



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 21, Issue 3 • January 8, 2026

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

Hundreds plunge to start new year



Plungers are all smiles despite the snow on a windy, snowy New Year's Day 2026 for the annual Polar Plunge at Fort Phoenix in Fairhaven. See page 12. *Photo by Beth David*



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First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

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

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

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

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

We're baaack! Did you miss us? I know some people didn't...hee hee.

Happy New Year to all my faithful readers, and to all the crazies who jumped in the water on New Year's Day just....because. OH...I could never do that.

Brrr. It's been cold out there the last couple of weeks. And Thursday was no exception, but hundreds still showed up and jumped in (see page12).

A crazy kind of snow squall hit just as the plungers were getting ready to go in. We all got a laugh out of it, but, on Martha's Vineyard, that snow squall resulted in the deaths of two experienced fishing people (see page 14), when their boat capsized. We know the dangers around here all too well. Such a random thing to have happen. It's heart-breaking. And also a brutal reminder of how dangerous it can be on the water.

The ZBA lost....again...in its fight to stop the School Department's storage shed project. You know the one I mean, the one with nooooo conflicts of interest (NOT), except the one there is, of course. Geesh. See page 3 for that.

Fairhaven had two deaths and three stabbings. Geesh, people, get a grip. Walk away or something. See page 14 for that.

Meanwhile, the Big Buffoon bombed Venezuela and kidnapped its president and his wife. That's seven countries the deranged narcissist has bombed in less than a year. I remember when Trumpers were yelling about regime change being bad, and how there were no wars under their Dear Leader. That was supposed to be a reason to vote for the buffoon. Suddenly, it's okay to bomb anyone the numbnut fixes his gaze on.

He's insisting that he'll go after Greenland, but not until he bombs the you-know-what out of Cuba.

When will you all wake up? You're in a cult, and the whole world is suffering because of it.

I mean Greenland, seriously? It makes no sense at all. They're an ally. We have a base there. They let us have the run of the place for whatever we need. But they are not for sale.

And the kidnappings in this country continue, too. Plucking people off the streets for no good reason. Yet you all are still screaming something about freedom.

It's sickening. Something needs to stop this guy. And soon.

There's other stuff in here, of course. While you're looking for it all, 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

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In the Fairhaven Select Board story in our last issue on 12/18/25, we made a mistake when listing the committees Mr. Carr serves on. He is currently on the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Atlas Tack Working Group; he previously served on the Economic Development Committee, Harbor Steering Committee, SRPEDD Environmental Committee, 40R working group. We apologize for any confusion our error may have caused.

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Court sides with school department in shed case

By Beth David
Editor

In a 12/29/25 decision, the Massachusetts Land Court ruled in favor of the Fairhaven School Department, allowing the contested storage shed project to move forward. After a bit of convoluted court and local board back and forth, the final case was an appeal by the School Department filed on 2/10/25 to overturn the decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals to revoke a commercial building permit at its 1/7/25 meeting (see FNN 1/9/25 issue). That permit had been issued on 10/15/24.

The case also went before the Mass. Building Appeals Board on July 10, 2025. That board also ruled in favor of the School Department, overturning the revocation of the building permit according to minutes available online.

At the 1/7/25 meeting, nine abutters submitted a petition to the ZBA asking that the permit be revoked, citing a variety of reasons, including that the shed is an eyesore. The ZBA voted to revoke the permit, with member Amy Goyer voting “no.”

In the judgment on 12/29/25, Judge Lauren E. Reznick ruled that the abutters had no standing and that the ZBA exceeded its authority when it revoked the permit. The court ordered that the permit be reinstated.

In the Memorandum of Decision, the court summarizes the case,

...the court summarizes the case, stating that during the proceedings, the ZBA lawyer, Town Counsel, Heather White, appeared in the case, but “declined to defend,” leaving the defense to the private abutters.

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The abutters did not appear and were defaulted on 8/8/25.

Oral arguments were held on

10/30/25, with the School Department arguing that the abutters had no standing to appeal, and that the School Department was not properly notified of the Abutters’ appeal, the public hearing, or the filing with the Town Clerk.

The court ruled that the abutters do not have standing as “persons aggrieved,” because “their alleged harms are only aesthetic and general in nature.”

The court cites previous cases where that ruled abutters must show individualized harms the Abutters might suffer.

To be aggrieved, a person must suffer some infringement of his legal rights, wrote the court.

“Generally speaking, concerns about the visual impact of a proposed structure on an abutting property are insufficient to confer standing,” wrote the court citing a 2011 case. “Moreover, a ‘general civic interest in the enforcement of zoning laws is not enough to confer standing.’”

“The alleged harms of the Abutters, to the extent any can be

SHED: cont’d next page



UU Society of Fairhaven welcomes all!

January theme: Nurturing Justice

10 a.m. Jan. 14: An Inspiring WWII Story of Resistance
Special music by guest Jodi Heights

*Children are welcome at the service!
Nursery care available 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Harrop Center.*

The Rev. Maria Utti McCabe

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

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HAPPY NEW YEAR





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

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SHED: cont'd from previous page

discerned from the record, are not the type of interests protected by G.L. c. 40A or the Fairhaven Zoning Code and do not threaten any injury special and different to the Abutters from the rest of the community," wrote the court. "The undisputed material facts show that the Abutters were not 'persons aggrieved' and therefore did not have standing to appeal to the ZBA under G.L. c. 40A, § 8. As a result, the ZBA did not have jurisdiction to render its decision granting their appeal and revoking plaintiff's commercial building permit. The Abutters 'had no right to file [the appeal] and the board had no authority to hear it.'" *Turner*, 305 Mass. at 193. On this basis, the ZBA's decision 'exceeds the authority of the board' and must be annulled. G.L. c. 40A, § 17."

The court did not make a judgment on the School Department's assertion that it was not properly notified of the hearing due to insufficient facts to support the claim.

In a filing on 9/18/25, the ZBA asked that the School Department not be granted attorney's fees and costs. On

9/18/25, the School Department withdrew its request for attorneys' fees and costs.

The storage shed is being built by students at New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School. The project has been ongoing throughout the litigation. Generally, building is allowed to continue during

Mr. Carr has a declared
Conflict of Interest in the case
because he owns Seaspray
Container Company with
his daughter, Erin Carr

litigation at the risk of the party doing the work.

The shed has been in contention, with ZBA chairperson, Patrick Carr, fighting the project from both his seat on the ZBA, an appointed position, and his seat on the Planning Board, an elected position.

Mr. Carr has a declared Conflict of

Interest in the case because he owns Seaspray Container Company with his daughter, Erin Carr, who has also spoken out publicly against the project. Seaspray contracts with the School Department for two containers at the High School that will not longer be needed when the storage shed is completed.

Mr. Carr has appeared before the Select Board twice asking for permission to deliberate on the shed matter, and was denied both times. Mr. Carr state at the meetings and in filings that the \$198/month rental fee is not significant enough to influence his decision making.

He first asked for an exemption at the 12/30/24 meeting (see 1/9/25 issue); and again at the 4/14/25 meeting (see 4/17/25 issue).

The Memorandum of Decision and the Judgement documents are available on the *Neighb News* website, www.neighbnews.com under archives and then 1/8/26 issue. Land Court documents are available online through the Mass.gov website. Search by case number, 25 MISC 000064, to find all documents.

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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

SAVE THE DATE:

GOP Meeting

The Fairhaven Republican Town Committee would love to have you join us in this new year of exciting political change. This is your invitation to attend on January 20th, 2026 at 6pm. Our meetings are held at 32 Abbey Street, Fairhaven at 6pm on the third Tuesday of each Month.

We will be making plans and setting a date for the upcoming delegate selection caucus. This could be a great opportunity to represent with your nomination vote at the Republican MASSGOP Convention on April 25, 2026 as a delegate.

The Fairhaven Town election is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2026. To find out more about opportunities to serve our Town as a candidate perhaps, a Town Meeting Member, or even a poll worker, which are greatly needed and encouraged by our committee members, please attend.

This is how Democracy works!

You can contact us at fairhavenrtc@gmail.com, on facebook@ Fairhaven Republican Town Committee or call Chairman Bob McConnell @ 508-863-0416. Please join us, you are most welcome!

Tree Group Meeting

Trees in Fairhaven will be having a meeting on Monday January 12 at 7 PM at the Unitarian Church Parish House at 47 Center st Fairhaven MA. Anyone interested in the town's tree canopy is invited to attend. Our goal is in making our town better through planting and greening.

Cmas Tree Pickup

The Town of Fairhaven Christmas Tree Pickup is January 6-9, 2026, one day after your regular trash day.

Please place trees curbside by 7:00 a.m. on day of pick up and be sure to remove all ornaments and tinsel. Also, please DO NOT place tree in plastic bag.

Missed trees may be dropped off at the Recycle Center located at 5 Arsene Street in town. Call the BPW with questions at 508-979-4030.

Guest musician

The Jan. 11 service at the Unitarian Memorial Church will be enriched by

the talents of guest musician Jodi Heights.

The Boston-based singer-songwriter, who holds multiple degrees in music, including a master's from New England Conservatory, plays piano and Celtic harp. Her recent album, "Nocturne," focuses on night and the sacred darkness.

Graeme Smith of York Calling, an international music and culture blog, praises Ms. Heights as "an artist who ...create(s) music that has something to say. It's a rare treat in the world of music and one that should be cherished."

Ms. Heights is the sister of the church's music director, Tim Evans.

At the 10 a.m. service, Rev. María Uitti McCabe will relate the inspiring story of nine German women in the resistance who escaped a Nazi forced labor camp and walked across the front lines to freedom. The theme for January is "Nurturing Justice."

The church and parish house are accessible to the handicapped via a ramp off the Center Street driveway. For more information about the Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven, call 508-992-7081 or visit uufairhaven.org.

At the Shep

The Hot Club Cheese Roll, a renowned regional Gypsy Jazz group, will perform a mix of jazz standards and contemporary hits at The Shepherd Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday, Jan. 10.

The Hot Club Cheese Roll was founded by guitarist Jason Smith in 2016 to play pre-WWII jazz with the flavor of the legendary Django Reinhardt and Stephane Grappelli, who performed in the 1930s and '40s with The Quintette Du Hot Club de France in Paris, reinterpreting American mass through Sinti, or gypsy, culture. The group features Smith on Guitar, Mark Russell on violin, John Birt on guitar and Tanner McMullen on upright bass.

The concert will start at 7 p.m. at the Shepherd Center for the Performing Arts, 34 Center St. (William Street Entrance) in Fairhaven, MA. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 online or \$25 at the door. For tickets or more information, visit <https://theshepherdcenter.org/>

the-hot-club-cheese-roll-2026/

The Shepherd Center for the Performing Arts Inc. is a nonprofit, public charity dedicated to supporting music, theater, dance and film and providing educational programs and community open mic nights that highlight the diverse culture of Fairhaven and surrounding communities.

Wellness Clinic

SEMA & the Fairhaven Board of Health invite the community to its monthly wellness clinics on the third Thursday of each month, from 8:30-10:30 AM at the Fairhaven Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Ave. Next date: 1/15/26.

Services include: Blood pressure screenings, Car seat safety checks, Stop the Bleed training, Flu vaccinations (in-home service available), Narcan/Naloxone training & distribution, Health education and more

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 for more info.

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>

At the Z

Big Night, Bright Lights!
The Z's Grand Reopening

Join us for a dazzling celebration as we reopen The Z in style! The full New Bedford Symphony Orchestra will be on stage throughout the evening, setting the backdrop for a captivating program of music, dance, and theater. Emmy Award-winning comedian Dulcé Sloan hosts the celebration, guiding us through an unforgettable night of laughter, joy, and artistry.

The evening's program showcases an extraordinary range of talent. Across 16 captivating pieces, the orchestra sets the emotional tone for every act, weaving a continuous thread of artistry and connection.

After two years of anticipation, the curtain is rising once again on the newly renovated Zeiterion Theatre. For the first time, three of the city's leading cultural organizations—The Zeiterion, New Bedford Festival Theatre, and the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra—will share the stage in a one-night-only concert that honors the heart, soul, and future of the performing arts on the South Coast. This first-time landmark collaboration is more than a performance; it is a joyful homecoming that reaffirms the Zeiterion as a gathering place for creativity, connection, and community.

Together, these performances embody the energy and artistry that make New Bedford a cultural hub, marking the Zeiterion's return with brilliance and heart.

For more information and tickets, visit <https://www.zeiterion.org/>

Dial M for Murder

Prepare for suspense, intrigue, and a thrilling new adaptation of a classic! Jeffrey Hatcher's 2021 ingenious adaptation of *Dial M for Murder* takes Frederick Knott's masterful whodunit and infuses it with fresh, compelling layers. Delve deep into the meticulously planned "perfect crime" and witness it unravel as secrets and lies come to light. Even if you know the culprit, this production brings a renewed sense of mystery you don't want to miss!

By Your Theatre at the Steeple Playhouse, 159 William St., New

Bedford. Fri. & Sat., 1/16, 17, 23, 24 at 7:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 1/18, 24, 25 at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$27; \$22 Seniors and Students. Open seating. Visit <https://steepleplayhouse.org> for tickets.

Author Events

Spinner Celebrates 45 Years with a series of Author Talk Events. Spinner welcomes former New Bedford mayor, and Spinner author, John Bullard, Thurs., 1/15, 6–8:30pm, James Arnold Mansion, 427 County St., New Bedford, MA. Tickets to this event are \$35, available through Eventbrite, <https://tinyurl.com/4tmz9yc7>, or by calling the Spinner office (508-994-4564).

During this event John will be discussing his memoir, *Hometown*. The event will be a relaxed, cocktail party ambiance with a meet and greet hour that will include hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar. A book talk and Q&A will follow.

This author talk series will celebrate 45 years of Spinner Publications and help support our mission of documenting local history and the archival photograph collection. The series will feature local, regional, and nationally renowned authors.

In *Hometown*, John Bullard tells the story of his commitment to New Bedford, his work in public service, and his dedication to family, community, and environmental issues. He weaves a tale of a family legacy intertwined with the complexities and promise of New Bedford, a storied Massachusetts seaport whose revitalization provides lessons for other cities struggling to survive and thrive.

Bullard's story — and his sense of hometown — whether acting as a local or federal leader, may have changed the range of his actions but never the importance of the people he worked with and for.

John Bullard is a native of New Bedford, Mass. His ancestry includes many of the city's first families. John and his wife, Laurie, now live in nearby Westport and have three children and five grandchildren. *Hometown* is his first book.

Hometown will be available to purchase during the event and is currently available to purchase through the Spinner website.

Call for Submissions

New Bedford Festival Theatre announces a call for submissions for the production of JIMMY BUFFETT'S *ESCAPE TO MARGARITAVILLE*. Performers can submit through Friday, 1/23. In-person callbacks for local performers will be held Saturday, February 7 in New Bedford, MA.

Please prepare a short song in the style of the show (or from the show itself). Performers must be the minimum age of 16 by July 2026.

We are seeking to cast performers of all ethnicities, gender identities, ages, and body types.

This is a stipend-paying contract.

Performers with access to local housing and transportation should submit via email. Emailed submissions should include a video of your audition cut (youtube videos tend to have the least issues!), headshot, and resume.

Email ebettencourt@nbfestivaltheatre.com to submit or for more details.

Performers without access to local housing and/or transportation should submit via Backstage. Callbacks will be held via Zoom.

Visit <https://nbfestivaltheatre.com/auditions/> for more details and character breakdown.

CPC Meetings

Mayor Jon Mitchell and the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) invite all interested members of the public to review the FY26 Community Preservation Act (CPA) applications submitted for funding consideration and to provide public comment at two remaining virtual meetings in January: Thurs., 1/15 & 22 at 6 p.m., via Zoom only.

Visit <https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/planning/application-info/> to learn about the applications and Zoom link information.

The CPC received 28 applications seeking over \$4.5 million in funding. For FY26, there is \$2.2 million available to be awarded by the CPC.

After the January presentations, the CPC will review each application and submit their FY26 funding recommendations to City Council for their consideration.

For more information, please email CPA@newbedford-ma.gov or call the CPA Manager at 508.979.1488.

Volunteers Needed

In 2025, local Red Cross volunteers became a lifeline for hundreds of neighbors reeling from disasters around Massachusetts.

In a powerful display of community, volunteers from every chapter in the Massachusetts Region responded alongside partners to provide safe refuge, hot meals, emotional support and basic health services for families devastated by major disasters like the recent fire on Olympia Place, which displaced more than 200 UMass Amherst students and other residents just weeks before the holidays.

The Red Cross also distributed more than \$1 million in financial assistance directly to thousands of Mass. households recovering in 2025 from disasters of all sizes.

This holiday season, visit redcross.org/MA to make a financial donation, or to give back through volunteering. You can also make an appointment to give blood or platelets. The need for blood is constant — and just like disasters, medical emergencies don't take holidays.

At Acushnet Library

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

- Winter Storytime (0-5 year-olds): every Wed. at 11 am
- Tweens Book Club (9-12 year-olds): Tue., Jan. 27 at 4 pm
- Kids Creative Writing Workshop (6-18 year-olds): Sat., Jan. 24 at 1 pm
- Youth Art Exhibition: Collection Days: Sat., Jan. 3 & 17 and Exhibition on Jan. 31 (all day during library hours)
- Monday, January 12, 2026, 2:00 pm Movie Matinee - *Downton Abbey - The Grand Finale*, Rated PG (2 hours, 6 min.)
- Monday, January 12, 2026, 6:00 pm Knitting & Crocheting Group
- Thursday, January 22, 2026, 11:00 am History Coffee Hour. Join this informal meeting to share stories and photos of Acushnet's past.
- Thursday, February 05, 2026, 11:00 am Readers' Group Morning Edition. This group is currently

reading *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen. You can pick up a copy and join the discussion on February 5.

- Thursday, February 05, 2026, 6:00 pm Readers' Group. This group is currently reading *White Teeth* by Zadie Smith. You can pick up a copy and join the discussion on February 5.

Calling All Young Artists

The Acushnet Public Library's first Youth Art Exhibition will be held on Sat., 1/31. Entries accepted on Sat., 1/3 and Sat., 1/17.

Youth ages 6 to 17 can submit one unframed entry on 8 ½" x 11" paper. Any medium is accepted. Submit your watercolor, pencil, crayon, paint, chalk, and more. Will it be a landscape, portrait, or abstract design? It is all up to you.

The entries will be hung or displayed in the Library Community Room on Saturday, January 31. The public will judge entries in multiple categories, and ribbons will be awarded.

At Mattapoisett Lib.

The following events are being held at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow St., 508-758-4171. Accessible.

- The Teen Advisory Board continues collecting new hats, gloves, and scarves to benefit the Veterans Transition House in New Bedford. Donations may be left in the library bins until January 11th. TAB appreciates your support of our veterans' needs!
- The Friends of the Mattapoisett Library's monthly used Book Sale is on Saturday, January 10th, from 10 AM to 1 PM. Book donations will be accepted on Thursday, January 8th, and Friday, January 9th, from 2:30 to 4:30 PM in the library's meeting room.
- Our Silent Book Club returns on Sunday, January 11th, at 2 PM in the upstairs Reading Rooms. Participants will enjoy delicious treats, tea, and quiet time to read. Relax with friends, acquaintances, and strangers while learning about your next favorite book. The event is for patrons ages 16 and up — no registration required.
- History's Swindlers. Join Robert Ainsworth at the library on Sun., 1/18, at 2 PM to hear the story of

history's swindlers. From seagoing merchants in the Mediterranean to Charles Ponzi in the 1920s, to Bernie Madoff in the 1990s, and to bitcoin on the internet, people have wanted to get rich quick. They want easy money — the money others sweated to make and had the discipline to save. And they'll stop at nothing to get it. No registration required.

- Emerging adults 20 and up are invited to join us for our first Literary Society meeting on Tues., 1/13, at 5:30 PM. Literary Society is a quarterly media mixer for young professionals in Mattapoisett and surrounding communities to discuss books, TV shows, movies, and podcasts, and to hear what other similarly aged patrons are enjoying. No registration required.
- The next meeting of the Friends of the Mattapoisett Library is scheduled for Wed., 1/14, at 6 PM. All are welcome to attend. A Zoom link to the meeting is available upon request. If you have any questions, please contact the library at mfpl@sailsinc.org. We can pass along your message to the Friends.

Bible Study

The Lamb of God Christian Church of Mattapoisett will be presenting the following events in January:

- Adult Bible Study every Sunday @6:30 P.M. American Legion Hall, 3 Depot Street. Free Food Outreach, Jan. 18 @3-4 American Legion Hall.
- Children's "Bible Story Time" for children, parents, and care givers of children, Jan. 27 @10:00 A.M. held at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, in the lower meeting room. For more information call (508) 998-6990, or E-Mail: pastor@lambogodma.org

NE Boat Show

Visit the New England Boat Show featuring seminars, boat exhibits, hands-on activities for kids, vendors, and more. Tickets: \$20 per person per day. Children under 12, free.

Visit <https://www.newenglandboatshow.com> for schedule.

January 7-11, noon to 8 p.m. through 1/9; 10-8 on Sat., 1/10; 10-6 on Sun., 1/11, at Thomas Michael Menino Convention and Exhibition Center, 415 Summer St., Boston, MA.

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Supportive Social Day Program

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

Mall Trips

Reservations accepted for mall trips at beginning the 15th of the prior month. There is a \$6 charge unless otherwise noted. Please bring exact amount. The van leaves the Fairhaven Senior Center promptly at 9: 1/14/26, Hyannis Mall/Trader Joe's; 1/21, Providence Place Mall; 1/28, So. Shore Plaza; 2/4, First Light Casino.

Join Us for Lunch

We serve lunch every weekday at 11:30 a.m. To schedule a lunch, call the day before by 10 a.m. Voluntary donation of \$3 (Please note price chance). To let us know you want to join us, and to arrange for a ride, call

508-979-4029.

Movie Mondays

Popcorn, pretzels and candy are part of the movie experience. If you would like a drink other than water, please feel free to bring your own. No alcohol. Thank you. All shows at 12:15.

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

Jan. 12. *Spirited*. Comedy. When the Ghost of Christmas Present accidentally picks the wrong person to reform, he ends up reexamining his own past, present and future.

Jan. 26. *The Gumball Rally*. Comedy, Car Action. An eclectic group of people takes part in a secret, and illegal, cross country road race.

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 info, 508-979-4029.

Single Senior Supper Club

Third Tuesday of the month, 3–5 p.m. Must sign up at the front desk or call a week before. \$5, partially funded

by Coastline Elderly Nutrition. Please do not arrive earlier than 2:45 p.m.

LGBTQ Supper Club

Fourth Wednesday of the month, 5–7 p.m. Call 508-979-4029.

Walking Group

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

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.

Caregivers Support Group

The first Thursday of the month, from 1–2:00 p.m. at the Fairhaven Senior Center. Please call 508-979-4029.

Southcoast VNA & Hospice Support Group

Second Thursday of the month: Widow and widowers grief, general loss and grief support. 5–6:30 p.m.

Older Adult LGBTQ Support Group

Contact Sue Roque, 508-678-7542.

Fairhaven Recreation Center

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Winter Brochure is Out

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

Paint Night

Go With The Flow Paint Night Join us for a relaxing and creative evening

as we go with the flow! Explore your artistic side with guidance from Susan Drayton of SOCO Art Labs. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned painter, this class is all about having fun and letting your creativity take shape. Bring a friend, paint, and unwind and let your

imagination free! Spaces are limited! Register early to save your spot! Check out Susan's creations at SOCO Art Labs online! Instructor Susan Drayton Fairhaven Recreation Center Thursdays Jan 15 at 6PM – 8PM Cost: \$30 per member \$35 non-member— all supplies included

Zeiterion to open after two-year renovation

On Saturday, January 17, the Zeiterion Theater in New Bedford will open for Big Night, Bright Lights: A Grand Reopening Celebration. It's the first time The Z, New Bedford Festival Theatre, and New Bedford Symphony Orchestra will truly share the stage.

It will also be the first time the public will experience the Zeiterion's

new spaces and new features!

The new Z features five new spaces, including Speakeasy, for small-scale events; Bristol County Savings Bank Lounge, a member lounge offering an “elevated experience” for members; The Baker Family Lobby, triple the space of the old lobby; Dr. Gail Davidson Movement Studio, for rehearsal and

creative expression; classroom, for workshops and community programs; Arand Marchand & George Charbonneau Box Office, expanded with its own entrance.

Other improvements include double the bathroom space, closed circuit screens, LED marquee, lighting and sound upgrades. Visit <https://www.zeiterion.org/>

Recipe of the Week

Hot Spinach & Artichoke Dip

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1/2 medium sweet onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 cup dry white wine (chicken stock)
- 1 (16-ounce) package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
- 1 (14-ounce) can artichoke hearts, drained and coarsely chopped
- 1/2 tsp crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 (8-oz) package cream cheese, cubed
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup freshly grated Parmesan
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 1/2 c shredded mozzarella cheese

Heat olive oil in a large cast iron skillet over med heat. Add onion and cook, stirring frequently, until translucent, about 2-3 minutes. Stir in garlic until fragrant, about 1 minute. Stir in wine, scraping any browned bits from the bottom of the skillet.

Stir in spinach, artichokes and red pepper flakes until warm and excess liquid has reduced, about 4 minutes.

Stir in cream cheese and sour cream until melted and heated through, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat.

Stir in Parmesan; season with salt and pepper, to taste. Sprinkle with mozzarella.

Preheat oven to broil on high. Arrange an oven rack 6-inches from the broiler.

Place skillet into oven and broil until golden brown and bubbly, about 3-5 minutes.

Serve immediately.

Variations

For a lighter dip, Greek yogurt can be used instead of sour cream without sacrificing creaminess.

To make in slow cooker: simply mix the ingredients in a crockpot and cook on low heat for 2-3 hours, or until hot and bubbly.

From www.damndelicious.net



and mail people making their rounds.

The first time I saw Bobby, a 12-year-old boy from the neighborhood, take a package from the Baldwins' porch, I didn't think much about it. I figured the package had been mistakenly delivered. I became suspicious, however, when I saw him take another package the next day from a neighbor's porch. When I saw him take another the following day, there was question that he was stealing packages from the neighbors.

I can't believe that Bobby, who is generally liked, would steal from Mrs. Baldwin, who is in a wheelchair, the

Juarez family, who have little kids, and Ms. Blake, the retired town librarian. Bobby has known these people all his life. Why would he steal from them?

Matthew

Dear Matthew,

He might have done it for the thrill, or as a lark. You said he

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Dear Frankie

Stolen Packages

Dear Frankie,

My spot in the house is on the top of the couch by the bay window.

From there, I can watch the neighbors come and go, the dogs out for a walk, and the delivery

wasn't a bad kid, so perhaps he didn't realize how hurtful his actions would be to his neighbors. Still, that doesn't excuse taking what isn't his. What he did was wrong.

I almost hope those packages contained things like adult diapers, medication, a play kitchen, or scented bath soap — items he'd have no interest in. That would serve him right.

Hopefully, after these thefts, your neighbors will consider installing a security system with a recording camera.

Best, Frankie

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

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FHS Honor Society collects items for homeless

Press Release

Under the supervision of Ms. Allyson Collette, an educator at Fairhaven High School (FHS), students of the FHS National Honor Society conducted an extremely successful drive to collect items for people experiencing homelessness in the greater New Bedford area.

The project "Backpacks of Hope" was initiated by long time Fairhaven resident, Mary Boucher. Mrs. Boucher is the FHS PTO President, an officer of the Fairhaven Improvement Association, and past President of the Woods School PTO. When she heard that a local non-profit that works closely with area homeless needed various items, she told her daughter, Elle, about it.

According to Ms. Collette, "Elle Boucher brought up the idea of hosting a backpack drive. I had a

group of kids in my room and we brainstormed the idea of hosting a homeroom competition to drum up some more attention."

The drive gave students an opportunity to engage in meaningful community service and demonstrate the National Honor Society's commitment to leadership. The students decorated collection boxes and held it over a four-week period at FHS. A great abundance of items was collected: 28 backpacks, 1500 body wipes, 116 tissue packs, 23 first aid items, 112 pairs of socks, 70 hand, foot, and body warmers, 3 hats, 4 packs of gloves, 2 jackets, 31 personal care items, 15 headlamps, 37 oral care items, and 32 bottles of hand sanitizer.

Mrs. Boucher said, "I am incredibly proud of our students and Blue Devil community for stepping up and showing compassion, leadership, and

heart."

The proceeds from the drive went to Works 4 U, Inc., a local 501(c)3 that has a track record of success helping the area's homeless community.

Trey Whalley, President of Works 4 U said, "the families of FHS students have shown incredible generosity and the FHS Honor Students have demonstrated great kindness and organization in pulling off this drive. We are extremely grateful for their success, and we look forward to delivering their charity to those who need it most."

The mission of Works 4 U, Inc. is to end homelessness through employment. It has helped hundreds of local people experiencing homelessness over the past five years that it has been in operation. This year alone, over 120 people benefited from its programs.



Students of the Fairhaven High School Honor Society collected an abundance of items for distribution to local homeless people, including 28 backpacks and many personal care items. *Submitted photo.*

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Hundreds plunge into icy waters to start the new year

By Beth David
Editor

Hundreds of people plunged into the icy waters of Fort Phoenix on 1/1/26 to start the New Year with a big BRRRRR! The weather seemed like it was going to hold out for the 10 a.m. plunge, but just minutes before the big moment, the skies let loose some snow, the wind howled, and it felt like a blizzard. The temperature was 28 degrees, with a 17 MPH wind making it feel like 8 degrees out. Water temperature was 34.7.

The squall only lasted about 45 minutes, just long enough to make everyone scramble for their cars after the plunge.

Select Board member Andrew Romano was singled out by emcee

Charlie Murphy, the SB chair, for raising more than \$2,600 for the plunge. All donations benefit Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars.

Ramon from Brockton took the plunge, and said it was “a little cold.”

It was his first time plunging, and he found out about it from a friend who is a member of the local Masons.

“It was good. The best ever,” he said.

Daniel also said it was a “little cold.” He traveled from Winchester for his first plunge at the suggestion of his girlfriend.

Will he do it again?

“We’ll see,” he said.

Jeannine Wunschel had no time to chat after posing for a quick picture, opting to head for the car, while her

husband Chad said it was their first time, and “oh yeah,” it was cold.

The plunge is free, and organizers sell t-shirts to raise money for the cause, which also honors domestic violence victims.

You can find a video and lots of pictures on the Fort Phoenix Polar Plunge, Jan. 1, 2026 Facebook page, including a video of Mr. Romano taking the plunge. You can still donate through his fund-raising page at givebutter.com/RomanoPolarPlunge

West Island also had a less formal plunge at noon, with about 15 hardy souls braving the wind, which had picked up and gusted to more than 40 MPH. The crowd then retreated to a neighbors house for the annual get-together.

At Fort Phoenix



ABOVE LEFT L-R: Jeannine and Chad Wunschel pose for a quick pic after diving into the ocean on a windy, snowy New Year's Day, 2026 for the annual Polar Plunge at Fort Phoenix in Fairhaven. ABOVE RIGHT: Ramon raises his fists in victory. *Photos by Beth David.*

At West Island



Plungers get in and out of the water quickly on a cold and windy New Year's Day 2026 on West Island's Causeway Road beach for the annual friends and neighbors Polar Plunge. Even the younguns braved the wild sea. *Photos by Beth David.*

Wreaths Across Fairhaven

Fairhaven Improvement Association

Volunteers braved the cold on Saturday, 12/13/25, to honor veterans by laying wreaths at the graves of veterans and throughout Riverside Cemetery in Fairhaven.

This meaningful effort was a partnership between the Town of Fairhaven Veterans' Services Office and the Fairhaven Improvement Association, made possible by the generosity of our donors and the

dedication of our community volunteers.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who donated, volunteered, and helped ensure our veterans are remembered and honored.



Volunteers pose for a photo before heading out to place wreaths on the graves of veterans at Riverside Cemetery as part of Wreaths Across Fairhaven on a cold Saturday, 12/13/25. Photos courtesy of the Fairhaven Improvement Association.

Wreaths Across Acushnet



Acushnet Veterans Services Officer, Brad Fish, and some volunteers recently placed wreaths at the graves and memorials of veterans around Acushnet on 12/4/25 as part of Wreaths Across Fairhaven. Mr. Fish credited Kenny's Farm Stand in Fairhaven as a "great contributor." ABOVE LEFT: Volunteers get ready to place wreaths on the graves of veterans in Acushnet Cemetery on 12/4/25 as part of Wreaths Across Acushnet, an effort spearheaded by the Veterans Services Office. ABOVE MIDDLE: A wreath is placed at the memorial for Vietnam Veteran, LCpl James Ferro. ABOVE RIGHT: A wreath is placed in front of the World War II Memorial at Town Hall. Photos courtesy of Acushnet Veterans Services Office.

Boy Scouts help take down Benoit Square decorations



Members of Boy Scout Troop 52 in Fairhaven pose for a picture after earning some hot chocolate for helping members of the North Fairhaven Improvement Association take down the Christmas decorations in Benoit Square on Sunday, 1/3/26.

Photo from NFIA Facebook page.

Two die in Fairhaven home; 3 injured in stabbing on Cherry St.

Two Deaths On Jameson St.

*From Press Release Materials from
Bristol County DA and Fairhaven
Police Department*

Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn, III announced that a male and female were found deceased inside a Fairhaven home on 12/31/25. The decedents have been identified as 60-year-old Rafael Pedraza and 51-year-old Brenda Rosario both of Fairhaven. On Wednesday, 12/31, at about 7:03 p.m., Fairhaven Police received a request for a health and welfare check at 22 Jameson Street.

Officers, with assistance from the Fairhaven Fire Department, were able to make entry into the locked home.

Officers located both people unresponsive in a bedroom. Both were pronounced deceased at the scene.

An initial investigation revealed

there were no signs of forced entry. Drug paraphernalia along with suspected narcotics were present in the residence.

Based on the preliminary investigation, police believe this was an isolated incident and there is no threat to the public.

The investigation into the deaths is being coordinated by the Mass. State Police Detective Unit assigned to the Bristol County District Attorney's Office along with the Fairhaven Police Department.

Both decedents were transported to the Massachusetts Office of the Chief Medical Examiner pending an autopsy and official cause of death.

Cherry Street Stabbings

*Fairhaven Police Department Press
Release*

The Fairhaven Police Department is investigating a stabbing incident that occurred late Sunday night.

On Sunday, 1/4/26, at about 10:15 p.m., Fairhaven Police responded to a report of a stabbing that occurred outside of a home on Cherry Street following an altercation.

During the incident, three people suffered knife wounds. One victim was critically injured.

At the scene, Fairhaven Police located a firearm that was carried by the suspect. A search for the suspect is underway.

A preliminary investigation has determined the incident was not a random act. The victims and suspect are known to each other.

Fairhaven Police and Mass. State Police are investigating, but Fairhaven Police believe this was an isolated incident and there is no ongoing danger to the public.

As of press time, the police did not respond to a request asking about the identity of the suspect.

Martha's Vineyard couple dies when boat capsizes

*By Beth David
Editor*

Two pillars of the Martha's Vineyard fishing community were killed on New Year's day when their 47-foot skiff capsized during a sudden squall. A 911 call at 11 a.m. requested emergency response for two people in the water near a capsized boat. First responders found married couple, 69-year-old Patricia Bergeron and 77-year-old Roy Scheffer, both of Edgartown, MA, in the water in the proximity of the overturned vessel.

Both were unresponsive and not breathing, and were taken to Martha's Vineyard Hospital where they were pronounced deceased.

According to a press release from the Cape & Islands District Attorney's office, "...a significant weather system suddenly came through Martha's Vineyard that produced high winds and snow/sleet throughout the area. Reported abrupt worsening sea conditions also occurred at this time, which created sea swells of 6 feet and 20 knot winds."

Investigators later found that the boat's propeller was entangled by a polypropylene style line.

According to news reports, Mr. Scheffer's family has been in the fishing industry for generations. Ms. Bergeron worked at the hospital and was active in the Portuguese community on the island. Together, they operated an aquaculture farm, and were harvesting scallops off Cow Bay in Edgartown when the accident occurred. They both grew up on Martha's Vineyard.

Officials release transcripts of Brown shooter videos

*Statement released by U.S. Attorney's
Office for the District of Mass.*

The Department of Justice, alongside our law enforcement partners,

has been actively investigating the facts and circumstances surrounding the mass shooting at Brown University and the homicide of an

MIT professor in Brookline, Mass. The investigation into these horrific acts remains ongoing.

BROWN: cont'd on page 17

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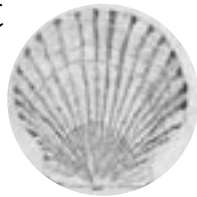
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BROWN: cont'd from page 14

As part of the investigation on Dec. 18, 2025, investigators executed a federal search warrant at a storage facility used by Claudio Manuel Neves Valente, the Portuguese national responsible for the senseless murders. During the search of the storage facility, the FBI recovered an electronic device containing a series of short videos made by Neves Valente after the shootings.

On 1/6/26 the Department of Justice released the transcripts of these videos, which have been translated from Portuguese to English. In these videos, Neves Valente admitted that he had been planning the Brown University shooting for a long time. Although Neves Valente stated that Brown University was his intended target, based on initial review of the evidence collected, he did not provide a motive for targeting students at Brown University or the professor at MIT.

Neves Valente showed no remorse during the recordings; on the contrary, he exposed his true nature

when he blamed innocent, unarmed children for their deaths at his hand and grumbled about a self-inflicted injury he suffered when he shot the MIT professor at close range. Our investigation into the motives behind Neves Valente's heinous acts will continue.

Based on the evidence seized and analyzed to date, authorities do not believe there are any ongoing public safety threats associated with the shootings. Additional updates will be provided as further information is developed and following appropriate victim notification.

The transcripts are available at <https://www.justice.gov/usao-ma/media/1422471/dl?inline>

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Donate to the *Neighb News* through a PayPal link on our website: www.neighbnews.com; or mail check to FNN, 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719.

Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven

Board of Public Works

Mon, 1/12, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

Commission on Disability

Thurs., 1/8, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Cultural Council

Wed., 1/14, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Economic Development

Thurs., 1/15, Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 1/15, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

Livable Streets

Thurs., 1/15, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board

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

School Committee

Wed., 1/14, Media Ctr/Lib., 6:30 p.m.

Select Board

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

Acushnet

Bicycle & Ped Safety

Thurs., 1/8, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Appeals

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

Conservation Comm.

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

Wed., 1/28, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Library Trustees

Fri., 1/9, Acushnet Library, 11:30 a.m.

Select Board

Tues., 1/20, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Jan. 2026		HIGH a.m.	LOW p.m.	LOW a.m.	HIGH p.m.
Thursday	1	0543	1808	1153*	2335*	
Friday	2	0632	1858	---	1252*	
Saturday	3	0722	1950	0032*	1355*	
Sunday	4	0813	2043	0133*	1445*	
Monday	5	0904	2133	0234*	1521*	
Tuesday	6	0952	2222	0321*	1551*	
Wednesday	7	1040	2313	0400*	1622*	
Thursday	8	1131	---	0440	1657	
Friday	9	0006	1224	0531	1741	
Saturday	10	0058	1316	0751	1840	
Sunday	11	0147	1406	0919	1936	
Monday	12	0238	1501	1031	2024	
Tuesday	13	0336	1605	1126	2114	

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

Public Hearings/Legal Notices

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

ACUSHNET CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Acushnet Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Meeting Room, located at 122 Main Street, Acushnet, Massachusetts

• **Public Hearing – NOI – Morses Lane, LLC / Map 18 Lot 67B – Morses Lane** A Notice of Intent was filed by Morses Lane, LLC for property located at Map 18, Lot 67B. The applicant proposes to construct a single-family house with associated driveway paving, grading, utilities, drainage, tree clearing and wetland replication within the 100' buffer to bordering vegetated wetlands and within 200' outer riparian

zone to Deep Brook, which is located off-site. Work within flood zone AE elevation 44.5 includes driveway paving, grading, utilities, drainage and tree clearing. The applicant is represented by Nyles Zager of Zenith Consulting Engineers, LLC. Plan name is "Subsurface Sewage Disposal System New Construction" dated December 8, 2025.

James Souza, Chair
FNN, 1/8/26

ACUSHNET CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Acushnet Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 beginning

at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Meeting Room, located at 122 Main Street, Acushnet, Massachusetts.

RDA

• **Public Hearing RDA – Bruce Wendell Carlson Living Trust & Susan Steele Carlson Living Trust, 355 Main Street, Map 22 Lot 19D.** A Request for Determination was filed by Bruce Wendell Carlson Living Trust & Susan Steele Carlson Living Trust for property located at 355 Main Street, Map 22, Lot 19D. The applicant proposes to demolish a fire damaged house and garage which will be removed from its foundation and loaded into dumpsters for proper off-site disposal. Said site work to be performed within the 100 ft. Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and within the 200 ft. Riverfront Boundary of a Brook. The applicant is represented by Schneider, Davignon & Leone, Inc.

James Souza, Chair
FNN, 1/8/26

From our readers

A Family Focus

What are your thoughts of family? I suspect the various answers to that question would correspond to the number of people who would choose to respond in a serious way. From the family of world citizens to the personal family each of us know, the ideas of family run forever. In this short note, my purpose is to move us toward a thoroughly practical answer. First, let us look at a few facts born out of history and personal experience.

A natural family is the fundamental biological and social structure. In that sense, we are all related. All natural family members are born because of genetic processes between a man and a woman. Families can grow and be blended in a variety of ways. No natural family is perfect but has an identifiable bent toward becoming more wholesome or a bent toward falling apart.

Families can be at war or peace. Families can be a place of security or insecurity. Families can be organized or disorganized, happy, or sad, functional, or dysfunctional, healthy, or sick, legal, or illegal, sacred, or

pagan, traditional, or unique, content or malcontent, negative or positive, large or small, and economically prosperous or poverty stricken. There is no doubt or conflict about it: Families run the spectrum of forms and conditions.

To say that Christianity is family oriented is supported by Jesus when He spoke of God for the first time as Father. The most powerful piece of evidence may be when He shared with His disciples the opening to the prayer most of us recognize. "Our FATHER who art in Heaven..."

The problem with Christianity being family oriented does not lie with Christ. It lies with so many of us who claim to be Christian but live daily lives in a joyless and chaotic struggle. That sick look of ours as Christians is not what other non-believing families would choose as their cure and nor should it be! Enough of that dead-end blather... Here is some hope from scripture!

1. A family that matures must have a common goal and similar interests. Like denominations or political parties, families with separate

agendas work against themselves. Christians must rally and purpose around Christ for their "community".

2. A family must have a unified focus. People, things, ideas, promotions, and projects are important; but for a Christian, the model of Jesus and becoming like Him must be the family focus.

3. A family must have a competent and balanced approach. Maintaining what is good and wholesome and building slowly but surely with a prayerful cover of God is the stability and progress of a Christian family.

4. A family must live to serve. Tripping someone up or down is one thing. Tripping over one another to help and edify is divine, and the obvious witness as real love one for another.

So, friends, if God is not our ultimate parent and Father, and His idea of family is not our purpose too, then we are only left with the ideas of man. Given that fateful option, all one would have left to say is...God help us!

Steven Bouley, Fairhaven

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Moby-Dick Marathon celebrates 30 years

The New Bedford Whaling Museum kicked off its 30th Annual Moby-Dick Marathon weekend with the Melville Scholars' Dinner & Lecture on Friday, January 2, 2026, in the Museum's Harbor View Gallery overlooking historic New Bedford Harbor. This special evening of insight, inspiration, and fellowship honored three decades of the Museum's beloved

Moby-Dick Marathon — a tradition that celebrates Herman Melville's enduring masterpiece and its timeless connections to literature, history, and the sea.

This year's marathon featured Mass. Poet Laureate Regie Gibson reading the famous opening line, "Call me Ishmael."

Actor Steven Weber took his turn

at the podium, reading the final chapter on Sunday morning.

Local Theatre Group, Culture*Park, performed Chapter 40, "Midnight on the Forecastle," in the museum's Cook Memorial Theater.

This year's attendance was in the 3000 range, breaking a record.

Learn more at <https://www.whalingmuseum.org>



ABOVE LEFT: Massachusetts Poet Laureate, Regie Gibson, reads the first chapter during the 30th annual Moby-Dick Marathon at the New Bedford Whaling Museum on 1/4/26. ABOVE RIGHT: Actor Steven Weber reads the last chapter with a thunderous performance. BELOW LEFT: Two spectators follow along on an electronic reader. BELOW RIGHT: Spectators, reading along, erupt in applause. Photos courtesy of Drew Furtado, NB Whaling Museum.



Hastings students collect toys for needy kids

The National Junior Honor Society at Elizabeth Hastings Middle School conducted a toy drive for the Toys for Tots program run by the US Marine Corps. Students collected two large bins of toys that were then distributed to needy children.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity which was created at the behest of the U. S. Marine Corps in 1991. The mission of the Foundation is to assist the U. S. Marine Corps in providing a tangible sign of hope to economically disadvantaged children at Christmas. They accept donations all year long. Visit <https://www.toysfortots.org/>

RIGHT: Members of the National Junior Honor Society at Elizabeth Hastings Middle School pose for a photo with the toys they collected for the Toys for Tots program run by the US Marine Corps., L-R: Mrs. Lisa Cadima (NJHS Advisor), Retired USMC Sgt. Kenneth Jandreau, Lainey Dobbins (NJHS President) and Alexander Khintibidze (NJHS Vice President). Submitted photo.



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