



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

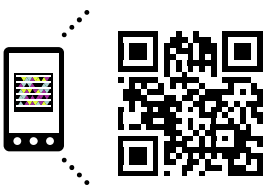
Volume 21, Issue 11 • March 5, 2026

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

Blizzard cleanup continues...by everyone



L-R: Best friends, Hudson and Jonathan walk around the center of Fairhaven, shovels in hand, looking for work on 2/26/26 three days after a blizzard dumped more than 30 inches of snow in Fairhaven. See page 12 for story. 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.

Now we are at war with Iran. I'm old enough to remember two years ago when not going to war was a campaign promise.

We killed elementary school students and staff. Six service members are dead.

And no one can articulate a real reason to do it. Except....oh wait....Israel wanted to, so we went to help.

And to add insult to injury the US government refused to help Americans, even embassy personnel (what's left of them) get out of the region, while, of course, Iran retaliated by hitting every country in the Middle East with a US base. Until the UK shamed us into it. After being shamed by the UK that worked to get its citizens out, the Big Buffoon finally gave in and decided to send military plans to get our people.

Are we great yet?

Poor Lebanon, land of my ancestors, always a target by someone whenever the US decides to mess around in the Middle East.

The big investigation is done (see page 4). The report blames it mostly on former town planner Bruce Webb, and a smidge on Patrick Carr, the guy who was responsible for the agenda, go figure.

So even if we take it all at face value and throw Mr. Webb completely under the proverbial bus all alone, let's be honest that a culture of secrecy, cliqueness, and territorial pissing matches, contributed to this horrendous outcome. In other words: Will you people f'g grow up and talk to each other, please? The summary does not go into the detail of the interview with people. We do know from other meetings and discussions that SB member Keith Silvia also knew about the plans. He could have mentioned it to a rank and file Planning Board member, but he didn't. Apparently, they don't talk.

If people would just have the simple attitude that it's better when more people know about a thing, this never would have happened. Now the neighbors will have to live in a new neighborhood that is blighted by design. It is next to the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the two wind turbines, both facilities that have hurt the neighborhood. The only savior was the tree buffer, which is now gone. The trees have been cleared to build houses. Woohoo, Robby, way to show your town some love.

Until next week then, see ya,

*Glory to Ukraine!
Glory to the Heroes!*




**Daylight Saving
Time BEGINS** this weekend. Set your clocks FORWARD one hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday, 3/7. DST ends on Nov. 1.



Publisher Beth David with Charlie, aka Evil Dog

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Fairhaven TA talks about Proposition 2 1/2 override possibility

By Beth David
Editor

Fairhaven Town Administrator, Keith Hickey, and Assistant Town Administrator of Finance/Town Accountant, Anne Carreiro, have been meeting with a variety of groups and organizations to talk about the budget and the consequences of passing or not passing a Proposition 2 1/2 override. Prop 2 1/2 is a state law that caps the increase in the town's tax levy at 2 1/2 percent per year. The tax levy is the amount the town raises in property taxes.

Residents can vote to increase spending above the 2 1/2 percent with an override vote on a townwide ballot. In Fairhaven, the override vote must pass at Town Meeting on 5/2, and then at the townwide vote on 6/9.

On Monday, 3/2, the two went to the Council on Aging, where they were met by several residents.

Mr. Hickey said that the departments submitted two budgets for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27). One funds current services and results in an increase in spending requiring an override of about \$1.5 million for the

next year's operating budget.

The other budget submitted keeps spending levels below what is needed for an override and will result in cuts to staffing, services, maintenance, and cuts to the school budget.

Some cost increases that the town cannot control include health and liability insurance, contractual salary increases, utility and gas prices. State aid increased less than 1%, but state assessments increased, offsetting much of that.

Services that could be cut include overtime costs; some Rec Center programs; some Council on Aging/Senior Center programs, such as outreach with the police department; community development programs such as the markets at Grimshaw Park, street fairs; police National Night Out; fire open house.

The public works department cuts could result in the elimination of lifeguards at the town beach, some tree trimming, curbside leaf pickup; hazardous waste day, and some street paving. Water and Sewer rates will be going up again.

Jim Hebert and Kathy Lopes asked

about the Rogers School building, if it can be sold, and if it is costing money to maintain.

Mr. Hickey said the case was still tied up in court with a developer. Ms. Carreiro said the money in the account to maintain the building only has about \$20,000 left in it. If the building is not sold, the town will have to allocate more money to maintain it.

Miles Grant asked about the school department cuts. Mr. Hickey said the town only controls how much money goes to the schools, not how it is spent. He said cuts could result in loss of programs or staff, but he had no details. The School Committee meeting had been canceled because of the storm.

The override will ask for about \$3 million to keep the town going for 2-3 years. The first year, FY27, the town would assess about \$1.5 million. The rest would be unused tax levy that the town can access for the next year. Meanwhile, the town will work to get more development and smart growth in town to increase the commercial

BUDGET: cont'd on page 17

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Fairhaven SB releases executive summary of subdivision report

By Beth David
Editor

At its meeting on 3/2/26, the Fairhaven Select Board voted to release the executive summary of the investigation into the Timothy-Hiller Subdivision Constructive Approval, but not the full report.

The investigation was initiated to find out how plans for a 16-house subdivision never got in front of the Planning Board for a public hearing. The plans were automatically approved in what is called a "Constructive Approval," after 155 days passed without any action by the town (135 days plus 20-day appeal period).

Board members pointed fingers at former Land Use and Planning Director, Bruce Webb, who took responsibility for the slip-up, but also noted that it is usually the chairperson's responsibility to put items on the agenda (see 10/23/25 issue). Cathy Melanson was chairperson for part of the time, and Patrick Carr was vice chair and acting chair for part of the time.

The report does not address whose responsibility it is to place items on the agenda. Generally, plans

are placed on the to be accepted at one meeting, then a public hearing is scheduled for a future meeting. "Receipt of Plans" is a standard agenda item.

The subdivision plans had been submitted under a different name and had been rejected by the PB. The courts at every level also upheld the town's decision not to let the project proceed. The developer, Robert Roderiques, then submitted the project under a different company name, Windmill Acres, on 3/24/25.

The plans were given to the town clerk to date stamp on a day when the Planning Director was not in.

Mr. Carr has publicly stated, and emails support, that he knew about the new filing, but did not move to put it on the agenda for a hearing. Other PB members have stated that they did not know anything about the new filing. Residents found out about the project when the developer started clearing the land.

It states that Town Counsel, Michael Terry, told Mr. Webb on 4/3/25 that the application did not need to be reviewed by the Planning

Board. On 4/22/25, Mr. Terry spoke with Mr. Webb to say his earlier advice on 4/3 was incorrect and the application needed to be reviewed by the PB. Mr. Webb denied that conversation ever happened.

On May 12, after a conversation with Mr. Terry, Mr. Carr emailed Mr. Webb about the 135 deadline.

Between March and August several people asked Mr. Webb what was happening with the plans and he stated he was told by Town Counsel to do nothing with them.

In the end, the report mostly puts the blame on Mr. Webb for the snafu.

"Mr. Carr can be faulted for not informing the incoming Chair that the new plans had been received and that there was a 135-day deadline to act," reads the report. "He did not do so because he relied on those who were responsible for the operations of the Planning Department to inform her [sic] of pending applications."

The report also notes that Mr. Webb was out of the office a lot during that time due to his family's health issues.

SELECT: cont'd on page 13

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L-R: Pam, Rena, Buster

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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Election Update

Fairhaven's election is on Tuesday, 6/9/26, and nomination papers are now available. To be on the ballot, candidates must collect 50 signatures of registered voters. The last day to take out papers is Thurs., 4/16. Last day to return papers is Thurs., 4/21.

The last day to register to vote is Fri., 5/29 by 5 p.m.

The polls will open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. All precincts vote at the Fairhaven Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Avenue.

For more information on how to run for office, call the Town Clerk's office, 508-979-4023.

Seats for all offices and Town Meeting members will be on the ballot.

As of press time, four people had taken out papers for two seats on the Select Board: Miles Grant, Pam Kuechler, Keith Silvia (incumbent), Rick Trapilo. Two people had taken out papers for two seats on the Board of Public Works: Marcus Ferro, Brian Wotton (incumbent). Incumbent Louise Ponte took out papers for her seat on the Trust Commission.

Two Planning Board seats and one partial term to fill a vacancy are up for Planning Board, with Kevin Grant and Sharon Simmons up for reelection; and the unexpired term currently held by Jeffrey Lucas also on this year's ballot.

Two School Committee seats and one unexpired term will be on the ballot, with Brian Monroe and Stephanie Pickup in the full term seats and Donna McKenna in the seat she filled after a vacancy. Mr. Monroe has said he will not seek reelection.

One Board of Health position is up, Justine Frezza is the incumbent; one Housing Authority seat is up, Ronnie Manzone is the incumbent.

Boat America Course

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary's Flotilla 65 will run its 2026 SPRING SEMESTER 2-week Boat America course (BA) for 4 evenings – Mondays and Thursdays, March 23, 26, 30 and April 2 – from 7-9 pm at the Acushnet River Safe Boating Club (ARSBC), 80 Middle Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719.

This 8-hour course is an in-depth and interesting boating safety course,

and provides the knowledge needed to obtain a safe boating certificate required by the Hanson-Milone Act.

Designed for both the experienced and the novice boater, it is taught by Coast Guard Auxiliary instructors with extensive knowledge of local waters. It is a perfect introduction to recreational boating fundamentals, such as: types of boats, boating vocabulary, boating law, safety equipment, safe operation and navigation, boating emergencies, trailering, and water sports. Students who successfully complete the course and pass the exam are awarded certificates and cards.

The \$25 fee includes the textbook and all course material. Class size is limited, register early at <https://tinyurl.com/wf6s72ca>

If you have any questions, please contact Steve Schaeffer, Flotilla Commander via email: schaef5900@gmail.com.

Pickleball FR

Join us for a fun and energetic Pickleball Scramble Fundraiser supporting New Bedford Star Kids Scholarship Program. This event is designed to welcome players of all skill levels, from beginners to seasoned competitors.

Sat., 3/7, 2-5 p.m., Southcoast Pickleball, 4 David Drown Blvd., Fairhaven; \$45 per person. To register or sponsor visit <https://tinyurl.com/379pvd9b>.

Visit <https://newbedfordstarkids.org> to learn more about Star Kids.

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

SAVE THE DATES: NFIA Easter Egg Hunt

The North Fairhaven Improvement Association invites you to join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sat., 4/4, at Livesey Park, Parker Street, Fairhaven, 9 a.m. SHARP.

Children from toddler to 12 are invited to participate. Categories are:

Toddler to age 4, 5-8, 9-12.

Bring your Easter basket and come out to welcome the Easter Bunny.

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 or call 508-951-7187.

Soup Night

Please join the St. Mary's Parish Faith Formation Classes for a great community event. We will have Soup, Salad, Refreshments & Desserts. We will also have a Raffle Table with many different baskets created by each class. All proceeds will go towards a year-end event for our students.

Sat., 3/28, 5:30 p.m. after Mass, downstairs in the parish hall, 440 Main St., Fairhaven. Tickets are \$5 per person and available for purchase after Masses, during classes or reserve tickets by calling Liz Medeiros, 508-726-3817, or emailing her at bizliz1196@gmail.com

Boating Safety Course

This course is designed to help New Bedford residents and those in surrounding communities prepare for a safe boating season. The class is open to everyone, but advance online registration is required prior to the course date. The Boat Massachusetts course will soon be mandatory for anyone who wishes to operate a motorboat on Mass. waterways.

Sat. & Sun., March 7 & 8, and March 18 & 29, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Port of New Bedford Building, 123 MacArthur Drive, New Bedford. Register at <https://www.register-ed.com/> This event is free of charge. Students must be at least 12 years old as of the class date, and anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult or guardian. You must attend all event sessions to be eligible to take the final exam.

Elect Southcoast

Join ELECT SouthCoast for our annual half-day convening to advance women's political leadership. The program will feature panels, workshops, and conversations focused on strengthening community leadership and expanding pathways to civic power, along with the launch of a new initiative building parent leadership through New Bedford Public Schools.

This is a free event. Breakfast and lunch are provided. Donations are always welcome and encouraged. You can donate today via our fiscal agent: <https://ywcasema.org/donate-online/>

Sat., 3/7, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Bristol Community College, 800 Purchase Street, New Bedford. RSVP: [BIT.LY/WWL2026](https://bit.ly/WWL2026)

Parking: Metered street parking is available, as is parking at nearby garages: Elm Street Garage: 51 Elm Street, New Bedford, MA 02740; Zeiterion Theater Garage: 684 Purchase Street, New Bedford, MA 02740

OLOP Fish Fry

Please join us on March 6, 13, 20, 27, and April 3 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM for Our Lady of Purgatory's Lenten Fish Fry at the OLOP Parish Center, 4254 Acushnet Avenue, New Bedford, MA. It's a great opportunity to enjoy baked or fried fish & chips

(cole slaw, rolls, dessert, and a beverage) all for a donation of \$18.00. It's also a great time to share some laughter and fellowship.

Purchase your tickets today by contacting us at (508) 996-8934 or officeolop@gmail.com

Grant Applications

Applications are available for Women's Fund SouthCoast. We will host a Zoom session for potential applicants on Thurs., 3/5, from 12-1 PM. Sign up for the information session at <https://tinyurl.com/5e2yww6n> or visit <https://womensfundsouthcoast.org>

If you are unable to attend the information session, it will be recorded and posted on our website.

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis through April 1st. Grant awards will be announced in May 2026 and funding for projects will begin in July 2026.

If you have any questions, please contact Audrey Straw at astraw@womensfundsouthcoast.org.

In FY27, we will award approximately \$100,000 in grants to organizations advancing gender, racial, and economic justice across the SouthCoast region. We are proud to partner with mission-aligned nonprofits, grassroots leaders, and community builders working to dismantle structural inequities and expand opportunities for women, girls, and gender-expansive individuals in the SouthCoast region. We prioritize work led by and accountable to those most impacted by the issues addressed.

Grant Apps SCCF

SouthCoast Community Foundation (SCCF) announces the opening of its 2026 Spring Grant Cycle, marking the launch of a new grantmaking structure with two coordinated funding cycles each year, Spring and Fall, beginning in 2026.

Optional Information Sessions Register online at bit.ly/sccfsspringinfo26

- March 6, 2026 I Virtual Session I 12:00 PM
- March 12, 2026 I Hybrid Session I 4:00 PM
- March 17, 2026 I Virtual Session I 10:00 AM

- March 26, 2026 I Hybrid Session I 1:00 PM

In addition to live sessions, FAQ resources and staff support will be available throughout the application period to ensure organizations feel informed and prepared.

SCCF's updated grantmaking approach reinforces its commitment to being a responsive, transparent, and collaborative philanthropic partner across the SouthCoast. The Foundation looks forward to learning alongside nonprofit partners during this pilot Spring cycle and continuing to strengthen its grantmaking practices in the months ahead.

Nonprofit organizations serving the South Coast are encouraged to review eligibility guidelines, prepare proposals early, and register for an upcoming optional Information Session prior to the March 31 deadline.

For more information and to apply, please visit: southcoastcf.org/receive/apply-for-grants/

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.

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.

HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

Acushnet Election

Acushnet's election will be held on Tuesday, 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. All precincts vote at the Acushnet Elementary School, 800 Middle Road.

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

Selectboard incumbent David Wojnar has announced that he is not seeking reelection. Ryan Rezendes has taken out papers for the Selectboard seat and they have been certified.

School Committee has two seats on the ballot. Both incumbents, Ronald Houde and Mellissa Cordeira, have taken out papers, in addition to newcomer Julie Lavoie

Two seats are also up for the Trustees of the Library. Incumbent Joan Howland has taken out papers; incumbent John Roy has not.

Other offices that will be on the ballot are: Town Moderator, incumbent Leslie Dakin has not yet taken out papers; Town Clerk, incumbent Pamela Labonte has taken out papers; Board of Assessors, incumbent Robert Brown has taken out papers; Board of Health, incumbent Robert Medeiros has taken out papers; Commissioner of Trust Funds, incumbent John Roy has not taken out papers; Cemetery Board, incumbent Joanne Cioper has taken out papers; Library Trustees, Incumbent Joan Howland has taken out papers, incumbent John Roy has not; Park Commissioner, incumbent Michael Matton has not taken out papers; Planning Commissioner, incumbents Bryan Deschamps and Peter Giampa have taken out papers; Housing Authority, incumbent Rene Racine has not taken out papers; Tree Warden, incumbent Lucas Correia has not taken out papers for his seat.

Acushnet Democrats

On Thursday, March 12 at 6:00PM, Democrats will convene at the

Acushnet Public Library to elect 5 delegates and 4 alternates to represent Acushnet at the 2026 Massachusetts State Democratic Convention.

Registered and pre-registered Democrats in Acushnet, who are 16 years old by Saturday, March 29th, may vote and be elected as delegates or alternates during the caucus. Youth (age 16 to 35), individuals with disabilities, people of color, veterans, and members of the LGBTQ+ community not elected as delegates or alternates are encouraged to apply to be add-on delegates at the caucus or by visiting <https://www.massdems.org/caucus-and-convention>.

The 2026 Convention will be in person at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA, on Friday, May 29th, and Saturday, May 30th.

Those interested in more information or in getting involved with the Acushnet Democratic Town Committee should contact Emily Boccia at acushnetdems@gmail.com

A Cappella Group

Due to the storm, the 3/7 performance of the Harvard Krokodiloes, has been postponed. A new date has not been announced.

Corned Beef & Cabbage

Join the Mattapoisett Knights of Columbus, 57 Mattapoisett Rd (Rte 6), on March 14th for a corned beef and cabbage dinner. We will have both sit down service and to go service available.

Doors open at 5 for sit down service with live Irish music playing from 5:30 to 7 and dinner served at 5:30. To go dinners can be picked up 5:30 to 6:30. Cost is 20 dollars per person.

Contact Jim at 1-508-863-3496 to order dinners. Please specify when you call if you want sit down or to go. Hope to see everyone for a fun filled evening!

Clothing & Toy Sale!

Gently used clothing for the entire family, toys & jigsaw puzzles. All at bargain prices.

Fri., March 20, 1-7 pm

Sat., March 21, 9 am-1 pm.

Sat. special fill a bag for \$5, Boutique items 50% off.

St. Julie Billiard Church Hall, 494 Slocum Rd., Dartmouth.

Sponsored by the Ladies Guild

Boat Course

The Marion Police Department and Harbormaster's Office are offering two free sessions of boating safety certification courses in accordance with new laws impacting recreational boating.

Marion Police Department, 550 Mill St., Marion, March session: 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Saturday, March 21 and Sunday, March 22; April session: 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12

Attendance is required on both days of the session to receive certification.

The Massachusetts Legislature passed a law, The Hanson Milone Act Of 2024, requiring anyone operating a motorized vessel in Massachusetts to possess a Boater Safety Certificate. Starting April 1, 2026, all motorboat operators born after Jan. 1, 1989, must complete a boating safety course to operate motorized vessels or personal watercraft such as a jet ski. Anyone born before Jan. 1, 1989, will have until April 1, 2028, to obtain their boater safety certificate.

In response, the Marion Police Department and Harbormaster's Office are offering Boating Safety Courses to anyone ages 12 and older during March and April. The classes are being offered at no cost.

Massachusetts Environmental Police Officers certify instructors, provide classroom materials and additional support.

The courses are nationally approved. Course completion will allow anyone to operate a boat in states requiring Basic Boating Safety courses.

Register for the March session at <https://tinyurl.com/3sdjw8s4>

Register for the April session at <https://tinyurl.com/ywwm5a33>

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.

From our readers

Thanks to the Fire Department for Shelter Help

I wish to acknowledge the Fairhaven Fire Department who got me to and from the shelter during the recent Nor'easter Bomb Cyclone.

I could have braved the frigid situation at home without heat, electricity, or any means of communication. But as the storm progressed and the 30+ inches of snow blocked my door, I realized that I was quickly becoming trapped.

To my delight I found the all-volunteer staff of the Fairhaven Emergency Preparedness at the Hastings Middle School welcoming beyond my expectations. My overnight stay was met with kindness, warmth and comfort food served with a smile.

I witnessed firsthand the power of our Fairhaven community to come together to ensure the safety of everyone. I am glad I did and I am grateful.

Enrique "Ricky" Goytizolo, Fairhaven

A Matter of the Heart

If we can agree that our upcoming week matters, whatever it brings, then let's adjust our attitude (heart),

if necessary, as we take it on. We have a number of considerations to make.

First, let's eliminate the sports cliché option that says, "They lost the game because their heart wasn't in it." Second, Tony Bennett's famous lyrics, "I left My Heart in San Francisco," although captivating and fun to sing, isn't really all that relevant or practical for what lies in store.

There is one attitude that wows me, however, as our possible direction. It's found in the lifestyle of the renowned Scottish Doctor and African missionary, David Livingstone. When this famous African missionary doctor died, his body was buried back at Westminster Abbey. More amazingly, his heart was literally removed from his body by the Africans and buried in Africa, the continent he loved and considered a privilege to serve.

Dr. Livingstone's example helps us to heighten our awareness as to the seriousness of our purpose and the potential we have to conduct ourselves this coming week. Will we have a ho-hum whatever happens — happens attitude? Will we set ourselves

on some intellectual or emotional fire only to fizzle out at week's end? Or will we purpose to operate in a dedicated lifestyle of making a positive difference in our own personal lives and the lives of those around us?

The funeral scene of Dr. David Livingstone must have been unique. As a man openly wept, a friend asked if he knew Livingstone personally.

The man said, "I was not crying for Livingstone, I was crying for myself. Dr. Livingstone lived and died for something and I have lived for nothing."

I'm not advocating for our hearts to literally be taken from our bodies to prove we mean business this week. What I am suggesting, however, is to consider the comfortable truth that generated Dr. Livingstone's attitude to endure "his weeks." Rather than living the high and safe life in Scotland, he was able to battle 27 episodes of jungle fever, arm paralysis from a lion attack, and life-threatening battles with slave traders.

LETTERS: cont'd on page 17



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Supportive Social Day Program

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

Mall Trips

Reservations accepted for mall trips at beginning the 15th of the prior month. There is a \$6 charge unless otherwise noted. Please bring exact amount. The van leaves the Fairhaven Senior Center promptly at 9: 3/11, Hyannis Mall, Trader Joe's; 3/18, Providence Place Mall; 3/25, Warwick Mall; 4/1, First Light Casino; 4/8, Prov. Place Mall; 4/15, Mashpee Commons.

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.

March 9. *The Gumball Rally.* Comedy and Car Action. An eclectic group of people takes part in a secret, and illegal, cross country road race.

March 16. *Priscilla.* Romance & Drama. When teenage Priscilla Beaulieu

meets Elvis Presley, the man who is already a meteoric rock-and-roll superstar becomes someone entirely unexpected in private moments: a thrilling crush, an ally in loneliness, a vulnerable best friend.

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.

LGBTQ Supper Club

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

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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

Caramel-Nut Popcorn Crunch

- 10 cups freshly popped popcorn
- 2 cups whole almonds
- 1 c firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine
- 1/4 cup light corn syrup
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda

Preheat oven to 225° Spray 15x 10 baking sheet with non-stick spray.

Mix popcorn and almonds in large bowl. Combine brown sugar, butter and corn syrup in medium saucepan.

Over low heat, stir mixture until sugar dissolves. Increase heat to high and boil 5 minutes.

Remove from heat; stir in vanilla, almond extract and baking soda.

Pour over popcorn and almonds, immediately stirring gently to coat.

Pour mixture onto prepared baking sheet, spreading evenly.

Bake for 1 hour in preheated oven. Cool completely.

Break into pieces and store in airtight container.



joking, right? It's been four hours since I last ate. Seriously, what's the snack jar for if it isn't for snacks? Is this gaslighting?

Dear Ozzie,

I bet your mom is skinny or not a big eater. Humans like that never get what it feels like to be hungry.

I don't think she is gaslighting. But you clearly aren't on the same wavelength when it comes to food.

If you notice that you don't feel hungry every night, do what you did on the nights you weren't hungry. On the nights that you are hankering for

Dear Frankie

Snacks

Dear Frankie, I usually eat around five. Some nights, around nine, I feel hungry.

When I go to the snack jar, my mom says, "Are you kidding? You just ate."

She must be

a snack, you could try to get your mom to change her mind by looking pathetic and longingly at the snack jar.

If that doesn't work, which I suspect it won't, you could try eating your dinner slowly and mindfully. I hear it can make you feel fuller.

Another idea is to drink plenty of water after you eat to help you feel full. This might keep your hunger pangs at bay until breakfast.

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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Marcus Ferro announces run for BPW



Press Release

My name is Marcus Ferro. I am a father, an attorney, and a lifelong resident of Fairhaven, and this election I am running for the open seat to return to the

Board of Public Works.

Earlier this year my wife, Kayla, and I welcomed our beautiful baby girl Eleanor into the world. Eleanor has inspired me to return to local politics to continue working toward improving the town that she will grow up in and to set an example of serving one's community that I hope she will

one day follow.

I previously served on the BPW from 2020-2023. Around that same time I served as the Chairperson of Fairhaven's Commission on Disability. Prior to that I served on the Community Preservation Committee and the Historical Commission.

During my time on the BPW, we were able to oversee major projects that saved Town ratepayers money such as upgrades to the treatment plants and an overhaul of the water meter systems.

We also made key personnel decisions that ensure our Department of Public Works is in capable hands for the foreseeable future.

But the accomplishment I am most proud of, is collaborating with the BPW and Commission on Disability to

add accessibility mats for the Town Beach on West Island and purchase a new beach wheelchair that allow those who use assisted mobility devices the freedom to enjoy the most pristine shores in the Commonwealth.

I am excited for the opportunity to rejoin my fellow Board Commissioners who steward local government's most essential functions: water, sewer, clean streets, and safe and accommodating public spaces.

I humbly ask for your vote on Tuesday, June 9th.

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Storm cleanup took the whole village

By Beth David
Editor

Getting 30+ inches of snow in these parts is more than unusual, it's practically unheard of. The last time we came close was in 1978, and that was only 24 inches. The blizzard of 2026 hit hard on Monday, 2/23, dumping all that snow in one day, with hours of zero visibility and damaging winds. Thousands were without power, some for days.

Many stories of neighbors helping neighbors popped up on social media, in meetings, that have resumed, and in the bars.

The Fairhaven shelter actually had people use it this time, more than 20. Ricky Goytizolo (see letter on page 8) wrote that he had to take advantage of the shelter, and was delighted at how welcoming everyone was.

"My overnight stay was met with kindness, warmth and comfort food served with a smile," wrote Mr. Goytizolo. "I witnessed firsthand the power of our Fairhaven community to come together to ensure the safety of everyone. I am glad I did and I am grateful."

A woman whose mother died at the height of the storm posted on Facebook that the Fairhaven first responders and Fairhaven Funeral Home went above and beyond to reach her home. The paramedics had to walk down the unplowed street; the police drove the hospice nurse there; public works made it a priority to plow a one car path.

"Through the tragedy we have endured we can still see the hard working people of this town and we

want to thank you all," wrote Laurie LeBlanc. "Give the town employees some grace and thank them for all they do."

Linda Smith called the *Neighb News* to give a shout-out to her neighbors who got out into the street with their snowblowers and shovels.

"I've never seen anything like what's happening out here," said Ms. Smith on Wednesday. "Every person on this street is clearing snow."

She expressed dismay at the town plowing the streets around them, but not hers.

"We have some wonderful people in this town," she said, adding she was disappointed in the town, though. "I may sound like a lunatic, but I'm impressed. These people are amazing."

Over the weekend, a group of Fairhaven residents organized "Snow Helpers," and shoveled out scores of school and SRTA bus stops and so students did not have to wait in the street.

In Acushnet, Superintendent of Schools, Paula Bailey, thanked the staff and town officials for their "coordination and partnership throughout the storm response."

"While many were watching the snow fall, our amazing maintenance and custodial team was already hard at work — plowing, shoveling, salting, clearing entrances, and ensuring our buildings were warm and ready to welcome students and staff back," she wrote on Facebook, adding a special thank-you to PJ Keating for "stepping in with the heavy equipment."

"Their support as a valued commu-



nity partner was instrumental in helping us manage the sheer volume of snow," wrote Dr. Bailey. "This week was a powerful reminder that it takes a team to educate a child — and a community to keep our schools running."

And of course, the complaints about trash pickup, the streets that never got plowed, and and...whatever.

The *Neighb News* had a blast running around taking pictures. And it was a delight to meet the two young boys out making a few extra bucks. Just like the old days, huh? (See photo on cover.)

They said they were doing "very well." They mostly let the homeowners decide the rate they would pay.

"And they've been very generous," said Jonathan.

We kind of got bombarded with content, so we are only able to include a few pictures here. Visit our website, www.neighbnews.com, and see a whole bunch of extra pictures with this story.



LEFT: Diane Painter demonstrates how to use the snow bench the Snow Helpers made out of snow at a bus stop at Smith Street and Sconticut Neck Road in Fairhaven on 2/28/26, a few days after a blizzard dumped more than 30 inches of snow in Fairhaven. *Photo courtesy of Alliea E. Group.* RIGHT: L-R: Jeff leBlanc, Tyler Strong, Ryan Jordan, contracted through DW White, pose for the local free sheet on 3/1/26 before hopping back into their trucks to clear out Adams Street. *Photo by Beth David.* TOP: With snow lightly falling on Wednesday morning 2/25/26, Avery Vasconcelos attempts to clear the drifts of snow out of the Middle Street side of The Northeast Maritime Institute's parking lot on Center Street. *Photo by Bruce David.* Visit www.neighbnews.com for more pictures of the blizzard.

More images from the blizzard



LEFT: Center Street between Main and William Streets on 2/25/26 is filled with snow even though mounds of snow appear to indicate it had been plowed at least once after a blizzard dumped more than 30 inches of snow in Fairhaven. RIGHT: Travel conditions are challenging on 2/25/26 as these folks found out on Middle Street between Center and Union Streets. *Photos by Bruce David.* Visit our website at www.neighbnews.com for more pictures of the blizzard.

Acushnet hires police chief

By Beth David
Editor

The Acushnet Selectboard held a meeting on 2/27/26, and held three interviews for police chief, an item postponed from a meeting on 2/23, in the height of the blizzard.

Gary Coppa, Provisional Police Chief, was chosen from a field of three, with Jeremy Fontes and Danny Deamaral also being interviewed.

The board will now enter into negotiations with Chief Coppa for his contract.

The board also met with Fire Chief, Thomas Farland, to discuss the blizzard response and cleanup. He told the board that he has the information to file for disaster relief from the federal government and has no doubt the area will reach the

required benchmarks.

He said for all the “chaos” the town was still a “well oiled machine.”

Within 24 hours all the towns roads had at least one lane passable.

“I would definitely say we were the best community on the south coast,” said Chief Farland.

All three SB members praised the work of town employees and snow plow contractors.

SB Chairperson, David Wojnar, said the level of communication with Chief Farland was the “gold standard.” They were in touch with both state reps to get equipment from the state and National Guard.

“I can’t say enough about what great work you do,” said Mr. Wojnar.

SB member Kevin Gaspar said it as impossible to keep up with a storm

like that and said people need to be patient. He said PJ Keating offered two loaders and operators that the town used to clear the school parking lots. He said it was a morale booster for workers to know help was there.

They started out slow, he said, but “rocked” that storm. There was a great feeling of teamwork and camaraderie.

“That’s what we are about in Acushnet,” said Mr. Gaspar.

SB member, Bob Hinckley, also sang the praises of town staff. He reminded the public that all calls to Town Hall are recorded, so he knows how abusive people got to the one woman who was in town hall taking calls.

“She does not deserve to be treated the way she was treated,” said Mr. Hinckley, adding that people should call him instead.

SELECT: cont’d from page 4

“The evidence supports the conclusion that, with the distraction of his family’s health issues, Mr. Webb’s asserted misunderstanding of Town Counsel’s advice, his failure to inform the new Planning Board Chair or members other than Mr. Carr of the plans’ receipt, and his negligence at any time prior to the expiration of the 135-day deadline to confirm that he should do nothing with the plans, Mr. Webb is primarily responsible for the plans being constructively approved,” reads the report. “The evidence does not support the conclusion that there was any nefarious intent or con-

spiracy intentionally to cause the plans to be constructively approved.”

The executive summary is available on the Select Board’s website page under “Documents, Agendas, and Minutes” (<https://tinyurl.com/4k6p6vm4>) and on the *Neighb News* website: <https://www.neighbnews.com> under this story.

In other business, the board lifted the state of emergency that was imposed due to the blizzard. Board members noted the Herculean efforts of first responders and public works employees who cleared streets of more than 30 inches of snow.

The board will talk about what went right, what went wrong, and discuss changes in procedures for the next big storm or emergency.

The board also held four executive sessions: 1) to discuss results of the Timothy-Hiller CA; 2) to discuss a legal case in district court, Jodi Donahue v. Fairhaven PD; 3) Collective bargaining, Police Dept. Memorandum of Agreement; 4) to comply with or act under the authority of the Public Records Law to discuss a confidential Fire Department personnel investigation report.



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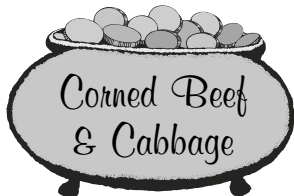


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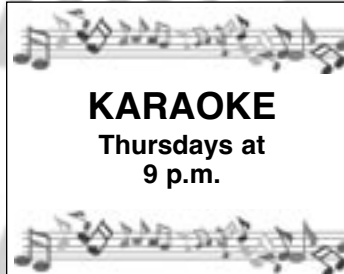
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FREE ESTIMATE: 508-992-7633

PERSONAL DRIVER Hi there! I've been serving the communities in Fairhaven, Acushnet, Tri-Town, and points beyond since 2017. Comfortable vehicles, safe driving, stress-free trips, reliable service. Trips to/from Green/Logan airports, round trips to appointments and events. Accommodating your unique needs! Text or call Jon the Driver, 508-951-8223, to get info or reserve a ride.

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Experienced cleaner, \$15/hour
Call 508-991-1104

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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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PRIVATE INVESTIGATION
TEL: 508-965-6072.

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Call Ralph, 508-717-1550.

SHEA DOONAN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
774-202-3972

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GT CARPENTRY Exterior, interior painting and repairs, sheetrock, siding, yard cleanup. Call George, 774-810-5008.

HELP WANTED

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.



EXCITED ABOUT THE HISTORY OF NEW BEDFORD?
NEW BEDFORD HARBOR TOURS IS NOW HIRING FOR THE 2026 SEASON
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some support is available
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Excellent Boat Handling Skills a Plus
THIS IS A FUN AND SATISFYING JOB!
Please contact us at:
info@newbedfordharbortours.com

LETTERS: cont'd from page 8

What causes me to exalt him today is twofold. 1.) To remind us that we can make a positive difference — no matter what, and 2.) To be influenced by his command-centered-attitude that considered it a privilege to serve a loving and graceful God who brought healing to others through his exile in Africa, peace to his heart, and the hope of a glorious eternity.

BUDGET: cont'd from page 3

tax base. Mr. Hickey noted that a Big Y grocery store is slated to open in Fairhaven next year. There are also a number of vacant commercial properties. The plan is to get enough new growth and development in the next two years so the 2 1/2 cap will be enough to fund operations.

Any group or organization that would like to invite the TA to meet with them, should call the TA's office

In Matthew 6:21, it says sacredly, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

In other words, what matters is a matter of our heart! Where is our attitude (heart) as we approach this week?

Let's go for it, friends. Whatever it brings, we're all on a mission!

Steven J. Bouley, Fairhaven

at 508-979-4023 or use the form on the TA page on the town website (below). Residents are encouraged to contact the TA's office directly at <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/town-administrator/> and use the contact form.

FY27 budget documents are on the town's website through a link on the front page: <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/>, including Mr. Hickey's presentation to the Select Board on 2/2/26 and the individual department budgets.

Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven

Atlas Tack Working Group

Thurs., 3/5, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Board of Appeals

Tues., 4/7, Town Hal, 6 p.m.

Board of Health

Wed., 3/11, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Commission on Disability

Thurs., 3/12, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Community Preservation

Wed., 3/11, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Council on Aging

Tues., 3/10, Senior Ctr., 9 a.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 3/5, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

Tues., 3/10, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

Thurs., 3/12, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

Lagoa Friendship Pact

Thurs., 3/12, Town Hall 6:30 p.m.

Marine Resoures Comm

Thurs., 3/12, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board

Tues., 3/10, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Select Board

Mon., 3/9, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet

Board of Appeals

Tues., 3/24, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Wed., 3/11, Police Station, 6 p.m.

Select Board

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

TIDE TABLE

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

	Mar. 2026	HIGH a.m. p.m.	LOW a.m. p.m.	
Sunday	1	0607 1831	0015* 1303*	
Monday	2	0651 1915	0110* 1345*	
Tuesday	3	0735 1958	0200* 1416*	
Wednesday	4	0818 2041	0235* 1431*	
Thursday	5	0900 2122	0254* 1447*	
Friday	6	0940 2202	0313 1510*	
Saturday	7	1021 2245	0337 1538	
Sunday	8	---	1206 0506	1708
Monday	9	0033 1257	0541 1744	
Tuesday	10	0126 1351	0627 1831	
Wednesday	11	0219 1445	0734 1937	
Thursday	12	0313 1542	0848 2045	

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

Public Hearings/Legal Notices

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

ACUSHNET CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Acushnet Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Police Station Meeting Room, located at 64 Middle Road, Acushnet, Massachusetts.

- **Public Hearing NOI – MD Southcoast Properties, LLC, 72 Middle Road, Map 24 Lot 35.** A Notice of Intent and Stormwater Permit Application was filed by MD Southcoast Properties, LLC for property located at 72 Middle Road, Map 24, Lot 34. The Applicant proposes to construct three duplex buildings, to perform associated site work and to construct a detention pond within the 100 ft. Buffer Zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland and to perform minor clearing, filling and grading within the 200 ft. Riverfront Boundary. The applicant is represented by Schneider, Davignon & Leone, Inc.

James Souza, Chair
FNN, 3/5/26

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Fairhaven

Conservation Commission Monday, March 16, 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 (EI.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, 450 Bridge Street, Map 38, Lot 16K** Notice of Intent filed by Brian Corey to construct single-family dwelling, septic system, utilities, and associated site work located within the Nasketucket River Basin overlay district.
- e. **CON 023-550: 4 Ruth Street, Map 43, Lots 140-142** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by

Robert Bates to replace existing vinyl fence on north side of property (along Ruth Street) with masonry wall within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, FEMA Flood Zone VE (EI.18').

- 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 023-1523: 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 023-1524: 30 Brook Street, Map 31, Lot 154** Notice of Intent filed by Daniel & Jo-Anne Charette to construct an accessory dwelling unit with associated porch & patio, sewer and water connections to the existing house, and the replacement of the perimeter fence. Property within 100' of the Bordering Vegetated Wetland and 200' to Riverfront Area.
 - 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.
 - j. **CON 023-556: 2 Elm Street, Map 13, Lot 066** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Northeast Maritime Institute to demolish an existing storage building, and remove (2) inches of asphalt within the existing parking area (~11,625 S.F.), and replace asphalt with pervious stone aggregate (3/4th crushed stone/gravel) consistent with the property. A portion of the property is within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, FEMA Flood Zone AE (EI. 6').
- 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: 3/5/26

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, March 24, 2026, at 6:30 PM in the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room located at 122 Main Street, Acushnet, MA 02743.

- **Case #2026.03.24A** A case of Maurice A. Bergeron for property located at 11 Rogerson Avenue. The Petitioner seeks a Variance pursuant to Sec. 3.3.1E (3) (c), to construct a 22' X 24' Garage, 6 ft. from the side setback vs. the required 15 ft. setback.
- **Case #2026.03.24B** A case of Ryan Rego of Isaksen Solar for property located at 1046 Main Street, Map 7, Lot 24A. The Petitioner seeks a Variance pursuant to Sec. 3.3.1E (3) (c), to install a Ground Mounted Solar System 8 ft. from the side setback vs. the required 15 ft.
- **Case #2026.03.24C** A case of Noah Drew Gomes for property located at 0 Columbe Street, Map 18, Lot 121. The Applicant seeks a Special Permit pursuant to Sec. 3.3.1E (1) (7), to build a Single-Family Dwelling located on this non-conforming lot with a non-conforming pre-existing garage.

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

FNN, 3/5/26, 3/12/26

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS INVITATION TO BID

Glenhaven Avenue Water Main Replacement Project, Fairhaven, MA
Location of Work: Town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts. Sealed Bids for construction of the Glenhaven Avenue Water Main Replacement Project will be received by the Public Works Department at 5 Arsene Street in Fairhaven, Massachusetts until 10:00 a.m.,

March 20, 2026, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and bids read aloud. Bids submitted after this time will not be accepted. The work involves the following major item(s):

The water main improvements involve installing approximately 2,700 linear feet of 8" and 6" water pipes, water services, hydrants, 8"x8" tapping sleeve valve, temporary and permanent trench paving, temporary water bypass system and abandoning the existing water main on Glenhaven Avenue.

The work is estimated to cost \$1,300,000.00
Contract Documents may be viewed and downloaded as a Portable Document Format (PDF) file free of charge on or after Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at www.accentblueprints.com. Printed copies may be obtained for a fee by completing an order online or calling 978-362-8038 for each set. Completed orders may be picked up at the office of Accent Blueprints located at 99 Chelmsford Road, (Rear#13) North Billerica, MA 01862 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Printed copies may also be shipped to prospective bidders for an additional charge to cover handling and mailing fees. All payments for printing and shipping are non-refundable. To be added to the project plan holder's list to guarantee receipt of addenda, it is recommended interested bidders obtain the Contract Documents directly from Accent Blueprints. Interested bidders will be prompted to register an email address with Accent Blueprints to access the documents.

BID SECURITIES shall be in amount of 5% of the bid and in the form of a certified check drawn upon a bank within the State of Massachusetts or a bid bond executed by a surety company authorized to do business in Massachusetts, made payable to the **OWNER**.

The successful bidder must furnish a 100% **PERFORMANCE and PAYMENT BOND** and will be required to execute the Contract Agreement within five (5) days following notification of the acceptance of his Bid. The **OWNER** reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to accept any bid, to waive any informality on bids received, and to omit any item or items deemed advisable for the best interests of the **OWNER**. Bids are subject to Massachusetts-M.G.L. Chapter 30-Section 39M, and to Massachusetts minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. Chapter 149- Sections 26 to 27H inclusive. All costs associated with the preparation of the bids shall be the responsibility of the bidder, regardless of whether or not the Contract is awarded.

Board of Public Works for Fairhaven, MA
FNN 3/5/26

LEGAL NOTICE Request for Qualifications Owner's Project Manager Services

The Town of Acushnet is seeking responses from qualified Owner's Project Managers (OPM), as defined by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Section 44A 1/2, to provide project oversight and management for Design Development, Construction Documents, Bidding and Construction phase services for the Acushnet River Valley Golf Course Clubhouse project. In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, the fee for professional services will be negotiated based on a not to exceed limit.

RFQ packages may be obtained at the Office of the Town Administrator, 122 Main Street, Acushnet, MA 02743 or by calling 508-998-0200. There will be a mandatory on-site briefing session at Noon on March 13, 2026 at the golf course property (685 Main Street, Acushnet). Sealed Proposals are due in the Office of the Town Administrator no later than 11:00 AM on March 27, 2026 at which time they will be publicly opened.

The Town's Board of Selectmen is the awarding authority. The Selectmen reserve the right to waive any informalities and to accept or reject any and all proposals and to award the contract as deemed to be in the best interest of the Acushnet River Valley Golf Course and the Town of Acushnet.

FNN, 3/5/26

Don't forget to tell our
advertisers you saw their
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Obituary: William Q. “Biff” MacLean, Jr.



William Q. “Biff” MacLean, Jr.

On February 20, 2026, William Q. “Biff” MacLean, Jr., former State Senator, businessman, and civic leader,

died peacefully at his home in Jupiter, Florida, surrounded by loved ones.

Biff was born on November 4, 1934, to the late Charlotte (Hillman) and William Q. MacLean, Sr. The MacLeans were a hardscrabble family toiling in the Fairhaven fish and lobster industry during the Great Depression, instilling an exceptional work ethic in their two young children.

Biff was a proud son of Fairhaven, shaped by a community that valued loyalty and service above all else. A graduate of Fairhaven High School, he was a standout athlete whose competitive spirit and determination set him apart. Those qualities would come to define not only his athletic achievements, but the way he lived his life.

Biff’s remarkable career in public service began in 1958, when at just 22 years old he was elected to the Fairhaven School Committee. Two years later, he was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, where his leadership and

tenacity propelled him to serve as House Majority Whip and House Majority Leader. In 1980, he was elected to the Massachusetts State Senate, where he chaired numerous committees and worked tirelessly on behalf of the South Coast until his retirement in 1992. His impact on Fairhaven and the greater region is lasting, reflected in the growth and opportunity he helped bring to the communities he loved.

In addition to his distinguished political career, Biff was a respected insurance executive and partner in multiple endeavors, including ownership of eight fishing boats. He built relationships in business the same way he did in public life — with integrity, loyalty, and genuine care for others.

Biff served his community with single minded passion. He was active in numerous civic and social organizations, including the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, the New Bedford Port Society, and the 13 Striper Club. He was a founding supporter of Star Kids and was the force behind the MacLean Children’s Fund — a further reflection of his deep commitment to his community.

Though he was a fierce competitor in athletics and in life, his greatest legacy lies in the countless lives he touched. A phone call to Biff was always answered personally, with action taken immediately! Biff’s family has been truly humbled by the many personal stories shared since his passing — stories that reflect the breadth of his quiet impact.

He will long be remembered as a

devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend — a man who never hesitated to lend a hand, offer encouragement, or share in celebration. His presence was larger than life, his generosity boundless, and his devotion to the Southcoast unwavering.

He is survived by his wife Mary Jane (Moran) MacLean; his children Douglas MacLean, Kim MacLean, and Lauren Fontaine (Chuck); Mary Jane’s children Anne Schultz (Greg), Hugh O’Donnell (Colleen), Katy O’Donnell, and Julie Wood (Sunny); his grandchildren Brittany Raimondo (Marc), Dodie and Andre Fontaine, Emma Liarikos, Katia Schultz, Casey, Joseph, and Maggie McNamara, Teddy, Patrick, and Meaghan O’Donnell, and Caroline and Rita Wood; his great-grandchildren Nora and Jacob Knight; his sister Patricia Foster, and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his daughter Linda MacLean; his wife and the mother of his children Martha M. (George) MacLean; and his wife Marjorie E. (McCarthy) MacLean.

His Funeral Mass was held at Holy Name of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, 121 Mt. Pleasant St., New Bedford, Monday March 2nd. His burial will be private and visiting hours were respectfully omitted. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to MacLean Children’s Fund, c/o SouthCoast Community Foundation, 350 Union St., New Bedford, MA 02740. Arrangements are by the Saunders-Dwyer Home for Funerals, 495 Park St., New Bedford.

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