



# Fairhaven

# Neighborhood News

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



The little paper  
with a big voice!

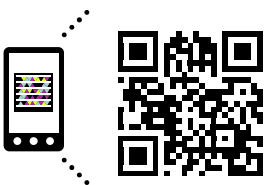
Volume 21, Issue 7 • February 5, 2026

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

## Football team honored at Select Board



Members of the Fairhaven High School football team and their coach pose with the Fairhaven Select Board and Town Administrator at the SB meeting on 2/2/26 when the board recognized the players for their Division VI state championship win and Coach Derek Almeida for receiving New England Patriots Coach of the Year, and player Zach Moura for receiving the Otto Graham Award. 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.

Oh, where to begin? Loal or national?

Our democracy is sick. It may be on its deathbed. Can you see it? Do you care? Masked government goons plucking people off the streets and throwing them into horrible detention centers (read: concentration camps) with no probable cause is not a sign of a healthy democracy. Masked government goons lobbing gas and other chemicals into peaceful crowds that include children....a memorial bike ride for heaven's sake...is not a sign of a healthy democracy. Journalists getting arrested for engaging in journalism is not a sign of a healthy democracy. Masked government goons killing people in the street because of what they said or what they stand for is not a sign of a healthy democracy.

Then add the senseless extra cruelty.

Government goons fractured the skull of Castaneda Mondragon in eight places while he was in ICE custody. They waited four hours to get him to a hospital, and then said he ran into a wall. An absolutely preposterous claim.

If you still support these monsters you are Nazi Germany. You....just....are...

Okay, now the local....wait for it....wait for it....People READ my paper! Did you know that? OMG! People READ it!!! They READ it. Patrick Carr said they read it...hahaha. And if he says it, it must be true, right? (See page 12.)

After months and months of saying no one reads it, it's irrelevant, blah, blah, blah, now he's whining.

He says the town officials have violated the social media policy by posting defamatory stuff. Then the paper picks it up and publishes it and it hurts him and his business. After MONTHS of saying the paper had no readers.

Hmm...I wonder if this little tidbit qualifies as violating the town's social media policy.

**Patrick Carr**  
**Beth David**  
"Oh James, you've been calling me all kinds of nasty names for years." What a joke, coming from the queen of name calling in the Neighborhood NEGATIVE News! You are the saddest excuse of a self proclaimed journalist I have ever seen! Your one way perspective you jot down every week and publish isn't worth the paper it's printed on. The dogmatic misinformation and bias opinionated articles that are printed on a regular basis by you are printed just to get a rise out of your few followers that are are just as ill-informed as you are. You wanted a comment from me... now you have it!

Maybe, maybe not, but I remember when he got up there and said he did not engage on social media. That was when he was trying to get on some committee or other. I haven't had a chance to look it up. Maybe his daughter, Erin, can do that for me? You're so much better at it than I am.

I've been on the scene for more than 20 years, slowly, week by week, building a reputation for solid journalism. You and your daughter have done your best to destroy the trust my readers have in me. You've gone after advertisers, you've tried to get the town to shut me down (don't argue, I have the email). But you are failing. You've been in public service for what....two minutes? And you've been embroiled in controversy after controversy, and conflicts of interest, and so much more. All I do is tell people what happened and what you said. You're the one who said it. And, I haven't even had time in the last few months to cover your meetings, so....really, dude. Grow up.

Until next week then, see ya,  
Glory to Ukraine!  
Glory to the Heroes!



Publisher Beth David with  
Charlie, aka Evil Dog

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## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

*Beth David*

# Acushnet SB does not hire TA after interviews with 3 finalists

By Beth David  
Editor

The Acushnet Selectboard did not vote to hire a Town Administrator after interviewing three finalists on 1/29/26. The board interviewed Ian Abreu, a sitting New Bedford City Councillor; Michael Boucher, a long time member of the Acushnet Finance Committee; and Heather Chew, former Acushnet Council on Aging Director.

First up was Mr. Boucher, who has been a chiropractor for 30 years, but stopped practicing in August. He also owns Ideal Protein, a weight loss program. He has been a member of the Acushnet FinCom since 2005 and chairperson since 2020.

He told the board that because of his 20 years on FinCom he developed an affinity for municipal government and thoroughly enjoys it.

When asked what the board might frustrate the board about working with him, Mr. Boucher said he knows he may get "too personally vested in a particular topic," and needs to step back and take a deep breath. He said they can see for themselves during FinCom meetings that he can get "very passionate."

"I wouldn't be here today if I didn't care about that stuff," he said.

In response to a questions, Mr. Boucher said a key issue the town faces is stability and employee retention in some key areas. He said the town can only afford to so much, but maybe could look into adding some flexibility to positions, such as hybrid model or sharing positions.

He said the budget is still an ongoing issue, a constant struggle every year. The school department is almost 60% of the budget, he said, so they need to collaborate closely.

Mr. Boucher also said he would use his knowledge and experience healthcare to try to promote wellness. He said part of the reasons healthcare costs are going up because people are using services more. He would promote education about how to stay healthy to employees and residents.

"The healthier you are, the less claims you file," he said.

The board interviewed Mr. Abreu next. According to his LinkedIn page, in addition to being on the NB City Council, Mr. Abreu is also President and CEO of Silmo Syrup; former Manager of Business Development & Public Policy for New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce SouthCoast Chapter. Mr. Abreu was also a Case Manager at the Bristol County Sheriff's

Office, and Director of Broadcast Operations/Marketing Associate at New Bedford Bay Sox. He has a BA in Communication and Media Studies from Bridgewater State University.

In his introduction, Mr. Abreu told the board that he was very proud of his work with the chamber of commerce, helping businesses start up and grow. He noted that the city council oversees all budgetary issues, ordinances, mayoral appointments and is responsible for constituent services.

He said the first 90 days will necessarily include developing the budget, a process that has already started. He said they will need to figure out how to close the \$1.2 million gap, and have discussions around where the community and board want to go.

"Where you folks want to take this town and how you want to grow our tax base all while not infringing on the sanctity and the charm and beauty of this town which is very important to the townspeople, to all of you and to me as well," said Mr. Abreu, adding that most importantly he will need to listen.

He will meet with department heads, business leaders and stakeholders, under the direction of the board, to see where the

ACUSH: cont'd next page

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## ACUSH: cont'd from previous page

go next.

Mr. Abreu said his role is like a coach, the board is like a general manager, and the residents are the owners.

"We're here to help and serve them," he said, adding he had a lot of experience managing staff and has great interpersonal communications dealing with people.

"I'm a bottom up. I'm not a top down kind of person," said Mr. Abreu. "I'm a very boots on the ground, transparent person. That's the way I've always been."

In response to a question about how difficult it might be to go from a \$600 million budget in NB to a \$37ii million budget, Mr. Abreu said he would have no problem being "hyperfocused."

Ms. Chew served as the COA director in Acushnet for 12 years. She was also Director, Network Operations at Alma del Mar Charter Public School, and recently began a position at the Boys and Girls Club of Metro South as Senior Director, Development. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Southern NH University and is enrolled in a Masters program in Public Administration at Northeastern University.

She submitted a 100-day plan that includes three phases. Phase one includes

financial assessment, operational and organizational review, governance and board relations, community engagement. Phase two includes Financial stabilization actions, internal process improvements, staff and management structure. Phase three includes town meeting and budget preparation, long-term financial planning, internal process improvements, and early-win initiatives.

Ms. Chew told the board that a TA job has been her long term goal and she has had many conversations with the current TA.

Ms. Chew said in her first 30 days she would like to see where they are in the budget. She would also like meet with department heads and continue to meet with them regularly to keep the lines of communication open, which will allow them to be proactive instead of reactive. She said the board has been so busy "putting out fires" they have not had time to be proactive.

She said an "uncomfortable truth in the room" is that the board members have been transparent about how they feel that candidates are not prepared, so she felt she had to come to the table with a plan.

She said her foundation is strong educationally and knowing the town. She

also said the Mass. Municipal Association has courses she can take for TAs.

Ms. Chew said her approach to the budget deficit would be to work closely with their state delegation to increase funding, to look for grants that maybe they never even heard of, and attract more businesses to town.

"So I think there's a lot of things you can do. I don't think it's ever going to be perfect, but I think there's a lot of untapped potential," she said.

As for handling stressful situations and putting out fires, Ms. Chew said it's important to be "very strategic" and learn what a real fire is what a perceived fire is, and just "keeping a cool head."

The board did not vote on any of the candidates. SB Chairperson David Wojnar said he wanted to meet with the Search Committee members to get their candid opinions on the candidates. The board will meet on 2/10 with the Screening Committee in executive session unless Town Counsel says it is not a proper reason.

Meanwhile, the position will be reposted.

The position pays \$125,000-\$150K according to the posting. The meeting is available on the town's YouTube channel: <https://tinyurl.com/2jxhzsdt>

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# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## Police Survey



The Fairhaven Police Department has partnered with Kelley Research Associates to develop a community survey.

A community survey helps a police department better understand the needs, concerns, and expectations of the people it serves.

By gathering honest feedback, the Fairhaven Police Department can identify what is working well, where improvements are needed, and how services can be more responsive, fair, and effective. Community input plays a vital role in shaping priorities, strengthening trust, and improving communication between residents and police. The survey results will be used to guide future initiatives, enhance public safety strategies, and ensure the Fairhaven Police Department remains accountable and aligned with community values.

The survey should take 5–10 minutes. Thank you for your participation!

Scan the QR code (above) or visit <https://tinyurl.com/742emhvr>

## Support Brandon Estrella

Fairhaven resident and Conservation Commission member, Brandon Estrella, has suffered a spinal cerebral fluid leak. He will be out of work for a considerable amount of time and faces a long recovery.

His mother, Patti, wrote on his GoFundMe page: "If you know Brandon, he is the one who will give his last dollar to make someone happy. He gives his time and heart to help others, especially those with developmental differences.

"He loves his town and its natural resources and fiercely desires others to respect it as well. You may have seen him this summer at the fairs at Grimshaw Park — educating children and adults about wetlands and conservation efforts. Raising awareness and bringing smiles to the children with little swag items he chose to fund.

"His love of our harbor, shoreline,

and the preservation of our community's shellfishing beds is deep in his soul, as it was for his family generations before him."

Visit his GoFundMe page to learn more about his progress, and to help him get through this difficult time. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/msr2hu2j>

## Free movie

For Black History Month, South Coast Cinemaniacs presents a rediscovered classic. In *INTRUDER IN THE DUST* (1949), a proud, African-American landowner refuses to defend himself from a murder charge. While the crime waits to be solved, an angry lynch mob is forming. Only finding the true killer will stop the vigilantes.

The program starts on Monday, February 9 at 5:30 PM at the Millicent Library on 45 Center St., Fairhaven. All are welcome, and the event is free! Use the Walnut St. entrance to access the auditorium.

South Coast Cinemaniacs meets the second Monday of the month, excluding holidays, to watch and discuss classic movies. For more information, email club president Beth Ann Gallagher at: [southcoastcinemaniacs@gmail.com](mailto:southcoastcinemaniacs@gmail.com)

## Solidarity

Show solidarity every night in the streets to stop ICE. Visibilities will be held around the region in different municipalities each night until we remove the regime and abolish ICE.

Join us in Fairhaven on Thursday, 2/5, at 6 p.m., at the corner of Walnut and Center Streets in the center of town.

Bring signs, friends, family, and neighbors. Play music, create art, read poetry, and chant.

If everyone shows up when they can, there will be people in the streets every night.

## Our Region's Rocks

Feb 09, 2026, 6:30 PM, Unitarian Universalist Church Auditorium, 102 Green St, Fairhaven, MA.

Join geology enthusiast Dana Dextraze for an engaging introduction to the rock cycle and the forces that shape New England's landscapes. Explore the unique geology, state rocks, and defining features of each

New England state, with a special focus on Massachusetts and the Fairhaven area. The talk will also highlight rockhounding opportunities across the state, including notable finds, maps, and mines open to the public.

Register at <https://millicentlibrary.org/events-calendar>

## Screens and Teens

Feb 11, 2026, 5:30 PM, Millicent Library, 45 Center St, Fairhaven, MA.

Free presentation for Teens and Adults on how screen time impacts kid/teen brains and health, and shares smart tech usage strategies for our children and ourselves.

The typical teen spends 7-9 hours looking at screens each day, drawn in by addictive algorithms, influencers, and more.

Laura Gardner, Teacher Librarian at Dartmouth Middle School, will share research on how this impacts kid/teen brains and health, and smart tech usage strategies for our children and ourselves. Free!

Register at <https://millicentlibrary.org/events-calendar>

## 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 Feb1st 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.

# HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

## Lebanese Hafli

Please join us on Sat., 2/7, for the 2026 St. Maron Hafli to benefit Our Lady of Purgatory Maronite Catholic Church, at our parish hall, 4254 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford. Chadi Naddaf, accompanied by the Bashir El-Khoury Band will provide music for your dancing and listening pleasure. The Doors open at 7:00 for cocktails (Cash Bar) and mezza. Dinner will be served at 8 pm.

For tickets or further information please contact the Parish Office at (508) 996-8934 or Sousou Maalouf at (508) 916-1523.

Tickets: \$75/pp general seating; children (8-17) \$40; under 8/general seating, N/C. Dance floor seating: \$100 (all ages).

## Bowling FR

We're excited to invite you to the Southcoast Health Bowl, benefitting the Rhonda Couto Patient Comfort Fund. Join us for a day of friendly competition, laughter and community. All while supporting an important cause that makes a real difference.

Sat., 2/7, morning session and afternoon session, Wonder Bowl, 66 Hathaway Rd, New Bedford, MA 02746

Cost: \$250/team, max. 6 people.  
DEADLINE TO SIGN UP: 2/2

The Rhonda Couto Patient Comfort Fund provides comfort items to oncology patients as they undergo treatment. From port shirts and radiation robes to lymphedema sleeves and mastectomy prosthetics, the Couto Fund strives to provide a more comfortable and caring oncology treatment journey.

## Lobster Days

The Fishing Heritage Center, 38 Bethel St., New Bedford, is pleased to announce the return of Lobster Days during the February school vacation week. This family-friendly event is designed to educate the public and local youth about Massachusetts' commercial lobster industry.

Stop by the Center to meet local commercial lobstermen, make lobster hand puppets, explore model lobster boats, get your face painted, and participate in a lobster-themed story time. This year's two day event will take place on Thursday, February 19, and Friday, February 20, from

11:00am until 3:00pm. Admission to the Center will be free during the event.

Learn more at <https://fishingheritagecenter.org/lobster-days-2026-day-1/>

## Romantic Revelations

Presented by New Bedford Symphony Orchestra at the newly renovated Zeiterion, 684 Purchase St., downtown New Bedford. Visit <https://www.zeiterion.org/>

Step into a world of beauty, drama, and deep emotion. Let the power of music celebrate the love and joy in your life. This concert is a musical journey that connects heart and soul.

We begin with Samuel Barber's Overture to The School for Scandal—a playful, high-spirited burst of wit and charm that sets the tone for a night of bold expression.

Former NBSO Concertmaster Jesse Holstein returns to perform the lush, soulful violin concerto by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor—a work pulsing with lyricism and passion. Written by a brilliant Black British composer whose music was nearly lost to history, this concerto is a rediscovered gem that stirs the spirit and honors resilience.

We close with the sweeping beauty of Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 1, "Winter Dreams"—a tender, evocative portrait of longing, memory, and the quiet magic of the season.

Let this concert be your midwinter reset—a chance to feel inspired, reconnected, and swept away by music that speaks directly to the heart.

### Come Early for the Full Experience

Make the most of your evening by arriving early to explore the beautiful new public spaces, grab a drink from the bar in the Baker Family Lobby, and enjoy restorative pre-concert experiences designed to help you unwind. At 6:35 and 7:05 PM, Sangha Yoga will lead a gentle 15-minute session in the Dr. Gail Davidson Movement Studio—a calming reset to help you slow down, settle in, and open your senses. Between 6:30 and 7:30 PM, head downstairs to the Speakeasy for a bourbon tasting with CEO Dave Prentiss (flights available

for purchase), then make your way up to the second-floor Bristol County Savings Bank Lounge, where Southcoast Health's Community Wellness Program will offer a heart-centered activity in honor of American Heart Month. And from 6:30 to 7:00 PM in the auditorium, join Music Director Yaniv Dinur and guest artist Jesse Holstein for an always-popular pre-concert chat—a thoughtful preview that deepens your connection to the music and enhances your listening experience.

Note: We are delighted to welcome concertmaster candidate Emma Powell as concertmaster for this evening's performance

## SAVE THE DATE:

### Fishbowl

Sun., 3/1, Noon–2 p.m., Wonder Bowl, 66 Hathaway Rd, New Bedford, MA 02746. **REGISTER BY 2/25.**

Welcome to the Fishbowl – where the lanes are alive with the sound of strikes and spares! Join us for our 6th Annual Bowling Fundraiser, a fantastic event dedicated to supporting Buttonwood Park Zoo and its mission of wildlife conservation.

Bowlers of all ages and abilities are welcome. Team costumes are encouraged!

Funds raised from Fishbowl directly contribute to habitat preservation, wildlife education, and the well-being of the animals in our care.

Sponsorship opportunities available. Raffle items are greatly appreciated.

For more information, please contact Katie Correia, Development Manager, at [kcorreia@bpzoo.org](mailto:kcorreia@bpzoo.org) or 508.991.4556, ext. 119; or visit <https://www.bpzoo.org/whats-new/fishbowl/>

## AHA! Night

Join us on Thursday, February 12th for part one of the two-part I AM NB – Storytelling Series. On this one special night, the AHA! and Z teams have partnered to activate the entire Zeiterion in celebration of its grand reopening!

Explore the recently renovated building and enjoy a variety of activities at the Z. Complete details are on our website, with more activities added each day. Visit <https://ahanewbedford.org/next-aha/>

# HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

## Nomination Papers

Acushnet's election will be held on Tues., 4/28/26. Nomination papers are now available. The last day to take out papers is 3/6/26 at 5 p.m.

Candidates must get 42 signatures of registered voters in person to be placed on the ballot.

Last day to submit papers is 3/10.

Last day to register as a voter is Friday, 4/17.

The polls will open at 8 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. on Election Day.

For more information on how to run for office, contact the Town Clerk, 508-998-0215.

## 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)

### Pajama Drive

February 1 through March 31 -19th Annual Boston Bruins PJ Drive. Cradles to Crayons®, the Boston Bruins, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and Wonderfund are partnering with organizations in your community to collect new pajamas for local children living in low-income or homeless situations.

Together, we are looking to collect 10,000 pairs of pajamas. By supporting the PJ Drive, you will directly provide new pajamas to children who need them most, helping them stay warm and get a good night's sleep. Over the years, Acushnet Library patrons have donated more than 310 pairs of pajamas to children in the Greater New Bedford area. This year, we hope to collect 50 pairs. We will accept donations through March 31.

### Free Movies

Monday, 2/9, 2 pm Movie Matinee - Bridget Jones Diary: Mad About the Boy (Rated R, 2 hours, 5 min.).

Wednesday, 2/18, 2 pm Movie Matinee - Wicked: For Good (Rated PG, 2 hours, 17 minutes)

### History Coffee Hour

Thursday, 2/26, 11 am, History Coffee Hour - This group meets to discuss Acushnet's history. Join the conversation and share stories or photos from the past. Bring your coffee and memories. We will supply

historic documents, photos, newspaper clippings, and more!

## At the MAC

The following events are at the Marion Art Center, 80 Pleasant St., Marion; [marionartcenter.org](http://marionartcenter.org).

### Being Seen Exhibit

DATMA joins the Marion Art Center as they host the third installation of *Being Seen: Celebrating Pride in the SouthCoast*.

*Being Seen* is a monumental community tapestry created by over 100 SouthCoast residents from Fall River to Wareham. Over an 18-month period, this work travels throughout the region, concluding in November 2026. The indoor exhibition expands on the public art installation with additional context, honoring the LGBTQIA+ community through stories, archival materials, and recognition of local advocates. The exhibition features the legacy of figures such as David B. Boyce (1949–2014), memorialized in George Segal's renowned sculpture The Gay Liberation Monument, as well as SouthCoast residents whose advocacy for Massachusetts's Marriage Equality Act helped shape national progress.

### Call for Art: Answering Our Ancestors

The MAC announces an open call for art & ephemera that honors the joy, hopes, struggles, lives, and stories of the LGBTQIA+ community. Artists and members of the community are invited to submit work that answers the questions: How do we honor the queer ancestors who came before us to pave our path? When the world turns toward darkness, how do we let our joy shine? We are also seeking historical LGBTQIA+ ephemera and memorabilia specific to the SouthCoast region. Do you have any posters, pins, bar coasters, clothing, photographs, and artifacts that celebrate the stories and joy of the Queer community?

The MAC will host the traveling indoor exhibition supporting *Being Seen: Celebrating South Coast Pride* from February 13 through March 13, 2026, with an **opening celebration on Saturday, February 14, 3:00-5:00pm at the MAC**, 80 Pleasant St. Marion. Artists may submit up to two pieces each; 2D and 3D are welcome. Video work will also be considered, but

artists must provide their own AV equipment. Artists may choose to have their work travel to future exhibition sites in collaboration with DATMA's Being Seen project. More information at [marionartcenter.org](http://marionartcenter.org).

### Movies at the MAC

MAC Movies will be screening *Common Threads: Stories from the Quilt* on Wed., 2/11 at 7:00pm at the Marion Art Center, 80 Pleasant St, Marion. The cost is \$5 per person, Recommended for ages 13 and up.

A tremendous, handmade monument to lives lost to AIDS, the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt demonstrated that grief and activism together could forge a powerful symbol of resilience. Winner of the Academy Award for best documentary feature, this moving film — buoyed by an original all-vocal score by Bobby McFerrin — explores the human stories obscured by statistics, examining the cross section of identities affected by HIV/AIDS, as well as efforts to combat the stigma, misinformation, and political obstruction that deepened the crisis.

For more information and to book tickets: [marionartcenter.org/events](http://marionartcenter.org/events)

## Plein Fest Reg

The Marion Art Center is pleased to present the eleventh annual Cuttyhunk Plein Air Festival on Saturday, June 20 on the island of Cuttyhunk (town of Gosnold, MA). A rain date is scheduled on Sunday, June 21. Registration for this incredibly popular event opens on Friday, February 6 at 8:00am online at: [marionartcenter.org/cuttyhunk-plein-air](http://marionartcenter.org/cuttyhunk-plein-air). Registration for artists is \$115, and for island artists who do not need ferry transportation the cost is \$55.

On the morning of the festival, sixty artists will travel from the State Pier in New Bedford aboard the M/V Cuttyhunk Ferry to the island, where they'll spend 3-4 hours painting from a location of their choosing. Island ambassadors — residents and volunteers — donate their time using golf carts to shuttle artists to and from their painting spots. Artists will wrap up around 2:30pm in order to submit their paintings for jurying. Volunteer jurors will award 1st, 2nd, 3rd place, and purchase prize awards.

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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: 2/11, Westgate Mall; 2/18, Providence Place Mall; 2/25, So. Shore Plaza; 3/4, Tiverton Casino; 3/11, Hyannis Mall, Trader Joe's; 3/18, Providence Place 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.

**Feb. 9. *On Golden Pond*.** Drama and Coming of Age. Curmudgeon Norman is estranged from his daughter Chelsea. Nevertheless, at Golden Pond he and his wife agree to look after Billy, the son of Chelsea's new boyfriend, and a most unexpected relationship blooms..

**Feb. 23. *The Lost Valentine*.** Romand & Drama. A reporter (Jennifer Love Hewitt) seeks the truth about a woman's (Betty White) husband (Billy Magnussen), a pilot who never returned from duty in World War II.

## Empowering Older Adults With Technology

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

**Mon., 2/9, 1:30–3:30. Telehealth & Online Medical Tools.** Learn how to attend doctor appointments online, use potential portals, and communicate with healthcare providers digitally. This class helps reduce stress and increase comfort with medical technology.

## Walking Group

Walk with friends at the Rec Center gym next door from 12–12:30 p.m., Monday–Friday. FREE. Classic hits from the 50's, 60's, 70's. It's the perfect way to stay active, lift your spirits, and connect with others during the chill months ahead.

## 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.

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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>

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Join us for a calming and restorative Qigong class led by experienced instructor Robin Fielding. Qigong is a gentle mind-body practice that combines slow, flowing movements, focused breathing, and mindful awareness to promote relaxation, balance, and overall well-being. This class is suitable for all fitness levels and abilities. Participants will be guided through easy-to-follow movements designed to reduce stress, improve flexibility, support circulation, and cultivate inner calm. No prior experience is necessary. Instructor: Robin Fielding. Come as you are, wear comfortable clothing, and enjoy an hour dedicated to movement, breath, and mindfulness. you can register for

this class without payment. The \$10 will be paid directly to the instructor. Check our Facebook for upcoming classes

## 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

## 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

### Cinnamon Maple Popcorn Crunch

12 cups unsalted, unbuttered  
popped popcorn  
1/3 cup chopped unsalted  
almonds, coarsely chopped  
1/3 cup chopped unsalted  
cashews, coarsely chopped  
1/3 cup chopped unsalted  
pecans, coarsely chopped  
1/2 cup butter  
1/2 cup coconut sugar  
1/2 cup maple syrup  
1/4 cup brown rice syrup  
1 teaspoon salt  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon

In large mixing bowl, combine popcorn, almonds, cashews and pecans.

In saucepan, combine butter, sugar, maple syrup, brown rice syrup, 1/4 cup water, salt and cinnamon; bring to boil over medium heat, stirring occasionally. Cook until mixture reaches hard crack stage (295° Fahrenheit).

Slowly pour syrup in thin stream over popcorn mixture. Toss gently to coat evenly. Let cool; break into large chunks.

Tip: Add dried fruit, such as cranberries or mangoes, if desired.

*From popcorn.org*

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feeling my heart race.

Every time Celine came to the park, she would find me to talk or play. So, when she turned me down as my date for the Sweetheart's Dance months later, I was heartbroken.

When Celine noticed I was upset, she told me she liked me as a friend and thought I knew she was dating Rex, a German Shepherd. I told her I hadn't heard about Rex before and wondered why I had never seen him at the park. She said he worked during the day on a K-9 team at the police station.

When I talked to the other guys about it, some said they thought I might have misunderstood Celine's behavior because I followed her and watched her a lot.

Why didn't I see what was going on?

*Robin*

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## Dear Frankie

### Heartbroken

*Dear Frankie,*  
Celine was the first dog to say hello to me at the dog park. She walked right up and complimented my collar, saying it matched my beautiful brown eyes. I remember blushing and

*Dear Robin,*

It takes time to tell if someone is just being friendly or flirting. People call it reading between the lines. We've all had someone say they want to get together, but then they never make plans or follow up. After a while, we realize their words didn't mean what we thought.

You liked Celine from the beginning and hoped her attention meant the same. I'm sorry things didn't work out as you hoped.

Next time someone makes your heart race, try to wait and see how things develop before guessing how they feel. Usually, if someone is interested in you, they'll make it clear.

*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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# Millicent Library holds birthday party for namesake

By Beth David  
Editor

The Millicent Library in Fairhaven held a 153rd birthday party on Saturday, 1/31/26, for namesake, Millicent "Millie" Rogers. Town benefactor Henry Huttleston Rogers donated the building to the town in 1893 as a memorial to his daughter who passed away when she was 17.

The library also kicked off a capital campaign to install a modern HVAC system in the building. The library has had to close down more frequently in the summer due to high heat. Not only is it a problem for staff, but the collection is also damaged by high heat.

Robert Kenworthy, the treasurer of the Library Trustees, said that the organization is actively pursuing different revenue sources for the project. The state has included \$1 million in the bond bill for the project,

but it is unclear when the money will be available. The \$2.5 million project has required a lot of preparatory work, and the Millicent has been working on various aspects of the project.

The trustees used library funds to replace the boiler, which needed "Band-aids every month," said according to Kathy Lopes, President of the Trustees.

Replacing the actual units in the building and associated work will cost about \$1.6 million, and that is the focus right now.

The library has also asked for Community Preservation Act funds.

Ms. Lopes said they will do their best to maintain the history and the integrity of the building. The work itself will not be disruptive to library operations.

Rob Frates, who lives in the neighborhood, enjoyed some free cake and noted his father, Arthur Frates, was a big supporter of the library. He even has a bench out front dedicated to him.

"He donated a lot of things," said



Mr. Frates.

John Murphy also joined the party for some cake.

"I'd like to see the library get what they need," he said.

Mr. Kenworthy noted that he has talked to parents who grew up using the children's room and now take their children.

"It's such a quality, quality thing we have in town," said Mr. Kenworthy.

The library is a 501C3, not a Town of Fairhaven department. Staff are employees of the library, not the town. The town funds the library according to a formula set by the state and based on population. It is important, according to library officials, for Fairhaven residents to turn in their local census forms, as money from the state is based on that information. All donations are tax deductible.

Patrons of the library may buy a paper snowflake or star for \$5 or \$20 to support the cause, and it will be placed in the window with their name on it.

Donate online at <https://givebutter.com/MillicentLibrary>.



TOP: Rob Frates takes a piece of cake from Meredith Smith, trustee, while trustee Pam Kuechler looks on, during the 153rd birthday celebration of the Millicent Library's namesake, Millicent Rogers, the daughter of Henry Huttleston Rogers, who donated the library to the Town of Fairhaven in 1893. Photo by Beth David.

ABOVE: Trustees gather for a photo, L-R: Kathleen Clement, Abigail Hevey, Meredith Smith, Robert Kenworthy (treasurer), Natalie Mello (ex-officio, Select Board representative), Max Isaksen, Kyle DeCicco-Cary (Secretary, library Director). Photo courtesy of Kathy Lopes, Trustees President).



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# Select Board gets budget update, honors football team & coach

By Beth David  
Editor

The Fairhaven Select Board held a lengthy meeting on Monday, 2/2/26, covering a range of items, including an update on the budget; a discussion of changing the scope of the Timothy-Hiller subdivision investigation; and honoring the Fairhaven High School football team, which won the state championship in Division VI play at Gillette Stadium.

Several members of the football team and Coach Derek Almeida attended to receive a proclamation for the team, proclamation for Mr. Almeida for receiving New England Patriots Coach of the Year, and a proclamation for Zach Moura, who received the Otto Graham award.

In the proclamation to the team, the board said the “players, coaching staff, faculty, student body and supporters have shown exceptional teamwork and spirit, reflecting values that strengthen both our school and community.”

They wrote, “This championship represents not only athletic achievement but also the determination, character, and unity that define the Fairhaven community.”

Mr. Almeida told the board he was proud to grow up in Fairhaven, play sports at FHS, and then “have the opportunity to lead this group.”

“This was a true team,” said Mr. Almeida, adding that they really committed to each other, and care about each other.

“I’m just extremely proud of them and really thankful for all the recognition that we’ve gotten as a team and individually,” he said,

adding the group was a “really good representation of the town of Fairhaven....how they were brought up and the work the put in.”

In another matter, the board had two items relating to the Timothy-Hiller 16 home subdivision debacle. The project had been rejected by the Planning Board, then was resubmitted under a different company name. It got the green light because it did not go before the Planning Board for a public hearing; and after 153 days received a “Constructive Approval.” Abutters did not know the project had been approved until site work had begun.

The town has hired a law firm to conduct an investigation to determine why the matter did not get on a Planning Board agenda during the required time period.

At Monday’s meeting the board heard from two groups of residents. A group of abutters, led by Bob Espindola asked that investigators expand their list of people to interview. The group included 15 names in their request.

Mr. Espindola told the board he understood only four people were being interviewed and that was “far too narrow.”

Town Administrator, Keith Hickey, said he did not want to impact the investigation, so he has not shared the list of people being interviewed with anyone. He said, however, that the list has definitely grown larger.

The second item was a petition by 45 residents asking that the period of time for the investigation be expanded to include the time up to the resignation of Planning Board chairperson, Dianne Tomassetti.

Ms. Tomassetti’s name was not on the petition.

In the letter requesting the agenda item, Paul Gallant wrote: “We’re specifically concerned about the events that occurred at the September 23, 2025 Planning Board Meeting, the October 14, 2025 Planning Board meeting,

the related social media activity by elected officials, and the unsubstantiated accusations that circulated throughout the local newspaper and on social media throughout this timeline. These false accusations targeted the Chairperson which resulted in her resignation.”

Jennifer Cardoza spoke to the board, reiterating much of what was in the petition. It states that Ms. Tomassetti was subjected to harassment by other town officials, resulting in her resignation.

Town Administrator, Keith Hickey, said he did not believe that the SB had any authority to remove elected official.

SB member Andrew Romano noted that Ms. Tomassetti’s name was not on the petition.

Mr. Romano also said that the accusations in the petition are all based on publicly available information, such as social media posts, newspaper articles, and televised meetings. The investigation, he said, is supposed to uncover information that is not public.

“We are talking about two different things,” he said.

Erin Carr told the board that they spent the money for the investigation because 28 people signed a petition, and they already knew that staff was responsible for the problem with the subdivision. This new petition, she said, had more than 40 signatures.

SB member Andrew Saunders said if they have a specific case they should take it to the SB. If it is an appointed position, they can remove the person. If it is elected, they can still find that the person violated the social media policy and the voters can take that into consideration at the next election.

Patrick Carr, a current Planning Board member who was chairperson when the subdivision application was filed, and who is also a Zoning Board of Appeals member, said the Tomassetti case is not just about somebody’s feelings getting hurt.

He said that he and Ruy DaSilva and Diane Tomassetti have businesses. They have all seen effects from the coverage in the Neighb News, said Mr. Carr.

“Putting these lists of things in there week after week after week. People read these things. People read

**SELECT: cont’d on page 18**



Fairhaven High School Football player, Zach Moura, receives a proclamation from Select Board chairperson Charles Murphy at the SB meeting on 2/2/26, recognizing Mr. Moura for receiving the Otto Graham Award. Photo by Beth David.

# Acushnet holds Complete Streets info session

By Jonathan Comey

## Neighb News Correspondent

Road safety takes everyone's cooperation, and the town of Acushnet is hoping that the power of crowdsourcing will lead to safer streets.

On Tuesday, 1/27/26, as the area dug out from the season's first major snowstorm, a representative from the town and a national consulting firm held an event at the town library to give the people a voice in identifying trouble spots.

In support of the Acushnet Complete Streets Prioritization Plan, posterboard maps of the town geography were laid out on tables and easels, some featuring notes in ink, some on colorful sticky notes, where folks had identified what they saw as the trouble areas.

Town planner Victoria Alfaro said the idea has been on people's minds since a fatal bike accident on South Main Street a few years ago, and the opportunity to fact-find with grant money through the Mass STOP program was a good way to start seeking solutions.

"It's a good opportunity to utilize this info and pinpoint areas where we can make our streets safer for all users," she said.

Several people came into the library over the course of the day while many others had already

responded in the online form, which will remain open until mid-February. Most of the notes centered around three areas: the three-way stop near Town Hall, Middle Road, and Lake Street, but they were also scattered in lesser trafficked areas.

With almost 100 responses by the end of the day and more expected, there will be some good data to work with. Project manager Nicole Rogers of Boston-based Greenman-Pedersen, Inc., was recently part of a similar undertaking in Acton, where they used activity heat maps, crash history and poll results to produce the best overview of problem areas possible.

"We'll have the data, and we have some evaluation metrics that are also in that survey as well," Rogers she said. "Asking people, 'Once we kind of have this list, how would you like to see them prioritized?' In the end, it will create a list ranking of projects, which we hand over to the town. Then they can take this as their roadmap to improve walking and biking throughout the town."

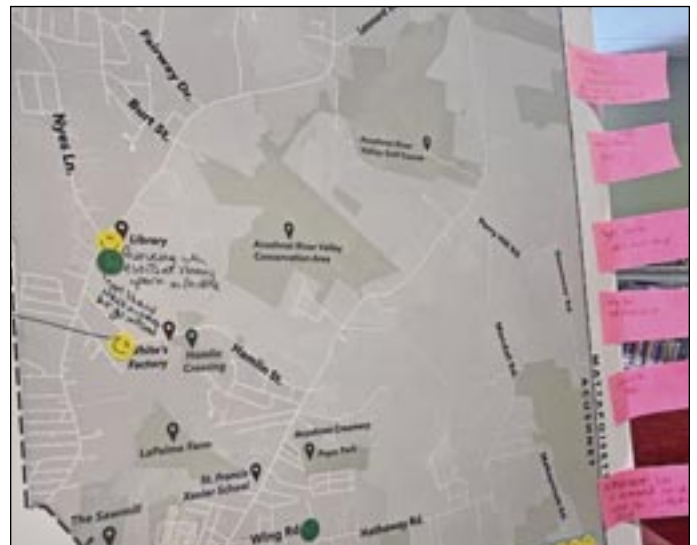
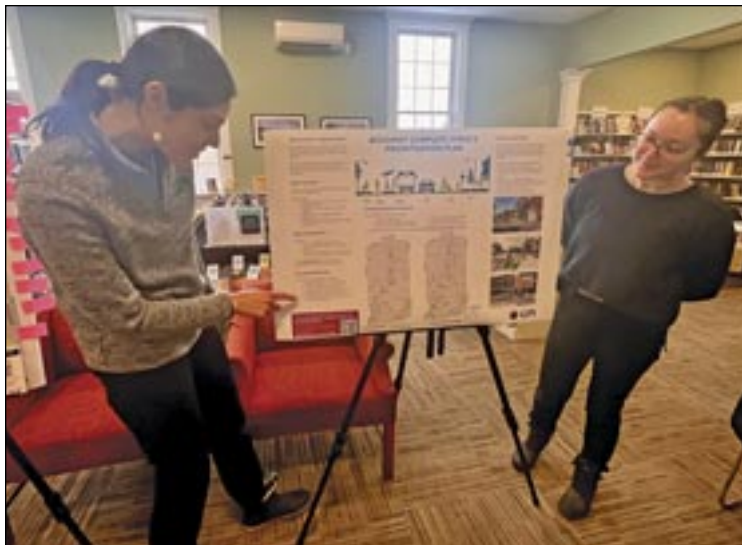
Both emphasized that nothing binding will come from this study, which will be completed in May, and Alfaro noted that taking part in this grant will also open more opportunity



for grant money to assist in helping should further action be approved by the town.

"Hopefully, when it comes time to either ask for funding or to go apply for funding for a project, people are familiar with what we're doing and we have that community support, which is a big part of planning," she said. "You need to have people think it's worth pursuing, and having a say in it is important to that."

The online poll can be accessed at <https://tinyurl.com/AcushnetCSPP>.



TOP: Nicole Rogers of Boston-based GPI consultants makes a note on a large map identifying possible traffic/pedestrian trouble areas in Acushnet during a public information event held on 1/27/26 to get public input for the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan. ABOVE LEFT L-R: Ms. Rogers and Acushnet Town Planner, Victoria Alfaro, look over a map of Acushnet used to help residents point out traffic/pedestrian trouble areas ABOVE RIGHT: Sticky notes and handwritten notes on a map identify possible traffic/pedestrian trouble areas. Photos by Jonathan Comey.



# Hinckley: Town worked 72+ hours to clear roads

*From Acushnet Selectboard Member,  
Bob Hinckley, adapted from a  
Facebook Post*

I've typed out and deleted this multiple times. After last night, I realized something that was pretty enlightening. While I was with Matt last night (The town employee who didn't even hesitate to help me out), a call came over his walkie in regards to a fire on Main Street. We were on Main Street less than two minutes away. Matt is also a call Fire Fighter and I could tell by his silence and the look on his face that he wanted to be there so we went to the call.

I watched a group of men and women from both our fire department and police department without hesitation block the street, enter a home that was potentially going to be a disaster, and work together until it was taken care of. Lots of these guys were already settled for the night and without hesitation suited up to protect someone they don't know.

The reason I'm saying this is because I spent yesterday trying to help residents get cleared out and still had to overhear extremely rude and mean things said to the ONE person in the DPW office who happens to be an extremely kind and respectful person who spent all day making a list of where the guys at the DPW had to go next and proceeded to tick as many off the list as possible until it was no longer safe for the guys who had been awake for over 72 hours to remain behind the wheel of giant trucks to clear out streets.

As I read through all the "I pay taxes," "this is unacceptable," and "These guys weren't prepared" comments, my first instinct was to respond in a way that wasn't befitting of an elected official, hence why I

deleted multiple replies. Last night made me realize that a lot of you don't understand how a small town operates and that's not your fault. It's mine for not offering to explain it.

Eighty percent of our streets are plowed out by independent contractors. They are landscapers, general contractors, plumbers, and other people who have day jobs that start immediately after they spend 16-18 hours clearing for storms. What that means is when the sun comes up, they go to work and the six guys in the DPW have to keep working to clean up any missed spots and make sure all the main routes and hospital routes are down to bare pavement.

After being awake for 72+ hours, they deserve to take a break. I WON'T ever jeopardize their lives or anyone outside on the streets God forbid, they shouldn't be behind the wheel. Emergency services will always get to you if needed, so I need everyone who was yelling and screaming yesterday to take a step back and realize that no matter how hard our employees and volunteers work, selfish complainers will never say thank you to these guys and ladies, and will continue to trash talk the town they live in, and will never be happy.

I know every name of every person who was a straight asshole yesterday (a lot of repeat offenders) who I can tell weren't raised in this town and seem to have a sense of entitlement that a large percentage of people in this country seem to have now. Myself or anyone else will never change you, but what I can say is I pay the same taxes you pay. Myself and my colleagues all do, and actively try to lessen the burden as much as we can while trying to increase wages for emergency services and DPW but it's

hard. I'd also like to remind you that we don't create the values of your homes and have zero say in what your taxes end up coming out at other than making sure we have a fair tax split across the base. Long story short, I'm willing to break it down and show you how decreasing state aid year over year with added fixed costs don't help us staff accordingly where it's needed.

To sum it up, if your street was missed, send a nice email to dpw@acushnet.ma.us that isn't a scathing rant. Every single person in this town has a friend with a truck that can give them a ride. If your employer doesn't understand how snow works, and gives you a hard time if you're late, they're probably a bad employer.

We will get you handled. Consider this post as me saying "I understand, and I apologize for any inconvenience" but that's where it ends. If you feel like you pay too much in taxes, don't get enough services, and rant on Facebook, you have two options. Pull papers to run for office, or pick a new town to move to.

Just remember that your tax dollars helped a home not burn to the ground last night. If you can't see the forest through the trees, I can't help you. Election is in May. You still have time to pull nomination papers. Town meeting is in June (ample notice to make arrangements so you can actually voice your concerns on spending articles). Show up and become a part of the community instead of criticizing people online because it's easy and you feel satisfied with your puffed out chest and "I told them" attitude.

It's not cut and dry and certainly not as simple as a lot of you make it seem.

I love you all and I love our town.

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## Upcoming Meetings

### Fairhaven

#### Atlas Tack Working Group

Thurs., 1/29, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

#### Board of Appeals

Tues., 2/3, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

#### Board of Health

Wed., 2/11, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

#### Board of Public Works

Thurs., 2/9, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

#### Commission on Disability

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

#### Finance Committee

Thurs., 2/5, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.  
Thurs., 2/12, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

#### Livable Streets

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

#### Planning Board

Tues., 2/10, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

#### School Committee

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

#### Select Board

Mon., 2/9, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### Acushnet

#### Board of Appeals

Tues., 2/24, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

#### Conservation Comm.

Wed., 2/11, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

#### Planning Board

Thurs., 2/5, Town Hall, 6 p.m.  
Thurs., 2/19, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

#### Select Board

Tues., 2/17, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

## TIDE TABLE

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

	Feb. 2026		HIGH a.m. p.m.	LOW a.m. p.m.
Thursday	5	1011	2237	0339* 1547*
Friday	6	1055	2324	0409 1615*
Saturday	7	1144	---	0442 1647
Sunday	8	0015	1236	0525 1728
Monday	9	0106	1327	0628 1825
Tuesday	10	0157	1419	0949 1926
Wednesday	11	0252	1521	1059 2024
Thursday	12	0357	1629	1147 2125
Friday	13	0456	1722	---
		---	---	2231
Saturday	14	0542	1804	---
		---	---	2319
Sunday	15	0621	1842	---
				1215

\*= 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](http://www.NeighbNews.com), under the "Legal Notices" tab on the top of the main page. Legal ads are also available at <http://masspublicnotices.org>, search under "Fairhaven Neighborhood News"

## ACUSHNET PLANNING BOARD

In accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A Section 9, you are hereby notified of a public hearing. The Acushnet Planning Board will hold a hearing on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., to review a Site Plan Review as follows:

**Submitted by:** Chris Ciano/Meet in the Middle, LLC  
**Property owner:** Chris Ciano/Meet in the Middle, LLC.  
**Represented by:** Chris Vandenberghe/SITEC Engineering & Environmental Consultants, Inc.

**Scope of Work:** Proposed construction of a single-story commercial storage building with office space and a contractor yard for material and supply storage

**Location:** 0 Middle Road, Acushnet, MA, Map 23 Lot 1B

This meeting will be held at the Board of Selectmen Meeting Room, Town Hall, 122 Main Street, Acushnet, MA 02743 and over Teams. Please see virtual meeting information on the agenda to be posted at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting. All persons, parties, or corporations interested therein may appear and be heard in relation thereto.

Mark Francois, Chairman, Acushnet Planning Board  
FNN, 2/5/26, 2/12/26

## ACUSHNET CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Acushnet Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Meeting Room, located at 122 Main Street, Acushnet, Massachusetts.

• **Public Hearing NOI – Meet in the Middle, LLC, Acushnet MA, Map 23 Lot 1B.** A Notice of Intent was filed by Sitec Engineering & Environmental Inc., on behalf of the applicant for property located at 0 Middle Road, shown as Assessors' Map 23 Lot 1B. The project consists of the construction of a single-story commercial storage building with office space and a contractors yard for material and supply storage with associated paved parking, utilities, stormwater management controls, and landscaping located on the southern side of Middle Road. The proposed work is shown on a plan titled "Proposed Contractors Yard/Storage Facility" dated December, 2025 by Sitec Engineering & Environmental Inc. The applicant is represented by Chris Vandenberghe, P.E. of Sitec Engineering & Environmental Inc.

James Souza, Chair  
FNN, 2/11/26

## Acushnet Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

The Zoning Board of Appeals is hereby giving notice that a meeting will be held by the Board on Tuesday, February 24, 2026 at 6:30 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room located at 122 Main Street, Acushnet, MA 02743.

• **Case #2025.02.24A** A case of Ryan Lombard for property located at 0 Coulombe Street, Map 15, Lot 46. The Petitioner seeks a Special Permit for an undersized lot for area required, 10,000 sq. ft., area requested, 80,000 sq. ft. Frontage required, 100 ft., frontage requested, 80 ft. upland circle required, 90 ft., upland circle requested, 80 ft. Maximum impervious coverage required, 20%, requested, 29.4%.

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

FNN, 2/5/26, 2/12/26

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## From our readers

### Eternal Kernels

I made popcorn a few nights ago. Consider this: All I had to do was take a flame-resistant bag of corn kernels, follow the "this-side-up" directions, stick it into a microwave oven, press a built-in "popcorn" button, wait for 120 seconds, take it out, open it, and — voilà! — a tasty snack was ready to go.

Upon working my way to the bottom of the bag, I noticed that nearly all of the kernels had popped and none were burnt. I couldn't help but be impressed. The makers of this

treat really had it down pat. As far as the nutritional value was concerned, well, that's another story.

Just imagine for a moment if we were all kernels in the bag of life. The question is what will be the source of heat we choose to make us "pop" this week? Will it be the scorch of trials and tribulations? Will it come from the grind of the workday? Will it come from the friction we experience in our travels and interactions? Or will we choose to sizzle under the faithful "macrowaves" of the One whose deepest desire is to enlighten our

understanding and warm the affections of our hearts, so that we may love Him, ourselves, and those around us? I don't know about you, but I don't want to see unpopped or burnt kernels in our bag!

Trusting our Maker to guide us this and every day is our best suggestion. That inspiration existed well before popcorn, comes readily, and was designed for us to digest at any time. As far as the nutritional value is concerned, well, its eternal kernels make it our most wholesome choice.

Steven J. Bouley, Fairhaven

## SELECT: cont'd from page 12

this paper because it's a town newspaper. and they take what Beth puts in there as gold which it wasn't. It was false accusations," said Mr. Carr. "And that'll come out with the investigation."

He said he wanted to know what recourse the board had to go after elected officials. He said he wanted to see what law stopped them from removing an elected official from office. If they cannot, and the only answer is recall elections, he said he will be going with some recalls.

"Because my reputation has been tarnished all along," said Mr. Carr. "There are volunteers in town that have been dragged through the mud."

He also suggested that Mr. Espindola be added to the list of people investigated to "find out what wrongdoing he did."

The board did not hold a vote.

The board also heard from Mr. Hickey with a grim look at the budget. He presented two budgets, one funds services at current levels and requires a 4.43% increase in spending.

It will also require a Proposition 2 1/2 override of about \$1.5 million. The impact to residents would be about \$189 per year in increased property tax for the average homeowner.

The second budget, which does not need an override reduces staffing, overtime costs for emergency services, maintenance to roads, sidewalks and trees along with \$380,802 in reductions to the School Department. It would also eliminate Household Hazardous Waste Day and curbside leaf collection.

Mr. Hickey said there are several

things that could change on the revenue side and the expense side that might make the deficit a little smaller, but there is no way it will make up for \$1.5 million.

One other large question is whether or not Acushnet will continue to use Fairhaven High School. The possible loss of that revenue was not included for this year's budget.

The budget presentation is available on the town's website: at <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/fiscal-year-26-27-budget-information/>

The SB also met jointly with the Planning Board in executive session to review minutes from eight PB meetings dating back to 2022 for possible release. The board did not make an announcement about releasing the minutes.



# FHS Blue Devils fall to Stang

By Caden Lisa

## Neighb News Correspondent

The Bishop Stang Spartans hosted the Fairhaven Blue Devils last Wednesday, 1/28/26, at the John C. O'Brian Gymnasium.

Bishop Stang broke held onto the lead for the remainder of the game after breaking a 14-14 first quarter

stalemate. Bishop Stang's largest lead of the game was during the beginning of the third quarter when the score was 37-27.

Fairhaven came roaring back with 16 points scored in the fourth quarter but came just short of a comeback; holding a one-point deficit with 30 seconds left in the contest.

Fairhaven missed a three-point shot, forced to foul resulting in the 61-55 final score.

The loss ended Fairhaven's three-game winning streak. Bishop Stang is on a three-game run of their own going into their match against Cardinal Spellman.



ABOVE LEFT: Fairhaven High School Blue Devil, Evan Lamontagne, and Bishop Stang Spartan, Tysen Teixeira battle their way down the court on 1/28/26 at Stang when the Blue Devils fell to the Spartans 61-55. ABOVE RIGHT: FHS Blue Devil, Josh Vieira, goes for the shot while guarded by a Bishop Stang Spartan. BELOW LEFT: Blue Devil, Jackson Ponte, works to get around Spartan, William Eccles, BELOW RIGHT: Blue Devil, Matt Chang, takes the ball past Spartan, Quisston Silva. Photos by Caden Lisa.



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