Lighting

Sat., 12/6, 6–6 p.m., Downtown New Bedford, Pleasant Street in front of Main Library. Join Mayor Mitchell for the annual tree-lighting celebration.

cont'd next page



## STILL OVERTOWN

At 4:30 p.m., a parade will march from the bottom of William Street, near the Whaling Museum, to the library steps for the tree lighting. The parade will feature the New Bedford High School marching band and color guard, Santa and Mrs. Claus, and surprise guests.

Remarks at the library by Mayor Mitchell will be followed by a sing-along, which will feature classic

holiday songs and some new hits. Song books will be provided.

### **Clasky Common Park Tree Lighting**

Sun., 12/7, 5 p.m., Clasky Common Park, County and Pope Streets. Remarks by Mayor Mitchell. Guest appearances by Santa and Mrs. Claus

### **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)

## HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

### **Bike Run/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.

### **Library Director Reception**

The Mattapoisett Free Public Library is pleased to announce a welcome reception for its new Library Director, Jenny Martin, on Dec. 2, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the library, 7 Barstow St. Light refreshments will be served. The public is invited to meet Ms. Martin, learn about the library's upcoming programs, and celebrate the library's continued commitment to serving the Mattapoisett community.

### **Christmas Fair**

The Church of the Good Shepherd will be holding its annual Christmas Fair in their Parish Hall on Saturday, December 6 from 9 am to 2 pm at 74 High Street, Wareham. Favorites will include crafts, gift baskets, jewelry and scarves, raffles, gently used Christmas decor, spice table, and baked goods. All items for sale are either handmade, home-baked or recycled by Good Shepherd parishioners! Please join us for this festive holiday tradition at the Good Shepherd, a "Good" & Green"

Church. For more information, please call 508-295-2840.

### **At Acushnet Library**

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

#### **Author Event**

The Acushnet Public Library welcomes Spinner Publications & Gay Gillespie on Saturday, December 6, at 1 pm for a talk and signing event for Spinner's newest book SHIPWRECK! Horseneck Point Lifesaving Station & South Coast Rescuers. Shipwreck! received funding support from the Westport Cultural Council Community Grants, the Helen E. Ellis Charitable Trust, the Bank of America, the Westport Community Gift Fund, and the Buzzards Bay Coalition.

#### **Holiday Jewelry Sale 12/6**

Come shop the Friends of the Acushnet Public Library's holiday jewelry sale on Saturday, December 6, 9:30am - 12pm, in the Community Room. We'll have a large selection of new and gently-worn jewelry in a range of styles for all the jewelry lovers on your holiday gift list, with prices starting at just \$1. Shop early for best selection (limited supply of jewelry gift bags and boxes will be available). Also for sale will be our popular Blind Date Books (\$10 each or 2 for \$15). Beautifully wrapped, these high-quality pre-loved hard-cover books include a note hinting at the story inside, and make fun and unique gifts. Cash only. The library is located at 232 Middle Rd., Acushnet.

### **SAVE THE DATES:**

#### **Jewelry Sale FR**

The Friends of the Mattapoisett Library are holding the popular

Annual Jewelry & Accessory Sale on December 4, 5 & 6 in the library at 7 Barstow Street in Mattapoisett.

New and gently used jewelry of all types, as well as fashion accessories will be sold at very reasonable prices! Do some holiday shopping or just treat yourself! Be sure to check out and place a bid on items in the Silent Auction, which includes some of the very nicest items donated for this year's sale! The Silent Auction was a new addition in 2024 and helped bring in a record amount to be used for library programs and activities.

Friends of the Mattapoisett Library preview sale will be held Thurs. 12/4 5:30pm - 7:30 pm. The general public sale held Fri. 12/5 4:30-7:30pm and Sat. 12/6 10:00am-2:00pm.

#### **Greens Sale**

The sixth Annual Mattapoisett Woman's Club Holiday Greens Sale will be held on Saturday, December 6th at the "What the Taco" porch & parking lot on route 6 in Mattapoisett, from 9am until 1pm, or until items are sold out. In past years, all items have sold out in a couple of hours or less, so plan to shop early!

This year's sale will once again feature elegant, one-of-a-kind designs in the form of decorated fresh wreaths, swags, centerpieces, and 2025 Christmas ornaments, all beautifully handcrafted by the talented women of the Mattapoisett Woman's Club! Bundled evergreens and holly branches will also be available for purchase. Cash, checks and credit cards will be accepted.

In case of inclement weather, the rain date will be December 7th. Proceeds from the Holiday Greens Sale and all our fundraisers directly support the Mattapoisett Woman's Club's Scholarship Fund and other charitable community endeavors.

# 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 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, December 16, 2025 at 6:30 PM. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room located at 122 Main Street, Acushnet, MA 02743.

- **Case #2025.11.19C – (Continued)** 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).
- **Case #2025.06.17B - (Continued)** A case of Three Kings Marine, LLC for property located at 42 South Main Street, Map 15, Lot 271 & Sivigny Street, Map 15, Lot 270. The Petitioner is appealing a letter from the Building Commissioner to Cease and Desist all activity on the premise.
- **Case #2025.12.16A** A case of Christian Gwozdzi-Silveira for property located at 47 Pershing Avenue, Map 24, Lot 273. The Petitioner seeks a Variance to construct an addition for an accessory dwelling unit. The proposed addition fails to meet the required 15-foot setback pursuant to Sec 3.3.1E (3) (c).
- **Case #2025.12.16B** A case of Dale & Tracey Duval for property located at 134 Keene Road, Map 4, Lot 25. The Petitioner seeks a Variance to construct a 2nd Garage to be 25 X 25. The proposed Addition fails to meet the Minimum Frontage of 150 ft. per Sec 3.3.1 (9c).
- **Case #2025.12.16C** A case of Jeffrey Sylvia for property located at 248 Perry Hill Road, Map 8, Lot 39A. The Petitioner seeks a Variance to construct a 24 X 28 Garage. The proposed Garage fails to meet the required sideline setback of 15 ft. pursuant to Sec 3.3.1E (3) (a).

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

FNN, 11/27/25, 12/4/25

## 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=VFdUQkhkdVYrNzJlQktlVl9XSzGpZz09>  
Meeting ID: 869 5315 5076  
Passcode: 633695

Or call: 1-929-205-6099

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

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

- CON 023-542, SE 023-\_\_\_\_: 1 Pavillion Way, Map 29, Lot 4H** Notice of Intent filed by John & Sylvia Collins to clear a 10-foot-wide walking path approximately 468 S.F. through vegetation to allow for access to the beach area. The construction of a 6-foot-high property boundary fence is also proposed as shown on the accompanying site plan. Work to take place within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, Coastal Dune, Coastal Beach, and the buffer zone to Salt Marsh and Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.
- CON 023-543, SE 023-\_\_\_\_: 483 Bridge Street, Map 31, Lot 6K** Notice of Intent filed by Donna Jackson-Motta to construct a single-family dwelling with gravel driveway, septic utilities, and limited landscaping. A small portion of the proposed on-site soil absorption system and associated grading is located in the outer riparian zone. The proposed house and gravel driveway is proposed outside the riparian zone.
- CON 023-544: 32 Water Street, Map 7, Lot 1** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Old South Wharf Realty, LLC in order to obtain a Waterways license for the future uses at the facility & to authorize change in use for water dependent industrial & supporting uses on filled tidelands of the new Bedford Harbor, pursuant to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Chapter 91 regulations. No work is proposed as part of this submission.
- CON 023-545: 6 Fisherman Road, Map 43A, Lot 115** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Michael Bousquin to construct a 4 x 6' deck within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, FEMA Flood Zone, VE (EI.18').

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: 11/27/25

## Fairhaven Community Preservation Committee

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 at 6:00 pm Town Hall, 40 Center Street Fairhaven, Massachusetts

To access remotely Log onto:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82229650648?pwd=ODJlQZnRHdm15MHpyamJlN3M1VnRaZz09>  
or call 1-929-205-6099 - Meeting ID: 822 2965 0648 -

Passcode: 895918

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

Channel 18

### REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS FOR CPA FUNDING

The Fairhaven Community Preservation Committee will conduct Public Hearings to review (18) applications for FY27 CPA funds that the CPC is reviewing for eligibility and whether to recommend to the Annual Town Meeting in 2026. The following applications will be reviewed on Wednesday, December 10, 2025.

#### Historic Preservation

- Fairhaven Historic Commission: Historic Property Survey Plan for Town of Fairhaven (\$9,999)
- Riverside Cemetery Monument Restoration Project- (\$5,800)
- Fairhaven Improvement Association: Millicent Library Sidewalk Lighting Project (\$25,000)
- Fairhaven Protecting Society: 1937 Maxim Fire Truck Restoration (\$95,000) (\$395,000)
- Fairhaven Public Schools: FHS Exterior Masonry, Roofing and Flashing Preservation: (\$140,000)
- Town of Fairhaven: Air Conditioner for Town Hall auditorium (\$700,000)
- Town of Fairhaven: Town Hall West Retained Wall Project (\$320,000)
- Town of Fairhaven: Town Hall Repair of 4 Wooden Doors and 4 Front Pillars Town Hall (\$25,000)
- Town of Fairhaven: Masonry Repair of Academy Building Foundation (\$45,000)
- Millicent Library Restoration & Preservation Project (\$25,000)

#### Open Space and Recreation

- Sustainability Committee: Macomber Pimental Park Native Plant Garden (\$3,505)
- Pickleball and Tennis Assoc: Livesey Park, Tennis, Basketball Pickleball Resurfacing (\$120,000)
- BPW: Big Belly Trash Compactor (\$30,000)
- BPW: West Island Town Beach Permanent Bathrooms (\$348,900)

#### Housing

- Fairhaven Housing Authority-Oxford Terrace Window Replacement- (\$100,000)
- Copies of the Applications and Plans may be viewed at the Office of Planning & Economic Development in Town Hall, located at 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA, and on the Town's CPC website: <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/community-preservation-committee/>

Ann Richard Chair,  
Community Preservation Committee  
FNN: 11/27/25, 12/4/25

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# FHS Football team headed back to the finals

The Fairhaven Football team has done it again! The boys will be headed to Gillette Stadium for the MIAA championship on 12/4/25.

The Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) announced the matchups and schedule for the eight state football championships.

## GAME SCHEDULE

### Thursday, Dec. 4

Division VII:

Amesbury vs. Cohasset 5:00 p.m.

Division VI

Fairhaven vs. Norwell 7:45 p.m.\*

### Friday, Dec. 5

Division V:

Foxborough vs. Shawsheen Tech 5:00 p.m.

Division III:

North Attleborough vs. King Philip 7:45 p.m.\*

### Saturday, Dec. 6

Division VIII:

Randolph vs. West Boylston 10 a.m.

Division IV:

Tewksbury vs. Scituate 12:45 p.m.\*

Division II

Bishop Feehan vs. Catholic Memorial 3:30 p.m.\*

Division I

Xaverian Brothers vs. St. John's Prep 6:15 p.m.\*

*\*Game times are approximate*

The 2025 MIAA State Football Championships, presented by Cross Insurance, will mark the 18th year Gillette Stadium has hosted the games and the eighth time that all eight championship games will be played on the home turf of the six-time Super Bowl champion New England Patriots. Three days of title games kick off with doubleheaders under the stadium lights on Thursday, Dec. 4 and Friday, Dec. 5, before a four-game slate on Saturday,

Dec. 6 closes out the championship action.

The three-day stretch will provide student-athletes from 16 MIAA schools and their respective communities with an unforgettable title game experience and memories that will last a lifetime. The MIAA State Football Championships are a culmination of more than 100 playoff football games across the state over a four-week span. Adding to the excitement of the state championships will be thousands of cheering fans, cheerleaders and school bands. The Kraft family will also treat the participating schools and their fans to an NFL-caliber game presentation with music and replays on the stadium's high-definition video boards, including Gillette Stadium's north end zone board, which is the largest outdoor video board in the country.

Tickets for the MIAA State Football Championships are available for purchase via Ticketmaster. No tickets will be sold at the Gillette Stadium Ticket Office. All tickets will be digital and will be accessible via mobile device only. Fans can access and manage mobile tickets via the Gillette Stadium App which is available on the App Store (for iPhone users) and Google Play Store (for Android users). It is recommended that fans add their mobile tickets to their Apple Wallet or Google Pay to beat busy network connections when arriving at Gillette Stadium. Find additional information on mobile ticketing at [GilletteStadium.com/tickets/mobile/](http://GilletteStadium.com/tickets/mobile/).

Tickets are \$20 each and children 5 years old and younger will receive free admission. The ticket price includes parking, admission to the games and a game day discount of \$3 off adult admission at the Patriots

Hall of Fame presented by RTX (must show game ticket). Thursday's tickets provide access to both Thursday games, Friday's tickets provide access to both Friday games, and Saturday's tickets provide access to all four Saturday games. Please note that tailgating and reentry to this event is prohibited but fans are invited to visit Patriot Place before and after the games each day. For a full listing of everything Patriot Place has to offer, visit [Patriot-Place.com/MIAAFOOTBALL](http://Patriot-Place.com/MIAAFOOTBALL).

All fans will enter the stadium via the Ticketmaster Gate in the Patriot Place Plaza and Gillette Stadium's Clear Bag Policy will be in effect for all eight state championship games. For more information on the policy, visit [GilletteStadium.com/bagpolicy/](http://GilletteStadium.com/bagpolicy/). The Patriots Foundation will also be accepting donations during the MIAA State Football Championships for their annual toy drive benefitting children in need. Fans can bring new and unwrapped toys to the blue and white collection bins located throughout Patriot Place. To learn more or provide a financial donation, visit [patriots.com/community/collection-drives](http://patriots.com/community/collection-drives).

## BROADCAST INFORMATION

Kraft Sports + Entertainment will produce the broadcast, which will air all of Friday's and Saturday's games live on WSBK (TV-38), and stream all of Thursday's, Friday's and Saturday's games live on [CBSNewsBoston.com](http://CBSNewsBoston.com), [Patriots.com](http://Patriots.com) and the Patriots official YouTube channel. Thursday's games will also be streamed on the NFHS Network at [www.nfhsnetwork.com](http://www.nfhsnetwork.com). Additionally, Friday's and Saturday's games will air live on radio on WEEL-AM 850.

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## CHRISTMAS Craft Fair

Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>  
9am - 4pm

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