



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

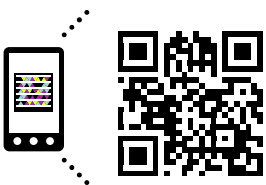
Volume 21, Issue 8 • February 12, 2026

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

More snow...and cold...and snow



Winter has arrived in earnest in these parts. After a whopper of a storm a couple of weeks ago, the region saw a couple more spits and starts. We got hit with another 6-8 inches Saturday, 2/7/26. The light, fluffy stuff got tossed around by high winds out of the north creating blizzard conditions on stretches of road and creating hazardous driving conditions. The temperatures have stayed way below freezing, with wind chills below zero, creating a frozen marsh and seashore all along the coast. ABOVE: Matt Costa and Spike do not let a little bit of blizzard conditions stop them from their daily walk on Causeway Road on West Island in Fairhaven on 2/7/26. 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.

February is Black History Month (see page 3), a time when we reflect on the trials and tribulations, and the feats and accomplishments of Black Americans.

And what does the Big Buffoon do? He posts one of the most disgusting videos of the Obamas, depicting them as apes.

They are two of the most accomplished, intelligent people of integrity you'll find anywhere.

Hence, the reason the Big Buffoon has to denigrate them in any way he can.

As my dear departed Aunt Zee used to say: "He's just jealous. They're all jealous."

Yup, she's right.

And our democracy is just barely a democracy. We are no longer free in this country. How can you people jabber on about freedom when the government goons can just grab anyone they want off the street for no reason and hold them indefinitely? How do you define freedom?

And the conditions in the "detention centers," aka gulags and concentration camps, are beyond frightening to hear about.

Regular people who could be your neighbors could be in there. But even worse, regular people are the jailers who are treating people this way.

But, hey, the DOW hit 50K. So, whatever.

We have all kinds of good stuff in here this week, including some meeting coverage (see page 4).

One more thing, can we stop being spoiled Boston fans for once? The Patriots made it to the Super Bowl. Yeah, they lost, and that was disappointing, but...they made it to the Super Bowl! And that, my fellow fans, is way cool.

And Bad Bunny was great! I need to find those songs with subtitles.

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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Editor: Beth David

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

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February is Black History Month.

February is Black History Month, and this year's theme is "A Century of Black History Comemorations."

The following information in quotes is from the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH®), the founders of Black History Month. Visit <https://asalh.org/>

"2026 marks a century of national commemorations of Black history. Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, George Cleveland Hall, William B. Hartgrove, Jesse E. Moorland, Alexander L. Jackson, and James E. Stamps institutionalized the teaching, study, dissemination, and commemoration of Black history when they founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH) on September 9, 1915.

"In 1925, when Dr. Carter G. Woodson planned the inaugural week-long observance of Black history, he could hardly have anticipated the imprint he would leave on the world. From Negro History Week to Black History Month, ASALH has carried forth the tradition, and the observances have become part of the warp and weft of American culture and increasingly the global

community. For our 100th theme, the founders of Black History Month urge us to explore the impact and meaning of Black history and life commemorations in transforming the status of Black peoples in the modern world."

Locally, several organizations are holding special screenings of movies and other events to commemorate Black History Month. See pages 5, 6, 7.

Statewide, the Department of Conservation and Recreation is holding events at many of its properties (<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/black-history-month-events-at-dcr-properties>)

Fall River Heritage State Park
100 Davol Street, Fall River
508-675-5759, Ext. 0

Exhibit through 3/18 on Lewis Hayden, an abolitionist, businessperson, lecturer, and politician. A self-emancipated man, he stood at the center of a struggle for dignity and equal rights in nineteenth century Boston after living in nearby New Bedford. His story remains an inspiration.

Fri., 2/13, Noon-1:30 p.m., meet inside the Visitors Center. Join Park Ranger Rufai Shardow from New

Bedford Whaling National Historical Park for a powerful Lunch and Learn exploring the history of the local Underground Railroad. The Railroad a loosely connected network of people from diverse backgrounds who risked their lives to help enslaved individuals escape to freedom, right here in Fall River and New Bedford. Presented by the Bristol Black Collective, the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, and DCR.

Wed., 2/18, Noon-3 p.m. Community Kwanzaa Sewing workshops. Join us for an interactive and festive experience as we celebrate the Kwanzaa principle of Ujima (collective work and responsibility). Learn sewing and embroidery techniques while creating a specially designed table runner. Supplies are limited.

Sat., 2/21. The Brave and the Bold: The Story of the 1st Rhode Island Regiment. Celebrate local Black history through a family legacy. Learn more about the courage of the 1st Rhode Island Regiment; Black and Indigenous heroes of the American Revolutionary War. Jason Roomes, a proud descendant, will be presenting.

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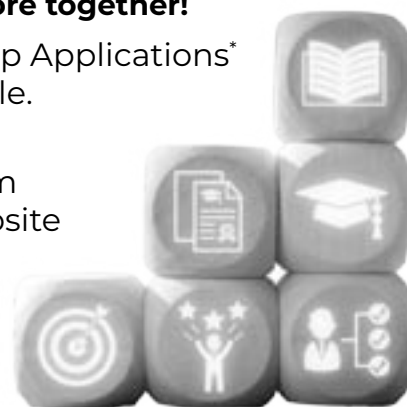
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Fairhaven personnel policy changes; child care for TM

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Select Board held a public hearing at its 2/9/26 meeting to make changes to the Personnel Policy to align benefits for non-union employees with the benefits just negotiated for employees in the clerical union.

The changes include adding one personal day for full time non-union employees, to give them four instead of three.

The changes also include adding a new tier to time employed and length of vacation, giving employees 30 days vacation a year after they have been with the town for 20 years.

Town Administrator, Keith Hickey, asked the board to approve the changes so all the employees in the building have the same benefits.

No members of the public commented. The board voted to support the changes unanimously.

The board also heard from Recreation Director, Bernadette Barreira, notifying the board that the Rec Center will provide free child care to Town Meeting members on May 2

during TM. The service will also be available at \$35 per child to residents who are not TM members but wish to attend the meeting.

Ms. Barreira told the board they wanted to "take away hurdles" for people who want to attend TM.

The Rec Center will provide a safe spot for kids, featuring structured play, crafts and organized games. She said it is the same programming they use for Thanksgiving. Parents will need to provide lunch and snack for their children.

To register and learn more about the details of the program, visit FairhavenRecreation.activityreg.com or visit the Rec Center during regular hours.

SB member, Keith Silvia, said it will hopefully bring more attendance to TM and maybe members will not "take off" right after they vote.

The board also heard from Cathy Melanson for a second time to be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Associate member.

Ms. Melanson told the board that she had written out her accomplishments so she would not

forget. She had applied for the slot but was not appointed at the last meeting, when SB chairperson Charles Murphy, and SB member Andrew Saunders were not present.

Ms. Melanson reviewed her experience on a variety of boards, but mostly concentrated on her experience on the Planning Board and volunteering in the Planning Department when the town did not have a Planner. She is currently helping out that office remotely because the town is again without a planner.

Mr. Hickey said he had been concerned about Ms. Melanson spending extended amounts of time in the Planning Office due to the recent turmoil with the Planning Board, so he asked her to work from home.

He said she does get calls from staff and she answers questions.

SB Vice Chair Andrew Romano said he would not be voting for her to be on the ZBA because of her involvement in so many other boards, including PB. He said they need volunteers, but they need diverse volunteers.

SELECT: cont'd on page 13

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L-R: Pam, Rena, Buster

Dartmouth and Somerset

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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>

Fhvn GOP Monthly Meeting

The Fairhaven Republican Town Committee will hold its monthly meeting on Tues., 2/17, at 32 Abbey Street, Fairhaven, beginning promptly at 6:00 PM. Our meeting will focus on the upcoming caucus to elect delegates for the Republican State Convention.

Caucus

The Fairhaven Republican Town Committee will hold a caucus to elect delegates for the Republican State Convention, taking place at the DCU Center in Worcester on April 25th, 2026. This caucus serves to fulfill legal obligations under M.G.L. to provide ballot access and endorse candidates for statewide office.

Any registered Republican voter in the Town of Fairhaven is eligible to serve. There is a delegate fee of \$150.00, and guest tickets are available for those who wish to attend as non-delegates. These caucuses repre-

sent a major milestone in the buildup to the November 3rd, 2026, election.

Please contact fairhavenrtc@gmail.com or call Chairman Bob McConnell at 508-863-0416 with any questions or to express interest in serving as a convention delegate.

Fhvn Dem Comm Monthly Meeting

The next monthly meeting of the Fairhaven Democratic Town Committee will be held on Wed., 2/18, at 6pm at the Fairhaven Senior Center, 229 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven.

Caucus

Our annual Caucus will be held on Wed., 3/18 at 6pm at the Fairhaven Senior Center, 229 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven.

Please join us, all are welcome.

For more information or questions please contact ann.richard@gmail.com

Fhvn's 214th B-day

Feb 22, 2026, 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM, Center Street, Center St., Fairhaven. Join Discover Fairhaven (the Office of Tourism, Community & Economic Development) for Fairhaven's 214th Birthday Celebration — a cozy winter evening celebrating the town we call home.

The celebration will feature live entertainment and music, food and drink, s'mores over campfires, and a few fun surprises. Set against the backdrop of Fairhaven's iconic 19th-century architecture, this gathering is a chance to pause, look around, and appreciate the generations of people who built this town and the community spirit that continues to shape it today.

Whether you're a lifelong resident or new to Fairhaven, come bundle up, spend time with neighbors, and help celebrate 214 years of history, pride, and small-town charm.

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.

In Fairhaven, join us every Thursday 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.

At The Millicent

The following events will be held at the Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven. Accessible. Visit <https://millicentlibrary.org/events-calendar> to register

Free Movie

Thurs., 2/19, 2:00 PM–4:15 PM

Join us for a family-friendly screening of the live-action *How to Train Your Dragon*, with a runtime of 2 hours and 5 minutes. A special guest, Atlas the library bearded dragon, will make an in-costume appearance and watch the film with us. Viking-themed coloring pages will be available during the movie for a relaxed, kid-friendly viewing experience. All ages welcome!

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>

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 Thurs., 2/19, and Fri., 2/20, 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/>

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/>

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

Vigil for Justice

The victims of ICE, their families, America.

Every Tuesday, 6–7 p.m., corner of County St. & Pearl St., New Bedford. Bring instruments, poetry, candles, signs.

Learn To Row

Winter Juniors Rowing with the New Bedford Rowing Center, 630 Belleville Ave., New Bedford. For ages 12–8, begins 2/23. Row at our indoor studio on our rowing machines: six-week session, \$150. Tues. & Thurs. at 5:15 p.m., Sat. at a 9 a.m. US Rowing certified coaches. Beginners welcome. Scholarships available.

Become part of a team, make new friends, improve your mental health, get stronger. Competitive opportunities available year-round. Get ready for the summer season.

Dock-U-Mentary

New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center (FHC) and New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park are partnering with Ian Coss, host of GBH's The Big Dig podcast, for a special screening and conversation about the New Bedford fishermen's strike of 1985-86, entitled "I Hope Those People Sink." The documentary explores the legacy of that explosive three month period through extensive archival footage and interviews with key participants. Following the one-hour film, Coss will be joined by members of New Bedford's commercial fishing industry for a live conversation and Q&A about the strike and its ongoing legacy. The program will take place on Fri., 2/20, at 7:00pm National Park's auditorium at 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford. Doors open at 6:30pm.

Admission to this event is free, but people are encouraged to register in advance through the Center's website: <https://fishingheritagecenter.org/dock-u-mentary-i-hope-those-people-sink/>.

At the Z

The following events are taking place at the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center, New Bedford. For tickets visit

www.zeiterion.org, the Zeiterion box office at 684 Purchase St.; or call 508-994-2900.

African Acrobats

Cirque Kalabanté: Afrique en Cirque, Sun., 2/22, 4 p.m. Tickets: \$31–\$61. Bring the whole family to this matinee performance for jaw-dropping feats of agility and athleticism, celebrating the vibrant rhythms and indomitable spirit of African culture in an unforgettable live experience. Discover the beauty and artistry of African culture in this thrilling performance!

Beyond its scenery, costumes, and staging, Cirque Kalabanté represents the strength, agility, and life's joys of young Africans. In their Afrique En Cirque, acrobats execute gravity-defying moves and human pyramids, accompanied by the contemporary sounds of live Afro-Jazz, percussion, and kora.

A show by Yamoussa Bangoura, Afrique En Cirque is inspired by daily life in Guinea. Welcome to the universe of Kalabanté Productions and prepare for an unforgettable journey.

Movie Mondays

For decades, New Bedford gathered at The State Theatre to experience the magic of the movies, from Saturday matinees to unforgettable evening blockbusters and even world premieres! The Zeiterion celebrates that legacy by bringing beloved titles back to the big screen for a Movie Mondays. From timeless classics to cult favorites and musical milestones, these films honor the tradition of shared cinematic joy in a grand single-screen setting.

Movie Mondays Series will feature:

- Lion King (1994), February 16
- Sound of Music (1965), February 23
- The Shining (1980), March 9
- Purple Rain (1984), March 16
- Jennifer's Body (2009), March 23
- All About Eve (1950), March 30
- Shaft (1971), March 30
- Pulp Fiction (1994), April 6
- 8 Mile (2002), April 20
- Seven Year Itch (1955), April 27
- King Kong vs. Godzilla (1955), 4/27
- The Original Star Wars Trilogy, 5/4
- The Longest Day (1962), May 25
- Notorious (2009), June 1
- Walk The Line (2005), June 15
- AND MORE THROUGH 8/31

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.

Vigil for Justice

Westport is more than nice beaches. We care about our neighbors! Join us at a Vigil for All The Victims of ICE, every Wednesday from 6-6:45 p.m., at Drift Road, Head of Westport.

Free Films

South Coast Neighbors United is excited to invite you to a free film series this February, presented in partnership with the Office of Sustainability at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth and the Sierra Club Massachusetts Chapter.

This powerful three-part series shines a light on the real-world consequences of corporate pollution, environmental contamination, and decades-long cover-ups — stories that affect communities across the country and right here at home.

All movies are 6-8:30 p.m. in the Charlton College of Business, 285 Old Westport Rd, North Dartmouth, MA 02747 (parking lots 13, 14 in white lined spaces). The film will be screening in Room 149 at 6PM each night. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Feb. 12 - The first film in the series is "Dark Waters," starring Mark Ruffalo, Anne Hathaway, and Tim Robbins. This movie tells the gripping true story of a corporate defense attorney (Rob Bilott) who risks everything to expose DuPont's role in widespread chemical contamination.

Feb. 19 - The second film, "The Devil We Know," is an award-winning documentary which dives deeper into the devastating impacts of PFAS contamination (by DuPont) and the

communities that fought back after learning the truth.

Feb 26 - The final film, "How To Poison A Planet," featuring Mark Ruffalo and Rob Bilott, is an investigative documentary that uncovers how toxic "forever chemicals" came to be so widely used (by DuPont and 3M) —and why accountability has been so elusive.

Lily Jean Fund

The Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund has established a donation site through Cape Ann Savings Bank to collect donations that will be distributed equally to the family members of those who lost their lives when the F/V Lily Jean sank on January 30, 2026.

In the wake of this tragedy, there have been overwhelming expressions of support for the families of those who were lost, along with requests for a clear and trusted way to provide direct financial assistance.

The Lily Jean Fund has been created for this purpose. The fund accepts tax-deductible contributions and distributes the proceeds in equal amounts to the families of the seven crew members who perished.

One hundred percent (100%) of all contributions received will be distributed directly to the families impacted by this tragedy.

The first \$40,000 donated to the F/V Lily Jean Fund will be matched dollar for a dollar by an anonymous donor, whether given as a single donation or through multiple contributions. Secure online donations are available by credit or debit card, PayPal, and Venmo.

To help ensure more of your donation goes directly to the families, please consider adding \$1 to help offset processing fees. Visit <https://fvlilyjeanfund.org/>

Checks should be made payable to Gloucester Fishing Community Preservation Fund (GFCPF), a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, memo line "Lily Jean Fund." Mail to o: c/o Cape Ann Savings Bank, 109 Main Street, Gloucester, MA 01930 Memo Line. Or visit any Cape Ann Savings Bank branch locations

Mother's Day 5K

We are so excited to announce that registration is open for the 16th

Annual Women's Fund SouthCoast Mother's Day 5k Road Race & Walk at Cisco Brewers New Bedford on Sunday, May 10th at 10:00am! Visit <https://womensfundsouthcoast.org/16th-annual-mothers-day-5k/>

We are also thrilled to once again feature original artwork created by local artist Ariana Lee, centering New Bedford and reflecting the inclusive values that define Women's Fund SouthCoast.

The first 100 registrants will receive a FREE t-shirt with this design!

At Acushnet Library

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

Free Movie

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

SAVE THE DATE:

Job Fair

One SouthCoast Chamber of Commerce invites job seekers to the 2026 SouthCoast Job Fair on Thurs., 3/19 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at White's of Westport, 66 State Road, Westport, MA.

This free hiring event is open to all job seekers and requires no pre-registration. Attendees will have the chance to meet directly with employers who are actively hiring, explore careers across a wide range of industries, and make meaningful connections that could lead to their next job. Whether you're looking for your first role, a career change, or your next professional move, the SouthCoast Job Fair is designed to connect you with real opportunities.

Job seekers are encouraged to bring copies of their resume, dress professionally, and be ready for on-the-spot conversations and potential interviews. With hundreds of candidates and recruiters, the event offers an accessible, friendly space for career exploration and advancement.

Tables are still available for employers.

For full event details, visit www.onesouthcoast.com.



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

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.

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.

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>

Qigong Class with Robin Fielding

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

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

No-Bake Peanut Butter Cookies

3/4 cup natural peanut butter
1/3 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup butter
1/4 cup low-fat milk
1 3/4 cups rolled oats
1 tsp vanilla extract
1/2 cup chocolate chips
(optional)

Heat peanut butter, brown sugar, butter and milk in a medium saucepan over medium heat, stirring, until the butter and sugar have melted. Stir in oats and vanilla. If using chocolate chips, let the mixture cool to room temperature before stirring them in.

Drop the dough by the tablespoon onto a parchment-lined baking sheet. Press into 2-inch circles. Refrigerate until firm, about 30 minutes. Keep refrigerated

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Breach of Contract

Dear Frankie,

My parents adopted me when they got married, and those early years together were magical. Laughter filled every corner of our lives. We were always off

on an adventure — camping under the stars, sailing across sparkling lakes, swimming until we shivered, or just hanging out at home.

I remember the day we went tobogganing, the snowball fight, and how proud I felt helping my dad drag the toboggan back up the hill.

Back then, it felt like we could never get enough time together.

Everything changed when the baby arrived.

Recently, I overheard my parents talking about the guilt they feel for not giving me as much attention or sharing those special moments as before. They lamented that there just weren't enough hours in the day for everyone. I have mixed feelings. Part of me gets that the baby needs them, but another part feels left out and forgotten. What do I do with all these feelings?

Woodley

Dear Frankie

Dear Woodley,

It happens all the time when dog parents have a kid. Kids come first with the humans. You do wonder, given the stories you hear about the terrible things some kids do, that makes their parents' lives miserable.

Unfortunately, the old days are not coming back. But that doesn't mean you have to roll over and take it lying down. Let them know you are not pleased. When you are out for a walk, and they want to cut it short, refuse to go home by sitting or lying down, or pulling away, until they agree to walk for a few more minutes.

If they are sitting on the couch, climb up and put your paw on their arm or leg and keep it there until they respond.

Get your ball or a toy and drop it at their feet. If they ignore you, pick it up and drop it in their lap.

In other words, make it easy for them to engage with you and give you the attention you want and deserve.

Best, Frankie

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



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Acushnet teacher honored for Civic Education

Press Release

Karen Bentley, an eighth grade civics teacher at Albert F. Ford Middle School in Acushnet, has been selected to receive the Don Salvucci Award for Excellence in Promoting Civic Education from the Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies (MCSS).

The award recognizes classroom teachers who emphasize and teach the importance of democratic ideals and responsibilities. It is named in honor of Don Salvucci, a former MCSS president and longtime advocate for innovative and engaging civic education.

Bentley was chosen from a highly competitive field of nominees from across the state. In notifying district leaders of the selection, MCSS described Bentley as "a truly remarkable educator" who stood out for her talents and contributions to students.

Bentley, who is in her third year teaching in Acushnet, is committed to cultivating inquiry and essential civic skills. Her classroom centers on students' ability to ask questions, analyze information, evaluate perspectives and make informed decisions.

"Ms. Bentley has significantly elevated the civic learning experience for students, transforming civics from a required subject into a powerful, meaningful and authentic exploration of democratic ideals, responsibilities and action," Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Angela Ruggeri wrote in a letter nominating Bentley for the award. "In the spirit of Don Salvucci's legacy, his passion for civic education, inquiry, innovation, and student engagement, Ms. Bentley exemplifies excellence across multiple award criteria, particularly in fostering

inquiry, developing democratic values, professional involvement, and student participation in civic activities beyond the classroom."

In her classroom, students regularly engage with foundational documents such as the Constitution and Bill of Rights, explore current civic issues and participate in project-based learning tied to their community.

Each student is provided with laminated civic value cards kept at their desk for daily reference, highlighting values such as equality, liberty, inclusiveness, fairness, courage, truth, diversity, patriotism and freedom.

Bentley also leads students in civic action projects that address real-world issues, including mental health awareness, food insecurity, public safety, intolerance and community engagement. Many of these projects have been showcased at regional and state-level civic events, an uncommon achievement at the middle school level.

Her work extends beyond the classroom through partnerships with organizations such as the Democratic Knowledge Project and the One8 Foundation, as well as collaborations with local businesses and institutions. One notable project involved working with Acushnet Creamery to teach students about ranked-choice voting by allowing students to vote on the name of a new ice cream flavor.

"Karen Bentley has created a classroom where students learn to think critically and take responsibility for their role in the community," said Principal Michelle Silvia. "She brings civic learning to life in ways that are meaningful and lasting, and this recognition is truly well-deserved."



Karen Bentley, left, an eighth grade civics teacher at Albert F. Ford Middle School has been selected to receive the Don Salvucci Award for Excellence in Promoting Civic Education from the Mass. Council for the Social Studies. Superintendent Dr. Paula Bailey, right, and other administrators surprised Bentley with the news on Monday, 2/2/26. Photo Courtesy Acushnet Public Schools.

Bentley will be formally honored at the MCSS Awards Ceremony on March 13 at Old Sturbridge Village, following the organization's Spring Conference.

District leaders praised Bentley for her dedication to preparing students for thoughtful, informed participation in civic life.

"Karen Bentley represents the very best of what civic education should be," said Superintendent Dr. Paula Bailey. "Because of her work in the classroom, students are prepared beyond high school for thoughtful participation in their communities for years to come. We are proud to see her recognized at the state level for this important work."

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Sgt. Mike Bouvier retires from Fairhaven PD

By Beth David
Editor

Sergeant Michael Bouvier officially retired from the Fairhaven Police Department and was honored at a ceremony at the station on Friday, 2/6/26. Family, friends, fellow police department personnel and others gathered to see Sgt. Bouvier off into retired life.

"Congratulations Sgt. Mike Bouvier on your retirement from the Fairhaven Police Department after 30 years of dedicated and exemplary service to Fairhaven and the Greater New Bedford community," wrote state Rep. Mark Sylvia on his Facebook page, after attending the event.

"Mike, we wish you a happy, healthy, and long retirement and thank you for your service to the Town of Fairhaven and our Country!!" wrote the Fairhaven Police Department on its Facebook page.

At the Select Board meeting on 2/9/6, Town Administrator, Keith Hickey, noted that Sgt. Bouvier dedicated 30 years of "distinguished service" to the Fairhaven PD, "building a career defined by leadership, mentorship, and community-centered policing."

He said Sgt. Bouvier supervised



and led dozens of officers, providing "guidance, accountability, and professional development while setting high standards for performance and integrity."

Sgt. Bouvier also served as the School Resource Officer and created one of the first community outreach units in the region.

"His career reflects a deep commitment to service, collaboration, and

improving the quality of life for the Fairhaven community," said Mr. Hickey.

Sgt. Bouvier also served as a Marine, and has dedicated years of service to supporting individuals with disabilities.

"Thank you Sgt. Bouvier for all that you have done for us in order to keep us safe and healthy," wrote Rep. Sylvia. "You will be missed!"



TOP: Friends and family listen to Sgt. Mike Bouvier at a ceremony commemorating his retirement from the Fairhaven Police Department on 2/6/26. ABOVE LEFT: After reading a proclamation from the state House of Representatives, Mass. State Representative Mark Sylvia shakes hands with Sgt. Bouvier. Photos courtesy of Rep. Mark Sylvia. ABOVE RIGHT: Mike Bouvier poses for the camera in front of the tribute wall, where he will affix his own plaque. Photo from Fairhaven Police Department Facebook page.

Turkey Trot proceeds distributed to three organizations

Press Release

The Greater New Bedford Track Club (GNBTC) is proud to announce the distribution of \$26,500 in charitable donations to local nonprofit organizations following the success of the 2025 Fairhaven Turkey Trot.

Proceeds from the annual Thanksgiving Day 5k road race were awarded to three organizations serving critical needs across the Greater New Bedford community:

- \$20,000 to Shepherd's Pantry, supporting food access for individuals and families facing food insecurity
- 5,000 to the Hunger Commission at United Way of Greater New Bedford, helping advance regional hunger relief initiatives
- \$1,500 to support Adaptive Physical Education programming at the Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative (SMEC), expanding opportunities for students with diverse physical needs

Now in its 15th year, the Fairhaven Turkey Trot is one of the area's most popular Thanksgiving traditions, bringing together runners, walkers, volunteers, and spectators in support of local causes. The event is organized entirely by volunteers from

the Greater New Bedford Track Club, with all net proceeds reinvested back into the community.

"The Turkey Trot is about more than running — it's about showing up for our neighbors," said Meg Rogers, Greater New Bedford Track Club president. "We're incredibly grateful to the participants, sponsors, volunteers, and Town of Fairhaven who make it possible for us to give back at this level."

Since its inception, the Fairhaven Turkey Trot has generated well over \$100,000 for local nonprofits.

For more information about the Greater New Bed-

ford Track Club or the Fairhaven Turkey Trot, visit RunGNBTC.com or FairhavenTurkeyTrot.net.



L-R: Gerry Payette, director, Shepherd's Pantry; Meg Rogers, president, Greater New Bedford Track Club; Michelle Hantman, president and CEO, United Way of Greater New Bedford; Catherine Cooper, executive director, Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative pose for a picture during a check presentation to donate proceeds from the 2025 Turkey Trot. Submitted photo.

SELECT: cont'd from page 4

Ms. Melanson said her work with the Planning Department has nothing to do with the ZBA. She said she does not go to Planning Board meetings,

"I do not tell them what to do," she said, adding that what happens in the PB has nothing to do with her, she just helps with giving direction when applications come in.

The board voted to appoint Ms. Melanson to the ZBA as an Associate member, with Mr. Murphy, Mr. Saunders, and Mr. Silvia voting "yes"; and Mr. Romano, and Natalie Mello voting "no."

The board also voted to appoint Bob Espindola to the Open Space and Recreation Committee.

Mr. Silvia said he was "a little bit torn with this" because in a previous meeting, Mr. Espindola had asked the board not to appoint Patrick Carr and Ms. Melanson because of the investigation into the Timothy-Hiller project, and they will be interviewed.

Mr. Silvia said more people are being interviewed, and Mr. Espindola

submitted 14 names, including Mr. Silvia's. He said he was open to that.

"But I think Mr. Espindola should be part of the investigation, also, because I know there's things that he's done that aren't correct," said Mr. Silvia. "So I'm kind of uncomfortable with appointing him to this until the investigation is done."

He then sat back and stopped speaking, and Mr. Romano raised his hand to the chair to be recognized.

"So where was that concern a minute ago with Ms. Melanson," said Mr. Romano. "Or two weeks ago with Mr. Carr."

Mr. Silvia said he did not get to finish his thought.

"I'm not the type of person you are," said Mr. Silvia to Mr. Romano. "I'm not going to hold it against him."

He said he would vote for the appointment, but just wanted it to be known that Mr. Espindola should be interviewed, too.

"If it's good for one, it's good for the other," said Mr. Silvia. "But I will

vote positive for him because I don't hold things against people like that, which seems like you do."

The board voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Espindola to the committee.

In other business the board:

- Approved the use of Hoppy's Landing for parking with no fees for the West Island 5K on Sunday, 4/26/26.
- Approved a One Day Beer and Wine License for the Buzzards Bay Coalition Swim on Saturday, 6/20/26.
- Appointed Suzanne Bellanger to the Belonging Committee.

The board also held two executive sessions. One was a joint meeting with the Planning board 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. The other was to discuss Civil Service.

Miles Grant announces run for Fairhaven Select Board



Miles Grant is running for Fairhaven Select Board in the 6/9/26 election. Submitted photo.

Press Release

Our town needs fresh voices, new ideas, and leadership that makes smart choices today to secure our future. I'm running for Select Board because I want to help make sure the decisions we face are debated thoroughly,

collaboratively, and civilly, and are guided by a vision for sustaining Fairhaven as a vibrant community and wonderful place to raise a family. I am so happy to call Fairhaven home. Just last week, my increasingly low-riding 2011 Toyota Camry got caught on a snow pile at Route 6 and Adams Street, and before I could even get a back-and-forth rock going, two people had jumped out of their cars with shovels to help dig out. I was so

glad my kids were in the back seat to see what our community is all about.

I've worked hard to give back. I currently serve on the Fairhaven Planning Board, I'm a liaison to the Economic Development Committee, and I'm a member of the Livable Streets Committee. I'm a founding member of Southcoast Places for People, a cause that's taken on increased urgency with a wave of people killed on Route 6 over the last year. I've also volunteered on the New Bedford Science Café's steering committee, as a trail steward with Buzzards Bay Coalition, as an event volunteer with the South Coast LGBTQ+ Network, and as a coach with Mariner Soccer. And I'm currently communications director at Partners In Democracy, a Boston-based nonprofit working across party lines to make sure everyone is heard, our government is responsive, and our representatives are accountable.


It's a time of hope for Fairhaven. Brand new commuter rail service right across the harbor saw ridership surge 33% in its second year. We've had a new series of outdoor events draw thou-

sands of people to town center. Restaurants like Hanami Tea House, Saffron by the Sea, Sail House Tavern, and SoCo Tavern have opened their doors. And just over the horizon, Big Y could bring a new, locally-owned grocery store.

But we also face challenges, the biggest being our town budget. To ensure long-term sustainability, we need to loosen some of the regulations that have hurt our growth. Can you believe Fairhaven is actually home to fewer people now than it was in 1970? Thanks to unnecessarily big lot sizes, frontages, setbacks, and other onerous restrictions on growth, much of our town center would be illegal to build today. We should reform our bylaws to encourage new housing and small businesses that fit with the historic character of our existing neighborhoods.

In the coming months, I'll be out asking for your vote on June 9, holding events and joining meetings in every corner of Fairhaven, and I hope you'll come say hello. To get the details, follow my campaign on Facebook — just search Miles Grant for Select Board.

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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	12	0357	1629	1147 2125
Friday	13	0456	1722	--- 1224
		---	---	--- 2231
Saturday	14	0542	1804	--- 1246
		---	---	--- 2319
Sunday	15	0621	1842	--- 1215
Monday	16	0659	1921	0000 1240
Tuesday	17	0739	2002	0043 1315*
Wednesday	18	0820	2044	0129* 1354*
Thursday	19	0903	2127	0217* 1434*
Friday	20	0946	2212	0301* 1514*
Saturday	21	1033	2302	0343* 1554*
Sunday	22	1125	2359	0428* 1637*

*= 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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SHEA DOONAN
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NEED RELIABLE PERSON FOR SNOW REMOVAL Operate owner's snow blower. Very little shoveling. Must live in New Bedford or Fairhaven, have an AWD vehicle or live within walking distance to our home on County Street in New Bedford near Clasky Park. Must be available for every snow event over 2" day or night. 2-4 hours work \$50 per hour. Call 774-202-2222.

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— Margaret Sullivan, “Ghosting The News”

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Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven

Atlas Tack Working Group

Thurs., 2/12, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Board of Appeals

Tues., 3/3, Town Hal, 6 p.m.

Board of Health

Wed., 2/25, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Commission on Disability

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

Cultural Council

Wed., 2/18, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Economic Development

Thurs., 2/19, Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.

Finance Committee

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

Thurs., 2/19, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

Livable Streets

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

Marine Resources

Thurs., 2/29, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board

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

School Committee

Wed., 2/25, Media Ctr/Lib., 6:30 p.m.

Select Board

Mon., 2/23, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet

Bicycle & Ped Safety

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

Board of Appeals

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

Conservation Comm.

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

Master Plan Comm

Thurs., 2/12, Police Station, 6 p.m.

Planning Board

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

Select Board

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

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

Thank you for reading the
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Public Hearings/Legal Notices

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

Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

Tuesday March 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=MXp0VWpKTfBEUmluT1pWScTlVzJCQ0T09>
or call 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 941 1513
7952 Passcode: 361259

1. REF# ZBA-026-005: 2 Oxford Street, Map 13, Lot 1, Book 13447, Page 155. Applicant and Owner: 2 Oxford Street, LLC seeks a variance for a proposed accessory building that is forward of the front yard. Pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning bylaw 198-22

Patrick Carr, Chair, Fairhaven ZBA
FNN: 2/12/26, 2/19/26

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Fairhaven invites sealed bids for the "Cushman Park Courts Rehabilitation and Related Work", in accordance with the Contract Documents prepared by Department of Public Works, 5 Arsene Street, Fairhaven, Massachusetts 02719.

Sealed bids marked "Cushman Park Courts Rehabilitation and Related Work", will be received at the Board of Public Works Office, 5 Arsene Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719 not later than 2:00 p.m., March 3, 2026 E.S.T., and at 2:00 p.m., March 3, 2026 E.S.T. will be publicly opened and read. The Board of Public Works reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.

Interested Contractors may request the Contract Documents free of charge as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file by visiting the Town of Fairhaven website at the following: <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/beacon/>.

FNN 2/12/26, 2/19/26

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Fairhaven

Conservation Commission

Monday, February 23, 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. M.G.L. 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=VFdUQkhzdVYrNzJlQktlVj9XSzGppZz09>
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 extend the existing gravel road. Work to take place within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

b. CON 023-547, SE 023-1522: 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 (El.18').

c. CON 023-548: 1 Mina Street, Map 37A, Lot 612 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 Naske-tucket 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 (El.18').

f. CON 023-552, SE 023-1521: 184 Balsam Street, Map 43B, 041 Notice of Intent filed by Robert Sullivan to dredge and remove approximately 97 cubic yards of material under existing dock. Work to take place within Land Under Ocean and Land Containing Shellfish.

g. CON 023-553, SE 023-: 24 Kane Street, Map 31A, Lot 321 Notice of Intent filed by Jermaine Hurley for the re-construction of a single-family dwelling with associated utilities, driveway and landscaping within 100' of a bordering vegetated wetland.

h. CON 023-554, SE 023-: 30 Brook Street, Map 31, Lot 154 Notice of Intent filed by Daniel & Jo-Anne Charette to construct an accessory dwelling unit with associated ancillary structures, sewer and water connections to the existing house and the replacement of the perimeter fence.

i. CON 023-555, Phoenix Rail Trail Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Town of Fairhaven/ Highway Department for a pavement overlay on the existing rail trail. Improvements to include minor geometric realignment and ADA compliance at rail trail intersections; work to also include minor drainage modifications and signage installation.

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: 2/12/26

Fairhaven Housing Authority INVITATION TO BID

The FAIRHAVEN HOUSING AUTHORITY, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Window Replacement at State Aided Development: Oxford Terrace (667-3) in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by JM BOOTH & ASSOCIATES, INC.

The Project consists of but not limited to:

Removal and replacement of bedroom windows, framing and siding in brick opening. Includes abatement of caulking and transite panels.

The work is estimated to cost \$300,536.00.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §26 to 27H inclusive.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, General Building Construction, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/ General Contractor Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until 05 March 2026 at 10:00AM EST and publicly opened online, forthwith.

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates) and made payable to the FAIRHAVEN HOUSING AUTHORITY. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be avail-

able for review at biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

General bidders must agree to contract with minority and women business enterprises as certified by the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO). The combined participation benchmark reserved for such enterprises shall not be less than 13% of the final contract price including accepted alternates. Request for waivers must be sent to EOHLC (Chad.Howard@mass.gov) 5 calendar days prior to the General Bid date. NO WAIVERS WILL BE GRANTED AFTER THE GENERAL BIDS ARE OPENED.

The Contractor and all subcontractors (collectively referred to as "the Contractor") agree to strive to achieve minority and women workforce participation. The Workforce Participation benchmark is set at 6.9% for women and 15.3% for minorities. The Workforce benchmark percentages are a statutory requirement under MGL c. 149 § 44A(2)(G).

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled Date and Time: 02/18/2026 at 10:00AM EST Address: 275 Main St., Fairhaven, MA 02719

Instructions: Meet in main entry lobby. Send questions to rsmith@jmba-architects.com.

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at: Nashoba Blue Inc., 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749; 978-568-1167

FNN 2/12/26

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 Vandenbergh/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 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 imper- vious 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

You cannot appease
fascism by meeting it
in the middle; you cannot
beat racism by indulging
or excusing it.

Mehdi Hasan

Fairhaven girls fall to Martha's Vineyard, 46-39



The Fairhaven Blue Devils hosted the Martha's Vineyard team on February 4, which just happened to be National Girls and Women in Sports Day. Unfortunately, for the home team, the Vineyarders got the win, 46-39. ABOVE LEFT: Fairhaven Blue Devil Jayda Mello (#14) reaches for the rebound, ultimately losing it to Lulu Hall (#15) during the 2/4/26 game against Martha's Vineyard at Fairhaven High School, when the Vineyarders got the win, 46-39. ABOVE RIGHT: Fairhaven's Elodie Cook gets ready to throw a pass as Vineyarder Bella Burns heads her way. BELOW LEFT: Fairhaven's Ella Foster tries to dribble and slip away from defender Lulu Hall. BELOW RIGHT: Fairhaven's Kyra Joseph boxes out Vineyarder Lulu Hall. *Photos by Caden Lisa*



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