



# Fairhaven

# Neighborhood News

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



The little paper  
with a big voice!

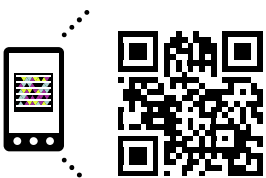
Volume 21, Issue 2 • December 18, 2025

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

## Olde-Tyme Holiday brings charm to center



People make their way into town hall on a cold Saturday, 12/13/25, to enjoy the variety of activities during the Olde-Time Holiday Village in the center of town. Photo by Beth David. . See page 12. Photo by Beth David



Get the free mobile app at  
<http://gettag.mobi>

### 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.

Well, they've got kahoonas, I'll give 'em that.

Lavalette gets kicked off the Historical Commission because of his bad behavior, but asks to be put back on now (see page 3).

Carr wants examples of his bullying. His daughter says a loud voice doesn't mean bad behavior.

PULEEEZE! Make it stop, someone?

His behavior has been on display for months and months and months. Never mind the conflict of interest stuff. He actually got up there and said he never hesitated to recuse himself? What? Can you say "40R" anyone? After months of refusing to recuse himself, he and his pal (Ruy DaSilva, who is now selling his property in said district that is worth way more than before the bylaw passed, right?) finally had to keep quiet at the very end, but not before insisting over and over there was no conflict.... until there was, right? Or .....drum roll.....wait for it....the school shed project? TWICE he asked to get special permission to deliberate on that one because even our limpywimpy State Ethics Commission said it was clearly a conflict.

Honestly, these people have no shame.

Speaking of no shame, the Big Buffoon in DC is wondering why people from Norway (read: really white people) don't want to come here. Sure, come here and suddenly lose 1/3 of your income to healthcare instead of getting publicly funded great healthcare where you are. We are the only idiots who get our tax dollars stolen and given to billionaires instead of spending it on healthcare.

My medical stuff this summer and fall cost about \$100K. Let that sink in for a second: \$100K. And my stuff was mild compared what it could have been. And the Big Buffoon wants to give us \$2K a year? I'd need 50 years of that to cover just this one medical episode.

Really, guys. Time to get with the program. Every other country has figured this out. We're supposed to be the "exceptional" ones. Yeah, right.

Dare I even talk about his response to the murders of Rob and Michele Reiner? The most despicable thing ever.

Merry Christmas, huh?

This is our last issue for two weeks. Next little miracle is on 1/8/26.

I hope you all have a great holiday season.

Let's all go out and find a little Christmas despite the Big Buffoon's intense effort to destroy our democracy.

Every day brings us closer to the midterms, when hopefully this madness will end.

We have some news on the Acushnet School Committee vote (see page 11). Emma DaCunha is back with a story on the big game (see page 6). And, of course our cover story on page 12.

There are lots of happenings, too, including first night New Bedford (see page 4), Moby-Dick Marathon (page 18). Anyway, you'll have to thumb through to find it all. While you're doing that, 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 21, Issue 2

Thursday, December 18, 2025

Copyright 2025 Elizabeth A. David

Editor: Beth David

Published weekly on Thursday by  
Fairhaven Neighborhood News, LLC, at  
166 Dogwood Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

NeighbNews@comcast.net

www.NeighbNews.com

508-979-5593 • Fax: 508-991-5580

**Contributions:** The *Neighb News* accepts press releases, editorial contributions and letters to the editor at the above address; by email with copy in the body of the email, not as an attachment. If mailed by USPS or faxed, editorial must be typewritten, 500 words or fewer. Unfortunately, The *Neighb News* is not able to pay money for contributions at this time. Contributors agree, by virtue of their submissions, to grant The *Fairhaven Neighborhood News, LLC*, the right to publish submissions in print and online. Contributors also verify, by virtue of their submissions, that they own the right to publish the work submitted. Any claims of copyright infringement will be referred to the contributor, who will also be responsible for any and all costs associated with said claims.

**Advertising:** Call or write for rate card and sample issue or visit our website at [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com).

The *Fairhaven Neighborhood News, LLC*, reserves the right to refuse advertising and editorial for any reason. The *Neighb News* will not assume any liability, financial or otherwise, for errors in ads or in editorial content submitted by contributors. The *Neighb News* will run a correction on the inside front cover to rectify any misprints or errors in the previous week's issue. Readers, advertisers, and writers are responsible for notifying The *Neighb News* of any inconsistencies or errors in the paper.

Advertisers are responsible for all claims made in their ads. The *Neighb News* is not be liable in any way for claims made by advertisers. Advertisers are responsible for their own content. We will, to the extent reasonable, try to verify any claims that seem unreasonable or unlikely to be true. Readers are encouraged to report any problems with our advertisers.

**Subscriptions** are available for 6 months (24 issues) or one year (48 issues) at \$2.00 per issue for a total of \$48.00 or \$96.00 respectively. Also available for free online at [www.neighbnews.com](http://www.neighbnews.com). For free email subscription, send to [NeighbNews@comcast.net](mailto:NeighbNews@comcast.net) and include your first and last name.

Copyright 2025 Elizabeth A. David

## Contents

Acushnet School Comm .....	11
COVER: Olde-Tyme Holiday .....	12
DaCunha's Dispatches .....	6
Dear Frankie .....	10
Fairhaven Rec Ctr/Senior Ctr .....	9
Fairhaven Select Board .....	3
From our readers .....	23
Happenings .....	4, 5, 20, 21
Legal Notices/Public Hearings .....	22
Moby-Dick Marathon .....	18
Tides .....	17
Upcoming meetings/Fairhaven & Acushnet .....	17

## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our story on the fire department emergency boat in our 12/4/25 issue, we made an error about who will have control of the boat. It is under the control of the Fire Department.

In our story on the Patriots Pen winners in our 12/11/25 issue, we neglected to put the names of the winners in the body of the story. (Don't worry too much, they were there under the photo.). The winners from Hastings Middle School are: Jackson Leite (1st Place), Anna Chen (2nd Place), Aria Andrade (3rd Place).

We apologize for any confusion our errors may have caused.



# Fairhaven Select Board chooses two for Historical Commission

By Beth David  
Editor

At its meeting on 12/15/25, the Fairhaven Select Board appointed two of four people who applied for associate member positions on the Historical Commission. At the last meeting, two people vied for one spot, but the board learned that they can appoint associate members to any board in the same number as the board, in this case seven, making the total count 14.

After that determination, four people applied to join the HC: Nils Isaksen, Gary Lavalette, Patrick Carr, and Matthew Paulson.

SB member Andrew Romano questioned whether the HC had to have 14 members plus the SB representative.

"I would say 'yes,'" said SB member Andrew Saunders. He said the purpose of the associates is to serve and vote if regular members are absent, and there could be a situation when all seven members are not there.

"I don't see the risk or the down side," said Mr. Saunders.

SB member Keith Silvia agreed with him, saying if people are willing to give their time it's a great thing.

Mr. Romano said he did not think they needed that many.

Mr. Isaksen, who is on the Rogers Re-Use Committee and the Bell Committee, told the board he is interested in the history of the town. He noted his work on the Town Hall light project and the Paul Revere bell project.

He said he learned about Henry Huttleston Rogers in high school and couldn't believe what he learned.

SB member Natalie Mello asked Mr. Isaksen if he would keep his street light project separate from his HC duties. Mr. Romano asked if he would keep his Rogers Re-Use Committee business separate.

Mr. Isaksen said he would be able to do that if necessary.

Mr. Lavalette was not at the meeting, noting in his application he is in bowling league on Monday nights. In his application, he noted that he had been a member of the HC for nine years and knows all the duties and the properties they are

responsible for.

Mr. Lavalette was removed from the HC by a vote of the Select Board on 8/7/23. (See FNN 8/10/23 issue.)

Mr. Carr, who is on the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Economic Development Committee, Harbor Steering Committee, SRPEDD Environmental Committee, 40R working group, Atlas Tack working Group, told the board about some of the projects he has been involved in, including removing the cupola and Paul Revere Bell from the Oxford School building. Mr. Carr owns a crane company and volunteered his time and equipment for that project, the Rogers School bell removal, and other projects over the years.

He said he wanted to be part of focusing on the town's historical preservation.

Mr. Romano reminded Mr. Carr that he had applied for the another position in August and Mr. Romano said he believed then and still did that Mr. Carr could be an asset to the board as a private citizen, without being a member.

SELECT: cont'd on page 14

Christmas Trees  
Wreaths  
Cemetery  
Baskets



#### Wreaths:

Pick your own  
colors and style

#### Baskets:

Custom made &  
ready made

#### Roxanne's Garden Center

Open Every Day • 189 Alden Road • Fairhaven • 508-642-4688



#### UU Society of Fairhaven welcomes all!

10 a.m. Dec. 21: A Service of  
Music and Hope

with the Dartmouth High School  
Chamber Orchestra and special music by  
Director Tim Evans and the choir

Christmas Eve by Candlelight:  
7 p.m. Dec. 24

The Rev. Maria Uitti McCabe

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



**alltrust**  
CREDIT UNION

The Board of Directors, Management  
and Staff would like to wish you and your  
family a wonderful Holiday Season and a  
very Happy New Year!

508.994.9971 | alltrustcu.org

FAIRHAVEN | FALL RIVER | NEW BEDFORD | SEEKONK



Insured by NCUA | NMLS #422864  
Equal Housing Opportunity

strive thrive together

# New Bedford celebrates New Year

From <https://explorenewbedford.org/special-events/new-years/>

## City Celebrates

New Bedford is the ideal spot to celebrate the upcoming New Year for you and your family. Our festivities take place early in the night and feature family-friendly activities for all ages — along with a spectacular firework display lighting up the sky over the harbor.

Experience the fun this New Year's Eve as we say goodbye to the past and welcome the new year ahead.

## An Enchanting Night of Free Entertainment

Our New Year's celebrations are truly unique. Each year surpasses the previous one, showcasing an array of entertainment and activities — from live music and magicians to fire spinning. Our festivities always deliver excitement.

This year's lineup offers fun for families with children of all ages, along with programming for adults looking to unwind with live jazz in the beautiful lobby of the New Bedford Harbor Hotel. Enjoy delicious meals

and quick bites from local restaurants and food trucks as you explore the various entertainment venues throughout downtown.

## Event Lineup:

City Celebrates New Year's Eve programming is family-friendly, free, and open to the public. Entertainment runs between 5:00 and 8:00 PM on Tuesday, December 31st. Check the schedule below for exact times at each venue.

Programming not listed here may require entrance fees or tickets and are not part of the City Celebrates New Year's Eve lineup.

### Toe Jam Puppet Band

5:45–7:30 PM, *New Bedford Whaling Museum, 18 Johnny Cake Hill*. The lively Toe Jam Puppet Band will be in the Jacobs Family Gallery, bringing the family-friendly party to life with interactive, silly songs, dancing, and fun for all ages.

### Dance Party w/DJ Gazelle

5:00–7:00 PM, *The Vault Performing Arts Center & Pub, 791 Purchase Street*. Dance the night away with LED characters to family-friendly tunes with DJ Gazelle from Fun107!

## Cirque de Light Fire Spinning and Dancing

5:00–7:30 PM, *Custom House Square, 21 Barkers Lane*. Watch in awe as performers dance, spin, and breathe fire.

### Buttonwood Brass Band

6:00–8:00 PM, *222 Union Restaurant and Bar at New Bedford Harbor Hotel*. Enjoy a cozy lounge, cocktails, and a special menu while listening to an ensemble play jazz, classical, and the great American songbook.

### Fireworks Display

8:00 PM, *New Bedford Harbor*. The City Celebrates Fireworks Display is launched from the harbor. **The bottom of Union Street** is closed off for prime viewing. Grab a bite from a nearby restaurant or the food trucks in the YMCA parking lot and cozy up with family and friends.

## Food Trucks

In addition to our great restaurants in New Bedford, we'll have food trucks available from 5:00 – 10:00 PM.

### Carter's Parking Lot

The Pionono #1 – Puerto Rican Cuisine

NYE/NB: cont'd on page 18

# Ascent Audiology and Hearing

*We are here to help you hear.*



Andreia, Tanya and Rena are here to help you hear!

Dartmouth and Somerset

**Ascent**   
AUDIOLOGY & HEARING

**508-996-0389**  
**[www.rjaudiology.com](http://www.rjaudiology.com)**

# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## Holiday services at UU Church

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven, 102 Green Street, invites the community to join in two special Christmastime services.

**At 10 a.m. Dec. 21**, the service centers on the question, "Do You Really Need Hope?" The Rev. Maria Uitti McCabe asserts that perhaps love is what we really need. Special music for Advent and the Christmas season will be offered by the Dartmouth High School Chamber Orchestra, led by Heather Church, Music Director Tim Evans, and members of the choir.

**The Christmas Eve** candlelight service of Lessons and Carols begins at 7 p.m. Rev. McCabe's sermon is titled "What Did Mary Know?" It's a story of hope in the darkness, the birth of a child whose life and teachings would change the world forever, and the devotion of his mother Mary.

The buildings are accessible to the handicapped via a ramp off the Center Street driveway. For more information about the church, call 508-992-7081 or visit [uufairhaven.org](http://uufairhaven.org).

## Polar Plunge

Come on down and take the plunge on Thurs., 1/1, at 10:00 a.m. sharp. Remember the plunge is free. We sell long-sleeve t-shirts to raise funds for Fairhaven Dollars For Scholars to provide scholarships to area high school students. T-shirts are \$25. You don't have to plunge to purchase a shirt and support our cause.

This year's theme is PIRATES! Wear your best pirate theme costume (or not). Hope to see you there!

## Christmas Lights and Santa

Santa will be at 35 Gellette Road on Sat., 12/13 from 6–9 p.m. & Sat., 12/20, from 5–9 p.m. Take pictures with Santa and the Grinch, and enjoy complimentary refreshments. Please bring a non-perishable, non-expired food item to be donated to the MO LIFE food pantry.

The lights at this private home are lit every night from 5–9 until Jan. 6... and maybe beyond! Enjoy a spectacular display of more than 400,000 lights spread throughout the

property. If you need some Christmas Spirit, this is the place to find it.

## Operation HoHo

Operation HoHo 2025 Thursday December 18! The moment you've been waiting for! After years of inquiries regarding Santa sightings around town during Operation HoHo, we have responded. This year, we have made a route that will traverse throughout Fairhaven, covering nearly every area of town we thought would be most visible for seeing Santa.

Santa will be making appearances around Fairhaven commencing at 4pm. The route is as follows, with estimated times after 5: East Fairhaven 4pm; Sconticut Neck / West Island 430-5; Center 5-530; High School area 530-6; North Fairhaven 6-7; Back East.

Find the Fairhaven Call Firefighters Association on Facebook for street by street route.

## Charlie Brown Christmas

Sat., 12/20, 12:30–2:30 p.m., Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven.

Get into the holiday spirit with a FREE concert by the Nina Ott Trio! Pianist Nina Ott, bassist Chris Lopes, and drummer Steve Langone will perform timeless selections from Vince Guaraldi's beloved A Charlie Brown Christmas, along with other holiday gems sure to delight audiences of all ages.

Hosted by the Millicent Library, this cozy, festive performance is open to the entire community—bring family and friends and enjoy an afternoon of classic holiday jazz.

## Free Holiday Stickers

Fairhaven is a community that welcomes and celebrates everyone. Hanukkah and Kwanzaa both take place in December, bringing light, unity and joy to the holiday season. These celebrations remind us of the diverse holiday traditions honored during this special time of the year.

Anyone who wishes to display a symbol of Hanukkah or Kwanzaa in their window can pick one up for free in the Walnut Street Lobby of the Millicent Library, where there is a

basket of free symbols.

These have been donated by Fairhaven for All. The mission of Fairhaven for All is to foster a culture of welcome inclusivity, and acceptance for all in Fairhaven while enabling residents to grow, understand and value the power of diversity in communities, civics, business and education.

## 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 copyrighted images and should be Fairhaven based*

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

## Town Surveys

The town of Fairhaven is conducting two surveys.

Please take some time to have your voice count. Visit the town's website at [www.fairhaven-ma.gov](http://www.fairhaven-ma.gov) for more information.

## Hazard Mitigation Plan

Fairhaven is updating its Hazard Mitigation Plan to reduce the risks from flooding, hurricanes, severe storms, and other natural hazards. The plan identifies local vulnerabilities and outlines strategies to protect lives, property, and critical services.

Your input is essential to ensure the plan reflects community priorities and includes effective, practical solutions.

Complete the Hazard Mitigation Plan survey at <https://tinyurl.com/2wu7em8u>

## Open Space and Recreation Planning

SRPEDD works with towns and other organizations to support the realization of high quality open space and recreation facilities. These plans open the door to potential grant funding for project implementation, but are equally important for the community conversations and involvement that SRPEDD helps to facilitate as part of plan development.

Complete the Open Space and Recreation survey at <https://tinyurl.com/4wwarxtm>

# 201 DaCunha's Dispatches

News from the  
high school  
world

By Emma  
DaCunha

Special to the Neighb News



Hi everyone!

After another season of many great games played by the Fairhaven Blue Devils, they took on Norwood at Gillette Stadium on December 4th for the Superbowl. Starting as a close game between both teams, the Blue Devils pulled through with a win in the end. The score for the division 6 game, resulted in 28 for Fairhaven and 14 for Norwood.

As the game began, students, teachers, and supporters filled the stands and cheered on our Fairhaven Blue Devils for the third year in a row. The game was the perfect night and place for our community to get together and acknowledge how far

the team has gotten this year and cheer them on through the state championship.

Others traveling to Gillette with the football team included the cheer team and band here at FHS.

After two quarters, it was time for the halftime show, when the cheer team performed an amazing routine and the talented band students showcased their skills with a lively musical performance.

After the half-time performances, fans had the chance to purchase merchandise, food, and warm drinks like hot chocolate that were the perfect treat for the chilly evening.

After another season full of successful wins,

as a student at FHS, I want to recognize the coaches, players, and everyone who has supported the team — they all play a vital role in representing our school and inspiring both the students and the team.

Go Blue Devils!



The Fairhaven High School Blue Devils raise the trophy on the field after the championship game at Gillette Stadium on 12/4/25 when the FHS Blue Devils beat Norwell 28-14 to win the Division VI state championship for the second time in three years. Photo by Sam Simoes.

**We Buy Junk Cars**  
Highest Prices Guaranteed & Towing Available



548 State Road, Westport  
Massachusetts 02790

**MID CITY** 508.675.7831  
SCRAP www.midcityscrap.com

**Walt's Consignment**  
Consignment for a Cause ... ♡

Selling brand name adult clothing, shoes & handbags. After we pay our consignors, all proceeds benefit our 501(c)(3) non-profit Walt's Mobile Closet - we provide free, gently used clothing to adults in need.

www.waltsmobilecloset.org/consign  
info@waltsmobilecloset.org

OPEN: WED-SAT 10-5, SUN 10-4

Kilburn Mill  
127 W. Rodney French Blvd.  
New Bedford  
First Floor - Suite S1-36

fairwaystreeandlandscaping@gmail.com



**Fairways**  
TREE & LANDSCAPING

- FIREWOOD
- MOWING
- FERTILIZING
- PRUNING
- CLEAN-UPS
- MACHINE WORK
- SNOW REMOVAL

Est. 1997

**AARON LAGUE**  
508-989-6626

**Marc A. Gadbois**  
General Contractor

Licensed General Contractor  
for 46 years

Roofing • Decks • Porches • Windows • Doors

**Marc A. Gadbois • 508-992-0226**

Materials Supplied by ABC Supply Company

MA Const. Sup. Lic. # 003000 EPA Lead Safe Certified  
MA Home Imp. Lic. #181168 Fully Insured



# First Snowfall coats the region with snow, frigid cold



Fairhaven's official snow count for Saturday and Sunday, 12/13/25 and 12/14, was only two inches, though it seemed to be a bit more in some places. Or, maybe, because it was the first of the season, it just felt that way. In any case, it made for some beautiful scenes, with the wet snow clinging to trees and coating roads and fields alike. ABOVE LEFT: A snow figure on a pickup truck vies for attention with Christmas decorations at this house on West Island after a snowstorm on 12/14/25 dropped about to inches on Fairhaven. The path and field at Salt Winds on Sconticut Neck Road are covered in snow, untouched by footprints of humans or other critters. *Photos by Beth David.*

## JAKE EURENT

### MASON CONTRACTOR INC

- BRICK, BLOCK & STONE
- CONCRETE
- STEPS
- WALKWAYS
- FIREPLACES
- CHIMNEYS
- HISTORIC RESTORATION
- AND MUCH MORE...

**PROUDLY SERVING THE SOUTHCOAST FOR OVER 20 YEARS!**

**• JAKEFLEURENTMASONRY.COM •**

Call today  
for a free  
estimate!  
508-954-8792

Mattapoisett Office
**JACK CONWAY**

**Jane Kalife Paul**  
REALTOR®  
508-971-9824  
*Platinum Club Member  
Representing the Top 5%  
of Jack Conway Agents*

**PRICE REDUCED**

**FAIRHAVEN COMMERCIAL  
BUILDING FOR RENT  
PRICE JUST REDUCED  
TO \$1500!**

415 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven  
Located on Rt.6. Free standing  
building with high visibility and  
high traffic count. Located near  
the Mattapoisett Town Line  
Call Jane for details

## Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Ad rates • Call 508-979-5593 • Email: NeighbNews@comcast.net

<p><b>1/16 page</b> One week run: \$35.00 4+ weeks: <b>\$30.00/week</b> (\$120/mo.) Color: \$180/mo.</p> <p><b>1/8 page</b> One week run: \$55.00 4+ weeks: <b>\$46.00/week</b> (\$184/mo.) Color: \$244/mo.</p> <p><b>1/4 page</b> One week run: \$95.00 4+ weeks: <b>\$75.00/ week</b> (\$300/mo.) Color: \$420/mo.</p>	<p><b>1/2 page vert. or hor.</b> One week run: \$185.00 4+ weeks: <b>\$145.00/week</b> (\$580/mo.) Color: \$780/mo.</p> <p><b>Full Page</b> One week run: \$255.00 4+ weeks: <b>\$225/week</b> (\$900/mo Color: \$1140/mo.</p> <p><b>Classified: \$7/first 3 lines, \$1.00 each additional line</b></p> <p><b>4,280 copies in 200+ places and online</b></p>
---	--



**profishant**

**Pest Services**

**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL**

**Services we offer:**

- Commercial & Residential
- 100% All Natural Mosquito & Tick
- Quarterly Home Protection plan
- Bi-Annual Perimeter Treatments
- Solar Panel Exclusion
- Chimney Cap Installation
- Wildlife Exclusion Work

**Pests we cover:**

- Cockroaches
- Mosquitoes
- Ticks
- Wasps & Hornets
- Wildlife
- Termites
- Ants
- Mice
- Rats
- Bedbugs
- and more.....

**888-776-0444**

**2834 Acushnet Ave. New Bedford, MA 02745**



**Sylvia Electric**

Eric Sylvia

Commercial & Residential • MA/RI/CT  
Upgrades • Repairs  
Emergency Calls • New Installation  
Renovation & Re-models • Service Calls

**Sylvia Electric – Powerful Service**

**774-849-0425**

Licensed Electrician for 35 Years • Lic: 13901A

**ALL FOOD AVAILABLE FOR TAKE-OUT**

**WAH MAY  
RESTAURANT**



51 Main Street, Fairhaven Center  
Gift Certificates for all Occasions

*Trusted by your friends and  
family since 1961*

*Finalist for  
Best Chinese  
Restaurant Four  
Years in a ROW.  
WINNER in 2021*



**\$2 off** All purchases of  
at least \$20

With this coupon. Exp. 1/9/26  
Not to be combined with other offers.

Complete Menu of Chinese &  
American Selections

Call 508-992-8668 for take-out.

**Hours:** Sun.-Thurs., 11-9  
Fri.-Sat., 11-10 • Closed Tuesdays

**PORTSIDE**



RENEWABLES

RESIDENTIAL &  
COMMERCIAL SOLAR  
SOLAR SERVICE &  
MAINTENANCE  
EV CHARGERS  
SERVICE UPGRADES  
ENERGY STORAGE  
GENERATORS

✓ Free Proposals

✓ Rebate Incentives

✓ Flexible Payment Options

✓ In-House Sales, Design, & Install Team

✓ Local, Honest, & Trusted.

Mike Rotondo, Owner, Fairhaven Resident  
Portside Renewables, LLC  
NABCEP Certification  
18 Years Industry Experience

*Come visit us at our new location  
23a County Rs., Mattapoisett*

☎ 508.470.1467

📧 portsiderenewables

🌐 www.portsiderenewables.com

LIC MA Masters  
22342A HIC 18176  
MA CSL CS-102054  
LIC. RI Masters A-004998

**A&A  
AUTO**  
www.ausedautos.com

**MASSACHUSETTS  
VEHICLE CHECK**  
Come in for your MA  
State Inspection. No  
appointment necessary!

Free diagnostics for  
any dashboard light



196 Huttleston Ave. • Fairhaven, MA • 508-758-9500

OPEN  
Mon.-Fri.  
8 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Sat.  
8 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Check Out  
Our Wide  
Variety of  
Cars**

**We accept  
all competitors'  
coupons.**

**A&A WARRANTY!**

All of our parts come with a 12/12  
warranty (12 months/12,000 miles,  
whichever comes first)



**ALDEN COURT**  
Nursing Care & Rehabilitation Center

389 Alden Road • Fairhaven, Mass.

**508-991-8600**

Short Term Rehab and Long Term Care

*"We Take Good Care of our Neighbors"*



# 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)

## Holiday Closures

The Fairhaven COA/Senior Center will be closed or close early on the following days for the holidays.

Dec. 24, closing at noon

Dec. 24 & 25: CLOSED

Dec. 31, closing at noon.

Jan. 1 & 2: CLOSED.

## Supportive Social Day Program

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

## Mall Trips

Reservations accepted for mall trips at beginning the 15th of the prior month. There is a \$6 charge unless otherwise noted. Please bring exact amount. The van leaves the Fairhaven Senior Center promptly at 9: 1/7/26: Twin River Casino; 1/14/26, Hyannis Mall/Trader Joe's; 1/21, Providence Place; 1/28, So. Shore Plaza.

## 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.

**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.

## Technology for Seniors

Please bring your laptop, tablet, iPad or smartphone. MUST call to sign up,

508-979-4029.

**Dec. 29: Social Media for Actual Socializing.** Tired of the nonsense and negativity online? This session shows you how to connect meaningfully and introduces hidden gems better suited for genuine interactions. Whether you're tech-savvy or just starting out, you'll learn to use social media to build meaningful connections — your way.

## Reassurance Program

A free service for elders wanting a daily telephone check-in with a COA staff member to ensure all is well. Call the COA for more information, 508-979-4029.

## Walking Group

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!

## Legal Help

Free 15-minute consultation with Atty. Suzanne Seguin. Call the center for info, 508-979-4029.

South Coastal Counties Legal Services, advocates for older adults, 508-979-7150.

# 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).

## Kool Kid 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

## 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

## Recipe of the Week

### Mistletoe Martini

*It's bright, merry, and made for toasting!*

#### Simple Syrup

1 cup granulated sugar

1 cup water

#### Mistletoe Martini

4 fresh cranberries

6 fresh mint leaves

2 oz. cranberry juice cocktail

2 oz. vodka

1 oz. elderflower liqueur (such as St. Germain)

1 oz. fresh lemon juice

#### For the simple syrup:

In a small saucepan, whisk together the sugar and 1 cup water over medium heat. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the sugar is completely dissolved, 2 to 3 minutes. The syrup should be clear, not cloudy. Remove from the heat and let cool completely, about 1 hour on the counter or 30 minutes in the refrigerator. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator until ready to use.

#### For the mistletoe martini:

To make the garnish, thread a toothpick with 1 cranberry, 3 mint leaves, and a second cranberry, fanning the mint leaves out. Repeat with a second toothpick and the remaining cranberries and mint.

Fill a cocktail shaker halfway with ice. Add the cranberry juice cocktail, vodka, elderflower liqueur, lemon juice, and 1 ounce simple syrup (reserve the remaining syrup for another use). Cover and shake vigorously until cold, 10 to 20 seconds. Strain into 2 martini or coupe glasses and garnish with the cranberry and mint picks.

*From thepioneerwoman.com*



## Dear Frankie

### Christmas Gifts

Dear Frankie,  
Every time I give my mom a gift, it's a bust.

Last Christmas, I wanted to give her something special to show her how much I cared.

So, I dug up my best bone and left it for her to discover under the Christmas tree. When she saw it, she suggested I take it to the garage and chew on it there.

For her birthday, I left my ball by her bed so she would see it first thing when she woke up. She was not pleased and told me that I shouldn't leave my toys lying around where she could trip over them. She reminded me that's what my toy box was for — a place to keep my toys when I was not playing with them.

Christmas is coming, and honestly, I don't want to be shot down again for giving her something that she doesn't understand is a gift.

*Barney*

Dear Barney,

I'm sorry your mom didn't realize that the bone and ball were a gift. Humans can be dense at times.

If the purpose of your gifts is to show your mom how much you care, how about doing things that would please her, such as putting away your toys, confining bone chewing to the garage, or not barking at the mailman. Whatever it is you do that gets on her nerves.

She won't understand that the changes in your behavior are a gift, but she will know that you care about her feelings, which really is the greatest gift of all.

*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. Thank you for reading the Neighb News!

Be sure to tell our advertisers you saw their ads in the Neighb News!



**Robert A. Furtado**  
CARPENTER-CONTRACTOR

**508-992-6622**

OVER 40 YEARS  
EXPERIENCE  
Fairhaven, MA

Quality Remodeling & Finish Work • Kitchens • Bathrooms • Decks  
All Types of Interior & Exterior Remodeling • Fully Insured

MA H.I.C. Reg. #125134 • MA Const. Sup. Lic #007769 • EPA Lead-Safe Cert.



Your Local,  
Independent Pharmacy  
Offering everything you expect,  
only focused with your health  
and well-being  
in mind.

**Delivery Monday–Friday**  
**Single and Multi-Dose Packaging**  
**Seamless Prescription Transfer**

72 Main St. • Fairhaven, MA 02719

Phone: 508-525-4455 • Fax: 774-206-1692 • [www.FhvnRX.com](http://www.FhvnRX.com)

Hours: Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.–6 p.m. • Sat., 9 a.m.–1 p.m. • Closed Sun.

**LUZO FUEL**

**\$3.12**  
Gal

**HEATING OIL & DIESEL**

**We strive to maintain our competitive reputation  
by reducing costs**

**24-Hour Service**

**[www.luzofuel.com](http://www.luzofuel.com)**

Over 15 years'  
experience



**508-996-8042** • 126 MacArthur Drive  
New Bedford, MA 02740

# Acushnet School Committee votes for both ORR and FHS

By Beth David  
Editor

At their meeting on 12/9/25, the Acushnet School Committee made it clear that Old Rochester Regional High School (ORR) was their first choice for a second high school of choice for Acushnet students instead of Fairhaven High School (FHS), in addition to New Bedford High School (NBHS).

Acushnet has an elementary school and middle school. Students in eighth grade currently have the option of choosing NBHS or FHS, and getting in the lottery for Old Colony Voc-Tech.

Acushnet and Fairhaven youth athletics are blended, with kids from both towns playing on the same teams, not just as rivals.

Acushnet's contract with Fairhaven expires in August 2026, leaving eighth graders unsure of where they will go next year.

Since August, four schools have given presentations to Acushnet to get their students: Apponequet (Lakeville-Freetown), FHS, NBHS, and ORR.

When opening negotiations with FHS, Acushnet offered to pay about \$8,200 per student instead of the \$12,500 (approximately) it is paying now. Fairhaven made it clear they did not expect to get less, and also wanted to be the only small school choice in the mix.

Both towns have discussed the issue at meetings and have attended each other's meetings over the past few months.

During the public comment period on 12/9, Fairhaven School Committee chairperson, Brian Monroe, urge the Acushnet SC to continue the relationship with Fairhaven. Mr. Monroe stressed that the arrangement was more than a business deal. For more than 100 years, Acushnet students have attended FHS.

"And I can say that for at least the last 20 years this isn't just a business arrangement. It is a deeply rooted partnership that has shaped both of our communities," said Mr. Monroe. "We in Fairhaven believe your children are worth more than the bare minimum."

He said Fairhaven was caught "off

guard" when the negotiations started. They expected to be negotiating staffing or programming.

"We didn't expect an attempt to set the clock back 17 years," he said, adding they were dismayed to be painted as villains at a November meeting.

He spoke about the costs of educating students and what each district spends, including some disagreements about the amounts.

"And I want to be clear this is not about money. It's about tradition, relationships, and more importantly investing in the future of Acushnet's students," said Mr. Monroe. "Your high school students do not become a number when they move on from eighth grade and they are worth just as much as your K through eight students."

Jessica DeMedeiros also spoke in favor keeping Fairhaven as a choice. She said they should extend FHS's contract until they can get the numbers right.

She said beyond the numbers the decision affects "real people."

ACUSH SC: cont'd on page 13



**First Congregational  
Church, UCC**  
34 Center Street  
Fairhaven, MA  
508-993-3368

## Worship with us this Christmas Season!

**Sunday, December 21 • 6 PM**

**Ecumenical Longest Night/Blue Christmas Service**

Led by St. Joseph's, Trinity Lutheran and First Congregational Churches. Designed for those experiencing loss of any kind or anyone who is finding it hard to feel joy this Christmas: readings, music, silence, candle lighting.

**Wednesday, December 24 • 6 PM**

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**

A service of readings, music and prayer to celebrate Christmas in our candlelit sanctuary. When we leave we will take Christ's joy and love with us into the December night.

All are welcome.



# Olde-Tyme Holiday Village draws people for holiday charm

By Beth David  
Editor

Fairhaven's annual Old-Tyme Holiday Village faced some pretty cold weather on Saturday, 12/13/25, but it did not stop people from enjoying the festivities both inside and out.

Food trucks set up on Walnut Street, and a big tent kept people out of the wind to enjoy their meals. Inside town hall the nonprofit shops reported brisk sales, with several closed up early because they ran out of inventory.

The North Fairhaven Improvement Association ran out of almost everything.

Outside, the Fairhaven Village Militia roasted chestnuts on an open fire, and young'uns could get pony rides on the lawn of town hall.

In the evening, Santa and Mrs. Claus visited town hall and took pictures on the stage in the auditorium.

Visit [DiscoverFairhaven.org](http://DiscoverFairhaven.org).



ABOVE L-R: Cathy Melanson, of the Fairhaven Economic Development Committee, and Matt McDonald of the Fairhaven Village Militia, roast chestnuts on an open fire and dip them in salt during the Olde-Tyme Holiday Village in the center of town on 12/13/25. RIGHT: The tree decorated by the Green Lanterns adorns the sidewalk on Walnut Street in front of Fairhaven Town Hall FAR RIGHT: Blazing Saddles gives pony rides on the lawn of town hall during BELOW LEFT: The stage is set in the town hall auditorium in anticipation of the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus to take pictures. BELOW RIGHT, L-R: Barbara Owen and Ayako Rooney staff the Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society table in town hall.



Photos by Beth David.



## ACUSH SC: cont'd from page 11

Acushnet students have strong relationships with Fairhaven teachers, programs, sports teams and the community. Many have grown up expecting to attend FHS.

Acushnet resident, Evan LaMontagne, a senior at FHS and standout athlete, said he attended ORR for seventh and eighth grades.

"And while I appreciate the opportunities that ORR offered me and the friends I made there, if I'm being honest, I never felt like I was truly at home," said Evan. "While I was kindly treated, I was always a guest."

He said his life has always included kids from Fairhaven.

"We shared the same fields, the same coaches, the same experiences. They were never strangers to me. They were just my friends," he said, adding that is why he decided to transfer to FHS as a freshman. "From day one, I was always welcomed."

He said there were no awkward introductions, no feelings of being an outsider: "I was just one of the Blue Devils."

He said he had the honor of being the quarterback for the state championship winning football team this year, and is a three star athlete.

"Don't fix what isn't broken," said Evan. "We are two towns that over the years have become one community."

He said he was also speaking for all the younger students in Acushnet.

"Those who look up to me, those who look up to us, whose dream is to wear a Blue Devil jersey," he said. "Keep giving Acushnet students the opportunity to thrive at Fairhaven High School and leave our community intact."

Evan's father, Eric, also spoke, saying that his older son went to ORR, and both schools have "fantastic academic options."

But, he said, that alone is not enough to change what they currently have. He said a wrong decision and the community could suffer for years.

The elder Mr. LaMontagne said that as "kind as they were" at ORR, it never really felt like home.

He said every event the family felt was something they got to take part in. It is different at FHS, the kids arrive already being part of the community. Starting high school is hard enough, he said, don't make it harder.

"I'm horrified that a decision of

this magnitude is being made by five people, he said, noting that a few years earlier or later it might be five different people with a different outcome.

"I again plead with you not to tear apart our community. Fairhaven High School is not just an option, it's a home for most of our kids."

Assistant Superintendent of Fairhaven Schools, Mark Balestracci, also spoke to the committee.

He said the true measure of a school is the connections students form with the people around them, teachers, peers, coaches, administrators.

"FHS is a community grounded in

---

We shared the same  
fields, the same coaches,  
the same experiences.  
They were never  
strangers to me. They  
were just my friends  
[Evan LaMontagne]

---

trust, pride, and unwavering support," said Mr. Balestracci. "If I hadn't known from my administrator role that Acushnet students attend FHS, I would never have guessed. There is no divide. There is no Fairhaven student or Acushnet student."

He said the school does not profit financially from the arrangement, but they absolutely profit in ways that matter deeply: in human capital, when they provide a first class education to all students, graduates succeed and contribute to their communities and represent both towns with great pride."

"We are all FHS Blue Devils."

Acushnet Schools Business Manager, Aldo Petronio, gave an explanation of the numbers, to clarify where the confusion seemed to be. He said the state's formula is complicated. He explained where the numbers were coming from and said there was no discrepancy.

Dr. Bailey presented an overview of the process since August. In October

they issued a survey to parents, and FHS and ORR were the top two chosen.

"It was, you know, very close...as their preferred high school choices," said Dr. Bailey.

She noted that SC members evaluated each school individually based on 25 criteria.

Their order on both Rubrics was a bit different than the parent survey, with FHS coming in third or fourth.

Dr. Bailey expressed her opinion that she would like to see FHS as a choice.

Dr. Bailey also said that the existing contract with Fairhaven allows for students to sign up for next year because they make the choice in the spring.

Four of the five School Committee members went down the list of schools, explaining what they liked about each one. They said they wanted to provide as much choice as possible for Acushnet students, so Apponequet was out of the running because they insisted on exclusivity. At first, Fairhaven also fell into that category, but Dr. Bailey clarified that an email that day from Fairhaven Superintendent, Tara Kohler, said the Fairhaven SC had said they preferred to be the only small school choice, but they were willing to negotiate that point.

SC member Ebony McGlynn, noted that in the parent survey, "Fairhaven came in really high." But she said they believed it was because of the history with Fairhaven. She said they might change their minds if they knew what ORR had to offer.

"Change is scary, for children and for us," said Ms. McGlynn. "But change doesn't have to be a bad thing."

In the end, the board voted unanimously to authorize negotiations with New Bedford and ORR for tuition agreements starting next year.

The board also voted for Fairhaven to be a choice utilizing the existing contract. If that presumption about the option is incorrect, then they will talk about a one year extension.

The board voted to continue negotiating with FHS about a long term agreement and having them added to the school choice options, "obviously contingent on them being willing to let go of their preference being the only high school," said Acushnet SC chairperson, Ronald Houde.

## SELECT: cont'd from page 3

Mr. Carr said there are many members on multiple boards. He noted he would not be a voting member. He said if he has to recuse himself, he will and whenever he was asked to recuse himself in the past he has.

Mr. Paulson was also not present. He was working his shift as a firefighter.

Mr. Romano noted that Mr. Paulson was a member of the Protecting Society and that would be three member on the HC. But Brian Messier, who was appointed at the last meeting chimed in to say he resigned from the Protecting Society.

Ms. Mello said she understood that the HC has oversight of the buildings that the Protecting Society uses, but not the Society itself.

Mr. Silvia made a motion to take all four candidates at once. However, Mr. Saunders had to recuse himself from the vote on Mr. Carr, and SB chairperson, Charles Murphy said he had to recuse himself from the vote on Mr. Lavalette, so they had to take separate votes.

Mr. Romano said he would not vote

for any associate positions for the HC. He said just because they can does not mean they should.

Mr. Silvia said if people come forward to volunteer, they should be allowed to.

The board first voted for Mr. Isaksen, who was appointed 4-1, with Mr. Romano voting "no."

Then Mr. Silvia made a motion to appoint Mr. Lavalette, but it did not receive a second, so the motion failed.

Mr. Silvia motioned to appoint Mr. Carr. After a silence, Mr. Murphy seconded the motion.

Ms. Mello said she would have to vote against Mr. Carr. Despite the things he has been involved in helping in town, she noted his behavior on some of the boards. She said past behavior is a good indication of future behaviors.

The vote was a 2-2 tie, with Mr. Silvia and Mr. Murphy voting in favor and Mr. Romano and Ms. Mello voting "no." Mr. Saunders abstained.

Mr. Carr addressed the board asking for Ms. Mello to elaborate on her comment about his "bad

behavior," adding he did not understand how a SB member would make that kind of statement about someone who has volunteered.

"I am leaving the room," said Mr. Saunders, adding as he walked to the door, "I can't have anything to do with this."

Ms. Mello said it was not "character assassination," it was observations she has seen.

It is not behavior she wants to see in board members.

Mr. Carr asked for a sample.

"I'm done," said Ms. Mello.

"I'm just asking for reason," said Mr. Carr.

"I gave you my reason," said Ms. Mello.

Mr. Silvia said that Mr. Carr has tried three times to get on the HC, adding he did not know if it was a "personal thing."

Mr. Romano said he did not believe anything that goes before the board is a "personal thing."

Mr. Silvia said he felt they should appoint people who want to volunteer, asking what does it show

SELECT: cont'd on page 17



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

**Open Thursday - Saturday 12-9  
Sunday 12-7**

**Come Visit!**  
OPEN UNTIL  
Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>

**Come Visit!**  
OPEN UNTIL  
Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>

 237 New Boston Rd. Fairhaven, MA

 774-425-2123

 [www.peacelovevino.net](http://www.peacelovevino.net)



# Fitzgerald Tree Service

"WE GO WHERE PROBLEM TREES GROW"

- TREE REMOVAL • LOT CLEARING
- AERIAL BUCKET TRUCK & BOBCAT SERVICE
- FIREWOOD
- PRUNING OF LARGE HISTORICAL TREES
- YEAR ROUND SERVICE

**SPECIALISTS IN LARGE DIFFICULT TREE REMOVAL**

Free Estimates

**508-993-3588**

Fairhaven • [jfitzgeraldtreeservice.com](http://jfitzgeraldtreeservice.com)



**BREWER BANNER Designs**  
77 Forest St., New Bedford, MA ★ [info@brewerbanner.com](mailto:info@brewerbanner.com)

ON SALE NOW: U.S. Flags, Bunting Fans, Veterans Flags  
Display Cases, Decorative Banners, Poles, & accessories

*Custom Design is our specialty!*  
[www.brewerbanner.com](http://www.brewerbanner.com) 508-996-6006

## Competitive Insurance Rates for

## Auto • Home Business

Call or stop by for a  
review and quote

Local and national  
companies represented

## Vieira Insurance Agency

Fairhaven Center for Business  
65 Alden Road, Fairhaven, MA 02719  
508-997-8515  
[www.VieiraIns.com](http://www.VieiraIns.com)

Now Accepting  
Applications

## Fairhaven Village

330 Main Street | Fairhaven, MA 02719

Call today!

**508-994-1908**

[fairhaven@peabodyproperties.com](mailto:fairhaven@peabodyproperties.com)  
[www.peabodyproperties.com](http://www.peabodyproperties.com)

- 1 & 2 Bedrooms
- Heat Included
- On-site Maintenance
- On-site Professional Mgmt.
- On-site Laundry Facilities
- On-site Parking
- Resident Services Programs



PEABODY  
PROPERTIES, INC.



Housing for 62 yrs+ & handicapped & disabled person 18  
yrs+. Rent based on 30% of adjusted gross income.

## Estate Planning • Elder Law • Probate

- HEALTHCARE PROXY
- ADVANCE DIRECTIVE
- LAST WILL & TESTAMENT
- HIPAA AUTHORIZATION
- DURABLE POWER OF ATTORNEY
- TRUST PLANNING TO ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS
- MASSHEALTH/MEDICAID PLANNING FOR LONG-TERM CARE
- ESTATE ADMINISTRATION



**Surprenant,  
Beneski & Nunes**  
Estate Planning | Elder Law

508-994-5200 • [www.MyFamilyEstatePlanning.com](http://www.MyFamilyEstatePlanning.com)

# MAC'S SODA BAR & CUSTOM CATERING

116 Sconticut Neck Road • Fairhaven • 508-992-8615

## CHRISTMAS TO GO

**December 25th**  
**Reserve by Tues., Dec. 23rd**

Prime Rib: \$30; Add Shrimp: \$38  
Baked Stuffed Shrimp: \$25  
Baked Ham or Stuffed Chicken: \$22  
*Includes all sides & choice of dessert*



## HOLIDAY PLATTERS

Let us prepare one for you.  
Hot or Cold, NO party is too large or small.  
We do them all.

## Saturday Night Scallop Delight

Five Choices: \$16.95  
Eat in/Take out • 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.



## Reflex to Balance

Experience Reflexology to help the  
Mind, Body, & Soul

Holistic Therapy for Stress, Anxiety, Pain, and Fatigue  
Bring your mind and your body together to promote healing.  
*Each session enters you in the FREE monthly Raffle Drawing!*  
Tell us you saw us in the *Neighb News*,  
receive a free bracelet.

By Appointment Only. Call/Text  
Elaine Vercellone: 201-388-0225

Located in Fairhaven, MA

## Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Ad rates • Call 508-979-5593 • Email: NeighbNews@comcast.net

**1/16 page**  
One week run: \$35.00  
4+ weeks: \$30.00/week  
(\$120/mo.) Color: \$180/mo.

**1/8 page**  
One week run: \$55.00  
4+ weeks: \$46.00/week  
(\$184/mo.) Color: \$244/mo.

**1/4 page**  
One week run: \$95.00  
4+ weeks: \$75.00/week  
(\$300/mo.) Color: \$420/mo.

**1/2 page vert. or hor.**  
One week run: \$185.00  
4+ weeks: \$145.00/week  
(\$580/mo.) Color: \$780/mo.

**Full Page**  
One week run: \$255.00  
4+ weeks: \$225/week  
(\$900/mo Color: \$1140/mo.

**Classified: \$7/first 3 lines,**  
**\$1.00 each additional line**  
**4,280 copies in 200+ places**  
**and online**

## CASH FOR GOLD I MAKE HOUSE CALLS!



Marc Folco  
508-971-5131

Independent precious metals  
buyer. No longer affiliated  
with Folco Jewelers.

Paying cash on the spot for unwanted gold jewelry in  
any condition. Buying almost any gold or silver items.



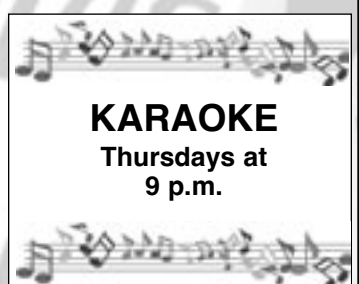
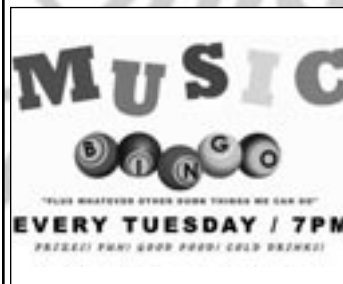
## GOLD PRICES AT RECORD HIGHS!

A house call to evaluate  
your precious metals in  
your home or office is  
second-to-none in trusted,  
personal service.

[www.openseasonspecialties.com](http://www.openseasonspecialties.com)



## Indoor/Out Door Seating & Take-Out



**KARAOKE**  
Thursdays at  
9 p.m.

Kitchen Open till 10:00 p.m.  
Full menu available for pick-up or delivery

*Call 508-996-9212 for reservations or take-out.*  
Now serving full bar and breakfast daily:  
Weekdays at 11 a.m., Weekends at 10 a.m.  
**TRIVIA IS BACK: Thursdays at 7 p.m.**

125 Sconticut Neck Road, Fairhaven • 508-996-9212  
[www.BaysideLoungeFhvn.com](http://www.BaysideLoungeFhvn.com)

## NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR CLASSIFIEDS

**FAIRHAVEN ALARM SYSTEM, SINCE 1976**  
Burglar, Fire and Camera Systems.  
Ask about our low rate on U.L 24-hour alarm monitoring and **FREE MONITORING**.  
Replace your old alarm system with a new system for as little as \$299 Complete  
**FREE ESTIMATE: 508-992-7633**

### DON'T FUSS, CALL US!

All Interior, Exterior Work  
Additions • Windows • Roofing • Siding  
Masonry • Bsmt Waterproof • Painting  
Lic/Ins. Since 1988  
Summer Specials  
**508-326-8996**

**ALL PHASES OF CARPENTRY** Windows, doors, decks. Small jobs, big jobs.  
Free estimates. Call Dave, 508-971-0929.

**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.

### 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, HVAC

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.

**SHEA DOONAN**  
**ATTORNEY AT LAW**  
774-202-3972

**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

### David J. Dias Plumbing

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

## Upcoming Meetings

### Fairhaven

#### Atlas Tack Working Group

Thurs., 12/18, Town Hall/Remote

#### Board of Public Works

Mon, 12/29, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

#### Conservation Commission

Mon, 1/5, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

#### Planning Board

Tues., 1/13, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

#### School Committee

Wed., 1/7/26, FHS Media Lib., 6:30 p.m.

#### Select Board

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

### Acushnet

#### Board of Appeals

Mon., 1/20, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

#### Conservation Comm

Wed., 1/14, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

### TIDE TABLE

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

		Dec. 2025		HIGH a.m. p.m.	LOW a.m. p.m.
Thursday	18	0629	1851	---	1359
		---	---	---	2356
Friday	19	0707	1930	---	1311
Saturday	20	0746	2012	0031	1336
Sunday	21	0828	2055	0113	1411
Monday	22	0910	2138	0200	1447
Tuesday	23	0952	2222	0246	1523*
Wednesday	24	1036	2310	0330	1600*
Thursday	25	1127	---	0414	1642*
Friday	26	0003	1221	0506	1732*
Saturday	27	0057	1315	0612	1833*
Sunday	28	0149	1409	0724	1934*
Monday	29	0244	1510	0830	2031*
Tuesday	30	0347	1617	0939	2132*
Wednesday	31	0449	1717	1052*	2236*

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

### SELECT: cont'd from page 14

to other people who want to volunteer.

The board also appointed Mr. Paulson to the HC, 4-1, with Mr. Romano voting "no."

During the public comment period, Mr. Isaksen said he thought the vote on Mr. Carr was "not a good thing."

He said Mr. Carr does a lot for the town and the HC needs people like him.

Mr. Isaksen said not putting Mr. Carr on the HC was a "very bad move."

Erin Carr also spoke to defend her father. She said she was hopeful he board would step up and put ego aside. She said as far as behavior is concerned, he was criticized but no examples were given.

Just because someone has a loud voice does not mean he has bad behavior, she said. Some people have quiet voices and very bad behavior.

Ms. Carr also said she felt it was treading on "discriminatory practices." She said she hoped that they as SB members would be leaders and try ot unit, and not "continue on the

divisive path we have been on for far too long."

In other business, the board voted to create a full-time embedded Mental Health Clinician in the police department.

Police Chief Daniel Dorgan and Lt. Kevin Swain said the money would come from the opioid settlement funds.

Chief Dorgan told the board that the clinician would be available to all town departments. The Council on Aging Director, Health Agent, Fire Chief, a counselor with Bristol County Outreach, and the Veterans Agent sent letters in support of the program.

Board members said they were in favor as long as the money did not come from taxpayers.

The police department provided statistics and evidence to show that having a mental health clinician on staff makes it easier to follow up with people and connect them with services.

The board voted unanimously to create the position.

Don't forget to tell  
our advertisers  
you saw their ads  
in the  
*Neighb News!*



## NYE/NB: cont'd from page 4

Pops Mobile Brick Oven Pizza –  
Wood fired brick oven pizza

### **YMCA Parking Lot**

Berry Sweets – Chocolate covered  
strawberries

Adobo Republic – Modern Filipino  
Cuisine

GG's Pretzels – Fresh baked soft  
pretzels

### **Restrooms**

In addition to restrooms at each  
entertainment venue, there will be  
portable restrooms available at the  
City of New Bedford municipal park-  
ing lot at the corner of Union Street  
and Water Street.

### **Thank Our Sponsors**

City Celebrates New Year's Eve is

made possible by the generous  
sponsorship of Bristol County  
Savings Bank. Thank you to our  
partners: New Bedford Whaling  
National Historical Park, New Bedford  
Whaling Museum, The Vault, New  
Bedford Harbor Hotel, Carter's  
Clothing & Footwear, New Bedford  
Parks and Recreation.

## 30th Moby-Dick Marathon is January 2-4

### *Press Release*

*Free admission weekend offers  
readings, discussions with experts,  
and community engagement with  
Massachusetts Poet Laureate  
delivering opening line*

The New Bedford Whaling Museum  
is pleased to announce that the 30th  
annual Moby-Dick Marathon will take  
place January 2-4, 2026. Since 1997,  
this beloved mid-winter tradition has  
honored Herman Melville's iconic  
American novel and 1841 departure  
aboard the whaleship Acushnet.

"Each year, the Moby-Dick  
Marathon transforms our Museum  
into a stage for one of the greatest  
literary adventures ever written,"  
said Amanda McMullen, President &  
CEO, New Bedford Whaling Museum.  
"In its 30th year, the Marathon  
reminds us that literature lives in  
community, and that the power of  
Melville's prose still resonates with  
new voices and fresh interpretations."

The weekend kicks-off on Friday,  
January 2nd with a Melville Scholars'  
Dinner & Lecture at the Museum,  
featuring Joe Roman, Ph.D., a con-  
servation biologist, marine ecologist,  
and editor-in-chief of  
[eattheinvaders.org](http://eattheinvaders.org).

The evening begins at 5:15 p.m.  
with a cocktail reception, followed by  
remarks from Amanda McMullen and  
Roman's keynote "Whales, Worlds,  
and the Wild Imagination: Lessons  
from Melville to Modern Ecology," at  
5:45 p.m., and a buffet dinner at 6:45  
p.m. This is the only event requiring  
tickets, available for purchase at  
[https://www.whalingmuseum.org/](https://www.whalingmuseum.org/program/moby-dick-marathon-2026/)  
[program/moby-dick-marathon-2026/](https://www.whalingmuseum.org/program/moby-dick-marathon-2026/),  
with special pricing for Museum  
members.

The reading marathon festivities,  
which are free and open to the public,  
begin on Saturday, January 3rd at 9:30  
a.m. with "Stump the Scholars,"  
during which attendees can submit  
trivia questions about Moby-Dick to

Melville scholars followed by a  
reading of the preliminary section of  
the book, "Extracts," at 11:25 a.m.

The 25-hour read-a-thon of Moby-  
Dick will begin at noon on Saturday  
with Regie Gibson, the inaugural poet  
laureate for the Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts, delivering the first  
chapter and iconic opening line, "Call  
me Ishmael!" at the stern of the  
Lagoda in the Bourne Building.

Gibson, appointed to represent the  
state to promote the reading and  
writing of poetry, is an award-winning  
poet, author, and performer whose  
work bridges literature, music, and  
social commentary. He has per-  
formed internationally, consulted for  
the NEA, and currently teaches at  
Clark University and Berklee College  
of Music.

"In a time when we are entreated to  
turn from each other and retreat into  
our respective echo-chambers  
(cultural, religious, and political,  
etc.), it is more vital than ever to  
create moments in which we come  
together and hear ourselves in a  
common voice," said Mr. Gibson.  
"Participating in this reading, for me,  
is both an act of defiance against the  
forces urging me to silo myself and  
others; and, an act of literary commu-  
nity and engaged citizenship. I am  
here because I need more of these  
moments."

After Gibson's opening, the early  
passages of the masterpiece will be  
read in A Whaling Voyage Around the  
World/Bourne Building (Main Level)  
and will continue with a variety of  
guest readers at the Seamen's Bethel,  
the Harbor View Gallery, and over-  
night in the Cook Memorial Theater. It  
concludes in the Harbor View Gallery  
on Sunday, January 4th at approxi-  
mately 1:00 p.m. with the epilogue  
delivered by McMullen.

Pre-registration for the marathon  
is encouraged and interested  
attendees can sign up and learn more

at [www.whalingmuseum.org/program/](http://www.whalingmuseum.org/program/moby-dick-marathon-2026)  
[moby-dick-marathon-2026](http://www.whalingmuseum.org/program/moby-dick-marathon-2026).

In addition to and between chapter  
readings, several complimentary  
activities are hosted by the Museum  
throughout the marathon weekend:

### **Saturday, January 3rd**

**9:30 a.m. Stump the Scholars,**  
Cook Memorial Theater. Submit your  
questions to Melville experts and try  
to stump them. Special pins for  
successful stumpers.

**11:25 a.m. Moby-Dick Extracts,** A  
Whaling Voyage Around the World/  
Bourne Building. Melville Society  
scholars read selected passages. VIP  
readers seated near the podium.

**12:00 p.m. Start of the 25-Hour  
Marathon,** A Whaling Voyage Around  
the World/Bourne Building. Begins at  
the stern of the Lagoda with "Call me  
Ishmael." Guest readers continue  
through Chapter 6.

**1:30 p.m. Father Mapple's Sermon,**  
Seamen's Bethel and Harbor View  
Gallery. This portion will occur in  
person and on livestream. Wristbands  
are required for in-person seating at  
the Seamen's Bethel and will be  
selected via a lottery system.

**1:30 p.m. Portuguese Mini-  
Marathon,** Cook Memorial Theater.  
Forty-eight readers perform a  
Portuguese adaptation by Tiago  
Patricio. Doors open at 1:30 p.m.;  
reading 2:00-6:00 p.m.

**2:10 p.m., Main Marathon Con-  
tinues,** Harbor View Gallery.  
Marathon reading resumes here after  
the Seamen's Bethel reading and  
continues through the evening.

**2:30 p.m., Chat with Melville  
Scholars,** Grimshaw-Gudewicz Read-  
ing Room. Informal discussion with  
scholars in a roundtable setting.

**3:00-6:00 p.m., Make Your Mark,**  
Nye Lubricant's Learning Lab. Craft  
your own bookmark (drop-in self-  
guided activity), while supplies last.

**4:00-5:00 p.m., Meet & Greet**

**MOBY-DICK: cont'd next page**

**MOBY-DICK:** cont'd from previous page

**Drop-in Session with Artist Heidi Whitman,** Herman Melville Room. Meet the artist behind *Ahab's Head: American Vengeance*, Heidi Whitman, and reflect on Captain Ahab's obsession in *Moby-Dick*, and ties to American violence and public discourse.

**6:30 p.m., Cousin Hosea's Chowder Hall and Decanter Taproom/Exploring Our Ecosystem,** Jacobs Family Gallery. Warm up with complimentary chowder donated by Blount Fine Foods (while supplies last) or explore local food vendors and a cash bar.

**7:30 p.m., Midnight on the Forecastle (Chapter 40),** Cook Memorial Theater. Live performance by Culture\*Park. Seats will be assigned by lottery, like Seamen's Bethel lottery, due to high demand and limited seating. Lottery registration is available on the Museum's website and selected audience members will be notified by email prior to the Marathon. If not selected, audiences may view live-stream in other areas of the Museum.

**8:00 p.m., Marathon reading continues overnight,** Cook Memorial Theater. Coffee will be available just

outside of the theater for those who spend the night.

**Sunday, January 4th**

**8:00 a.m., The 20th-Hour Treat,** Exploring Our Ecosystem/Jacobs Family Galler. Complimentary coffee and malassadas to greet the day (while supplies last), with additional food available for purchase. The Marathon reading moves to Harbor-view Gallery at this time.

**9:30 a.m., Chat with Melville Scholars,** Grimshaw-Gudewicz Reading Room. Another opportunity for open conversation with scholars.

**1:00 p.m., Marathon Concludes,** Harbor View Gallery. The Museum remains open to the public until 4 PM.

Admission is free all-day Saturday and until 1:00 p.m. on Sunday. This year's Marathon is sponsored by Bank 5, Bay Coast Bank, Fiber Optic Center, Taunton Federal Credit Union, Cape Cod 5 Bank, ERA Real Estate - The Castelo Group, and Eastern Bank Cambridge Trust.

To learn more and for the entire weekend schedule, visit [www.whalingmuseum.org/program/moby-dick-marathon-2026](http://www.whalingmuseum.org/program/moby-dick-marathon-2026).

Anchored in the story of New Bedford's whaling industry, the

Museum documents and shares the diverse stories of this vibrant maritime region and its people, both bygone and current. Founded as the Old Dartmouth Historical Society in 1903, the Museum's rich history reveals an intimate relationship with the communities it serves. Today, the New Bedford Whaling Museum ignites learning through explorations of art, history, science and culture, rooted in the stories of people, the region and an international seaport. The New Bedford Whaling Museum is the leading cultural institution in the region, reaching more than 140,000 visitors in New Bedford and through traveling exhibitions annually.

The cornerstone of New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, the Museum is located at 18 Johnny Cake Hill in the heart of the city's historic downtown. The museum is open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 p.m., and holds extended hours until 7 p.m. every second Thursday of the month (on AHA! nights), and is closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Admission is free for Museum members; adults \$23, seniors (65+) \$21, youth \$13. For more information, visit [www.whalingmuseum.org](http://www.whalingmuseum.org).



## YOUR LOCAL CLEANING & RESTORATION SPECIALISTS

Whether you need post construction cleaning, carpet or upholstery cleaning, or complete fire and flood clean-up and restoration, Cyclone can take care of it quickly and professionally. A local, family owned business, Cyclone takes special care with each and every project.

Visit [www.CycloneCleaning.com](http://www.CycloneCleaning.com) to learn more about all our services.



**Carpets & Upholstery Cleaning**  
**Floors: Wash/Wax/Strip**  
**Heavy Cleaning • Fire/Flood Rehab**



### CYCLONE CLEANING & RESTORATION SERVICES

Proudly serving Greater New Bedford for 40 years  
Cyclone: a name you can trust.

508-995-8816 • Anthony David  
833 Mt. Pleasant St. • New Bedford • [www.CycloneCleaning.com](http://www.CycloneCleaning.com)



### The New Colossus

Not like the brazen giant of  
Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride  
from land to land;  
Here at our sea-washed, sunset  
gates shall stand  
A mighty woman with a torch,  
whose flame  
Is the imprisoned lightning, and  
her name  
Mother of Exiles. From her  
beacon-hand  
Glow world-wide welcome; her  
mild eyes command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin  
cities frame.  
"Keep, ancient lands, your  
storied pomp!" cries she  
With silent lips. "Give me your  
tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses yearning to  
breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of your  
teeming shore.  
Send these, the homeless,  
tempest-tost to me,  
I lift my lamp beside the golden  
door!"

Emma Lazarus, Nov. 2, 1883

## Holiday Parking

The City's Holiday Parking Program offers 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. The program also features ticket forgiveness for holiday shoppers and diners.

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

## Spinner Calendars

An annual tradition...Historical Calendars from Spinner. Holiday Special Offer, \$14.00 (regular price \$17.00). Limited Availability

For over 35 years Spinner Publications' Historical Calendars have celebrated two of the region's most important assets—the commercial fishing industry and the rich cultural history of Southeastern New England. At a special price of \$14, these calendars are the perfect gift — functional and gorgeous.

They feature: 13 historical photographs suitable for framing; Detailed, Informative captions; Fishing scenes from Maine to New York Harbor; Thirteen color scenes depicted in historic oil paintings, photographs and engravings—and accompanied by lively captions—tell compelling stories of people, places and events.

In-House SPECIAL! Stop by Spinner office to purchase calendars at 164 William Street, New Bedford MA, receive a Holiday Gift!

Visit [https://spinnerpub.com/calendars\\_home.html](https://spinnerpub.com/calendars_home.html) to buy or Call 508-994-4564, or email [spinner@spinnerpub.com](mailto:spinner@spinnerpub.com)

## Dock-U-Mentary

Fri., 12/19, 7 p.m., NB Whaling National Historical Park, 33 William St. Featuring "Striker's Passing." FREE.

In *Striker's Passing*, filmmaker Jeremy Mayhew creates a poetic and powerful portrait of the New England harpoon swordfisherman and his fate in the modern world. Centering the film around his father, one of the last swordfish strikers on the East Coast, Mayhew presents a personal documentary sharing rare insight into the

beauty and frustration of a life dependent on the sea and its resources, facing extinction in the wake of the current fishing industry's industrial-scale harvesting methods.

Resonating the atmosphere of a world few of us get to know, *Striker's Passing* offers unforgettable footage of a swordfishing voyage taken in the summer of 1997 from the tiny fishing village of Menemsha on Martha's Vineyard through the old whaling capital of New Bedford and on to the fishing grounds of Georges Bank, two hundred miles out in the Atlantic. As generations of his ancestors have done before him, Captain Gregory Mayhew takes his sons Todd and Jeremy as his crew, along with soundman Steven Dufala.

The film creatively weaves poignant interviews with family members and Menemsha fishermen into a visually stunning tale of the sea, while enveloping us with a haunting soundtrack developed solely from the natural sounds of the sea and from the boat itself.

About Dock-u-mentaries: Hosted in partnership with New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, Dock-u-mentaries is a free film series hosted at the National Park auditorium at 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford on every third Friday at 7:00pm from October through April. These films have explored a variety of themes and topics related to the commercial fishing industry and the working waterfront.

## Author Event

Dr. Sarah Crabtree will give an illustrated talk on Tuesday, January 6th at 4:30pm addressing the themes in her upcoming book, *Quaker, Whaler, Traitor, Spy! The Trails of William Rotch*. The talk, Unraveling the Revolutionary Journey of William Rotch Sr., will take place inside the Rotch-Jones-Duff House museum parlors, 396 County St., NB, and is free to the public.

This program is a part of the museum's 250th events and related exhibition of the graphic novel, which is currently on display at the RJD. Dr. Sarah Crabtree is a Professor of History at San Francisco State University and *Quaker, Whaler, Traitor, Spy!* (PSUP, March 2026) is

her second book. She is also the author of several journal articles and the recipient of several fellowships. William Rotch Sr. is a significant figure in New Bedford history and the father of the RJD's namesake. Dr. Crabtree demonstrates a singular and invaluable knowledge on his life and contributions to the area.

*About Quaker, Whaler, Traitor, Spy! The Trials of William Rotch:* Accused of treason four times by three governments in two revolutionary decades (1775 – 1795), William Rotch suffered from the "with-us-or-against-us" political landscape of the late eighteenth century. A Quaker, he opposed wars for independence and empire. Yet he downplayed and even withheld key details from his story, a second narrative that began with the Boston Tea Party, stretched across the world, and made him one of the wealthiest men in America.

This talk and its related exhibition has been funded by Eastern National, a non-profit partner of the National Park Service. For more information, contact Lauren Pothier at [lpothier@rjdmuseum.org](mailto:lpothier@rjdmuseum.org) or call the museum at (508) 997-1401.

## Gingerbread Workshop

Dec 20, 2–4 p.m., New Bedford Art Museum, 608 Pleasant St., NB. 508-961-3072. Visit <https://newbedfordart.org/gingerbread-workshop/> to register: \$35. *Sweet Creations: Gingerbread House Workshop*.

In this sweet and spirited workshop, young artists will build and decorate their very own gingerbread houses, transforming simple cookie kits into candy-covered creations that would make even the gingerbread man proud.

Participants will learn the art of icing, pattern, and design as they create one-of-a-kind edible masterpieces. With colorful candies, frosting galore, and a few festive surprises, this hands-on afternoon is the perfect blend of creativity and holiday cheer.

We'll keep the atmosphere merry with cheerful tunes, warm cocoa, and a buffet of decorating treats to inspire endless imagination. All materials are provided, including gingerbread kits, frosting, candies, and packaging for easy transport.



# HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

## New Year's Eve

Since 1976, Boston's First Night® has been a New Year's Eve celebration of artistic performances and the beginning of a new year. In keeping with this fantastic Boston tradition, the First Night celebration will open 2026 with an array of performances and other activities.

### PARADE

We're thrilled to welcome back our First Night Parade that will take colorful and celebratory groups from City Hall Plaza to Boston Common at 6:00 PM. Once the performers pass by, the public is invited to walk along to the Boston Common, where fireworks will begin at 7:00 PM.

### FIREWORKS:

**The Mugar Family Fireworks,** Boston Common, 7:00 PM. Following the First Night Parade, enjoy a glittering fireworks display over Boston Common. Presented by The Mugar Foundation

**Harbor Fireworks,** Boston Inner Harbor, 12:00 AM. At the stroke of midnight, the dazzling First Night Harbor Fireworks will light up Boston's Inner Harbor and city skyline to welcome the new year. Presented by Meet Boston

Other activities include live music, ice sculptures, tasty treats, and family activities. Visit <https://www.firstnightboston.org> for complete lineup of activities; 617-439-7700; [info@firstnightboston.org](mailto:info@firstnightboston.org)

## La Salette's Lights

La Salette's Christmas Festival of Lights, until 1/4/26, 5:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M., 47 Park Street, Attleboro, MA. Visit [www.lasaletteattleboroshrine.org](http://www.lasaletteattleboroshrine.org) or call 508-222-5410

## Auditions

The MAC is auditioning actors for the comedy, *The 39 Steps*, adapted by Patrick Barlow from the novel by John Buchan. The play will be directed by John Heavey.

The auditions will be held at the MAC's Anne Braitmayer Webb Theater located at 80 Pleasant St., Marion, MA on Saturday, January 3 from 10:00am- 12:00pm and on Sunday, January 4 from 1:00-3:00pm. There are nine performance dates: March 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 2026. Evening shows are at 7:30pm,

and Sunday matinees are at 2:00pm

The 39 Steps is a fast-paced, slapstick comedy thriller where an ordinary man, Richard Hannay, is framed for murder and must go on the run to stop a spy ring from stealing vital British military secrets. The humor derives from the entire story being performed by a small cast who play over 150 characters, often making rapid costume and character changes. One actor plays the hero, Richard Hannay; an actress plays the three women with whom he has romantic entanglements; other actors play every other character in the show, each occasionally playing multiple characters at once. Thus Alfred Hitchcock film's serious spy story is given a comedic, zany twist.

Although The 39 Steps was originally produced with just four actors, the MAC production's casting will be flexible with regard to gender and doubling or even tripling of roles. The two exceptions are that Hannay will be played by one man throughout and Pamela and Annabella will be played by a single woman. Auditions will be cold readings from selected scenes of the script. In casting we are looking for versatile performers with a rich imagination who can make bold, physical choices. Find the full character list, along with more information, at [marionartcenter.org/auditions](http://marionartcenter.org/auditions).

## Ramps for the Holidays

Buzzards Bay Area Habitat for Humanity (BBAHFH) is seeking metal wheelchair ramp donations and support for their Ramp Donation Program.

Ramp recipients have ranged in age from teenagers to those in their nineties. In 2024, BBAHFH formally introduced the Ramp Donation program giving low-income homeowners the accessibility they need to remain safe in their homes. Through ramp donations and purchases, BBAHFH tries to maintain an inventory available that can be loaned out and installed by volunteers when needed by a family, but this can be difficult as ramps are expensive, and the need is great. BBAHFH is grateful for its partners, including the families who have donated ramps to be reused,

supporting foundations in the region, and Oakley Home Access for making ramps available on a discounted basis.

When a family no longer requires the ramp, it is picked up by BBAHFH and then loaned to another low-income family in need. The Ramp Donation program helps those with existing accessibility issues, temporary injuries, or those who are checking out of a rehabilitation facility with hopes of returning home.

BBAHFH is running this program throughout Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester, Wareham, and Westport, and ramps are installed at no cost for families. This project is funded in part by grants from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and the Executive Office of Aging & Independence and Coastline Elderly Services, the Area Agency on Aging, through Federal Title-III funds.

For more information on BBAHFH's Ramp Donation program, contact [BuzzardsBayAreaHabitat@yahoo.com](mailto:BuzzardsBayAreaHabitat@yahoo.com), or call (508) 758-4517. Tax-deductible donations to support the program may be made at [www.BuzzardsBayHabitat.org](http://www.BuzzardsBayHabitat.org) or by sending a check to BBAHFH, P.O. Box 1584, Mattapoisett, MA 02739, and please note "Ramps for the Holidays."

## Food Drive

The Mattapoisett Free Public Library is partnering with the student Community Service Club of Old Rochester Regional High School to collect donations for a local food pantry. For each non-perishable, non-expired item donated and brought to the library, the library will waive \$1.00 in overdue fines (up to the total amount owed). Suggested donations include canned and boxed food, diapers, baby formula, pet food, toiletries, and paper goods. Donations must be non-expired and unopened. In addition, donations apply only to overdue fines and not to fax, copy, print, or lost/damaged item fees.

We can partner to support local families this holiday season. Every can, box, and bottle helps!

For more information, please visit us at 7 Barstow Street, browse our website at [www.mattapoisettlibrary.org](http://www.mattapoisettlibrary.org) or call the library at 508-758-4171.

# Public Hearings/Legal Notices

NOTE: All legal notices are available on the Neighb News website, [www.NeighbNews.com](http://www.NeighbNews.com), under the "Legal Notices" tab on the top of the main page. Legal ads are also available at <http://masspublicnotices.org>, search under "Fairhaven Neighborhood News"

## Fairhaven Town Clerk

The following bylaw changes which were accepted at the Fairhaven Annual Town Meeting which convened on May 3, 2025 have been approved by the Office of the Attorney General, are published herewith in accordance with the current regulations. Claims of invalidity of any of the amendments to the bylaw by reason of any defect in the procedure of the adoption or replacement may only be made within ninety (90) days of this announcement.

Copies of the bylaws may be examined at the Town Clerk's Office, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA

### ARTICLE 13A: NEW REVOLVING FUND – ROGER A. GRIMSHAW PARK

By majority vote, the Town voted to authorize a "Roger A. Grimshaw Park Revolving Account" under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½ by adding the following paragraphs to §2-6 of the Town Bylaws: Roger A. Grimshaw Park Revolving Fund

- (1) Roger A. Grimshaw Park Revolving Fund. There shall be a separate fund called the "Roger A. Grimshaw Park Revolving Fund" authorized for use by the Council on Aging Director.
- (2) Revenues. The Town Accountant shall establish the Roger A. Grimshaw Park Revolving Fund as a separate account and credit to the fund 15% of all fees received from events located at Roger A. Grimshaw Park received by the Council on Aging in connection with the use of and events held at Roger A. Grimshaw Park.
- (3) Purposes and expenditures. During each fiscal year, the Council on Aging Director may incur liabilities against and spend monies from the Roger A. Grimshaw Park Revolving Fund for the purpose of funding the upkeep, maintenance, and improvement of Roger A. Grimshaw Park, or act in any other manner related thereto.
- (4) Fiscal years. The Roger A. Grimshaw Park Revolving Fund shall operate for fiscal years that begin on or after July 1, 2025 and to see if the Town will vote to authorize a total amount that may be expended from the Roger A. Grimshaw Park Revolving Fund for Fiscal Year 2026.

### ARTICLE 13B: REVOLVING FUNDS

By majority vote, the Town voted to authorize or re-authorize the following Revolving Accounts under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½ by adding the following and to amend General Bylaws Section 2-6 terms:

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend	Revenue Source	FY26 Limit
Hazardous Materials	Fire Chief	Disposal fees/charges	\$100,000
Sustainability	Sustainability Committee	Fees/charges	\$10,000
Hoppy's Landing	Marine Resources	Fees/charges from users of Hoppy's Landing	\$25,000
Town Hall Auditorium	Town Administrator	Town Hall Auditorium rental fees	\$3,000
Park Utilities	Board of Public Works	User fees	\$2,000
Shellfish Mitigation	Marine Resources	Mitigation fees	\$25,000
Mooring Fees	Marine Resources	Mooring fees	\$4,000
Mattress Recycling	Board of Health/ Sanitation	Fees from mattress disposal	\$3,000
Hoarding Remediation	Board of Health	Revenue from textile recovery boxes	\$2,000
Supportive Social Day Program	Council on Aging Director	Receipts from supportive social day program	\$250,000
Roger A. Grimshaw Park (NEW)	Council on Aging Director	Receipts from events at Grimshaw Park	\$5,000

### ARTICLE 17: AMEND BYLAW, CHAPTER 164, SOLID WASTE

By majority vote, the Town voted to amend Bylaws, Chapter 164 Solid Waste by adding to the existing language indicated below in bold/underlined.

#### B. General Prohibition and Regulation.

No retail establishment, retail food establishment, nonprofit and/or Town facility food provider shall transfer merchandise to end consumers in a thin- film single-use plastic bag, and shall only use check- out bags that are:

##### a. Reusable checkout bags

**i. Reusable checkout bag shall be defined as the following: "A bag that is not made of plastic film and that is made from any other natural or synthetic fabric, including, but not limited to, woven or nonwoven nylon, polypropylene, polyethylene-terephthalate, or Tyvek, shall satisfy all of the following:**

- (1) It shall be sewn.**
- (2) It shall be capable of carrying 22 pounds over a distance of 175 feet for a minimum of 125 uses.**
- (3) It shall have a minimum fabric weight of at least 80 grams per square meter.**

### ARTICLE 18: AMEND BYLAW, CHAPTER 50, § 3, MEETING TO ELECT TOWN OFFICIALS

By majority vote, the Town voted to amend Bylaws, Chapter 50 § 3, Meeting to elect Town officials by striking some of the existing language as indicated in strikethrough, or adding language as indicated in bold/underlined below.

The Annual Town Meeting shall be held on the first ~~Monday in April~~ **Saturday in May, unless otherwise specified by the Select Board, at which time all articles in the warrant will be considered, at which time the election of all Town officials and Town Meeting members shall take place, and thereafter said meeting will be**

~~adjourned to another day for the consideration of all other articles in the warrant. The Annual town election of officers and town meeting members will be adjourned until the 2nd Tuesday in June.~~

Respectfully Submitted, Elisabeth E. Horan, Town Clerk  
FNN: 12/11/25, 12/18/25

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Monday, January 5, 2026 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=VFdUQkhzdVYrNzJlQktlVi9XSzZpZ09>

Meeting ID: 869 5315 5076

Passcode: 633695

Or call: 1-929-205-6099

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

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

- a. **CON 023-542, SE 023-1517: 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.
- b. **CON 023-543, SE 023-1518: 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.
- c. **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.
- d. **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').
- e. **SE 023-1369, CON 023-255: 10 Diamond Street** Amendment request filed by Jamie & Ruby Medeiros to pave the garage driveway with asphalt or concrete. The proposed work to take place in a buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW) & Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF), FEMA Flood Zone AE (EI.14').

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: 12/18/25

## Fairhaven Select Board Public Hearing

The Fairhaven Select Board will hold a Public Hearing on Monday January 12, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA. The purpose for this hearing is to consider approval for a transfer of an Annual All Alcohol Beverages Liquor License from JCIR Fairhaven Corp dba South Coast Wine and Spirits 355 Huttleston Ave to Shree Ashtavinayak Inc.

Fairhaven Select Board:  
Charles Murphy Sr., Andrew Romano, Natalie Mello, Andrew Saunders, Keith Silvia  
FNN: 12/18/25

## 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. Thank you for reading the Neighb News!

## From our readers

### Saying “Fare Well” to Gail Isaksen

Gail Isaksen — Beloved friend and neighbor, entrepreneur and kind employer, great chef and animal lover, Christian and patriot, a very generous philanthropist — a true mountain of a woman. How blessed we are to have known her!

When Gail saw a need she always

reached right out in generosity, and then returned to her quite life. Everyone was in some way touched by Gail and for many many years to come we will be recipients of her many gifts to this town of Fairhaven that she loved.

I could go on and on, but if you knew Gail personally, you knew that she was short and sweet! So in

keeping with her style, I close with this: We are so blessed and grateful to have known her. She loved her savior Jesus and so we know that she’s now in His tender care.

And we say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Thank you and God speed, friend.

*Mary E. Lihota, Fairhaven*

## Revive the Hidden Heartbeat in Heirlooms You Can’t Let Go.

That family relic, heavy with memories — too good to trash, too tough to move.

Unleash its timeless spark through our family-refined touch.

Dissolve the dilemma: We hunt your dream piece, or ease its next chapter home.

**Fernandes Family Furniture LLC • [www.FernandesFamilyFurniture.com](http://www.FernandesFamilyFurniture.com)**

We buy, sell, and refinish heirloom-quality wood wonders



Follow us on  
Facebook

### Recycle. Relieve. Revive.

1. Scan QR or visit site
2. Tell us your story: Relieve guilt? Hunt a gem? Revive and enjoy? Form in minutes
3. Be a part of the solution — convenient, sustainable, reliable



## Available for Kindle And Other E-book Readers



A fantasy novel for readers 10+. Fantasy lovers of all ages will enjoy this tale of adventure. Strong women characters. Minimal violence.

**\$4<sup>99</sup>**

Available in paperback:  
**\$13.99**



There's more to Christmas than bicycles and board games. Learn the real meaning of Christmas with 10-year-old Mark Waters, his theatrical neighbor, and the Little People of Nikommo Island.

**\$1<sup>49</sup>**



A light-hearted little fairy tale about a Zebra who loses his stripes and thinks that means he loses himself, but learns otherwise.

**99 cents**

Available for Nook, Kindle, smart phones, tablets, or any device with ePub reader software.

**To order, visit Beth David's author page on Amazon at**

<http://www.amazon.com/Beth-David/e/B004SZ6U5W/>

**VISIT: [WWW.ZORENA.COM](http://WWW.ZORENA.COM) FOR LINKS AND OTHER TITLES**

## Buying or selling a home? *I can help.*



**Catherine  
Costa**  
Realtor



**781-724-1504**

**[catherine@divitorealty.com](mailto:catherine@divitorealty.com)**

**Wayne**  
electric  
alarms &

**508-997-5600 508-758-3068 [walarms.com](http://walarms.com)**

24-Hour UL-Listed Monitoring Service

Security Systems • Fire Alarms

Closed Circuit Television • Card Access

Serving Bristol & Plymouth Counties for over 35 years

*MA Master License 21429-A  
System Security S License SS-001849*



FAIRHAVEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S  
2025  
**HOLIDAY DECK THE DOOR CONTEST**  
**WINNERS!**



28 CHURCH STREET



148 FIR STREET



28 GREEN STREET



## Looking for a Fairhaven Real Estate Expert?

Howe Allen  
REALTOR

Howe Allen Realty

- Personalized Guidance and service for Buyers & Sellers
- 18 years Local Expertise
- Proud supporter of community events and non-profits



857.222.3214

Howe@howeallen.com

Howeallen.com



**Buy \$100 in Gift Cards  
Get \$50 in Gift Cards Freeeee!  
PLUS \$5 Sign-up Bonus  
& 10% Rewards**



**Mikey B's**

*Lobster, Seafood, Burgers, Sandwiches*

**Party Platters • Private room. No room fee.  
Parties from 10 to 100**

989 Victoria St., New Bedford, MA 02745  
508-985-0002 • [www.mikeybs.com](http://www.mikeybs.com)