



# Fairhaven

# Neighborhood News

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



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with a big voice!

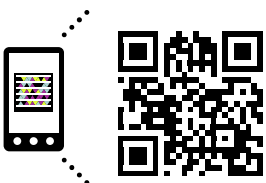
Volume 21, Issue 4 • January 15, 2026

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

## FHS football team recognized at state house



Fairhaven High School 2025 Division VI Super Bowl Champions pose for a group photo at the State House with Superintendent Tara Kohler, FHS principal Andy Kulak, coaches, and state representatives Mark Sylvia and Steve Ouellette on Wednesday, 1/7/26, when they were honored for their accomplishment with a day of activities on Beacon Hill. See page 12. *Photo courtesy of Rep. Mark Sylvia.*



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

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

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

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

# From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —  
A day late and many dollars short.



Publisher Beth David with  
Charlie, aka Evil Dog

So now, in America, being rude to a law enforcement officer is punishable by death on the spot. An ICE agent shot a woman in the face in Minneapolis (see page 11). The Big Buffoon said she was disrespectful, so it's okay that she was shot in the face.

How can any of you still support this fascist, sexist POS? It is insane that our government is sending masked goons in military gear all over the country terrorizing people. And when neighbors show up to object, they are brutally thrown to the ground and, now, shot in the face.

When Big Brother says "halt" or "go" or "sit" or "fetch" or "bark" or anything, you'd better do it or you're going to get shot in the face.

And do NOT tell me she was trying to run him down. Use your own f'g eyes. Believe your own eyes.

"The Party told you to reject the evidence of your eyes and ears. It was their final, most essential command." (George Orwell, 1984)

Being rude to a police officer is not a capital offense.

Trying to get away is not a capital offense.

Saying, "That's fine, dude, I'm not mad at you," is not a capital offense.

And even if those things were, the nearest cop with a gun does not get to play judge, jury, and executioner on the spot.

How is anyone okay with this?

His goons are going door to door looking for people to brutalize. His goons are stopping anyone they feel like stopping and demanding to see their papers...proof they are American citizens. Since when is that how freedom works? And, for the record, those of you who clearly missed fifth grade: It is not illegal to be in this country if you are not a citizen. Being foreign born is not illegal, it never was.

This guy is destroying everything that makes us who we are. So, who hates America, exactly?

And now he's declared himself the acting president of Venezuela?

You're in a damned cult. Get help.

The people pushing back and risking getting arrested and hurt, yes, very much hurt, by the ICE goons are the real patriots. They are good neighbors. They know what America is supposed to be about.

What will it take for you to wake up? Does he have to kill someone you know? Does he have to kill 1,000 people? 10,000? Or maybe just your 401K has to crash. What will it take?

There is nothing free about not being able to go about your business because government goons can detain you at any time for no reason, make you disappear, or shoot you in the face. Our democracy is ruined. And it will take generations to get it back.

Pay attention, Trumpers. Your guy is killing this country. Or, better yet, get fifth grade Social Studies/Civics class text book and read it. Read it twice if you have to.

Until next week, then, see ya,

Glory to Ukraine!  
Glory to the Heroes!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beth David".

# Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Volume 21, Issue 4

Thursday, January 15, 2026

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

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## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

# Fairhaven facing \$1.6 million deficit

By Beth David  
Editor

Fairhaven Town Administrator, Keith Hickey, presented a grim picture of the town's budget to the Select Board at its meeting on 1/12/26. Chairperson Charles Murphy, and member Andrew Saunders were both absent.

Mr. Hickey presented the budget calendar for FY27 and said department heads have submitted two budgets: One is a budget that funds department costs based on current services provided, the other is a level funded budget (same amount funded in FY26) with an explanation of which services will be affected.

The presentation numbers on Monday were based on historical increases and include wage adjustments, health insurance increase (15%), and increase to the school budget (3.6% + \$200K for NB Voc-Tech and Bristol Aggie). The overall budget increase is 4.3%. State revenues are estimated at 5.7% higher than FY26.

Based on those assumptions, expenditures for FY27 are \$64,894,290. Revenues are projected to be \$63,231,511

Mr. Hickey said the presented budget is a worst case scenario. He said several factors could change the numbers: new growth may be more than average due to the Department of Revenue completing their five-year tax evaluation, which would result in the town being able to raise more on the tax levy (property taxes); the state aid to cities and towns (Cherry Sheet) may come in higher; local receipts (excise taxes, building permits, etc.) may also come in higher.

He added, however, that it was unlikely that the town could find \$1.6 million in savings/revenue to make up the difference without cutting services.

The presentation projected revenues and expenditures out to FY31, with that year showing a \$9.2+ million deficit.

Mr. Hickey said that the "lion's share" of Fairhaven's property tax base is residential. If the town could get some kind of industrial businesses that the residents would support, that would help take some pressure off residents.

The discussion then turned to the possibility of a Proposition 2 1/2 over-

ride. Prop. 2 1/2 is a state law that limits the amount municipalities can increase taxes to 2 1/2 percent of the previous year's overall tax levy. The law has been in place since 1980. Municipalities can override the limit. In Fairhaven it requires a vote at Town Meeting to get it on the ballot and then a townwide vote.

Fairhaven Town Meeting passed a \$450,000 override attempt in 2023, but it failed at the ballot box by a resounding 1423-690 vote, with 16.6% of the electorate voting.

SB Vice Chair Andrew Romano said he would support an override, but noted that last time around a lot of people felt it was just a "bandage and not a solution."

He asked if they would be asking for a break-even year or to get ahead.

Mr. Hickey said the it would be a discussion with the SB and Finance Committee. He suggested a two-year fix.

Mr. Romano said if there is any chance of getting an override, it would have to be with the active participation of the SB, teachers, unions. He said they need to rally that

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## SELECT: cont'd from previous page

participation.

"We all understand how it is to live on a tricky budget," said Mr. Romano, noting the board has self employed and retired people.

He also said they have to recognize that they are sitting in "this marvel of a structure to have this meeting."

"We all have to be aware of the benefits of living in this town," said Mr. Romano, adding that every department is having the same discussion.

He said there is no more fat to cut in the budget.

Mr. Hickey added that if the override does not pass, they will have to cut every department, including public safety.

SB member Natalie Mello said they needed to get started to get the word out immediately.

Mr. Hickey said he would schedule information sessions, use social media and Cable TV, and hold coffee hours with residents.

The meeting is available on FairhavenTV.com and the presentation is included

In another matter, the board appointed Patrick Carr to the Capital

Planning Committee as the Construction Representative. Mr. Carr made his case for his appointment, talking about his business experience.

Departments have made \$21 million in capital requests. Mr. Carr said his business experience will help him prioritize projects.

He said when it's their own money, people spend wisely, when it's the town's money, maybe people are not necessarily making sure it is spent wisely.

Mr. Romano voiced his concern about Mr. Carr facing conflicts because of the other committees he is on. Mr. Carr said he would recuse himself if there is a conflict.

Mr. Romano also voiced his concern about appointing a Planning Board member to another board before the investigation into the Timothy/Hiller debacle is completed.

Mr. Carr said that town hall staff members were also being investigated. He said by Mr Romano's logic, the board would not be able to move forward with anyone "from here."

He said he had nothing to hide and was not worried about the investiga-

tion, and it has nothing to do with capital planning. If there is a violation, the SB, as the appointing body, can remove him, he said.

In the end, SB member Keith Silvia made the motion to nominate, Mr. Romano seconded the motion and the two voted in favor, with board member Natalie Mello voting, "no."

The board failed to appoint Cathy Melanson to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Associate member. Mr. Silvia made the motion to appoint, but it did not receive a second, so the motion died.

The board also unanimously approved a liquor license transfer for South Coast Wine and Spirits, 355 Huttleston Avenue, to Shree Ashtavinayek, Inc.

Mr. Hickey announced that the Harbormaster had secured \$1 million in grant money for the remaining work at Union Wharf. The town will have to provide \$280K for the balance.

The public works department also received funds to pave the parking lot at the Pease Park boat ramp.

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# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## Citizen Petitions Deadline

Fairhaven will hold its annual Town Meeting on Sat., 5/2/26 in the auditorium at the Elizabeth I. Hastings Middle School, 30 School Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719

Citizen's Petition deadline is noon, Tues., 2/5. Visit <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/town-moderator/>

For a Citizens Petition form visit: <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Citizens-Petition.pdf>

Contact the Town Clerk's office, 508-479-4023 for information on how to submit an article.

## 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](mailto:fairhavenrtc@gmail.com), on [facebook@ Fairhaven Republican Town Committee](https://www.facebook.com/FairhavenRepublicanTownCommittee) or call Chairman Bob McConnell @ 508-863-0416. Please join us, you are most welcome!

## Dem Meeting

The next monthly meeting of the Fairhaven Democratic Town Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 21st at 6pm at the Fairhaven Senior Center. We will discussing our annual caucus and future events that we will be holding. Please join us, all are welcome.

For more information please contact [ann.richard@gmail.com](mailto:ann.richard@gmail.com)

## Scholarships Applications

Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars proudly announces over 45 scholarships now available for 2026.

Application period is February 1, 2026 thru April 1, 2026.

For a full list of scholarships and details on how to apply go to <https://fairhaven.dollarsforscholars.org>.

Create your profile now and be ready to apply starting Feb 1, 2026!

NEW scholarships are being added constantly. Between Feb 1st and April 1st check your profile weekly to see what NEW scholarships you qualify for both at the local and national level. Scholarships are awarded for a variety of reasons, including academics, sports, community service, chosen major, and more.

Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars chapter is a nonprofit foundation that supports academic success in our community. As part of Scholarship America's national network of locally based, volunteer-driven Dollars for Scholars chapters, our mission is to mobilize our community on behalf of postsecondary education success for our students.

## Vendors Wanted

Discover Fairhaven's first lineup of events in 2025 was an absolute BANG! Thousands of residents and visitors came out to enjoy themed celebrations, unique vendors, and lively entertainment. And in 2026, the fun keeps rolling—with old favorites and fresh twists to make unforgettable memories in our charming coastal town.

NEXT EVENT: Fairhaven's 214th Birthday Celebration, Sun., 2/22

Help us celebrate our town's rich history in Fairhaven's historic heart!

Fees: Artisan tables/tents, \$50; Table food/drink, \$60; food trucks, \$70; nonprofits and town departments, free.

Other events coming up in 2026: Friday-Sunday, May 15-17, MA250 Harbor of Courage, American Revolution's First Naval Engagement; Sat., 7/4, Fourth of July Parade; Sat., 7/25, Food Truck Flavor Fest; Sat.,

9/19, Swords and Sales, a Seaport Medieval Faire; Sat., 12/12, Olde-Tyme Holiday Village.

Visit <https://www.discoverfairhaven.org/2026events> for more information and link to the vendor form.

## 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: 2/19/26.

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](http://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>

# HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

## At the Z

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

On Sat. 1/17 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 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.

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.

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.

## 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](mailto: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.

## Dock-U-Mentary

Fri., 1/16, 7 p.m. NB Whaling National Historical Park, 33 William Street. Doors open at 6:30.

A WBZ-TV original documentary, *Love & Grease* explores the history of Gloucester's Greasy Pole competition. Each year during the five-day St. Peter's Fiesta, local men take turns traversing a greased telephone pole suspended horizontally over the Gloucester harbor, attempting to snag a pennant affixed at the end. The tradition was brought to the United States by Italian fishermen in the 19th century. The competition and the Fiesta remain an important part of Gloucester's fishing and maritime heritage. The film features interviews with past champions and community members, showcasing the event's history and cultural significance. Prepare for a captivating look at this unusual tradition, from its origins to present-day celebration. Runtime: 49 minutes.

The film screening is a special tie-in with the Center's ongoing exhibit, Ceremonies & Celebrations, which explores the history of the New Bedford Scallop Festival, Working Waterfront Festival, Blessing of the Fleet, and Fishermen's Memorial Service.

Register for free at <https://fishingheritagecenter.org/dock-umentary-love-and-grease/>

Hosted in partnership with New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, Dock-u-mentaries is a free film series hosted at the National Park

auditorium every third Friday at 7:00pm from October through April. These films explore a variety of themes and topics related to the commercial fishing industry and the working waterfront.

## Ham & Bean Supper

Please join us on Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 5:30 pm at the Our Lady of Purgatory Maronite Catholic Church Parish Center, 4254 Acushnet Avenue, New Bedford, for our annual Ham & Bean Supper. In addition to Ham & Beans we'll be serving Macaroni & Cheese, homemade cornbread, coleslaw, desserts and beverages...an opportunity to share some comfort food and the laughter of family and friends on a cold January night.

The donation is only \$20.00 or \$5.00 for children under 10 years old.

For tickets or more information please call the Parish Office at 508-996-8934 or email [officeolop@gmail.com](mailto:officeolop@gmail.com).

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If you like our food, you'll love this limited offer!

The 2026 OLOP Dining Books, with tickets for six (6) OLOP Dining Events, a \$100.00 value, are available for only \$85.00 for a limited time.

For More Information call the Parish Office at (508) 996-8934 or e-mail us [officeolop@gmail.com](mailto:officeolop@gmail.com).

## Women on Target

The New Bedford Rod and Rifle Club proudly hosts NRA's Women's Instructional Shooting Clinic, Sun., 2/22, from 10am till 2pm, at our club, 246 Bolton St., New Bedford, MA 02740

Come join us and receive a basic level of firearm safety instruction so that you will know how to safely handle firearms. Then, under the direct supervision of a Certified Firearms Instructors, you will enjoy some hands-on experience with both revolvers and semi-automatic handguns. This clinic is FREE for any woman. Learn the safe and proper way to handle firearms.

\*\*\*This event does NOT fulfill the requirements to obtain your Massachusetts LTC License\*\*\* Limited seating; must register to attend.

If you have any questions and want to register for this event please contact Michael DaRoza 508-294-4082

## History's Swindlers

Join Robert Ainsworth at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow St., 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. Accessible.

### Food Drive

From now until the end of January, we are collecting donations for local food pantries in the form of non-perishable food, pet food, diapers, cleaning supplies, and items to support personal hygiene. Thank you to those who have already donated. Your generosity has made all the difference!

## Author Event

Meet author Robert Barboza and pick up his latest volume of stories about soldiers, sailors, shipbuilders and other Patriots from the South Coast region, Sat., 1/17, from 10 am – 1 pm, at the Bell School, 25 Drift Road, Westport.

*Patriots of the South Coast* is a collection of newspaper articles on Revolutionary War history printed over the years in area publications, revised and expanded with new research materials. The new volume was assembled and published in time to coincide with the ongoing nationwide celebration of the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. His goal was to ensure that these little-known local stories were collected and preserved for posterity as part of the permanent historical record of the South Coast.

His book includes some Westport individuals such as Continental Marine Captain Stephen Earl, who served with famous naval commander John Paul Jones.

Tour the newly renovated Bell school and history center!

The history center serves as the office for the Westport Historical Society as well as providing ample climate-controlled storage space for the collection of historical artifacts and archives. Free and open to all. For

information visit [www.wpthistory.org](http://www.wpthistory.org)

## 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](http://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.

## Black Sea Bass Mtg

The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is seeking public input on preferred approaches to liberalize the state's recreational black sea bass measures for 2026. Per recent decisions of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission and Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, a coastwide harvest increase of 20% has been authorized.

DMF will be holding a virtual public scoping meeting on Tues., 1/20, at 6:00 PM. Register for the Zoom-based meeting at <https://tinyurl.com/3sd2yyt8>

Additionally, DMF has created a short survey to collect input on what management measure (i.e., bag limit, size limit, season length) should be prioritized for changing. The survey is available at <https://tinyurl.com/bdz43pmx>.

Please respond by January 18 so that we can review and discuss public preferences and potential management options at the scoping meeting.

Black sea bass are a coastwide

species managed jointly by the Atlantic coastal states and federal partners. While these entities set harvest targets, it is the goal of DMF to select management measures within that framework that will best serve our recreational fishing communities. All states are expected to submit a range of proposed measures to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission for review and approval in mid-March. DMF anticipates announcing the 2026 recreational black sea bass measures by early April.

For more information, contact Nichola Meserve at [nichola.meserve@mass.gov](mailto:nichola.meserve@mass.gov) or 978-290-1672.

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/division-of-marine-fisheries>

## At Acushnet Library

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

- Kids Creative Writing Workshop (6-18 year-olds): Sat., Jan. 24 at 1 pm
- Youth Art Exhibition: Collection Days: Sat., Jan. 17 and Exhibition on Jan. 31 (all day during library hours)
- Thurs., 1/22, 11 am History Coffee Hour. Join this informal meeting to share stories and photos of Acushnet's past.
- Thurs., 2/5, 11:00 am Readers' Group Morning Edition. This group is currently reading *Water for Elephants* by Sara Gruen.
- Thurs., 2/5, 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 Sat., 1/31. The public will judge entries in multiple categories, and ribbons will be awarded.



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

## Supportive Social Day Program

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

## Mall Trips

Reservations accepted for mall trips at beginning the 15th of the prior month. There is a \$6 charge unless otherwise noted. Please bring exact amount. The van leaves the Fairhaven Senior Center promptly at 9: 1/21, Provience Place Mall; 1/28, So. Shore Plaza; 2/4, First Light Casino; 2/11, Westgate Mall.

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

## Empowering Older Adults With Technology

Must call to sign up: 508-979-4029. Don't forget to bring your smart phone.

Mon., 1/26, 1:30–3:30. Learn how to operate your Android phone.

Mon., 2/2, 1:30–3:30. Learn all about helpful apps on your iPhone/Android phone.

## Wellness Clinic & Blood Pressure Check

With Fairhaven Community Nurse. Every Wed., from 11:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

## 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.

# 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>**

## 2026 Kool Kids Summer Camp

The Kool Kids summer program is up and ready for your children to register for 1 or 10 weeks of summer fun. Check it out and register at [fairhavenrecreation.activityreg.com](http://fairhavenrecreation.activityreg.com)

## Kool Kids February Vacation

Get ready for a fantastic time at the February Vacation program.

Designed for children in kindergarten through 7th grade, each day is packed with fun activities, including games, team building challenges, STEAM projects and art.

Your child will make new friends and create lasting memories. Don't forget to pack a lunch, snacks, a

reusable water bottle, and be sure to wear comfy clothes and sneakers!

Program runs Feb 17th–20th (Tuesday–Friday) 8am–4pm Member \$170, non member \$180. Fairhaven Recreation Staff

## Family Feud Game Night

Fairhaven Recreation Center Survey says... fun for the whole family! Join us for an exciting evening of laughter, friendly competition, and classic Family Feud action! Families will team up to guess the top answers and see who can climb to the top of the scoreboard?? Enjoy snacks and punch while cheering on your family and friends!! Small prizes for our winning team! All ages welcome! Spaces may be limited, so register early at the Fairhaven

Recreation Center or online at [fairhavenrecreation.activityreg.com](http://fairhavenrecreation.activityreg.com) \$10 per resident team of 3–5 \$15 per non-resident team of 3–5. Friday, January 30th, 5:00–6:30 PM

## Cereal Box Piñata

Get ready for a smashing good time! Join us at the Rec Center on February 11th from 4pm–5pm for a fun and creative program where you'll transform cereal boxes into colorful pinatas! Don't miss out on this exciting DIY adventure! Sign up today and get creative with friends! Age: 7–12 years old Date: February 11th Time: 4pm–5pm Location: Rec Center Cost: \$15 member \$20 non-member (cereal box not included) Supplies: Provided by the Rec Center including candy/stickers/toys

## Recipe of the Week

### Minestrone Soup

2 Tbsp. olive oil  
 2 carrots, diced  
 2 celery stalks, diced  
 2 zucchini, diced  
 1 yellow bell pepper, diced  
 1 onion, diced  
 1 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes  
 2 tsp. kosher salt, plus more to taste  
 1 tsp. black pepper, plus more to taste  
 2 qt. low-sodium chicken broth  
 1 (28-ounce) can diced tomatoes, with their juices  
 1 tsp. dried basil  
 1 tsp. dried oregano  
 1/4 tsp. turmeric (optional)  
 1 (15-ounce) can kidney beans, drained and rinsed  
 1 (15-ounce) can white beans, drained and rinsed  
 1 cup cut-up green beans, fresh or frozen  
 8 oz. ditalini pasta  
 1/2 cup fresh parsley, chopped  
 Prepared pesto, for serving  
 Shaved parmesan cheese, for serving

In a large Dutch oven, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the carrots, celery, zucchini, bell pepper, onion, red pepper flakes, salt, and pepper and cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables begin to soften, 3 to 5 minutes.

Add the chicken broth, tomatoes, basil, oregano, and turmeric (if using) and bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer and cook for 10 minutes. Stir in the kidney beans, white beans, and green beans and cook for 5 minutes. Taste and adjust the seasoning.

Stir in the pasta and cook until it is cooked through, about 10 minutes. Stir in the parsley.

Serve the minestrone in bowls with a dollop of pesto and a sprinkling of parmesan cheese.

*From thepioneerwoman.com*



wanted to comfort my mom with caring words when she lost her good friend.

But I couldn't; all I could do was growl at the kid and sit close to my mom. Not being able to share my thoughts sometimes makes me feel like a loser.

*Austin*

*Dear Austin,*

I wonder if that's how humans feel when they are in a foreign country and can't speak the language. They can learn another language. Whereas you, on the other paw, will never be able to communicate in words, no

## Dear Frankie

### One Wish

*Dear Frankie,*  
 If I could make one wish, it would be to talk.

I wish I could have told that kid who kicked me precisely what I thought and reported him to the police. I also

matter how much you wish or try.

It's fine to think about what it would be like to talk, but calling yourself a loser for something beyond your control and your ability is not constructive.

I think one of the reasons humans love dogs is that they listen and don't talk.

My mom says the greatest gift you can give someone is your undivided attention. Take pride in your ability to stay by your mom's side in her time of need.

*Best, Frankie*

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

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# ICE agent's killing of Minneapolis mom sparks protests

By Beth David  
Editor

An ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agent shot and killed 37-year-old Renee Nicole Good, a mother of three and award winning poet, on 1/7/26 as she drove away during an ICE operation in the streets of Minneapolis, where she lived.

The shooting was captured on video by several bystanders and widely distributed immediately, sparking outrage across the country.

President Trump and members of his administration immediately branded Ms. Good a domestic terrorist and said she ran over the ICE agent. Video shows him walking away uninjured after the encounter.

The videos are widely available on all major news outlets.

The incident sparked vigils and protest across the country, including locally.

The federal government sent hundreds of additional agents to Minnesota sparking daily confrontations.

Videos of ICE agents dragging people out of cars, and violently detaining people with no cause across the country, have awakened a sustained opposition to the tactics used by the Trump administration under the guise of removing violent illegal immigrants.

Hours after Renee Good's shooting, ICE agents raided a high school in Minneapolis, where they pepper-sprayed educators, sparking confrontations with parents.

According to the New York Times, PBS, and other leading news outlets, the Trump administration ordered local federal prosecutors to investigate Ms. Good's wife, instead of investigating the shooting, prompting

10 federal prosecutors in Washington DC and in Minnesota to resign in protest.

National organizers are planning a national "Walkout for Our Freedoms" on January 20.

"On January 20 at 2 PM local time, we will walk out of work, school, and commerce because a Free America begins the moment we stop cooperating with fascism," reads the website 50501 website.

Visit <https://www.fiftyfifty.one> or <https://indivisible.org> for information on nationwide actions.



TOP: Scores of people attend a vigil on 1/9/26 at the corner of Main Street and Route 6 in Fairhaven in honor of Renee Nicole Good, who was shot and killed by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent in Minneapolis as she drove away during an ICE operation. *Photo courtesy of Fairhaven Democratic Town Committee.* ABOVE LEFT: Protesters line Route 6 at the intersection of North Street in Mattapoisett on 1/11/26 in response to the death of Renee Nicole Good. *Photo courtesy from Mattapoisett Democratic Town Committee Facebook page.* ABOVE RIGHT: Protesters line the pedestrian bridge to the commuter rail in New Bedford on 1/10/26 in response to the death of Renee Nicole Good. *Photo courtesy of Ann Richard.*

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# Football team recognized at state house

## Press Release

The Fairhaven High School Blue Devils Football Team, winners of the MIAA Division 6 Super Bowl Championship, were honored on Wednesday, 1/7/26, with a special visit to the Massachusetts State House as guests of State Representative Mark Sylvia (D-Fairhaven) and Senator Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford).

The championship team earned the title with a victory over Norwell and was welcomed to Beacon Hill for a day of recognition and celebration. Senator Montigny greeted the team, coaches, and school leaders at Fairhaven High School in the morning for an official sendoff to Beacon Hill. Representative Sylvia then hosted the group for a guided tour of the State House, followed by a pizza lunch in honor of their outstanding season and championship achievement.

During the visit, the team got to see both the House and Senate Chambers in action, received a special look inside Governor Maura Healey's formal office, and had the opportunity to meet Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll prior to her presiding over a meeting of the Governor's Council.

Representative Sylvia and Senator Montigny also presented official citations to the players, coaches, and Fairhaven High School, recognizing the team's championship success and the dedication behind the program. Superintendent Tara Kohler and Principal Andy Kolak accepted the

award on behalf of Fairhaven High School for their football program.

Special acknowledgment was given to Head Coach Derek Almeida, who was recently named Coach of the Year by the New England Patriots, an honor highlighting his leadership and commitment to student-athletes.

This season marked the third year in a row that the Blue Devils played in Division 6 Super Bowl Championship, winning twice.

"This team represents the very best of Fairhaven and Acushnet — hard work, discipline, teamwork, and community pride," said Representative Sylvia. "As their State Representative and a proud fellow Blue Devil, it was an honor to welcome them to the State House and celebrate a truly historic accomplishment."

"The exemplary sportsmanship, teamwork, and hard work displayed by these young athletes and their coaches has instilled tremendous pride in Fairhaven and they deserve the highest of accolades," said Senator Montigny. "We are beyond proud of each and every student



athlete on this championship team."

Fairhaven High School serves students from both Fairhaven and Acushnet. In addition to representing the Fairhaven students on the team, Reps. Sylvia and Steven Ouellette both represent portions of Acushnet and members on the team.

"Having the team in the House Chamber to witness the opening of the legislative session was a meaningful way to begin the New Year," said Rep. Steven Ouellette. "It was a pleasure to share in their excitement and to congratulate them on their outstanding achievement."

The visit provided players with a memorable experience at the seat of state government and a well-earned celebration of their remarkable season. A great time was had by all.



ABOVE: State Sen. Mark Montigny poses with the Fairhaven High School 2025 Division VI Super Bowl Champions and their coaches before the team heads out for a day of activities at the state house on 1/7/26. *Submitted photo.* ABOVE: Mass. Lt. Gov. Kim Driscoll tosses the football to a Blue Devil team member in the governor's office. *Photo courtesy of Rep. Mark Sylvia.*

# Martin Luther King Jr. Day events

Monday, 1/19/26, is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Here are some local events commemorating the day. This year's theme is *Mission Possible II: Building Community, Uniting a Nation the Nonviolent Way*.

"This theme is more than a banner; it's a blueprint for action," reads The King Center website. "It guides our programming, fuels our outreach, and anchors our commitment to building the Beloved Community; a world where injustice ends, violence is replaced by compassion, and love becomes the prevailing force."

Learn more about Dr. King at <https://thekingcenter.org>

## New Bedford's Annual Community Program

The City's annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Community Program will be held on Sunday, Jan. 18 from 3-4:30 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 133 School St., New Bedford.

Sponsored by the City's Department of Community Services and its Human Rights Commission, the Office of the Mayor, and the SouthCoast Community Foundation, the program will feature musical performances, remarks from Mayor Jon Mitchell, and keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Ray Hammond.

The Senior and Founding Pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church in Boston, Rev. Dr. Hammond is a man of many hats with a heart for social justice and a deep commitment to community. He is the co-founder and Chairman of the Ten Point Coalition, an ecumenical group of Christian clergy and lay leaders focused on issues affecting black and Latino youth. He serves as a trustee of the Yawkey Foundation, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation, BMC Health System, and the

MATCH School. He previously served as chairman of The Boston Foundation.

Sunday's program also features addresses from the Creative Expression Contest winners, as well as inspirational musical performances.

All are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact the MLK Planning Committee at [MLK@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:MLK@newbedford-ma.gov) or at 508-979-1692.

## BCC Annual Breakfast

Join Bristol Community College for its 26th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Breakfast on Monday, January 19, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. The event is free and open to all. Please register to help us with our planning at <https://bristolcc.wufoo.com/forms/qddspk11znayq/>

The breakfast will be held in the Commonwealth College Center (G building) on the Bristol Fall River Campus, 777 Elsbree St., and will include a breakfast buffet, a keynote address and resource tables hosted by community organizations.

The event will feature the unveiling of a portrait of Captain Thomas J. Hudner, Jr., a Fall River native and Medal of Honor recipient who, during the Korean War, risked his life attempting to save his fellow squadron mate and wingman, Ensign Jesse L. Brown, the first African American to complete Navy flight training. The portrait, created by artist Brian Fox and donated by Paul Burke, will be permanently displayed at the college as a symbol to justice, character and community.

The keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Sean Edmund Rogers, Dean of the University of Rhode Island (URI) College of Business.

Dr. Rogers is Dean of the URI College of Business, the Alfred J. Verrecchia-Hasbro Inc. Leadership

Chair and Professor of Management. Previously, he served as URI's Vice President of Community, Equity, and Diversity.

Before joining URI, he held faculty appointments at Cornell University, New Mexico State University and the University of New Mexico, and prior to that worked in finance and industrial engineering at several Fortune 500 firms. Dr. Rogers is a U.S. Army combat veteran and currently serves as a healthcare administration officer in the Air Force Reserve.

An expert in human resource management and leadership, he has authored more than 30 scholarly articles and two books, delivered more than 80 keynote addresses and workshops, and regularly provides consulting to business executives and nonprofit organizations. Dr. Rogers earned his Ph.D. from Rutgers University and has degrees from Brown University, Wake Forest University, University of Illinois and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. He is a Life Member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and a member of Martin Luther King Jr. Lodge Number 29, Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons, in Arizona.

The event will also include about 12 resource tables by nonprofit organizations offering services and information.

For details, visit <https://bristolcc.edu/student-services/resources/multiculturalaffairs/mlk.html>

## Support Bristol Students

Guests are encouraged to bring donated nonperishable, shelf-stable food items to the community breakfast that will be collected for Bristol's Office for Basic Needs Support, which connects students with basic needs support and community resources.

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# Explore Abolition Row with the Walking Book Tour

Our next South Coast Walking Book Tour features "Master Slave Husband Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom" by Ilyon Woo. We'll use the Pulitzer prize winning book to explore New Bedford's Abolition Row on Thurs., 1/22, from 2-4 p.m.

We are excited to explore New Bedford's Abolition Row and the Nathan and Polly Johnson House, accompanied by *Master Slave Husband*

*Wife: An Epic Journey from Slavery to Freedom*, which recounts the self-emancipation of Ellen and William Craft and their bold escape from Macon, Georgia to the North where they stayed as guests for a time at the Johnson's home.

Winner of the 2024 Pulitzer Prize for Biography, the book was named one of the best books of the year by The New York Times, The New Yorker,

Time, NPR, Smithsonian Magazine, and Oprah Daily. It will be a thrill to highlight the Crafts' connection to New Bedford and to walk in their footsteps.

The event is free but please register at <https://southcoastalmanac.com/walking-book-club/> to receive meetup information.

Sponsored in part by the New Bedford Cultural Council and the Mass Cultural Council.

# NE Patriots honor local Community Nurse volunteer

*Press Release*

The New England Patriots Foundation announced \$185,000 in grants to 17 local nonprofits in honor of each Patriots Difference Maker named during the 2025 Celebrate Volunteerism initiative.

The Celebrate Volunteerism initiative aims to share examples of dedicated volunteers, build awareness of the need for volunteering, identify and educate others about volunteer opportunities and inspire New Englanders to follow the Kraft family's example of becoming lifelong volunteers.

Though the spirit of volunteerism is felt throughout New England year-round, the Kraft family, the New England Patriots Foundation and cornerstone partner Gillette celebrated the season long initiative in a special pregame ceremony during the Patriots regular season finale versus the Miami Dolphins on Sunday, Jan. 4 at Gillette Stadium.

Throughout the season, the foundation presented a weekly "Patriots Difference Maker of the Week" award, which aims to recognize deserving volunteers who go above and beyond to help build stronger New England communities. Chairman and CEO of the Kraft Group and the New England Patriots Robert Kraft was on the field prior to the game to congratulate all of this year's winners.

"We are proud to honor volunteers across New England whose service reflects the values that strengthen our region," said Mr. Kraft. "Their dedication supports our communities and upholds the principles that have long defined New England. The individuals we recognize today show how acts of service and kindness can

spark meaningful change and encourage others to get involved."

At Sunday's game, the Kraft family announced that each of the Patriots Difference Makers would be receiving a \$10,000 grant to support the nonprofit organizations for which they volunteer. They also presented a \$25,000 grant to Community Nurse, Inc. on behalf of the 2025 Patriots Difference Maker of the Year, Madeline Cooke.

Madeline is an extraordinary Hospice Volunteer who gives her time and heart to patients in their homes and in nursing facilities. She began volunteering with the Hospice program during the pandemic and, despite the challenges, was the only volunteer who continued visiting patients. Her dedication provided families with much-needed respite and gave patients the priceless gift of companionship during a time when isolation was overwhelming.

"To be chosen as a Difference Maker promoting volunteerism has been amazing," said Madeline. "This honor inspires me going forward to do more for hospice patients and their families. And by the way, this January 4th presentation was my first NFL game ever! Needless to say, I'm now a huge Patriots fan."

She is truly a trailblazer, determined to walk alongside patients and their loved ones with dignity, grace, and compassion. Madeline's unwavering dedication makes a profound difference, and her example inspires others to follow in her footsteps. She embodies the very spirit of a Difference Maker.

The 2025 Patriots Difference Makers of the Week range in age from 22 to 76 and support communities across New England. Charitable



Madeline Cooke from Marion, Mass. was selected as the 2025 Patriots Difference Maker of the Year for her commitment to Community Nurse, Inc. As part of this recognition, the Kraft family, the New England Patriots Foundation and Gillette will be making a \$25,000 donation to support the nonprofit. *Submitted photo.*

causes include disability support, healthcare, homelessness, youth mentoring and more. These volunteers have collectively dedicated more than 122 years to giving back to their communities.

"We are honored to partner with the Kraft family and the New England Patriots Foundation to celebrate this year's exceptional Patriots Difference Makers," said Kara Buckley, Vice President of Communications and Community Affairs at P&G Gillette. "For over a century, Gillette has been part of the New England community and focused on bringing out the best in others. These remarkable volunteers embody that same commitment — representing the best of the best in community service. Their selfless-

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



**UU Society of Fairhaven welcomes all!**

January theme: Nurturing Justice

**10 a.m. Jan. 18: "Pleasure Activism"**

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

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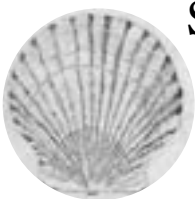
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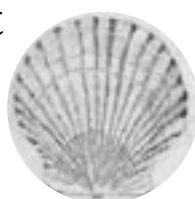


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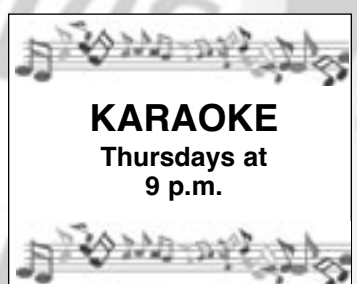
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The Town of Fairhaven Board of Public Works is accepting applications for the position of Administrative Assistant. Job Description available upon request by emailing bpw@fairhaven-ma.gov  
Deadline for applying is January 30, 2026.  
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**COOK: cont'd from page 14**

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## Upcoming Meetings

### Fairhaven

**Atlas Tack Working Group**

Thurs., 1/22, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

**Economic Development**

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

**Finance Committee**

Thurs., 1/22, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

**Livable Streets**

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

**School Committee**

Wed., 2/11, Media Ctr/Lib., 6:30 p.m.

**Select Board**

Tues., 1/20, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Mon., 1/26, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

**SRPEDD**

Tues., 1/20, Remote, 1 p.m.

**Sustainability Comm**

Tues., 1/20, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

### Acushnet

**Board of Appeals**

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

**Conservation Comm.**

Wed., 1/28, Town Hall, 6 p.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. p.m.		LOW a.m. p.m.
Thursday	15	0525	1748	---	1255
		---	---	---	2257
Friday	16	0606	1828	---	1335
		---	---	---	2336
Saturday	17	0644	1907	---	1255
Sunday	18	0723	1947	0014	1312
Monday	19	0804	2029	0057	1346
Tuesday	20	0845	2111	0144	1423*
Wednesday	21	0927	2153	0232*	1459*
Thursday	22	1009	2238	0315*	1536*
Friday	23	1056	2329	0358*	1615*
Saturday	24	1149	---	0445*	1700*
Sunday	25	0024	1246	0542	1756*

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

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# Public Hearings/Legal Notices

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

### PROPOSED CHANGES TO PERSONNEL POLICY — PUBLIC HEARING

This hearing is to present and receive public comment on proposed updates to the Town of Fairhaven Personnel Policy, designed to align benefits for non-union employees per Chapter 61 § 5-B of the Town Bylaws.

Monday, February 9, 2026 at 6:30pm, Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Center Street.

FNN: 1/15/26, 1/22/26

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Monday, January 26, 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=VFdUQkhzdVYrNzJlQktlVl9XSzGppZz09>

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 023-546, SE 023-1519: 4 Earle Street, Map 31A, Lot 453** Notice of Intent filed by Joel Cordero to construct a single-family house, garage, raised deck, driveway and the extension of an existing gravel road within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

b. **CON 023-547, SE 023-\_\_\_: 7 Pierce's Point, Map 28, Lot 32A** Notice of Intent filed by The John J. Behan & Cynthia A. Behan Revocable Trust to construct a 3-bedroom single-family house in compliance with the requirements of FEMA and Mass Building Code for construction within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage VE (EI.18') and to connect to municipal water system with the installation of approximately 68' of 1" diameter water service pipe from the house to the future new water main located within the Peirce's Point roadway layout.

c. **CON 023-548: 1 Mina Street** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by William J. Alphonse Revocable Trust to install underground utilities & to fill and grade partially within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland. The work is associated with the proposed construction of a single-family dwelling, which will be located outside of the WPA jurisdiction. Work performed within maintained lawn area of a partially developed lot.

d. **CON 023-549, SE 023-\_\_\_: 450 Bridge Street, Map 38, Lot 16K** Notice of Intent filed by Brian Corey to construct single-family dwelling, septic system, utilities, and associated site work located within the Nasketucket River Basin overlay district.

e. **CON 023-550: 4 Ruth Street, Map 43, Lots 140-142** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Robert Bates to replace existing vinyl fence on north side of property (along Ruth Street) with masonry wall within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, FEMA Flood Zone VE (EI.18').

The agenda will be posted on the Town's website at

least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Copies of the applications and site plans may be viewed at the Conservation Office in Town Hall, located at 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA and links to the applications are on the Town Website under current filings.

Brandon J. Estrella, Chair  
Fairhaven Conservation Commission  
FNN: 1/15/26

## Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

Tuesday February 3rd, at 6:00 p.m. Town Hall  
Banquet Room, 40 Center Street  
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Public Hearing In-Person at Town Hall or

via Zoom. Join the Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94115137952?pwd=MXp0VWpkTFBEUmluT1pWSCtiVzJQQT09>  
or call 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 941 1513  
7952 Passcode: 361259

1. REF# ZBA-026-001: 1 Homestead Avenue. Map 25, Lot 044. Applicant and Owner: Janis Sharek and Lacey Quinn seeks special permit for hair salon in home business. Pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning bylaw 198-23B-2

2. REF# ZBA-026-002: 14 Hawthorne Street. Map 22, Lot 217. Applicant and Owner: Brendan Wilson seeks a Special Permit for an in-home office for a construction business. Asking for storage of a dump trailer and pickup truck. Pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-23 & 198-33B Regulation Schedule.

3. REF# ZBA-026-003: 3&S Starboard Drive. Map 42, Lot 009L. Applicant and Owner: "Starboard Drive Estate" seeks a variance to keep 2 original houses on same lot as existing, use one as an ADU and a variance to allow for over half of living space, oversized. Pursuant to ADU guidelines half of main dwelling or up to 900 square feet.

Patrick Carr, Chair, Fairhaven ZBA  
FNN: 1/15/26, 1/22/26

## Fairhaven Police investigate pedestrian accident

### Press Release

The Fairhaven Police Department and law enforcement partners are investigating a serious crash involving a pedestrian.

On Saturday, Jan. 10, at 6:02 p.m., the Fairhaven Police and Fire Departments were dispatched to the area of

Howland Road and Garrison Street for a report of a crash involving a vehicle and a pedestrian.

First responders arrived to discover a crash that left an adult pedestrian with serious injuries. The driver involved in the crash remained at the scene.

Fairhaven Police are conducting an active and ongoing investigation into this crash with assistance from the Massachusetts State Police Collision Analysis and Reconstruction Section, and State Police Detectives attached to the Bristol County District Attorney's Office.

## Fairhaven police arrest one in Cherry Street stabbings

Fairhaven Detectives have made one arrest in the multi person stabbing. After a thorough investigation Gavin Massas, 21 years old of New Bedford, has been placed into custody.

He is being charged with Assault and Battery with Dangerous Weapon (Firearm), Two counts of Assault to Murder With a Firearm, Assault and Battery Dangerous Weapon (Knife), Assault and Battery Dangerous Weapon With Severe Bodily Injury (Knife), Carry Loaded Firearm Without a License, Disorderly Conduct, and Disturbing the Peace.

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

fight. Three people suffered knife wounds, and one victim was critically injured. Through a preliminary investigation, Detectives identified Massas as the suspect.

At the scene of the stabbing, Fairhaven Police located a firearm carried by Massas. Following a thorough investigation, Massas was located and taken into custody without incident on Tuesday, 1/6.

Gavin Massas was arraigned in Third District Court in New Bedford on January 7 and ordered held without bail. He faces a dangerousness hearing on 1/16/26.

This incident is still under investigation. Call the Fairhaven Police with any information, 508-997-7421



Fairhaven Police have charged Gavin Massas with multiple offenses following a triple stabbing Sunday night on Cherry Street. Photo Courtesy Fairhaven Police Department.

## From our readers

### Presentation by BPW Was Excellent

I recently attended an excellent presentation by Fairhaven BPW Superintendent, Mr. Vinnie Furtado, sponsored through the Natural Heritage of Fairhaven series at the Millicent Library. The presentation focused on water and sewer system updates for Fairhaven and our shared Fairhaven-New Bedford waterways along the South Coast.

Fairhaven's drinking water is a shared regional resource through the Mattapoisett River Valley Water District, which serves four communities: Mattapoisett, Fairhaven, Marion, and Rochester. Since 2004, the district is currently chaired by Mr. Furtado.

During the presentation, Mr. Furtado explained that the water filtration plant has undergone complete modernization, including the installation of Koch Ultrafiltration units and advanced ultraviolet disinfection technology. These upgrades ensure that Fairhaven's drinking water now meets the highest quality standards.

To maintain water clarity and remove sediment, periodic system flushing is sometimes required. Mr. Furtado described both unidirectional and conventional flushing methods currently in use and emphasized that the Fairhaven BPW stands ready to assist any homeowner who experiences temporary issues related to this necessary maintenance.

As expected, the cost of these critical improvements is reflected in water rates, representing an invest-

ment in public health and long-term system reliability.

In addition, the Fairhaven Wastewater Treatment Plant is nearing completion of a major \$70 million upgrade required to comply with the EPA's Clean Water Act. This project will significantly reduce nitrogen discharge into our shared harbor with New Bedford and modernize the facility's treatment capacity. Fairhaven's share of this investment is approximately \$50 million, to be repaid through sewer user fees. A special note of appreciation is due to Mr. Furtado and his team for securing a zero-interest loan, saving taxpayers substantial long-term costs.

Fairhaven's investments in water and wastewater infrastructure are responsible, forward-looking commitments that protect public health and preserve the environmental quality of our shared waterways for generations to come.

As stewards of a shared harbor, it is essential that all neighboring communities, including New Bedford — continue to do their part to eliminate pollution and protect these vital water resources.

Mr. Furtado and the Fairhaven team...Thank you for all your efforts.

*Richard Trapilo, Fairhaven*

### The Capture of Maduro

I believe there will be books written and movies made about the daring operation that resulted in the capture and removal of Venezuela's ruthless and murderous dictator Nicolas Maduro. Presidents Obama and Biden talked about it and did nothing. They set a \$25 million bounty on him. Trump upped it to \$50

million. No one took it up. Trump took action. However, I believe many of the brave men and women who took part in this operation said a heartfelt prayer before its commencement. They put their lives on the line to achieve it.

The compound where Maduro lived was a fortress defended by air defenses provided by both Russia and China. They were taken out by our superior air power. Maduro was in an inside location guarded by armed and trained body guards. Because of the bravery and training of our elite Delta Force they were neutralized. Maduro was headed for his safe station but was unable to reach it because of the speed and efficiency of the Delta Force.

Much remains to be done before Venezuela can return to the democracy it enjoyed prior to being taken over by ruthless Communist dictators. Under democracy it had the fourth best economy in the world.

This was transformed into a ruthless Social communist quagmire where all freedom was suppressed and any opportunity was ruthlessly crushed. Millions fled, some to Columbia, many to us. Some seeking freedom and a better life. However, many were not. They were drug dealers, sex traffickers and others engaged in other crimes, such as robbery, assaults, murder, you name it.

The point is no nation can exist unless you are willing and able to defend it. A sovereign nation can not exist without borders. We have a right to say who can and how many can come here.

*John Pond, Fairhaven*

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