



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 21, Issue 14 • March 26, 2026

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

Celebrating Meals on Wheels



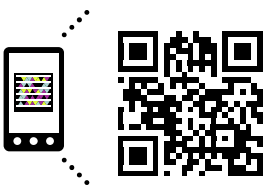
L-R: Gerami Pacheco, Nutrition Program Director at Coastline Elderly, and Susan Ouimet of Coastline, help Fairhaven Select Board Chairperson, Charles Murphy, set up the next batch of meals to pack into the bag for delivery on 3/20/26 at the Fairhaven Council on Aging to celebrate the Meals on Wheels program, which delivers more than 1600 meals in Greater New Bedford every day. See page 12 for story. *Photo by Beth David.*

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."



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From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

Where IS that warm spring weather hiding?

At least all the spring events are starting to kick in. See pages 5, 6, 7 for all kinds of fun stuff going on.

Including....

No Kings 3 rallies, protests, standouts, visibilities all around the country. In these parts, we have one in New Bedford (see page 6).

Clearly, the Big Buffoon can't get the hint. So, we have to keep doing this. I know, it seems like the rallies don't help, but they do. Little victories are getting chalked up all over the country. It doesn't help the people who have been kidnapped by the regime and shipped off to who-knows-where. Somebody should do one of those round-up fund-raisers for the ACLU. God bless 'em!

Closer to home, we have budget woes.

I have to say, town officials have been seriously working to figure out how to get to a balanced budget and still pay for al the stuff we're used to. Without an override, though, I just don't see how it will work. We've seen this wall at the end of the road for a few years now. It seems we are finally going to hit it.

I think the effects won't be felt immediately, but when they kick in, well, it will be interesting.

At first, it will seem minor, like the pothole that doesn't get fixed right away because we are short a person in the highway department. No big deal, until it grows and grows. And not as much money for roads means we'll feel like we're in a developing country. And ambulance response? Oh, if you've ever waited for an ambulance you know each minute is like an hour.

The schools may have to do something drastic.

Look, I'm just as broke as anyone. I'm always just barely scraping by, but...sometimes you just have to pay for stuff. If we want the convenience of services, we have to pay for them.

I'll do my spiel about government not being a business another time. I'm tired, it's late.

One of the things we reporters like to say is we go to the meetings so you don't have to. And I absolutely understand that you don't want to watch a three-hour budget meeting. But you can download the documents, take a peek at them whenever you can. And keep your eye on these pages for updates.

Town Meeting is the first Saturday in May. They will probably have two budgets to choose from: One that funds services at the level we want; and one that will require drastic cuts. The one we want will require a Proposition 2 1/2 override, a decision voters will have to make at the ballot box. Decision day is approaching, Fairhaven.

There's other stuff in here, of course. While you're looking for it, be sure to notice who our advertisers are so you can tell them you saw their ads in the *Neighb News*.

Until next week then, see ya,

Glory to Ukraine!
Glory to the Heroes!



Publisher Beth David with
Charlie, aka Evil Dog

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Volume 21, Issue 14

Thursday, March 26, 2026

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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

Fairhaven holds marathon budget meeting

By Beth David
Editor

In a meeting that got tense at times, the Fairhaven Select Board, School Committee, and Finance Committee met for three hours on 3/19/26 to try to balance a budget that is \$1.5 million short without cuts to departments and services.

SC chairperson, Brian Monroe, gave an opening statement that did not mince words about the number in the budget documents being under net school spending. He claimed it was \$400K under the state mandated amount.

Town Administrator, Keith Hickey, said he used the number he could find because the school department did not get back to him with the right number.

Mr. Monroe said he Googled it and did not understand why it was so hard for Mr. Hickey to find.

Mr. Hickey countered that Mr. Monroe was a "better Googler."

At one point Mr. Hickey said he asked for the number more than once.

"I feel duped, frankly," said Mr.

Hickey.

"You never asked me," countered Mr. Monroe.

Mr. Hickey said he would not ask the School Committee chair, he asked the Superintendent. It would be "disrespectful" to her, he said to ask someone else.

For her part, the Superintendent, Tara Kohler, said the number was discussed at their February meeting and had been available since then.

Mr Hickey said that made it more troubling that they had the number for so long and did not share it.

After much back and forth, Mr. Hickey simply said that the town must meet the state's mandate and so he would have to find \$400k in cuts to other departments.

The Select Board also discussed the budget, with updated numbers, at their 3/23 meeting, but held off on voting, deciding instead to hold a meeting on 3/30 to discuss the budget and Town Meeting articles.

In that meeting, Mr. Hickey presented adjustments to the budget to close the gap, which, he said, was closer to \$275K, not \$400K

The adjustments include eliminating a second truck driver position (\$50K); reducing health insurance (\$100K), which is an estimated reduction; reduce the library \$15K, which is the amount reduced after a correction was made; eliminate the office of tourism, aka Discover Fairhaven/Community Development, (\$102,241); reduce overtime hours in accounting, police and fire departments (\$62K); add \$150 from previously available funds.

That \$329,391 in savings would be offset by \$42,500 in reinstated cuts.

The result is \$286,891 in increased revenue to the schools.

In the SB meeting on 3/23, and included in his memo, Mr. Hickey said the changes increase the school budget to \$26,392,067, which is approximately \$43,334 above the Net School Spending calculation provided by the school department. Mr. Hickey said the numbers are being reviewed again to confirm accuracy.

In order to get the number more comfortably above Net School Spending, Mr. Hickey recommended

BUDGET: cont'd on page 13



**First Congregational
Church, UCC**

34 Center Street
Fairhaven, MA
508-993-3368

Worship with us this Easter Season!

Palm Sunday • March 29 • 10 a.m.

A special service when we will remember Jesus' last days before crucifixion.

Maundy Thursday • April 2

Soup Supper: 5:30 p.m. in Maddaford Vestry (William St. entrance)
A Service of Silence: 6:15 p.m. in Maddaford Vestry (William St. entrance)
Join us for a meaningful service where we are drawn into the quiet intimacy of Jesus's final meal with his friends. Through sound, touch, silence and song, we are invited to notice the Spirit moving in fresh and surprising ways.

Good Friday • April 3 • Noon – 3 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

Personal Meditation/Prayer Time

Our sanctuary will be open for anyone who wants to spend a portion of this time in meditation and prayer.

Easter Sunday • April 5 • 10 a.m.

Join with other members and friends of our church to sing out "Christ is Risen" as we celebrate the resurrection in song, prayer, and scripture.

Fairhaven hires treasurer

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Select Board voted to approve the appointment of Carla Mourao as Treasurer/Collector at its meeting on 3/23/26.

Ms. Mourao has more than 30 years of experience in related positions, including as an Assistant Treasurer/Collector, and currently as Treasurer/Collector in Somerset.

"I have the heart, work ethic, and dedication you need to get the job done," said Ms. Mourao. "Both professionally and personally I've always strived to achieve my full potential as well as inspire others to do the same."

Select Board Chairperson, Charles Murphy, said she came highly recommended by several people, including George Samia, who served as Interim TA in Fairhaven.

Town Administrator Keith Hickey said he reached to Ms. Mourao at the recommendation of Mr. Samia.

After speaking with Ms. Mourao, Mr. Hickey quickly arranged for her to go in and meet Assistant Town Administrator of Finance, Town

Accountant, Anne Carreiro, and Pam Bettencourt, who is retiring from the position, but has been covering the office until the town found someone.

I think she's going to be a perfect fit with the cast of characters we already have here. And step right in and do a fabulous job.

[Town Administrator,
Keith Hickey

Mr. Hickey said they were so "pleasantly surprised" at her accomplishments and work ethic.

"I think she's going to be a perfect fit with the cast of characters we already have here," said Mr. Hickey. "And step right in and do a fabulous

job."

The board voted unanimously to approve the appointment. She will start on 4/6.

In another matter, the board read a proclamation to Patrick Timothy Fleming recognizing him for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Mr. Fleming's Eagle Scout project was replacing the ceiling tiles in the basement hall at St. Mary's church in Fairhaven, which is where Troop 52 meets.

"This prestigious accomplishment represents years of dedication, leadership, and service to both the community and the Town of Fairhaven," reads the citation. "Your commitment to the values of citizenship, character, and service reflects great credit upon yourself, your family, your troop, and the community you proudly serve."

Mr. Fleming was not able to attend the meeting, but his father, Timothy, did address the board. He said his son is the first to achieve Eagle Scout for Troop 52, but there are other right behind him. He said the troop has

SELECT: cont'd on page 14

Ascent Audiology and Hearing

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

Dartmouth and Somerset

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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

FHS Production

The Fairhaven High School Theatre Company is thrilled to announce the production of this year's spring musical, *Anastasia*. Based on the 1997 animated film, *Anastasia* follows the story of a brave young woman as she sets out to discover the mystery of her past. Pursued by a ruthless Soviet officer determined to silence her, Anya enlists the aid of a dashing con man and a lovable ex-aristocrat. Together, they embark on an epic adventure from Russia to Paris to help her find home, love and family.

Anastasia will be performed at Fairhaven High School on March 26th, 27th and 28th at 7PM, with a matinee on March 29th at 2PM. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students, and \$10 for FHS students and staff (ID required at the door). Tickets are assigned seating and can be purchased online at https://gofan.co/app/school/MA22183_1. Please note this production is expected to sell out, and tickets may not be available at the door. For more information, please email mrebello@fairhavenps.net.

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.

Fill-A-Bag

Heavenly Treasures thrift store, at First Congregational Church, 34 Center St. (use William St. entrance), Fairhaven. Open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Fill-A-Bag: \$5/bag (we supply the bags), all clothes, pocketbooks, shoes, coats. Sat., 3/28, and Wed. & Sat., 4/1 & 4/4, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

OLOA 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.

Herring Run Talk

In observance of the spring equinox kicking off the fish moon, join the Fairhaven Acushnet Land Preservation Trust Land Manager Waban Webquish (Marcus) for a presentation on the annual herring run in nearby Acushnet, Massachusetts.

Monday, March 30, 6:30 PM-7:30 PM, UU Auditorium, 102 Green St., Fairhaven. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ycx5c88t>

Mariner Soccer Annual Meeting

The Mariner Youth Soccer Club's Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Fairhaven Council on Aging located at 229 Huttleston Avenue, Fairhaven, MA 02719. All members are welcome to attend.

The meeting will include elections for board positions and committee updates and appointments. Please address questions or interest to: info@marineryouthsoccer.onmicrosoft.com

Town Hall hours

Effective the week of 3/23/26, Fairhaven Town Hall will no longer be open on Friday afternoons. The new hours will result in town hall being open for 41.5 hours, instead of 40, but will also close on Friday afternoons. The new schedule adds an hour in the morning, opening at 7:30 instead of 8:30; and adds 1.5 hours on Monday nights, closing at 6 instead of 4:30.

Fridays, the town hall will close at 11:30 a.m.

New hours are: Monday, 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Friday, 7:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Solidarity

Show solidarity every night in the streets to stop ICE and to STOP the ear in Iran. 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.

Odor Complaints

The Fairhaven Board of Health has created an online odor complaint form for those living near the Wastewater Treatment Plant. This information will help town officials better understand when odors occur and evaluate whether additional mitigation measures are needed.

If you are in the area of the treatment plant and notice strong odors, please consider taking a moment to file a report using the complaint form available on the Town of Fairhaven website at www.fairhaven-ma.gov. If you do not have access to the internet, you can call the Health Department at (508) 979-4032. Consistent feedback from residents will help the town identify patterns and respond more effectively.

Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars

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>.

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

No Kings 3

March for the People. Sat., 3/28, North 6th St. and Kempton St. (courthouse), New Bedford, 3-5 p.m.

We are taking to the streets. We are starting at the Courthouse in NB and marching through the streets. We will end at City Hall and there will be tables, chairs and spots for people to sit if that is your preference.

We need to have our voices heard.

We have the power and are claiming it together. No Thrones. No Crowns. No Kings.

What began in 2025 as a single day of defiance has become a sustained national resistance to tyranny, spreading from small towns to city centers and across every community determined to defend democracy. Our peaceful movement is bigger than ever.

When our families are under attack and costs are pushing people to the brink, silence is not an option. We will defend ourselves and our communities against this administration's unjust and cruel acts of violence.

On March 28th, rise up, take to the streets, and say it loud: no thrones, no crowns, no kings. We're not watching history happen—we're making it. Join us.

A core principle behind all No Kings events is a commitment to nonviolent action. We expect all participants to seek to de-escalate any potential confrontation with those who disagree with our values and to act lawfully at these events. Weapons of any kind, including those legally permitted, should not be brought to events.

Honor Vietnam Vets

Vietnam veterans will be honored at a special event this weekend. The Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 499 invites everyone to National Vietnam War Veterans Day Ceremony at 11 a.m. Sun., 3/29 at the Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Military Museum and Veterans Memorial at Fort Taber Park, 1000C South Rodney French Blvd., New Bedford.

The military museum will open at 10 a.m. with refreshments. This will be followed by a ceremony with speakers inside the museum at the Vietnam section.

At about 1 p.m., the ceremony will move to the Vietnam memorial in the

park. There will be a benediction, laying of a wreath and the sounding of "Taps."

After the wreath laying ceremony, participants may gather at the museum for refreshments and fellowship.

Dance Group

The internationally acclaimed Parsons Dance will appear at SoCo Movement Arts on Tuesday, April 1 for a special evening performance and audience Q&A.

Known for its athletic, joyful, and highly musical style, Parsons Dance has performed around the world and is considered one of the leading modern dance companies today. The performance offers South Coast audiences a rare opportunity to experience this celebrated company in an intimate setting.

Doors open at 5:00 PM, with the performance beginning at 6:00 PM, followed by a Q&A with the artists. Tickets are \$50. The event will take place at SoCo Movement Arts, 201 Pope's Island, New Bedford, MA. Tickets are available at: <https://tinyurl.com/3n3y3zfd>

YTI Production

Your Theatre Inc. presents "The Best We Could" (a family tragedy) by Emily Feldman. A stunningly hilarious and tragic tale of a modern father and daughter.

In this 2023 debut play from Emily Feldman, follow Ella and her father, Lou, on a surprise road trip to adopt a rescue dog. Guided by the fourth wall-breaking narrator, named Maps, the duo crosses state lines, family history, and more.

From the insistent phone calls with Peg, Ella's mother, to the oddball characters along the way, this modern theatrical experience is funny, wise, and heartbreaking in every breath.

Performances at the Steeple Playhouse, 159 William St. New Bedford, MA 02740; 508-993-0772. Fri. & Sat., 3/20 & 21 at 7:30 p.m.; Sun., 3/22, at 2 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., 3/27 & 28 at 7:30 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 3/28 & 29 at 2 p.m.

Join us for a special talkback with the cast and director on opening night, March 20, immediately after the show!

For tickets, visit <https://yourtheatre.org/>. Tickets are also available at the door, 30 minutes

before curtain time.

Adult, \$27; Senior, Military, Student, \$22; MCC Card to Culture \$5. No one will be turned away due to inability to pay.

OLOP Fish Fry LAST ONE!

Please join us on March 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

Broadway Karaoke

FREE. (This event was originally scheduled for Feb 28)

Broadway Karaoke is a free one-night only community event on Sat., 4/4 at 7:30 pm at the New Bedford Harbor Hotel, 222 Union St., downtown NB. 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!

Preservation Lecture

The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum, 396 County St., NB, is welcoming the Preservation Society of Newport County (PSNC) once again for an annual lecture on preservation work on April 2nd at 5:30pm. Two curatorial fellows from PSNC will speak in the museum parlors on their recent research in the collections. A suggested donation of \$10 in lieu of a fee is accepted.

Visit rjdmuseum.org

SAVE THE DATE: Science Cafe

Tues., 4/7, from 6 to 8 p.m., The Last Round Bar & Grille, 908 Purchase St., New Bedford. Methane Gas.

HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

ORR Jr. High Musical

Old Rochester Regional Junior High School Drama Club will present a musical about a play starring the teenage heartthrob of every girl in Shakespearean England. It's called "Adventures of the Fearsome Pirate Frank," and the ORRJHS Drama Club is performing it at the Old Rochester Regional Junior High School Auditorium, 133 Marion Road, on Fri. & Sat., 3/27 & 3/28 at 7 p.m.; and Sun., 3/29, at 2 p.m.

The production is a comedic, high-energy spoof that follows the story of a popular stage actor known for playing the Fearsome Pirate Frank, who becomes entangled in real-life pirate adventures when he and his fellow performers are unexpectedly kidnapped during a performance.

The show blends humor, adventure and pop culture references, featuring a wide range of colorful characters, including pirates, mermaids and even a surprise superhero appearance, as the story unfolds both on stage and at sea.

Tickets will be sold at the door, with admission set at \$13 for adults and \$7 for ORRJHS students and children 12 and under.

Fire Fundraiser

Help Ashley rebuild after a devastating fire.

Join us on Sat., 3/28, 2-6 p.m., at Acushnet VFW Tuttle Post 7239, 28 Roosevelt St., Acushnet. \$10 suggested donation at the door.

Featuring 50/50 raffle, one-rack pool tourney, caravan auction, food and music.

Literary Mocktails

Literary Society at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, located at 7 Barstow Street. Young professionals and emerging adults 20 and up are invited to join us for the Literary Society's Mocktails and Mixology Masterclass on Tuesday, March 31st, at 6 PM. Participants are in for a spirited (zero-proof!) evening of Literary Mocktails with Jonathan Pogash, founder of The Cocktail Guru, and author of the Mr. Boston Bartender's Guide 75th Anniversary Edition. Learn to craft sophisticated, book-inspired mocktails, mingle with new friends, and enjoy free snacks

while trading book recommendations! Then chat with Jonathan during an exclusive book signing. Perfect for young book lovers and beverage enthusiasts 20 and up. No registration required.

Literary Society is a media mixer for young people in Mattapoisett and its surrounding areas to discuss books, TV shows, movies, and podcasts, and to hear what other similarly aged patrons are enjoying! We're committed to building community for the next generation of readers and leaders.

For more information, please visit us at 7 Barstow Street, online at www.mattapoisettlibrary.org, or call the library at (508) 758-4171.

Veterans Shuttle

VA Providence has expanded transportation options for Veterans in southeastern Massachusetts with a new Fairhaven/New Bedford Shuttle Service to help Veterans travel to appointments in Providence.

Runs Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Departs Fairhaven Council on Aging at 7:00 AM; Stops at New Bedford VA Clinic at ~7:15 AM; Arrives at VA Providence at 8:00 AM

Reservations must be made at least 3 business days in advance. To schedule transportation: 401-457-3387

Heat Help

There is still time to apply for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), a critical resource that helps eligible households pay for winter heating costs.

The free statewide program assists eligible residents in covering heating costs, providing supplemental funding that allows eligible renters and homeowners to keep their homes safe and warm.

Bay Staters can learn more about eligibility and apply for HEAP by visiting mass.gov/heat.

Concerts At Point

Concerts at the Point is pleased to announce the next concert in its 29th annual concert series.

Eight singers, no conductor, and a program built around what it means to be American. Cantus Vocal Ensemble will perform *Land that I Love* on Sun., 3/29, at Westport Point United Methodist Church, 1912 Main

Road, as part of Concerts at the Point's 29th season.

The concert begins at 3 p.m., with doors opening at 2:15.

Cantus, one of the country's leading a cappella ensembles, operates without a conductor — its eight members rehearse and perform as chamber musicians, each shaping the artistic direction of the group. The program reflects that collaborative approach: 14 songs drawn from the classical and popular repertoire, works by contemporary composers and arrangements of traditional folk songs, assembled as a commemoration of the nation's 250th anniversary.

It will be the first time Concerts at the Point has presented a vocal ensemble of this kind.

Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$20 for students. They may be purchased online at concertsatthepoint.org, by email at pointconcerts@gmail.com, or by phone at 617-512-5549.

Concerts at the Point is a non-profit corporation, run by volunteers and supported by generous contributions from foundations, businesses, and individual donors.

Ocean Plan Mtg

In response to the Oceans Act of 2008, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) issued the original Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan in 2009. The Oceans Act requires EEA to review the ocean plan at least once every five years, and the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) leads the review process. EEA initiated a review of the current ocean plan in 2025, and this process is supported by the Ocean Advisory Commission (OAC) and Ocean Science Advisory Council (SAC), seven technical work groups, and significant public engagement.

On March 30 at 11:00 a.m., the SAC will meet to go over the findings of three of the ocean plan technical work groups: Transportation & Navigation, Technology & Innovation, and Cultural & Recreational Resources.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/n3ubnhft> for the meeting agenda and additional information. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom, and registration is now open.

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Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 7:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.; Wed., 7:30 a.m.–8 p.m.

Visit our website at: http://fairhavenma.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA_COA/index

Community Cookbook

We are creating a Community Cookbook filled with the delicious recipes that make your kitchen — and your heart — happy. From secret family desserts to comfort-food classics, there is nothing sweeter than passing your favorite recipes down for generations to come.

All submitted recipes will be lovingly gathered and turned into the very first Community Cookbook at the Fairhaven Council on Aging! Fresh off the press just in time for Christmas, these cookbooks will be available for purchase right here at the COA. Whether you share a recipe or take one home, you will be part of something warm, meaningful, and made with our wonderful community in mind.

Let's fill these pages — and our hearts — with something delicious!

You may drop off your recipes

handwritten, or typed. You can also include a photo. To submit by email: JBowers@Fairhaven-ma.gov.

Deadline is September 25th.

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: 4/1, First Light Casino; 4/8, Prov. Place Mall; 4/15, Mashpee Commons; 4/22, Wrentham Village Outlets; 4/29, Hyannis Mall & Trader Joe's.

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 30. Easter Sunday. Comedy. A man returns home to celebrate Easter with his riotous, bickering, eating, drinking, laughing, loving family.

Music Revue

Matt York's Classic Country Music Revue featuring the songs of classic country and honk-tonk artists: Hank Williams, Patsy Cline, Johnny Cash, The Highwaymen and more.

April 9, 12:30 p.m. If you would like to have lunch prior to the Music Revue, please call by April 6th. Must sign up in advance, 508-979-4029.

Longtime New England musician/author, Matt York, Twice Boston Music Award nominee; "The Wisdom of Willie Nelson," recently released book. Supported by the Fairhaven Cultural Council.

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 NOTE DATE CORRECTION

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: **March 27** 7:15 PM; 11 and under \$7 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

Light Chocolate Cake

- 8 oz. semi-sweet chocolate
- 4 eggs (separated)
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 cup white sugar
- 3 tbsp seedless raspberry jam
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 tbsp powdered sugar

Line a 9" round cake pan with wax paper.

Melt chocolate in the microwave, cool slightly and beat in egg yolks.

In a large bowl, beat butter, 3/4 cup sugar, jam and vanilla until light and fluffy. Add chocolate mixtur, and beat until smooth. Stir in flour.

In another bowl, beat egg whites until foamy. Add remaining sugar, and beat until the whites hold soft peaks. Fold egg whites into the chocolate batter while stirring. Pour batter into pan.

Bake at 300° for 45 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out with moist crumbs.

Cool in pan. Dust with powdered sugar.



Dear Frankie

Weather Beaten

Dear Frankie,
The weather this winter is really getting me down. Endless days of freezing temperatures and cloudy skies that darken by 4 o'clock are hard to handle.

During the blizzard, we lost power and were housebound for three days. The town plows pushed snow up against the dog park fence. It took two weeks for the snow to melt before we could open the gate.

My dad offered to schedule a Zoom call with my friends, which I appreciated. But it was a joke. Most of my friends have older parents who, I wouldn't be surprised, still use rotary phones.

Why has the weather taken such a toll on me?

Selzer

Dear Selzer,

This is the first year in years we have had this much snow and cold weather. So, you haven't experienced not seeing your friends and exercising for extended periods before.

Now that you know the kind of weather winter can bring, use your time to plan some social activities for future years. If you or one of your friends has a large garage, an indoor swimming pool, or a large basement, how about getting together there?

I'm sure most of your friends' parents have a computer and could be taught to Zoom. You might also think about how to entertain yourself when you can't get out. Being able to enjoy time alone is an important life skill that everyone should develop.

It's also important to keep in mind that winter is three months long, not a life sentence. Before you know it, the birds will be back, and the daffodils will be blooming.

Best, Frankie

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Comments and letters can be sent to Frankie at dearfrankiecolumn@gmail.com.

FRANKIE: cont'd on page 17

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Stop war, stop ICE stand-out every Thursday in Fairhaven

By Beth David
Editor

The weekly protest visibility in Fairhaven has expanded to include a message to stop the war in Iran. Every Thursday at 6 p.m., protesters gather at the corner of Walnut and Center Streets in Fairhaven, at the intersection that includes Town Hall, Millicent Library, and Unitarian Church. It started out as a stop ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) weekly protest, and now includes the war in Iran. The public is encouraged to attend. To learn more about different protests against the current administration in DC, find the Fairhaven Democratic Town Committee on Facebook. See page 6 for information on the No Kings 3 protest in New Bedford, which the Fairhaven DTC will be joining.



Anti-war protesters stand out at the corner of Walnut and Center Streets in Fairhaven on Thursday, 3/19/26, where they will continue to gather every Thursday at 6 p.m. to protest the war and the ICE ((Immigration and Customs Enforcement). Photo by Beth David.

Two displaced in Acushnet House Fire

Acushnet Fire Department
Press Release

At 3:07pm on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, the Acushnet Fire & EMS Department responded to 652 Middle Rd. for a report of a structure fire. On arrival, first responders located a two and one-half-story wood-frame residence with smoke coming from the eaves, chimney and vent pipes. Upon investigation, smoke could be seen through every window of the structure. Upon entry, crews located a fire in the north-west corner of the basement. No one was home at the time of the fire, which was confirmed by a neighbor.

The fire took just under thirty minutes to fully extinguish. Crews remained on scene for just over an

hour to overhaul and extinguish hot spots. Acushnet crews were assisted on scene by Acushnet Police Department, Providence Canteen, New Bedford Fire Department, and Acushnet Office of Emergency Management. Mattapoisett Fire Department covered Fire Station #1. During the incident, the Fairhaven Fire & EMS Department provided an ambulance for a separate medical emergency.

The incident is still under investigation, but the preliminary investigation reveals this to be an accidental fire, electrical in nature. The home suffered moderate damage to the electrical system, HVAC system and contents in the basement.

No injuries to civilians or any emergency responders were reported. All

crews were fully returned to service by 5:45pm.

“I would like to thank the hard-working men and women of the Acushnet Fire & EMS Department, Acushnet Police Department and Emergency Management staff that assisted the homeowners. This has been an extremely busy few months, between all of the snow and the increase in fire activity (both in town and assisting our mutual aid partners) and the staff has gone above and beyond to perform their jobs and provide a valuable service to the community. I could not be more proud of the men and women of the Acushnet Fire & EMS Department,” Chief Farland reiterated.

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March for Meals celebrates Meals on Wheels program

By Beth David
Editor

Coastline Elderly Services hosted a March for Meals event at the Fairhaven Council on Aging on 3/20/26, to celebrate Meals on Wheels program and the drivers and volunteers who deliver the meals. The program delivers more than 1600 meals a day to elderly and disabled people in Greater New Bedford.

Gerami Pacheco, Nutrition Program Director at Coastline, spoke to the group of town officials, elected officials, and volunteers.

"Today's March for Meals event is to recognize the importance of this program in our community," said Mr. Pacheco. "Meals on Wheels does not only just deliver a nutritious meal, but we also deliver a safety check. We deliver that compassion and that care to our consumers throughout the community."

He said that from the Fairhaven COA, about 300 meals go out, with 200 going to Fairhaven residents and 100 going to Acushnet.

"Truly so blessed to have the staff that we have, our drivers, our volunteers, our COAs, and just our community partners," said Mr. Pacheco and specifically thanked elected and town officials.

Zach Boyer, Planning Director at Coastline, gave a quick history of the program which started with the Older Americans Act in 1965. He said they are part of a national effort.

"Especially now with the federal focus and trying to make cuts, we have never been more mindful of trying to have the best value and the best nutrition for our older adults so we can demonstrate the vital importance of this program to not just you, but our consumers and all the other elected officials who help

fund it with our state and federal partners and funding streams," said Mr. Boyer, adding that additional funding comes from a variety of other sources.

"So it takes many hands to make light work, and I'd like to close by thanking you for being one of those many hands today," said Mr. Boyer.

Fairhaven COA director, Martha Reed, echoed Mr. Pacheco's sentiment that the meal delivery is more than a meal.

"From our point of view, oftentimes it's the drivers that are seeing people for the first time, and sometimes that's the only person they see and interact with each day," said Ms. Reed. "So the importance of that program helps when they identify an issue or they get to know the clients very well, they can tell when something's wrong and oftentimes can alert us to an issue."

She told the story of a man whose grandson moved in with him because he was alone. The driver alerted the COA and they were able to get him some needed services.

"So the importance of this program, I cannot more strongly advocate to keep this program moving," she said. "We serve about 30 congregate lunches here every day, it's cafe style, and it's just nice for people to be able to come together and socialize, and that helps alleviate loneliness. And



State Rep. Mark Sylvia packs the bag under the watchful eyes of Coastline Elderly personnel (L-R) Gerami Pacheco and Susan Ouimet. Photo by Beth David.

that's a very large problem in older Americans."

State Rep. Mark Sylvia also addressed the group, saying it was a "true partnership" between Coastline and Fairhaven.

"I think, as has been said by the other speakers, food security is a big challenge here on the South Coast, particularly for our most vulnerable population," said Mr. Sylvia. "And for us to come together at this event and for Coastline and the town and the volunteers and the staff to be out there, not only providing nutritious meals, but as Martha said, to connect with people, to have that one-on-one interaction, to be able to identify when there may be other needs is such an important service."

Learn more about Meals on Wheels on the Coastline website, <https://coastlinenb.org/elderly-nutrition-program/> or call 508-999-6400 to sign up. A \$3 voluntary donation is suggested, but no one is turned away due to inability to pay.

Fairhaven election is heating up

Fairhaven's election is on Tuesday, 6/9/26, and nomination papers are 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 be 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 townwide offices and Town Meeting members will be on the ballot. Anyone wishing to run for Town Meeting, must collect 10 certified signatures in their precinct. Completed nomination papers with signatures must be submitted to the Town Clerk's office no later than May 5, 2026 at 5:00PM.

Town Meeting Members who seek re-election should file a written request with the Town Clerk no later April 21, 2026 at 5:00PM.

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

ELECT: cont'd on page 18

BUDGET: cont'd from page 3

that the school department make more use of its various rental, tuition, lease, and trust funds, including using more of the high school trust, which has more than \$2 million in it and generates tens of thousands of dollars in interest each year.

The reinstated cuts include keeping the parking lot at the town beach staffed at \$22,500. Mr. Hickey said the town generates approximately \$40,000 from beach stickers. Having attendants also reduces vandalism.

Mr. Hickey also recommends reinstating the leaf pickup program at \$20,000. He said public works indicated that eliminating it would likely result in increased illegal dumping of leaves with associated costs of cleanup possibly exceeding the \$20K.

Another recommendation is to increase the annual trash fee by \$10, which would result in an increase in annual revenue of \$67,135. He suggests using \$50K of it to reinstate the truck driver, and using the balance for the schools.

Other recommendations include the schools using more of their circuit breaker account, and reconsidering rental fee and capital improvements on the Tripp School building.

Word got around town quickly that closing the animal shelter at a savings of about \$82K per year, was likely. The town would continue to have an Animal Control Officer, but it would be a part time position.

Residents expressed concerns about closing the shelter, which is a "no-kill" shelter. Mr. Hickey said he met with some shelter volunteers who are in the process of creating a nonprofit with the goal of keeping the shelter open. He said one possibility is to lease the shelter to the group at a nominal fee, such as \$1/year. The group would assume full responsibility for the building and the operation of the shelter.

Mr. Hickey said the animal shelter gift account has about \$70K in it. He said he will look into ways to legally transfer that money to the nonprofit, or at least to find out if there is a way to use it for the shelter to provide a safety net for them. As a nonprofit they will be able to pursue a larger variety of fundraisers and grants than the town can.

Any arrangement with a nonprofit would require Select Board approval.

If the nonprofit route proves to be



The Fairhaven School Committee (LEFT), Select Board (CENTER) and Finance Committee (RIGHT) get ready to hold a joint meeting on 3/19/26 in the auditorium of town hall to discuss the budget and how to close a \$1.3 million deficit. *Photo by Beth David.*

nonviable, then the town will make arrangements with other, existing shelters to take the town's animals.

At the 3/19 joint meeting the three boards also discussed the possibility of asking Town Meeting, and then the electorate to approve a Proposition 2/12 override. Prop 2 1/2 limits a municipality's ability to raise taxes to 2 1/2 percent of the town's overall tax levy (the amount that is raised through property taxes).

In general, the School committee wanted to vote to recommend the override. SB member Andrew Romano said he was inclined to vote for an override of more than \$1.3 million to carry the town for a couple of year sand to cover the department FY27 requests.

The Finance Committee had some members expressing that they would not support an override at all. FinCom chairperson Padraic Elliott opted not to take a vote but to wait.

The SB also decided to wait until after their meeting on 3/23, but then pushed that to 3/30. FinCom was scheduled to meet on 3/24.

FinCom member James Souza impressed upon the board more than once that people are telling him the simply cannot afford more in taxes. He said the town needs to raise revenues, not taxes.

All three boards agreed that

outreach to the public will be the key to passing the override if the boards decide that is the direction they want to go.

At the SB meeting on 3/23, SB member Andrew Saunders reiterated his frustration with the state, and particularly the governor who will not give more aid to cities and towns. He said most municipalities are in the same situation. Instead of giving more aid to municipalities, the state gave them the ability to raise local taxes.

It was not we will give you more, he said, it was we will send you in front of the "firing squad."

"You take the body shot because we don't have the courage to do it," said Mr. Saunders.

The town's operating budget in FY 26 (last year to 6/30/26) was \$61,762,374. Department requests for FY27 add up to \$65,490,245; That would require an override of more than \$1 million.

In order to avoid an override, the budget must be no more than \$63,285,576. To get there, the town will have to eliminate the positions and services discussed at the meetings, plus a reduction in tree removal and plantings; eliminating the hazardous waste day; and a reduction in road work.

Both meetings are available on demand at www.FairhavenTV.com

From our readers

Health is a Human Right

When families in Greater New Bedford are forced to choose between paying rent and buying groceries, it is not an accident — it's a policy failure. Recent coverage of rising housing costs and persistent food insecurity in our region makes clear that this is not a distant issue, but a daily reality for many in our community.

As a member of Partners in Health Engage, I believe health is a human right. That means access to stable housing and adequate food must be guaranteed, not treated as optional. Yet, too many people in communities are left deciding which basic needs to go without as rents climb and food assistance programs fall short.

In the greater New Bedford area, more than 40% of renters are con-

sidered housing cost-burdened, meaning rent alone consumes a disproportionate amount of a household's income. When that happens, food is often the first thing to go. Parents skip meals so their children can eat. Seniors stretch groceries and medications to last until the end of the month.

These are not individual failures or poor choices, but rather outcomes of a system that allows basic needs to become negotiable. In Bristol County, more than one in ten residents experience food insecurity, with even higher rates among Black and Latino households. These are not personal failures — they are predictable outcomes of policy choices.

Housing instability and food insecurity are not just economic concerns, they are public health crises. Chronic stress, poor nutrition,

and delayed medical care increase the risk of diabetes, heart disease, anxiety, and depression. When people are forced to worry about keeping a roof over their head or putting food on the table, their health inevitably suffers, and so does the health of our community.

We should not accept a system that expects people to sacrifice their well-being for survival. I urge Senator Elizabeth Warren, Senator Ed Markey, Representative Bill Keating, and other local leaders to take action by expanding federal housing vouchers, protecting and increasing funding for SNAP, and investing in affordable housing development in communities like ours.

If we truly believe health is a human right, our policies must reflect that.

Elizabeth DaCunha, Fairhaven

SELECT: cont'd from page 4

“positive momentum,” and Bob Dorgan is still the Scout Master.

Mr. Fleming said the Scouts do a lot for the community.

The younger Fleming's Court of Honor will be on April 9, at 7 p.m., at St. Mary's basement hall.

The board also approved an increase in docking fees at Union Wharf North Side at the recommendation of the Marine Resources Committee.

Harbormaster, Tim Cox, said they have upgraded that side. The new fee, \$2305.05, will be the same as the south side.

SB member Andrew Saunders, who is also the board's liaison to MRC, said fees in other places such as New Bedford, are much lower.

He said they should look into

raising rates.

Mr. Cox said he will get the rates from everybody and bring it back to the committee.

The board also discussed the budget but did not take any votes on it or on Town Meeting articles. They decided to add a meeting to the schedule on 3/30.

In other business the board:

- Appointed Emily Gauger to the Economic Development Committee.
- Approved a one-day all alcohol license for Hanami Tea House for a special event on 3/29
- Agreed
- voted to participate in a new opioid settlement.

During the public comment period Bob Espindola told the board it was critically important to provide

taxpayers with a full picture when talking about possible override of Proposition 2 1/2. He reminded the board that the town is also looking at a debt exclusion to borrow millions to build a public safety complex. He said voters should not be asked to make decisions in stages.

Also during public comment, Jessica Botelho made a pitch to keep the animal shelter open. She said animal shelters are a necessary part of a community from a public safety and health standpoint. They manage strays and disease transmission, such as rabies.

She left them with a Ghandi quote: “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

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FRANKIE: cont'd from page 10

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Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven

Belonging Committee
Wed., 4/1, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Appeals
Tues., 4/7, Town Hal, 6 p.m.

Board of Health
Wed., 4/8, Town Hll, 5 p.m.

Conservation Comm
Mon., 4/6, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Finance Committee
Thurs., 3/26, Town Hall., 6:30 p.m.

Historical Commission
Tues., 4/7, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Select Board
Mon., 3/30, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
Mon., 4/13, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet

Planning Board
Thurs. 4/2, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Select Board
Tues., 3/31, 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.	
Thursday	26	0243	1515	0903	2103
Friday	27	0347	1624	1110	2324
Saturday	28	0457	1733	---	1213
Sunday	29	0600	1828	0031	1259
Monday	30	0649	1911	0122	1340
Tuesday	31	0731	1951	0210	1415

	April 2026	HIGH a.m. p.m.		LOW a.m. p.m.	
Wednesday	1	0811	2031	0254	1435
Thursday	2	0851	2110	0326	1441
Friday	3	0931	2150	0333	1503
Saturday	4	1011	2230	0344	1532
Sunday	5	1051	2310	0408	1603
Monday	6	1134	2356	0437	1637
Tuesday	7	---	1223	0511	1713
Wednesday	8	0048	1319	0551	1756
Thursday	9	0144	1414	0646	1855
Friday	10	0238	1508	0758	2011
Saturday	11	0332	1606	0902	2118
Sunday	12	0432	1707	0958	2223
Monday	13	0532	1759	1053	2327
Tuesday	14	0621	1842	1142	---

*= 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"

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION WATERWAYS REGULATION PROGRAM

Notice of License Application Pursuant to M. G. L. Chapter 91 Waterways License Application Number 26-WW01-0024-APP Ruth Mccawley Geoffroy, Tr., Nekata Nemasket Realty Trust
NOTIFICATION DATE: March 27, 2026

Public notice is hereby given of the Waterways application by Ruth Mccawley Geoffroy, Tr., Nekata Nemasket Realty Trust to maintain an existing seawall and two stone groins at 4 Wilburs Point Drive, in the municipality of Fairhaven, in and over the waters of Buzzards Bay. The proposed project has been determined to be water-dependent.

The Department will consider all written comments on this Waterways application received within thirty (30) days subsequent to the "Notification Date". Failure of any aggrieved person or group of ten citizens or more, with at least five of the ten residents residing in the municipality(s) in which the license or permitted activity is located, to submit written comments to the Waterways Regulation Program by the Public Comments Deadline will result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing in accordance with 310 CMR 9.13(4)(c).

Project plans and documents for the Waterways application are on file for public viewing electronically at: <https://eeaonline.eea.state.ma.us/EEA/PublicApp/> (enter "26-WW01-0024-APP" in the Search Page as the Record ID). If you need assistance, please contact brendan.mullaney@mass.gov or if you do not have access to email, please leave a voicemail at (508) 946-2707 and you will be contacted with information on alternative options.

Written comments must be addressed to: Brendan Mullaney, Section Chief, DEP Waterways Regulation Program, 20 Riverside Drive, Lakeville, MA 02347 or brendan.mullaney@mass.gov.

FNN: 3/26/26

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

Docket No. BR26P0103EA
Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court

Estate of: Russell James Correia,
Date of Death: October 15, 2025

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Patricia E. Correia of Fairhaven, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.

Patricia E. Correia of Fairhaven, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to

institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

FNN: 3/26/26

Town of Acushnet Invitation to Bid

The Town of Acushnet, Department of Public Works, Highway Division invite sealed bids for Disposal of Municipal Solid Waste & Recyclables Single Stream. Specifications and information for bidders may be obtained at the Board of Selectmen's Office, 122 Main St., Acushnet, MA 02743 on or after March 26, 2026.

All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope to the Acushnet Board of Selectman's office, 122 Main Street, Acushnet MA 02743. Bids to be received until 10:00 AM April 14, 2026 at which time they will be opened and read aloud.

The Town of Acushnet reserves the right to waive any informalities in or to reject any and all Proposals if it deems to be in the public interest to do so.

FNN, 3/26/26

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Fairhaven

Conservation Commission

Monday, April 6, 2026 at 6:00pm
Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted in person and via remote means, in accordance with applicable law. This means that members of the public body as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be at 40 Center Street, and it is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of the public. MGL, Ch. 30A, § 20(f) requires anyone that intends to record any portions of a public meeting, either by audio or video, or both, to notify the Chair at the beginning of the meeting.

Anyone wishing to access the meeting via remote means may do so in the following manner:

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86953155076?pwd=VFdUQkhzdVYrNzJlQktvVj9XSzRlZz09>

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 023-556: 2 Elm Avenue, Map 13, Lot 066 (Re-advertised as Avenue)** 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) con-

sistent with the property. A portion of the property is within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, FEMA Flood Zone AE (El. 6').

b. **CON 023-557, SE 023-_____: Starboard Drive, Map 42, Lot 9C (Starboard Drive: ANR Lot 2)** Notice of Intent filed by Lance Martin to construct a single-family dwelling with septic system, utilities and associated site work. Project located within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, FEMA Flood Zone VE (El. 17' & 19').

c. **CON 023-558: 32 Nakata Avenue, Map 43, Lot 244** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by John Afonso to bring in natural grade materials to pitch water run-off away from dwelling and garage. Property located within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, FEMA Flood Zone VE (El. 20') and within 100 feet to a Salt Marsh.

d. **CON 023-559: 41 Elizabeth Street, Map 27, Lot 8J** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Patrick Robinson to install perimeter fencing. Property located within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to a Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVV).

e. **CON 023-560: 8 Sunset Beach, Map 29, Lot 2B** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Duarte Couto to construct a 28' x 38' single-family dwelling with 44' x 30' garage, 12' x 16' deck, walkway with utilities and associated grading. Parcel located within 100 feet to a (BVV).

f. **CON 023-561: 2 Oxford Street, Map 13, Lot 001** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Robert & Nina Weeks to construct a 15' x 18' pool house within a previously approved concrete patio. The construction of patio was approved together with the adjacent in-ground pool approved under dep File No. SE 023-1513. Proposed work will occur within the 100-foot Buffer Zone of the top of a Coastal Bank. The shoreline portion of the site falls within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF), FEMA AE (El.6').

g. **CON 023-562: 165 Balsam Street, Map 43B, Lot 131** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Kim & Martha Hyland to replace 48 feet of existing old stockade fence with a 6' white, privacy fence along the backyard & property line (leaving 6" off the ground for FEMA compliance). Also, to replace 41' of post & rail with 4' spaced baluster-paneled fence including gate (5' wide by 4' high). Property within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, FEMA Flood Zone AE (El.14').

h. **CON 023-405, SE 023-1449: Sconticut Neck Road, Map 42, Lot 9B (Starboard Drive: ANR Lot 1)** Request for Amended Order of Conditions filed by Robert & Joyce Cummings for the approved construction of a single-family dwelling, impervious driveway, the installation of a sewage disposal system, roof runoff recharge system and underground utilities with grading. Work to take place within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, FEMA Flood Zone VE (El. 17' & 19').

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: 3/26/26

ELECT: cont'd from page 12

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. Both Mr. Grant and Ms. Simmons have taken out papers for their seats and for the unexpired

term. Three other people have also taken out papers for both Planning Board seats: Jennifer Cardoza, Mona Phillips, Andrew Panek. Candidates may only return papers for one seat, so they will each have to decide which seat they want.

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.

Both Ms. McKenna and Ms. Pickup have taken out papers for both seats.'

Erik Baumann has also taken out papers for both SC seats; and Michael Sherman has taken out papers for the full term seat.

One seat on the Board of Health is up, incumbent Justine Frezza has taken out papers for her seat.

One Housing Authority seat is up, Ronnie Manzone is the incumbent, but she has indicated that she will not run for reelection. Jacob Galary has taken out papers for that seat.

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