



# Fairhaven

# Neighborhood News

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



The little paper  
with a big voice!

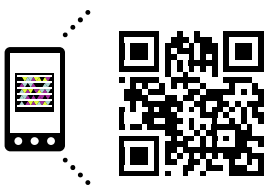
Volume 21, Issue 9 • February 19, 2026

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

## Kool Kids bounce around for fun



Staff and kids in the Kool Kids program at the Fairhaven Recreation Center pose for the local free sheet on 2/17/26. The program provides activities for Grades K-7 after school and during school vacations. 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.



Publisher Beth David with  
Charlie, aka Evil Dog

My Evil Little Sidekick crossed the rainbow bridge this week (see page 14). He was 20 years old, about. He was a rescue, so his exact age is not known. My sister, Chris, rescued him from a shelter in Fall River. He bit everyone in the family over the years, except my mother. Go figure. I took him after my sister died from cancer in 2019. He was a royal pain in the you-know-what, but he was the cutest little thing you ever saw. He gave us many moments of entertainment, and was, at the very least, an interesting little dog.

I hope there was a big bucket of that bland, boiled, white-meat chicken you loved so much waiting for you at the end of the rainbow bridge, little buddy.

We have some meeting coverage this week. Acushnet picked a new Town Administrator (see page 3). Now they just have to make the deal. Just in time for budget season, right?

Our own Steve Bouley went to the Super Bowl! How cool is that...even if he was rooting for the other side. Ahem. See page 11 to read all about it.

And Fairhaven's big birthday bash is this Sunday (page 5). It will be outside in front of town hall because we are tough New Englanders.

Not as tough as Minnesotans, though. My heroes.

This week's atrocities perpetrated by our own US government include horror stories about the conditions in the so-called "detention centers," although "concentration camp" is more apt. Does it make you feel safer that we, the most powerful country in the world, is feeding people rotten food, cramming them all into one room, with lights on 24/7 and one toilet out in the open and no access to showers? Little babies are getting sick and being denied medical care unless they are at death's door. It's sickening.

So, important question: Are we great again yet?

Until next week then, see ya,

*Glory to Ukraine!*

*Glory to the Heroes!*

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# Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Volume 21, Issue 9

Thursday, February 19, 2026

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Editor: Beth David

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

NeighbNews@comcast.net

www.NeighbNews.com

508-979-5593 • Fax: 508-991-5580

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## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

# Acushnet makes decision on Town Administrator hire

By Beth David  
Editor

At its meeting on 2/17/26, the Acushnet Selectboard voted to offer the Town Administrator position to Adam Lamontagne.

The board interviewed three finalists at its 1/29/26 meeting, but failed to make a decision. At the time the board said they wanted to talk to members of the screening committee. Mr. Lamontagne had been the fourth finalist, but he withdrew before the meeting.

After the board failed to make a decision, Mr. Lamontagne expressed interest in being interviewed, although it is unclear if he reached out to the town or if they reached out to him. The board interviewed Mr. Lamontagne at its 2/10 meeting, when he thanked them for reaching out to them, and SB chairperson, David Wojnar, thanked Mr. Lamontagne for throwing his hat back in the ring.

Mr. Lamontagne is currently the Chief Administrative Officer in Phillipston, where he has been for a little over a year. Before that he was the TA in Templeton, and left after some contention with that Selectboard, according to news reports. He is quoted by several news outlets as

saying he was subjected to a hostile work environment, incurred private legal bills; and was the subject of a “political witch hunt” (masslive.com).

In his interview, Mr. Lamontagne told the board that he would be willing to relocate.

“So, luckily for me,” he said, his wife wants to move so they will relocate.

The board did not make a decision that night, saying they wanted to meet with the screening committee.

Meanwhile, two of the other three candidates withdrew, leaving only Heather Chew, the former Acushnet Council on Aging Director, in the running.

When asked how he would balance economic development with preserving the character of the town, Mr. Lamontagne told the board that it was really question for the community. He said Town Meeting would decide. He said his job is to be an agent of the board and follow what they want to get done.

His approach to the budget is to plan several years out, he said, noting that health insurance costs are rising.

Mr. Lamontagne said that his obligation as a public servant is to do what is best for the residents.

His most difficult employee situations were during COVID, he said, and he watched more seasoned executives on how to handle things. He said he never initiated a policy, though, where vaccines were required.

When asked if there is any information he feels the board should always get immediately or some that should never surprise them, Mr. Lamontagne said he always tries to update the board on any matter that may arise so they are not blindsided.

As a former member of a school committee, Mr. Lamontagne was asked by Mr. Wojnar how he would balance the “interesting dynamic” of the competing interests by the schools and the town’s overall fiscal health.

Mr. Lamontagne said the school committee is always going to advocate for what is best for students. He said it is easier to work with a local school department than with a regional one, which is what Templeton and Phillipston have together as the Narragansett Regional School District.

After the vote, Mr. Lamontagne posted a thank-you to the Selectboard on his

ACUSH: cont’d next page

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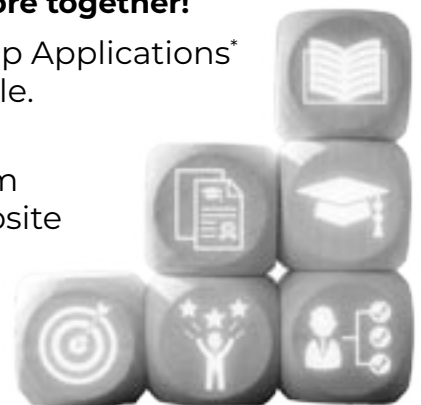
## SCHOLARSHIPS



Let's achieve more together!

2026 Scholarship Applications\* are now available.

Download an application from the Alltrust website or stop into any branch location.



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\* Alltrust Credit Union Scholarship Guidelines apply. Applicant must meet eligibility guidelines to apply and complete all parts of the application to be considered. Deadline is 03/27/2026.

**ACUSH: cont'd from previous page**

Facebook page.

"I truly appreciate your confidence and trust in my leadership," he wrote, and thanked the Phillipston Selectboard, saying they got a lot accomplished. "Finally, I would like to thank Town Administrator James Kelley for his years of strong leadership for the Town of Acushnet."

According to his LinkedIn page, Mr. Lamontagne holds a Master of Public Administration degree from Westfield State University.

In another matter, the board voted to accept the Civil Service list for the Police Chief and the Deputy Police Chief positions. Both positions had the same three names: Gary S. Coppa, Jeremy T. Fontes, Danny B. Deamaral.

There was some confusion as to the process, with SB member, Kevin Gaspar, saying he had expected to meet with the search firm before getting the name. But Mr Wojnar said the process is that they get the names first, because they have to come from the list.

The board will hold interviews in a future meeting, but there was also some discussion as to whether or not those interviews will be held in executive session or in open session.

The board also heard from David Davignon for a development at 72 Middle Road, near the police station. The project consists of six buildings with two units each.

Discussion revolved around the sewer connection that will go behind the police station and EMS building.

Mr. Gaspar said he was concerned with the plan and wanted to make sure that the new sewer line will be constructed with expansion in mind. He said eventually the sewer line will go to Nye's lane. The need to be sure, he said, that the line is going to be compatible with that expansion. He said it needed peer review to be sure.

Mr. Gaspar will work with the engineer to make sure the project is compatible with the town's expansion and not "just for the developer."

The board also heard from Fire Chief Thomas Farland with an update on the delivery of two ambulances that have been approved by Town Meeting.

He said one was delayed and one is back on track. The second ambulance that was approved should be delivered next month. The first one will not arrive until next September.

"Different company," said Chief Farland.

The board also voted to support H.103, an act responding to the threat of invasive species.

The board discussed the weeds situation at the Lake Street recreation area with Conservation Commission chairperson Jim Souza.

He told the board they are working with New Bedford to get grant money to clean up the invasive weeds and also make sure the dams are maintained.

Mr. Souza also asked that the board appoint Conservation Agent, Julia Goncalves to be the Stormwater agent, as she is doing the work anyway.

The held off on that decision, citing possible issues with the union, budget, and other concerns.

In other business, the board

- Voted not to exercise the town's right of first refusal for 134 Nye's Lane.
- Approved several Reserve Fund transfers, including \$1,000 for the Animal Control Officer's carcass removal budget; \$21,000 to repair the heating system in the dispatch area; \$11,500 for a new sprinkler unit for the Council on Aging/ Senior Center; \$16,000 to upgrade the water server, from the water enterprise funds;
- Announced that the Perry Hill Christian Church is being considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, the board will write a letter of support for.

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Pam Vicek has joined our Dartmouth staff!  
L-R: Pam, Rena, Buster

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# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## Homecoming Apps

The Fairhaven Improvement Association is now accepting vendor and artist applications for the 2026 Fairhaven Homecoming Day Fair, scheduled for Saturday, June 27, 2026, in Fairhaven.

This annual event features artisans, crafters, food vendors and an Art Exhibit showcasing local and regional talent. As a longstanding community tradition, the fair attracts residents and visitors from across the South Coast.

Applications for vendors and the Art Exhibit, along with additional event details, are available at [www.fairhavenimprovement.org](http://www.fairhavenimprovement.org).

For more information, please visit our website.

## 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.

## Fhvn GOP

The Fairhaven Republican Town Committee Caucus will be held at the Fairhaven Recreation/Senior Center on Tuesday, February 24th, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. All registered Republican voters in Fairhaven are encouraged to attend. This caucus is a vital part of the process to place candidates on the November 3rd, 2026, state election ballot.

At the caucus, we will 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.

Please contact [fairhavenrtc@gmail.com](mailto: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

The annual Caucus of the Fairhaven Democratic Town Committee 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](mailto:ann.richard@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.

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.

## SAVE THE DATES:

### OLOA Annual Dinner Get Tickets NOW!

Sat., 3/28, 5–8 p.m., Our Lady of Angels Club, 7 Jesse St., Fairhaven, MA 02719. Chicken Mozambique OR BIFANA. \$15/pp. Call or text Joe Mello, 508-733-4608, for tickets.

### Concerts

On March 14, 2026 at 3:00 PM and March 15, 2026 at 3:00PM, Seaglass Theater Company will present Echoes of Ireland at two historic Massachusetts churches.

The concert celebrates Ireland's rich musical legacy — from the haunting beauty of traditional folk tunes and the elegance of classical masterpieces to the excitement of Broadway favorites and the energy of modern pop hits. From "Danny Boy" to U2, there is something for everyone!

The concert stars Erin Hogan, Marcus Huber, Hannah O'Brien and Matthew Larson—four incredibly

versatile artists who bring a wealth of experience to the musical genres presented.

Tickets are \$30.00, and may be purchased online at Eventbrite:

<https://echoesofirelandmilton.eventbrite.com> for March 14 in Milton

<https://echoesofirelandfairhaven.eventbrite.com> for March 15 in Fairhaven

Tickets may also be purchased with cash, credit card, or check the day of the concerts at each venue a half hour before each performance.

For more information, please visit [www.seaglasstheater.com](http://www.seaglasstheater.com) or call 508-951-7187.

## Scholarship 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!

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.

## 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.

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/>

## 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/>.

## Scholarships

The Azorean Maritime Heritage Society plans to award \$8,500 in scholarships to six local students this year. The Faial, Pico, and Bela Vista scholarships (\$1,500 each) named after each of our whaleboats. The Dr. Mary T. Vermette Memorial Scholarship (\$2,000) honoring our founder and her dedication to keep our shared maritime heritage alive. A Memorial Scholarship for Arminda C.N.S. da Silva (\$1,000) and a Scholarship In Memory of Jose Pacheco Branco and Clotilde da Rosa Branco (\$1,000).

Scholarship applications are due April 1st and can be downloaded from

the website at [www.azoreanmaritime.org](http://www.azoreanmaritime.org).

The Azorean Maritime Heritage Society educates the public about Azorean maritime history and Azorean culture, and especially the skills and crafts related to Azorean whaling history and seamanship. Headquartered at the new Casa Dos Botes on Belleville Avenue, the community is invited to come out for a free row or sail on these magnificent boats in Clarks Cove this summer, no experience necessary. To donate and for more information about these activities, visit the Society's website at [www.azoreanmaritime.org](http://www.azoreanmaritime.org).

## Free Karaoke

Broadway Karaoke is a free one-night only community event on Sat., 2/28 at 7:30 pm at the New Bedford Harbor Hotel, hosted by the South Coast's premiere professional musical theatre company, New Bedford Festival Theatre with no cover charge! Led by Broadway's own South Coast resident Matt Ban (Dennis Dupree in Rock of Ages on Broadway), expect an amazing night belting out your favorite Broadway tunes!

## 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/>

# 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.

## Spiritual Explorers

The Spiritual Explorers next meeting will be on Monday, February 23, 2026, at the Acushnet Council on Aging. The groups' purpose is to encourage exploring and sharing one's developing spiritual insights by discussing suggested readings and topics. For February, the discussion will be about a branch of Christianity, Presbyterian beliefs and practices. All are welcome to attend and encouraged to share any information they have on the topic. The meetings begin at 1:00 p.m. in the library room and end at 2:30 p.m. No registration needed.

## 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)

### 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!

### Pajama Drive

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.

## Concerts at the Point

When Concerts at the Point audiences gather on Sunday, 2/22 at 3 p.m., they won't just be hearing an acclaimed early-music ensemble — they'll be welcoming back a group that has already made a memorable impression in Westport. RUCKUS, the dynamic New York-based baroque band often described as "the world's only period-instrument rock band," returns to Westport Point with a program that turns 18th-century music into something vibrant, rhythmic, and irresistibly alive.

Their program, Strawberry Fields: Handel, Sancho, and English Country Dances, promises to transform the church into something closer to an 18th-century dance hall. At the heart of RUCKUS is a continuo group — the baroque equivalent of a jazz rhythm section — featuring guitars, harpsichord, cello, bassoon, and bass. The musicians combine stylistic authenticity with bold, modern vitality, creating performances critics have praised for both "rough-edged intensity" and lyrical delicacy.

Performed without intermission, the program unfolds as a seamless journey through elegance, wit, and infectious rhythm — music designed not just to be admired, but to move the listener.

The performance takes place at Westport Point United Methodist Church, 1912 Main Road, an

acoustically warm and intimate venue that has become a cherished cultural gathering place for the South Coast. Concerts at the Point, now in its 29th season, presents five to six concerts each year and remains a nonprofit, volunteer-run organization sustained by community support.

Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$20 for students and are available at [concertsatthepoint.org](http://concertsatthepoint.org) or by calling 617-512-5549.

## Maple Days

Old Sturbridge Village, 1 Old Sturbridge Village Rd., Sturbridge, MA is open during the winter months with many seasonal programs, workshops, and special events happening each week.

During Maple Days, through March 15th, visitors can explore the historic Village and watch as costumed historians demonstrate the entire sugar-making process, from tapping the trees to "sugaring off." Learn how maple sugar was used in early New England and why it was more common than maple syrup. Step inside historic homes and interact with interpreters as they cook period foods using maple products, watch the tinner and the cooper making maple-related items, and much more.

Guests can stop by the Miner Grant Store and the Ox & Yoke Mercantile to purchase a variety of maple-themed items, including syrup, candy, books, soaps, lotions, and more!

Maple Days are included with general daytime admission. The Village is open 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Guests are encouraged to reserve tickets in advance for their date of arrival. For a limited time, February 14th through 22nd, general daytime admission tickets are buy one get one half off with code LOVEHISTORY.

Tickets and more information can be found online at [www.osv.org/event/maple-days](http://www.osv.org/event/maple-days).

## Seed Library

The Mattapoisett Library is excited to announce the return of our beloved Seed Library.

Stop by 7 Barstow Street in Mattapoisett and borrow what you need to start your garden today! For more information, visit the library, email [mfpl@sailsinc.org](mailto:mfpl@sailsinc.org), or call us at 508-758-4171

## From our readers

### Shepherd's Pantry Says Thank You

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Greater New Bedford Track Club (GNBTC) members for, once again, coordinating the annual Turkey Trot this past Thanksgiving morning. The bulk of the financial proceeds from the road race went to the Shepherd's Pantry located in Acushnet.

Last week I was invited by, GNBTC President, Meghan Rogers, to attend their monthly meeting so they could hand me a check of \$20,000.00 to benefit the Shepherd's Pantry. This year marks 26 years that the pantry's dedicated volunteers have been helping out the less fortunate each Saturday morning between the hours of 9 to 11 a.m.

We couldn't keep our doors open if it wasn't for kind donors and volunteers throughout the year. And the GNBTC is one of those special groups of individuals that are enthusiastically willing to help their local community. We should all appreciate what they do.

*Gerry Payette, Director/  
Shepherd's Pantry*

### Take Pride in What We Save and Sustain

My name is Chris Fidalgo. I'm a member of the Fairhaven Finance Committee. I'm writing this letter as a passionate citizen and state explicitly here: this is NOT the committee's opinion, only one person's.

Fairhaven's budget conversation has reached a point where we need to be honest about the tradeoffs we're making: not just this year, but for the town's future.

For years, we've taken pride in keeping taxes low. On the surface, that sounds like fiscal responsibility. However, when we step back, a different picture emerges: the Massachusetts median residential tax rate is around \$15 compared to Fairhaven's \$9.32 per \$1,000. That doesn't mean we've found some hidden efficiency: it means we are funding less of what our town actually needs.

We are now seeing the consequences. Departments are being asked to do more with less, year after year. Small budget lines are scrutinized down to the dollar, while larger structural issues go unaddressed. We

risk reaching a point where "cutting costs" is no longer about efficiency, but about cutting into the core services that make Fairhaven a desirable place to live.

This is especially clear in our schools. Strong schools are not just a benefit for families with children. They are one of the primary drivers of property values and community stability. Yet, we are paying our teachers among the lowest in comparable, nearby towns. Over time, that discrepancy will not remain invisible. It will show up in employee retention, in quality, and ultimately in how people value living here.

There is also growing interest in privatizing services as a cost-saving measure. While that may reduce short-term payroll expenses, it often replaces predictable public costs with long-term, contractual obligations that we cannot control. Once a service is outsourced, the town loses leverage. Costs can rise, and flexibility can disappear. This will expedite the loss of services.

The question in front of us is not

LETTERS: cont'd on page 18



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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: 2/25, 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.

# 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>

## Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt

25th Annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt (pre registration is required) Join us for the annual flashlight egg hunt. Children will search for their eggs on the Recreation center grounds and return them to the Easter Bunny for a special treat. Don't forget to bring your flashlight & camera for pictures with the Easter Bunny. In the event of Rain, the event will be held indoors at the Center. Date: April 11th Time: 7:15 PM 11 and under \$7.00 per person

## KoolKids April Vacation

Embark on a thrilling school vacation program tailored for grades K-7, packed with an array of activities! Dive into active games, team sports, captivating art projects, exhilarating science challenges, brain-teasing, team building and much more. Our program is designed to ignite creativity, teamwork and exploration while ensuring each child has a blast in a dynamic and

inclusive setting. Please ensure children wear comfortable clothing and sneakers. They should also bring a water bottle, a snack, and lunch each day 8am-4pm April 21-24 No program April 20th

## Town Meeting Kool Kids Day

A fun filled day program tailored for grades K-7, packed with an array of activities! Dive into active games, team sports, captivating art projects, exhilarating science challenges, brain-teasing, team building and much more. Our program is designed to ignite creativity, teamwork and exploration while ensuring each child has a blast in a dynamic and inclusive setting. Please ensure children wear comfortable clothing and sneakers. They should also bring a water bottle, a snack, and lunch for the day. Starts 1 hour before town meeting and ends 30 minutes after Town meeting concludes. Free for current Town Meeting members. \$35.00 for non-

voting Town meeting attendees.

## 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. Come as you are, wear comfortable clothing, and enjoy an hour dedicated to movement, breath, and mindfulness. you can register for this class online and pay at class. The \$10 will be paid directly to the instructor. Starting March 4th Wednesdays 5pm-6pm

# Recipe of the Week

## Crispy Cheesy Sweet Potato Skins

6 medium sweet potatoes  
 2 tbsps salted butter, melted  
 1 clove garlic, grated  
 2 teaspoons seasoned salt  
 2 teaspoons chipotle chili powder  
 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika  
 kosher salt

1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese  
 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese  
 crispy bacon bits, for serving  
 avocado, cilantro, green onions,  
 jalapeños, and sour cream, for  
 serving

Preheat oven to 425°. Prick the  
 sweet potatoes with a fork. Bake  
 directly on the rack until tender,  
 35-40 minutes. Slice in half, cool.

Use a fork to scoop most of the  
 flesh out, leaving about 1/4 inch of  
 the sweet potato in the skins.  
 Arrange the skins on a parchment-  
 lined baking sheet.

Mix the melted butter with the  
 seasoned salt, chipotle chili  
 powder, paprika, and a pinch of  
 salt. Spoon the seasoned butter  
 over each potato skin. Sprinkle  
 over the parmesan. Bake 15-20  
 minutes, until crisp. Add the  
 cheddar cheese. Bake another 10  
 minutes, until the cheese is  
 melted.

Serve immediately topped with  
 lots of bacon bits and an assort-  
 ment of your favorite toppings.

### Homemade Seasoned Salt

1/4 cup each of onion powder  
 and garlic powder  
 1 tablespoon paprika  
 1/2 teaspoon cayenne  
 1/4 cup kosher salt



full-time, she would have a  
 manuscript ready in two years for her  
 agent to send to publishers.

It's now two and a half years later,  
 and the book is nowhere near finished.  
 Soon after she began it, she grew  
 discouraged and stopped writing  
 altogether.

Whenever my dad asked her how  
 the book was going, she told him,  
 "Fine."

Recently, he asked her when she  
 thought it would be finished, and she  
 said soon.

Why can't she tell my dad the  
 truth?

# Dear Frankie

Carson

## Secrets

Dear Frankie,  
 My mom is a  
 writer. Two  
 years ago, she  
 told my dad she  
 was leaving her  
 job as an editor  
 to write a novel  
 she had been  
 mulling over for  
 a long time. She  
 felt sure that, if  
 she worked on it

Dear Carson,

Your mom wanted to write a book,  
 but it hasn't worked out. She's likely  
 embarrassed that she couldn't finish  
 it and hasn't been honest with your  
 dad. She might be afraid of how he'll  
 react when he finds out she hasn't  
 told the truth for over two years.

I hope he can understand how  
 difficult this has been for her as a  
 writer. I also hope she realizes how  
 much secrets can hurt a relationship,  
 and that if he forgives her, she'll  
 promise not to keep secrets from him  
 again.

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  
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# Superbowl Sunday — A Real Dream Come True

By Steven J. Bouley

## Special to the Neighb News

Writing a story about our recent Superbowl experience is both a delight and a challenge.

The delight is in the fact our team, the Seattle Seahawks, won a decisive victory over the New England Patriots. First, a plea for some local mercy. Our loyalty as die-hard Pats fans changed two years ago when our nephew, Mike Macdonald, was named head coach of the Seahawks. What a joy for us and our family to celebrate with this fine young man and his



talented team as world champions!

Remembering Mike back in his boyhood days and watching his mom and my sister, Susan, and his dad, Hugh, love and guide him and his two wonderful sisters, Kate and Maggie, is still a live movie playing in my head. Unknowingly, that was seed time for what harvested this past Superbowl Sunday.

Here's another tidbit — My wife, Cynthia (my best buddy), and I qualify as “seniors” and we've done our share of traveling and experiencing interesting things together over our lifetime. Visiting 52 of the 63 National Parks provides a little evidence of what kind of action I'm talking about. So, if you don't mind a snapshot of the two of us at the Superbowl: Two kids in a candy



ABOVE: Fairhaven residents, Steve (LEFT) and Cynthia (RIGHT) Bouley, meet up with Karin Cupp, the mother of Seattle Seahawk Cooper Kupp; and Kenneth Walker II, the father of Seattle Seahawk Kenneth Walker III on 2/6/26 just a couple of days before Super Bowl LX. BELOW: L-R: Seahawks head coach, Mike Macdonald, poses with the Lombardi trophy and his uncle, Steve Bouley. Submitted photos.

store!!

The challenge is putting into words what shined most brightly as the takeaway from our Superbowl weekend.

Any fair-minded sports fan would

BOULEY: cont'd on page 17

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## Plenty for kids indoors during February vacation



Fairhaven had lots of activities for students during school vacation week. The Kool Kids program at the Fairhaven Recreation Center provides activities for Grades K-7 after school and during school vacations. See page 9 for more info. The Millicent Library has a variety of ongoing programs for children. Visit <https://millicentlibrary.org>. ABOVE LEFT: This little young'un celebrates after dodging the ball during a dodgeball game in the Kool Kids program at the Fairhaven Recreation Center on 2/17/26. ABOVE RIGHT: Kids dodge and throw balls during the game. BELOW LEFT: Bodie poses with his house, which just needs some paint and stickers to be completed, during the Cardboard Build at the Millicent Library on 2/17/26. BELOW RIGHT: William tries to decide what to cut next on his house, which started out as a teepee. *Photos by Beth David.*



## Sail House Tavern celebrates opening with ribbon cutting

By Beth David  
Editor

The Sail House Tavern celebrated its official opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony on 2/13/26. Owners, employees, town officials, and

patrons gathered to hear a few words and listen to Ken Richards.

The tavern is in the old VFW building, 109 Middle Street, Fairhaven. The renovated space features a large dining area, which accommodates live music and dancing, and a rebuilt bar area.

Owners, Linda and Howie Plaud, who are experienced restaurant owners, bought the building. The restaurant/tavern is managed by their son, Alex.

"We built this space because we love hosting, bringing people together, and creating a spot



where great food, creative drinks, and live entertainment all live under one roof," Ms. Plaud told the crowd. "This isn't just a restaurant or bar, it's a place for community events, local talent, and making memories."

**SAILHOUSE: cont'd on page 18**



ABOVE: Owner Linda Plaud cuts the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the Sail House Tavern in Fairhaven on 2/13/26 surrounded by family members and town officials. RIGHT: Linda Plaud says a few words before the ribbon is cut. *Photo by Beth David.*

# Atlas Tack Working Group updates Select Board

By Beth David  
Editor

The Atlas Tack Working Group updated the Fairhaven Select Board on the progress the group has made trying to find a solution for the superfund site that is in the center of town.

ATWG chairperson, Rick Trapilo, told the board at its 2/2/26 meeting that the group has made progress defining the tasks that need to be completed on the site to bring it back to being a productive parcel for the town.

“We really are in a pivotal moment after decades,” said Mr. Trapilo.

He also said the town had a strong case to get the building demolished, and that the cost for doing that might be significantly lower than originally thought.

The 41 acre site includes 16 parcels resulting in a “tremendous amount of complexity,” said Mr. Trapilo.

The parcel with the original factory building in approximately 10.3 acres.

There are wetlands on the property, and part of it was cleaned up by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), but not to the level of allowing residential building.

Despite the complexity of the parcels and the configuration of the various challenges on the property, Mr. Trapilo said the trust that owns the property has been responsive and is doing its “due diligence” related to a variety of requests. The most urgent need, he said, is to get the perimeter fence replaced.

Mr. Trapilo said it is a “no brainer” that the building is a threat to public

safety. The building needs to be demolished, he said, and estimates came in between \$750K and \$850K.

He said the ATWG has talked to EPA officials, who will step in if necessary to get the trust to do the work.

Mr. Trapilo said they are working with EPA and the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to come up with long term solutions. The goal is to bring the site up to some use that is a benefit to the town.

It is situated very close to Our Lady’s Haven, a long term nursing facility; and the former Rogers School, where a playground is in constant use by the neighborhood.

“It’s awful,” said Mr. Trapilo. “It’s awful for the community. It’s awful for the town.”

In his written remarks to the board, Mr. Trapilo said, “Once the structure and associated debris are removed, collaborative discussions may begin between the Town of Fairhaven and the Atlas Trust regarding potential future uses of approximately 10 acres of land. Any such discussions would occur only after the site is fully secured and remediated.”

He also wrote that the group is confident that the hazards on the site will be addressed.

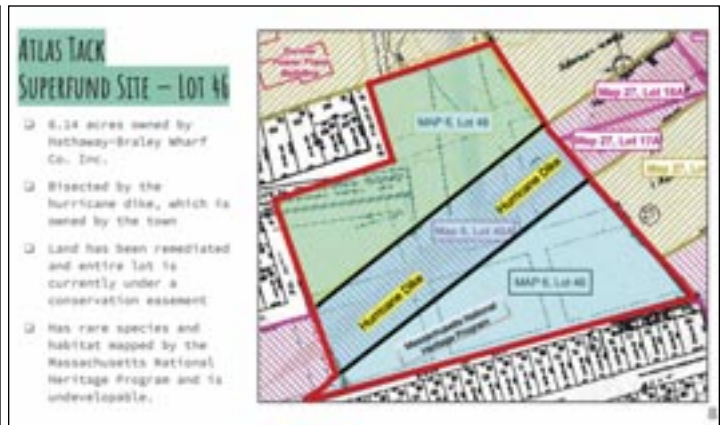
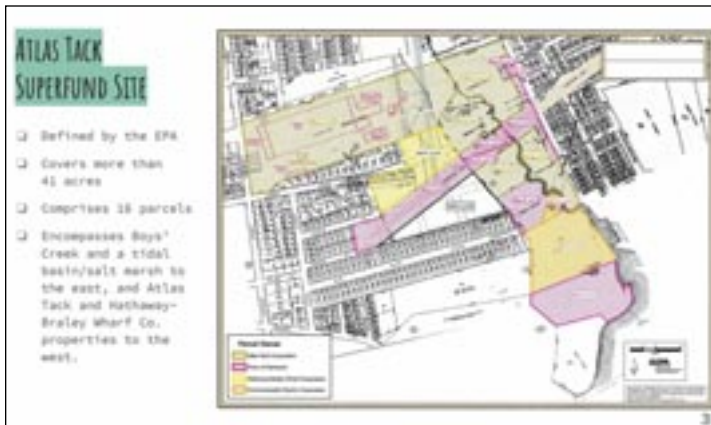


An aerial photo from July, 2025, shows the extent of the collapse of the roof of the Atlas Tack building in Fairhaven, a superfund site that has been neglected for years. Photo courtesy of the Town of Fairhaven.

“Since its formation, the Atlas Tech Working Group has worked with diligence, professionalism, and persistence to advance progress at this site, bringing us closer to resolution than at any time in decades. With continued coordination among town officials and regulatory agencies, we are confident that the remaining hazards will be addressed,” Mr. Trapilo. “The ultimate goal is to eliminate the longstanding stigma of a Superfund site and return this land to productive use that benefits the Town of Fairhaven once all remediation requirements are completed.

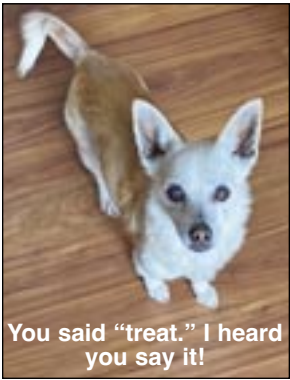
“The Atlas Tech Working Group remains fully committed and energized in pursuing this resolution on behalf of the community.”

The ATWG slide show is available on demand within the 2/2/26 meeting available at [www.FairhavenTV.com](http://www.FairhavenTV.com), and as a PDF on our website: [neighbnews.com](http://neighbnews.com) under the 2/5/26 issue.



ABOVE LEFT: Slide 3, part of a presentation by the Atlas Tack Working Group to the Fairhaven Select Board on 2/2/26, shows the 41 acres that comprise the Atlas Tack superfund site. ABOVE RIGHT: Slide 8 shows a 6.14 acre portion under a conservation easement. Images from ATWG slide presentation.

# Obituary: Charlie-Dog David



You said "treat." I heard you say it!

## Charlie-Dog David

Charlie-Dog David, 20, aka Evil Dog, aka ELS (Evil Little Sidekick... or Shit), crossed the rainbow bridge from

the comfort of his favorite couch surrounded by the family members who loved him most (all two of them plus one almost-loved one) on 2/16/26.

Known for his feisty personality and no-nonsense protection of his personal space (and those he loved), Charlie had many instances of drawing blood to his credit over his long life. However, since he was only about 10 pounds, those gashed by his quick teeth always opted to keep the incident among friends (and also because he was so stinkin' cute). Hence, the little guy died with a clean record.

The aging process had taken its toll on his fight, though. He had not drawn blood in at least three years, much to the dismay of his last momma.

Speaking of mommas...

Charlie's last human was clearly

just a stand-in. His favorite momma was Sittooo Octavia, with whom he never actually lived, belonging technically to Christine, as Charlie-Dog's entrance into the David Family.

Christine rescued the little guy, shivering and shaking, from a local shelter where he was taken after being found on the mean streets of New Bedford. No doubt, this is where he honed his combat skills at the tender age of about two-years-old.

Upon the untimely demise of Christine, her sister, Beth, got custody of the dog, an arrangement Charlie tolerated out of necessity, but never really embraced.

Being of an adaptive species, he immediately claimed the best couch as his own...and good luck to any who challenged that claim...and so it remained until his passing.

In his younger years, Charlie loved his walks on the beach with Momma Christine in her big yellow jacket, and enjoyed sitting in the sun or the shade with family members at the shore.

Charlie also gained a modicum of local fame as the mascot of the *Fairhaven Neighborhood News*, due to his human being the editor and her flaunting of the relationship with a



With Momma Octavia

picture on her editor's page, obviously to endear herself to her dog-loving readers.

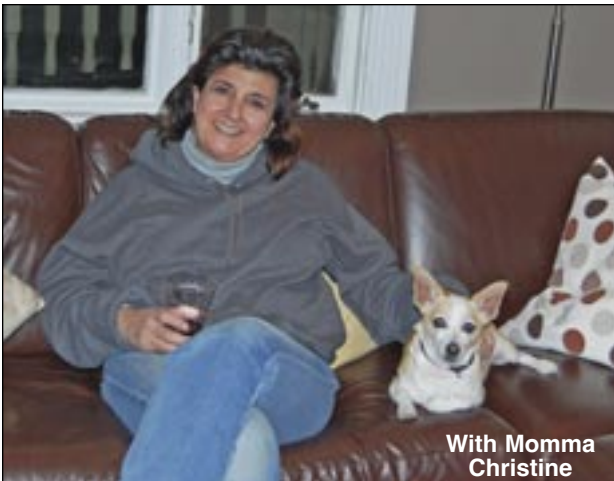
No doubt, when he crossed the rainbow bridge, his other two mommas (and maybe the one we never met) were waiting for him with a huge bucket of bland, boiled, white-meat chicken, his favorite food.

His family is hopeful that on the other side, he has regained full use of his legs and his eyes so he is able to perform the zoomies to his heart's content.

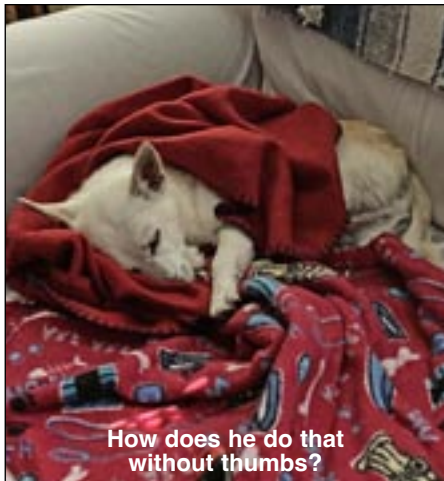
He will be missed...by some.

Charlie will be cremated and his ashes placed with the momma who rescued him from the shelter.

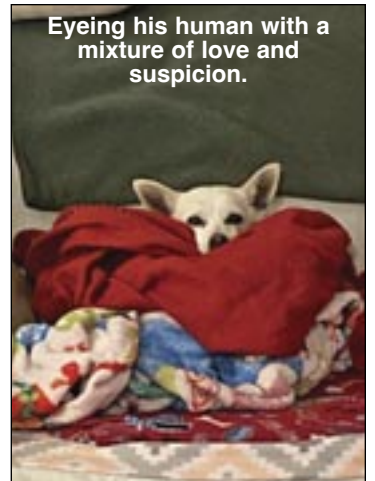
Special thanks to Dr. Kimberly Kleinfeld for her compassionate in-home, end-of-life care for the little shit.



With Momma Christine



How does he do that without thumbs?



Eyeing his human with a mixture of love and suspicion.

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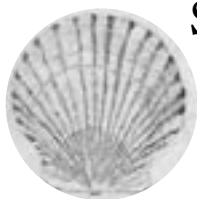
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- ESTATE ADMINISTRATION



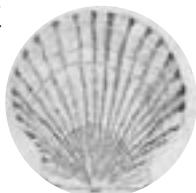

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Nursery care in Harrop Center starting at 9:45 a.m. Children are welcome at service!

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**FIREARMS SAFETY COURSE** State approved for Mass. license to carry firearms or FID card. Call Phil Lacerda, 508-989-6093.

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## Upcoming Meetings

### Fairhaven

**Atlas Tack Working Group**

Thurs., 2/19, 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.

**Board of Public Works**

Mon., 2/23, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

**Conservaton Comm**

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

**Economic Development**

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

**Finance Committee**

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

Thurs., 2/26, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

**Marine Resources**

Thurs., 2/19, 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

**Board of Appeals**

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

**Conservation Comm**

Wed., 2/25, Town Hall, 6:00 p.m.

**Planning Board**

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

**Select Board**

Fri., 3/6, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

**BOULEY: cont'd from page 11**

have to agree — Beating a great Patriots team, with a promising future, was a job well done! It's easy to predict more great things are ahead for both teams.

Beyond all the pre-game hype, technology, special performances, \$10.00 hotdogs, crazy ticket prices, and natural electricity generated, what impressed us most deeply wasn't as obvious. It's the family dynamic that creates and maintains the reason for such a successful extravaganza.

We met several player parents who were just regular folks who were blessed with a child who became an extraordinary football player, complete with resilience to temptations, and tenaciousness to carry on in the face of challenges. See the photo of us

with the dad of Kenneth Walker, this year's Superbowl MVP, and the mom of Cooper Kupp, the 2022 MVP as a player for the Rams.

This basic parental connection and their solid attributes served as the vital foundation for this Superbowl. Built on this foundation were the families, friends, and fans that came to Levi Stadium with passionate support for their heroes. Count us in the mix!

So, what was our greatest take-away this past weekend?

True champions are rare. Any parent reading this, however, could become a Macdonald, Walker, or a Kupp. Over many years, they never abandoned their dream for their child, and what we witnessed this past Superbowl Sunday was a real dream come true!

## TIDE TABLE

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

	Feb. 2026	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	19	0903	2127	0217*	1434*
Friday	20	0946	2212	0301*	1514*
Saturday	21	1033	2302	0343*	1554*
Sunday	22	1125	2359	0428*	1637*
Monday	23	---	1225	0521*	1730*
Tuesday	24	0059	1325	0632	1840
Wednesday	25	0159	1427	0755	1955
Thursday	26	0304	1539	1006	2118
Friday	27	0416	1650	1127	2313
Saturday	28	0518	1745	---	1217*

\*= 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 CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Acushnet Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, February 25th beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Meeting Room, located at 122 Main Street, Acushnet, Massachusetts.

Public Hearing NOI and Stormwater – Meet in the Middle, LLC. A Notice of Intent was filed by Meet in the Middle, LLC, property located at 0 Middle Road, Map 23, Lot 1. The applicant proposes to construct 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, 2/19/26

## Notice of Public Hearing

The Fairhaven Board of Health is hosting a public hearing at 5 p.m. on March 11, 2026 to review and hear comments relative to proposed changes to the existing Fairhaven Board of Health Animal Regulations (New Poultry Regulations).

The Public Hearing will be held in-person at 40 Center St., Fairhaven, MA 02719, and via Zoom (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/95313326052?pwd=UEFiVzVKUDA5eXrTDN6RXBWMzYvUT09>)

or call 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 953 1332 6052  
Passcode: 118417).

A copy of these draft regulations is available for pickup at the Fairhaven Board of Health (40 Center St., Fairhaven, MA 02719) or on the Fairhaven Board of Health website: [www.fairhaven-ma.gov/board-health](http://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/board-health)

You are welcome to attend the Public Hearing in person (40 Center St., Fairhaven, MA 02719) or virtually via Zoom. You also may submit written comment to the Fairhaven Board of Health by mail: 40 Center St. Fairhaven, MA 02719.

FNN: 2/19/26, 2/26/26

## TOWN OF ACUSHNET

In accordance with Chapter 140, MA General Laws, notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on Friday, March 6, 2026 at 12:00 pm at the Town Hall Meeting Room on the application of Adriano Vincente Used Cars to apply for a Class II Motor Vehicle License to buy, sell, exchange or assemble second hand motor vehicles on 619 Main Street, Acushnet, MA.

David E. Wojnar, Chairman  
Kevin Gaspar, Sr.  
Robert J. Hinckley  
Board of Selectmen  
FNN, 2/19/26, 2/26/26

## 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=MXp0VWpkTFBEUmluT1pWSctiVzJCQT09>  
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

**LETTERS: cont'd from page 8**  
simply whether to spend more or less. It is whether we choose to address our financial reality in a controlled, thoughtful way now, or be forced into larger, more disruptive decisions later.

A modest override, paired with responsible budgeting is fiscal

## SAILHOUSE: cont'd from page 12

She also noted that the VFW chapter has been holding meetings there again.

"Everything you touch turns to gold," said Select Board chairperson, Charlie Murphy to the Plauds.

The Plauds owned the Highlander in Acushnet, and Captain Bonney's in Rochester.

discipline in action. This is what our Town Administrator is thoughtfully proposing. It is an acknowledgment that maintaining our town requires our investment. Avoiding that reality does not eliminate the cost. It delays it and often increases it.

Fairhaven is a community people

Howie Plaud said all their businesses are family oriented

"This is my final," he told the *Neighb News*. "I hope it's my Mona Lisa."

Alex told the *Neighb News* that they had been open for about three weeks, opting for a soft open before the ribbon cutting. He said they have been busy.

care deeply about. The goal is not to make the government bigger, but to ensure it remains functional, stable, and capable of supporting the town we want to live in.

We should take pride not just in what we save, but in what we sustain.

Chris Fidalgo, Fairhaven

He said the atmosphere is kid friendly and food is classic tavern fare with seafood specialties, burgers, pizza. They will have entertainment almost every day and night.

The Sail House Tavern is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Visit [salhouse-tavern.com](http://salhouse-tavern.com).

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