



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

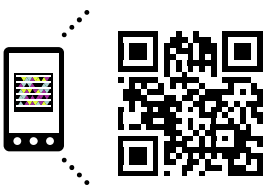
Volume 21, Issue 15 • April 2, 2026

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

Flashlight Egg Hunt draws 100+



Young Dawson is decked out with all the right equipment as he checks the number on an egg to see if it is his, but alas, it was not, during the 25th annual Flashlight Egg Hunt at the Fairhaven Recreation Center on 3/27/26. 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.



Publisher Beth David with
Charlie, aka Evil Dog

Oh, I hate it when this happens. I had hoped to write a whole bunch of stuff on the No Kings 3 rally I went to in New Bedford (see page 13), but...alas, time got away from me and I ended up with just a quick summary and some pics.

I will say this: There are some very smart people in this area who are working on this stuff. It warmed my heart to see so many young people, too.

I know the cult members are saying it doesn't do anything, it doesn't make a difference...blahblahblah... but it does. It does. The gatherings in and of themselves do not do a whole lot right away, but I assure you that history has taught us that nothing happens without them.

The cruelty, corruption, blatant racism in this administration is sickening. To think, the cultists who are still supporting this grifter freaked out because Hunter Biden got a job the thought he wasn't qualified for. Quaint, I know.

Fairhaven has a plan for the budget stuff. Well, most of them, anyway. See page 3 for two stories about budget stuff.

And now fun stuff coming up!

The NFIA egg hunt is Saturday (see page 5). It is one of my favorite events. It's outside, sometimes very cold, in that big beautiful Livesey Park, and the kids get to run like crazy looking for eggs. And it's free....guilt-free free, too. No "suggested" donation. Just go and have fun.

Oh and we HAD an egg hunt too. Another really fun event that I love to cover every year. See page 12 for that.

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!*

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Editor: Beth David

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Fairhaven Select Board discusses Town Meeting Warrant

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Select Board met on Monday, 3/30/26, to discuss the budget, a possible Proposition 2 1/2 override, and articles on the Town Meeting warrant. The board voted to approve all except for three articles: the operating budget (Article 8); the proposed override (Article 9); and the General Fund Capital Plan because of questions about a \$700K request for a roof for the Tripp School building, which is currently leased to SMEC (Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative).

They decided to vote on those items on Tuesday (see article below), when they held a joint meeting with the Finance Committee and the School Committee.

At both meetings, animal shelter advocates showed up with signs to protest the proposed closing of the shelter, and the reduction of the

Animal Control Officer (ACO) to part time, and with no assistant.

Town Administrator, Keith Hickey, said the plan for the shelter, if the override does not pass, is to turn it over to a group of volunteers who are in the process of creating a nonprofit organization to run the facility. The town would provide the ACO as part of the deal, and would lease the building for a nominal fee, probably \$1 a year if approved by the Select Board.

If the override, for \$760,149 to fund FY27, the shelter and full time ACO would be restored.

Zachary Aubut spoke in favor of keeping the animal shelter open. He said the schools have declining enrollment, but keep getting more money.

Mark Alves, who said he was a disabled veteran on a fixed income, spoke in favor of the override. He said nobody likes taxes, but "we have no

choice," but to pay more. He said his property taxes are low compared to other towns. He said he wants all the social services, and does not want to pay more in taxes either, but the reality is that taxpayers have to pay to get the services.

Patrick Carr said that Fairhaven's taxes are not that low if you take into consideration the water and sewer rates. He suggested that instead of asking for an override, the town could increase the \$100 trash fee to \$300, which would raise an additional \$1.2 million. He said it makes more sense than an override, because the trash fee is not permanent and is easy to rescind.

The Board of Public Works, however, sets the trash fee rate, not the Select Board.

Mr. Carr also took issue with the estimates for the tax increases that

SELECT: cont'd on page 16

Fairhaven continues to grapple with budget woes

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Select Board, Finance Committee, and School Committee held a joint meeting on Tuesday, 3/31/26, to discuss the budget and a possible Proposition 2 1/2 override vote. The Select Board and School Committee both managed to agree on the budget numbers, but the Finance Committee did not vote, deciding to hold off until their Thursday, 4/2, meeting. Meanwhile, the Town Meeting warrant booklet needs to go to the printer on Friday morning, 4/3.

Article 8 will present to Town Meeting a balanced budget that does not require an override, but will result in cuts to some departments. Article 9 will present proposed override with specific amounts to restore those cuts. If Article 9 passes at TM, it will then be on the ballot in the annual election on 6/9.

Article 9 proposes an override of \$760,149 to fund operations for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27). It includes \$67,532 to restore the animal control officer to full time, and \$9,000 to restore operation of the Animal Shelter.

Police and Fire overtime would be restored at \$25,000 each.

The Department of Tourism (Community Development), which is completely eliminated in the non-

override budget, would restore with \$76,532 in wages, and \$25,709 in operating expenses.

Public works would receive \$50,000 to restore one of the two positions cut in the non-override budget.

The largest share would go to the School Department with \$481,376 to get that budget to \$500,000 over Net School Spending, which is the amount required by state law. The non override budget provides only \$18,624 over Net School Spending. Because the number is an estimate that is not certified until two years out, municipalities need to have a buffer so as not to be under the state requirement.

The total School Department budget would be \$26,530,067 without the override, and \$27,011,443 with the override. Tuition to GNB Voc-Tech and Bristol Aggie is \$3,220,044.

The town's total operating budget from the general fund is \$62,935,726.

The sticking point with the Finance Committee members seemed to be the numbers for the School Department that changed from the last joint meeting.

The School Department budget was increased by \$150K, using money from the health insurance line item, which the town was able to reduce after talking with the consultant, according to Town Administrator,

Keith Hickey.

Finance Committee members also had lots of questions about the lease of the Tripp School to SMEC (Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative) and a request from Capital funds for \$700,000 for a new roof.

School Superintendent, Tara Kohler, said that SMEC gets a favorable lease rate because of the arrangement with collaborative, which includes 10 school districts. All districts have to provide some space for special needs students to be educated. The town gets a favorable collaborative rate, but just as important, the town is guaranteed a spot for each student. In some cases, the district might have to hire a full time, specialized para-professional for one student for as long as that student was in the system.

FinCom members had lots of questions about the lease, how the rules of the collaborative work, and questioned whether or not the district had done its due diligence to get the best deal.

"We're not stupid. We do ask questions," said School Committee chairperson, Brian Monroe. "It's not that we don't ask questions. We're not idiots."

BUDGET: cont'd on page 14



Worship with us this Easter Season!

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.

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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

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.

Save the Animal Shelter Petition

Sign the petition: "Save The Fairhaven Animal Shelter From Closure" to let town officials know that residents support keeping the shelter open.

Read more and sign the petition at <https://c.org/JCJvrKZz7r>

Free Movie

Celebrate spring with a screwball comedy classic! In THEODORA GOES WILD (1936), a small town Sunday school teacher (Irene Dunne) authors a novel so salacious, her own ladies literary circle pressures the local paper to stop printing its installments. She published under a pseudonym, so she safely lives a double life — until her book's illustrator (Melvyn Douglas) becomes interested in her. When he follows her back to her hometown, not even he knows what to expect when Theodora goes wild.

The program starts on Monday, April 13 at 5:30 PM at the Millicent Library on 45 Center St., Fairhaven. All are welcome, and the event is free! Use the Walnut St. entrance to access the auditorium.

South Coast Cinemaniacs meets the second Monday of the month, excluding holidays, to watch and discuss classic movies. For more

information, email club president Beth Ann Gallagher at: southcoastcinemaniacs@gmail.com

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. LAST DAY: Sat., 4/4, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Solidarity

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

New Boater Law

A new law in Massachusetts will begin on Wednesday April 1st requiring all motorboat operators to complete a boating safety course. The law will be implemented in two phases:

Anyone born after January 1st, 1989, must complete the course by April 1st, 2026

Anyone born on or before January 1st, 1989, must complete the course by April 1st, 2028

The course covers safety rules, boat operation, emergency procedures and more. The focus of this new law is to save lives on the waterways of Massachusetts by helping boaters become more knowledgeable about the rules and regulations on the water. There are several options to obtain the certificate including both in-person and online.

Additional regulations on the new law are forthcoming and for further information please visit - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-boating-law-summary>

For questions or comments on the new law please contact - boatsafetycourse@mass.gov

Homecoming Apps

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

Candidate Events

neighbnews.com

Miles Grant

Let's Talk Town Meeting

Want to speak up on this year's budget at Town Meeting? Join Miles Grant, candidate for Select Board, on Saturday April 4 from 8-9:30am at Rescue Cafe, 414 Main St., Fairhaven, to learn how to participate in town

meeting this year, as well as how to run for a seat for future years.

In towns like Fairhaven, our budget & bylaws must be approved by Town Meeting. This year's town meeting will take place Saturday, May 2 at Hastings School.

Come support a local business and learn how to speak up for the issues & causes you care about!

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!

Science Cafe

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

Our speaker Deborah Gordon will discuss "The Escape Artist Methane & New Tools to Detect the Super-Potent Climate Pollutant." Debbie heads the Oil & Gas Solutions Initiative for Rocky Mountain Institute's Climate Intelligence Program and is a senior fellow at the Watson School of International & Public Affairs at Brown University.

State of the City Address

Mayor Jon Mitchell will deliver his annual State of the City address at the reimagined Zeiterion Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, April 8. Tickets are available on the Zeiterion's website. The event kicks off at 10 a.m.

Light refreshments will be provided in the Baker Family Lobby following Mayor Mitchell's address. Attendees are also invited to tour the renovated theater.

Tickets are \$30 each or \$250 for a group of 10. Tickets can be purchased on the Zeiterion's website, zeiterion.org/events/state-of-the-city, until 4/6.

Summer Rail Discounts

With major events and increased travel expected across the state this summer, the state is focused on making sure people have a reliable, affordable alternative to driving so we can reduce congestion, support daily commuters, and keep Massachusetts

moving. These steps will help residents and visitors get around during a busy summer while making public transportation a more convenient choice for everyday travel.

The following fare promotions will be available through June, July and August 2026:

- Free Summer Fridays: All Commuter Rail service will be free on Fridays in June, July, and August 2026, including Juneteenth and July 3. Regular fares will be in place for Boston Stadium Trains, the CapeFLYER, and any other special event trains to Foxboro.
- 50 Percent Discount on Monthly Commuter Rail Passes: Calendar month Commuter Rail passes for June, July, and August 2026 will be discounted by 50 percent. This discount applies to full fare and reduced fare monthly passes for Zones 1 through 10, Interzone 1 through 10, and Commuter Ferry passes. This discount will not apply to Zone 1A passes. All non-calendar month Commuter Rail products (for example, single-ride tickets, 5-Day Flex Passes, and Weekend Passes) will remain at their standard prices.
- Expanded Weekend Travel for Monthly Pass Holders: Monthly Commuter Rail passes will be valid for travel to any zone on weekends. Zone 1 through 10 pass holders may travel through Zone 10, and Interzone pass holders may travel through Interzone 10. This does not apply to Zone 1A passes or ferry service. Regular fares will be in place for Boston Stadium Trains, the CapeFLYER, and any other special event trains to Foxboro.
- \$1 Weekend "Summer Companion" Fare for Commuter Rail Monthly Pass Holders: Monthly pass holders may bring one companion on any weekend Commuter Rail trip covered by their pass for \$1 each day. This offer is limited to one companion per pass holder. Regular fares will remain in place for Boston Stadium trains, the CapeFLYER, and other special event trains to Foxboro.

To support increased ridership during the FIFA World Cup, the MBTA will temporarily adjust Commuter Rail schedules in June and July, including expanded service to accommodate up to 20,000 passengers on 14 trains per match

day to Boston Stadium.

The MBTA recognizes these temporary schedule changes may affect regular riders. These fare discounts are intended to offset those impacts, support regular riders, and encourage more people to choose transit during a busy summer season and beyond.

For more info, visit MBTA.com

AHA! Night

AHA! Night: Project Planet is coming soon! It's our annual celebration of the Earth and what we can do to preserve and sustain the South Coast.

Enjoy the Project Planet Procession as it moves through downtown with eco-friendly floats and more paying tribute to Mother Earth! The South Coast Brass Band will perform while marching in the parade, T'em Blessed returns as our MC, and will introduce this year's Planet Protectors, honored for their environmental contributions to our community.

Get a pop from the Sorbae Frozen Treat truck and visit the community organizations popping up in Custom House Square with interactive activities. Don't miss entering the raffle!

Local businesses, galleries, and museums are also planning special events for you, including art exhibits, live music, and community conversations. Plus, it will be the opening night of the 2026 New Bedford Film Festival!

Save the date and see you for AHA! Night: Project Planet. Many thanks to Domino's Team New Bedford for sponsoring this AHA! Night.

For the full schedule visit <https://ahanewbedford.org/next-aha/>

Volunteers Needed

The Fort Taber-Fort Rodman Military Museum is looking for volunteers.

If you would like to be involved in celebrating the veterans and military history of New Bedford, MA, and surrounding area.

Please think about volunteering a few hours of your time each week at the museum. Please consider coming by the museum and filling out a volunteer application form.

The museum is located at 1000c Rodney French Blvd., New Bedford, MA; 508-994-3938; Wednesday through Sunday, 1-4 p.m.

HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

Mothers Day 5K

The Mother's Day 5K is already building strong momentum, and we're excited to share something new this year. We've added teams and fundraising rewards to recognize the energy, impact, and community that make this event what it is. Whether you're already registered or planning to join us, there are now even more ways to participate.

May 10, Cisco Brewers, New Bedford. Register now: \$35 for 5K walk & run. Price increases after 4/12. Kids Fun Run: Free. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/b4hv9snn>

The Women's Fund SouthCoast Mother's Day 5K brings together 1000+ runners, walkers, families, and teams each year to celebrate community while investing in women and girls across our region.

Our event is a joyful community celebration — bringing together people of all ages and paces to move, connect, and honor the mother figures who shape our lives.

Set against the beautiful waterfront at Cisco Brewers in New Bedford, the course follows a scenic oceanfront route before finishing in a lively post-race celebration with live music, food and drink, family-friendly activities, and time by the water with the people you care about.

Whether you're running, walking, pushing a stroller, or cheering from the sidelines, you belong here. Many participants make this event part of their Mother's Day tradition — returning each year to celebrate together.

Proceeds benefit the Women's Fund SouthCoast, advancing gender, racial, and economic justice through research, grantmaking, and advocacy across the SouthCoast region and beyond. Learn more about the Women's Fund SouthCoast at <https://womensfundsouthcoast.org>

At Acushnet Library

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

- Monday, April 13 at 2 pm - **Movie Matinee** - *Song Sung Blue*
- Monday, April 13 at 6 pm - Knitting & Crocheting Group

- Wednesday, April 15 at 5:30 pm - Beach & Roses Watercolor Class with Lana Quann. The Wandering Brush, Lana Quann, returns to lead a class in watercolors. Participants will create a 5" x 7" painting titled "Beach and Roses". All materials will be supplied. Registration is required. Age 16+. The Friends of the Acushnet Public Library sponsor this program.
- Thursday, April 23, at 11 am - History Coffee Hour - This group gathers to discuss Acushnet's history. Join the conversation and share stories or photos from the past. Bring your coffee and memories.
- Wednesdays at 11 am starting 4/1 - Spring Storytime - Join Miss Elisabeth as we explore a new letter each week at Storytime. How far will we go? Fun stories, music, and more! For ages 0 to 5 and their parents, grandparents, and caregivers.

Book Sale

The Friends of the Mattapoisett Library invite book lovers of all ages to their upcoming Spring Book Sale on Saturday April 11th, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Library Community Room at 7 Barstow Street, Mattapoisett. This event is a great opportunity to find gently used books at affordable prices while supporting the library's valuable programs and activities.

In preparation for the sale, the Friends of the Mattapoisett Library will also be accepting book donations on Thursday, April 9th and 10th, from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM. Community members are encouraged to donate gently used books to help make the event a success. In addition donations of jewelry will also be accepted in preparation for the annual winter jewelry sale.

All proceeds from the sale directly benefit the library, funding programs, events, and resources that enrich the Mattapoisett community.

For more information, please contact the Friends of the Mattapoisett Library at friendsofmattapoisettlibrary@gmail.com.

History StoryWalk

StoryWalk: Paul Revere's Ride April/May at the Handy House

Heritage Trail, 202 Hix Bridge Road, Westport MA

Enjoy a Revolutionary War-themed StoryWalk featuring Longfellow's poem Paul Revere's Ride. Discover the story of Abner Brownell, Westport's Paul Revere! StoryWalk® is an innovative and delightful way for children — and adults! — to enjoy reading and the outdoors at the same time. Pages from a children's book are attached to signs, which are installed along an outdoor path. As you stroll down the trail, you're directed to the next page in the story. The StoryWalk is open every day dawn to dusk. Enter at Handy House parking lot at 202 Hix Bridge. Free.

Old Dartmouth's Revolution Story

In Our Own Words: Old Dartmouth's Revolutionary Story, 2 PM Saturday April 18, Westport Public Library, 408 Old County Road, Westport MA

"All politics is local" including the American Revolution! What was the experience of the Westport/Dartmouth community during the Revolutionary War?

A recent project to transcribe the town meeting records from the Revolutionary War-era has revealed a unique story of ordinary citizens responding to challenges of war — forming committees to tackle price control, proposing amendments to the draft Constitution, boycotting tea and navigating suspicions of "Those People called Quakers." Local historians will present perspectives on the revolutionary story of Westport/Dartmouth. Town records can be accessed at www.wpthistory.org. Suggested donation \$5.

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

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Fairhaven Senior Center/Council on Aging

508-979-4029 • 229 Huttleston Ave • Fairhaven

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

Be Part of Our 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: 4/8, Prov. Place Mall; 4/15, Mashpee Commons; 4/22, Wrentham Village Outlets; 4/29, Hyannis Mall & Trader Joe's; 5/6, Plainridge Casino; 4/13, Mashpee Commons.

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.

April 6. *Philomena*. Comedy & Drama. A world-weary political journalist picks up the story of a woman's search for her son, who was taken away from her decades ago after she became pregnant and was forced to live in a convent.

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>

Snow White Musical Theater

Come join in on the fun of learning how to take part in a musical theatre performance. Children will learn the basics of putting together a production. In this class, boys and girls will audition for a role in the musical "Snowy's Medley Excerpts." This play has been rewritten along the theme of the original "Snow White." Children will sing, dance, and act their way into a world of excitement. Costumes are encouraged, but not necessary. No experience needed. Everyone receives a speaking role of some kind. AGE: 5yrs.-12yrs. DAY: Wednesdays TIME: 3:45-4:45 PM DATE: April 8-May 20, 2026 (No Class 4/22) \$120. Member: \$135. Non-member

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.

Go With The Flow Paint Night

Join us for a relaxing and creative evening as we go with the Flow! Explore your artistic side with guidance from Susan Drayton of SOCO Art Labs. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned painter, this class is all about having fun and letting your creativity take shape. Bring a friend, paint, and unwind, letting your imagination run free! Spaces are limited! Register early to save your spot! Check out Susan's creations at SOCO Art Labs online! Instructor: Susan Drayton Fairhaven Recreation Center Thursday May 21 at 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. Cost: \$30 per member \$35 non-member— all supplies included

Recipe of the Week

Cheesy Lasagna Rolls

1 24-oz. jar spaghetti sauce with mushrooms

FILLING

- 1 15-oz. container ricotta cheese
- 1 1/12 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup shaved parmesan cheese (plus extra for topping)
- 1 egg (beaten)
- 1/4 tsp garlic powder
- 1 1/2 tsp dried parsley

Cook lasagna noodles for 7 to 8 minutes. Drain water, and gently transfer noodles onto wax paper to cool.

In a large bowl, combine all the filling ingredients and mix well. Pour 1/2 cup of spaghetti sauce into an 8"x8" baking dish.

Assemble the lasagna by spreading 1/4 cup of cheese mixture onto each noodle. Roll up and place seam side down in dish.

Pour remaining sauce over top. Cover with tin foil, and bake at 350° for 30 minutes, or until hot and bubbly.

Serves 4.



Dear Frankie, For as long as I can remember, I have celebrated Easter with the Bixbys. The Bixby twins are my age and super fun to play with. We each get an Easter basket from the bunny and have a big Easter egg hunt. Last year, the bunny hid 100 eggs in some really hard-to-reach places. Breeze Bixby, the oldest in their family, usually finds the most eggs. He is a tall Afghan Hound, so lots of eggs hidden up high are right at his eye level. After the hunt, we eat a big, yummy dinner and have Mrs. Bixby's homemade bunny-shaped coconut cake for dessert.

Next week, we are moving far away. I feel sad about leaving my friends and missing Easter with them this year. I'm also worried the Easter Bunny won't know where to find me

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Dear Frankie

Easter Bunny

Dear Frankie, For as long as I can remember, I have celebrated Easter with the Bixbys.

The Bixby twins are my age and super fun to play with. We each get an Easter basket

to leave my basket. Is there any way I can send him a message?

Scotty

Dear Scotty,

There is no need to worry that the bunny doesn't know where you are.

If Mrs. Bixby hasn't notified the bunny, I'm sure your parents have. If it would make you feel better, you can always check with them just to be sure. You have enough to be concerned with moving to a new area, living in a different house, and making new friends. Moving can be stressful and emotional. So, whatever you can do to reduce your stress and remain calm, do it.

I don't have an in with the bunny; if I did, I would suggest this was the year he filled your basket to the brim.

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,

FRANKIE: cont'd on page 17

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Blue Devil smiles, Fairhaven defeats Dartmouth 21-1

By Caden Lisa

Neigh News Correspondent

The Fairhaven High School softball team defeated Dartmouth on the road, 21-1, on 3/30/26.

The Blue Devils earned its first win of the 2026 season. Fairhaven roared to the tune of 16 runs in the fourth

inning. Freshman (17) Brianna Pierce pitched a complete game and hit a home run in the first game of her FHS career. Pierce recorded six RBIs on two doubles and a home run. (1) Aislyn Flynn and (15) Stella Zangao recorded three RBIs each. Flynn and (14) Violet Marques went 6-for-6 on

putout opportunities.

Fairhaven opened the season against Seekonk on March 27. The game was postponed after 12 innings of play due to darkness.

The Blue Devils will take the trip to Fall River to take on the Diman Regional Voc-Tech Bengals on April 2 at 3:30 p.m.



ABOVE LEFT: Fairhaven Blue Devil, Brianna Pierce, makes direct contact and crushes the ball during the softball game on 3/30/26 when Fairhaven beat Dartmouth 21-1 at Dartmouth. ABOVE RIGHT: Fairhaven Blue Devil, Kaia Furtado, runs to second base. BELOW LEFT: Fairhaven Blue Devil, Aislyn Flynn, contorts her body to catch the ball. BELOW RIGHT: Fairhaven Blue Devil, Stella Zangao (RIGHT), looks on at her pitcher, standing by third base. *Photos by Caden Lisa.*



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25th annual Flashlight Egg Hunt draws 100+

By Beth David
Editor

The 25th annual Flashlight Egg Hunt at the Fairhaven Recreation Center on 3/27/26 had 105 registered participants. Children and their adults hunted for plastic, goody-filled eggs in a darkened gym, using their flashlights to get the eggs with the corresponding numbers on them.

After collecting their goodies in the eggs, children could visit the craft room to color a big Easter egg, or take a picture with the Easter Bunny, where they could also collect a free

Dorothy Cox's chocolate lollipop.

Each participant received a sheet of paper with two numbered eggs. They then had to hunt for the plastic eggs with the same numbers to get their prize.

See page 9 to learn more about the Rec Center or visit <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/recreation-department/>



ABOVE LEFT: Jack is very excited to find Ellie's egg for her during the 25th annual Flashlight Egg Hunt at the Fairhaven Recreation Center on 3/27/26. ABOVE RIGHT: Archie holds up the paper egg ornament he colored in the craft room after finding his eggs (his favorite part). BELOW LEFT: Harper hugs the Easter Bunny before her photo shoot BELOW RIGHT: In what can only be described as serendipity, young Nicholas shows the spot where his tooth used to be before it came out as he searched for eggs and right before he would visit with the Easter Bunny. TOP: Grace has to keep looking after seeing this egg does not have her number on it. Photos by Beth David.



No Kings 3 draws thousands to protests

By Beth David
Editor

New Bedford provided three chances to join in the No Kings 3 protest held around the country, and the world, on Saturday, 3/28/26. Protesters took to the streets to protest the authoritarian policies and actions of the Trump administration.

About 1,000 people gathered at Buttonwood Park at noon and lined the streets with homemade signs. About 100 went to the Route 18 footbridge at 10 a.m.

At 3 p.m. in New Bedford, 400-500 people started out at Third District Court and went around the corner to

the Hastings Keith Federal Building, then to the Frederick Douglass memorial, and finally in front of City Hall. Speakers at each stop railed against the Trump administration's treatment of immigrants, the war in Iran, and policies that favor the rich.

"We don't do quiet in New Bedford," said Lisa Barreira Lemieux of the Greater Southeastern Mass. Labor Council, speaking in front of the Frederick Douglass Memorial.

Other speakers included Ricardo Rosa, emcee; Rev. Karen LeBlanc, First Unitarian Church, NB; Luisa Carina Cu Raymundo, Ixcan Quiche, Guatemala, Student, Member Movi-

miento Cosecha; Richard Drolet, Labor activist and community activist with the SE MA Coalition for a Free Palestine; Tonianne Wong, Unitarian church; Jaqui, high school student, leader in Juvenos por Justicia; Deen Haleem, public defender; Fredericka Reis Freire, high school student organizer; Alicia Lopez Gonzales, Mujeres Victorias/LUCE Network.

Drummers from Batucada Otu Level entertained and drummed as the crowd marched.

No Kings 3 drew approximately 8 million people nationwide at more than 3100 protests. Learn more at [https:// www.nokings.org](https://www.nokings.org)



ABOVE LEFT: Protesters listen to speakers at the District Court House in New Bedford on 3/28/26 during a No Kings 3 rally and protest. ABOVE RIGHT: Lisa Barreira Lemieux of the Greater Southeastern Mass. Labor Council, speaks in front of the Frederick Douglass Memorial. BELOW LEFT: Protesters fill the street marching from the District Courthouse in New Bedford to the next stop at the Federal Building. BELOW RIGHT: Britney Rogers holds up her homemade sign at New Bedford City Hall. Photos by Beth David.



BUDGET: cont'd from page 3

In the end, the Finance Committee did not vote on either article, opting to wait until its meeting on Thursday. The Select Board voted to recommend for adoption on all three articles: Article 8, the operating budget; Article 9, the proposed override; and Article 14, the General Fund Capital Budget that includes the \$700,000 for a new roof for the Tripp School.

The Select Board also discussed the amount of money to ask for in the proposed override.

As he has expressed previously, SB member, Andrew Romano, said he believed the town should ask for \$2-3 million to cover the town for the next two to three years.

Mr. Hickey reiterated his reasoning for asking for only enough to get through next year. He said he did not think it would pass.

Mr. Romano disagreed, saying that the last, failed attempt at an override failed because people felt it was not enough to solve the problem. He said they would get one shot at it. If they returned next year looking for another override, it would be sure to

fail.

Mr. Hickey said other reasons for holding off on the bigger number is he just did not know what they would need due to several other variables. One is that the wind turbine lease is coming up and he believes the operator is not interested in renewing it. That would be about \$300K in revenue the town would lose.

The other is the Acushnet Schools tuition agreement. The town is currently in negotiations with Acushnet, but they made a deal with Old Rochester Regional and New Bedford. It is unclear if they will renew the contract with Fairhaven, but in any case, Acushnet students now have ORR as an option, so



Protesters gather in front of Fairhaven Town Hall on 3/30/26 before the Select Board meeting to protest the proposed closing of the animal shelter due to budget constraints. *Photo by Beth David.*

Fairhaven is likely to get fewer students. Acushnet currently pays about \$1.2 million in tuition each year.

All materials are online in the public packets associated with the meetings. All meetings are available on demand at FairhavenTV.com.

Fairhaven's Annual Town Meeting is on Saturday, 5/4, and will be streamed live at FairhavenTCV.com and on channel 97 on Comcast.

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SELECT: cont'd from page 3

would result in an override. He said it would be closer to \$500 a year on the average home of \$450K.

"Respectfully," said Mr. Hickey after a pause. "I find so many inaccuracies in some of the comments that are being made that I don't even know what to say."

He added that the website will have a calculator available in a few days for people to put in the value of their homes and get an accurate amount for what their tax increase would be.

"And I can respectfully suggest a \$450,000 house...a heck of a lot less than 500 bucks."

Mr. Carr also noted that school employees are getting their cost of living increases, and asked why there is not a freeze on raises.

Mr. Hickey town employees are facing the same challenges as everyone else. The COLA increase is 1.5% while health insurance is also going up a lot more.

"I will defend them every time," he said.

The board also voted to recommend creation of an Affordable Housing Trust that would be used to preserve and create affordable housing and support efforts to improve affordable housing in Fairhaven.

The trust would have a board of seven members that would be responsible for acquiring funds and properties, and would be authorized to spend and/or borrow up to \$15 million with prior approval of the Select Board.



UU Society of Fairhaven welcomes all!

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FRANKIE: cont'd from page 10
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LETTERS: cont'd from page 18

knew no sin; so that in and through Him we might become the righteousness of God."

By God's grace, Jesus Christ came to deliver us from our sinful condition. By dying on the cross, He fulfilled His divine purpose on earth. In resurrecting from the dead, He not only overcame our sin, but prevented our death or eternal spiritual separation from Him as well. His grace is the absolute difference and our profound solution.

We openly rejoice that Jesus is no longer on the cross, and no longer in a tomb. He is risen, He is alive, and He is the Spiritual hope we have to endure life's daunting challenges, this side of Heaven. It is a matter of honoring what God has done for us and appreciating what He's done within us. We, therefore, celebrate Easter or Resurrection Sunday by recognizing His amazing grace!

Steven J. Bouley, Fairhaven

Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven

Atlas Tack Woring Group

Thurs., 4/9, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Belonging Committee

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

Board of Appeals

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

Board of Assessors

Mon., 4/13, Town Hall, 4:30 p.m.

Board of Health

Wed., 4/8, Town Hill, 5 p.m.

Commision on Disability

Thurs., 4/9, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Conservation Comm

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

Finance Committee

Thurs., 4/2, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

Historical Commission

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

Marine Resources

Thurs., 4/9, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Select Board

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

Acushnet

ELECTION

Tues., 4/28, Elementary Sch, 8-6

Golf Committee

Thurs., 4/2, Golf Course, 4:30 p.m.

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

	April 2026	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
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

*= 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"

TOWN OF ACUSHNET PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A Section 5, you are hereby notified of a public hearing.

The Acushnet Planning Board will hold a hearing on Thursday April 16, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., to consider a proposed amendment to the Town of Acushnet General By-laws Article VIII Zoning Section 7.2.R Floodplain Overlay District. The proposed amendment is summarized as follows: to include the flood A zones.

This meeting will be held hybrid, at the Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall, 122 Main Street, Acushnet, MA 02743, and over Teams.

The text of these proposed amendments may be viewed at the office of the Town Clerk and the Planning Board office, at Acushnet Parting Ways, 130 Main Street, MA 02743, during normal business hours. All persons, parties, or corporations interested therein may appear and be heard in relation thereto.

Mark Francois, Chairman, Acushnet Planning Board
FNN, 4/2/26, 4/9/26

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS INVITATION TO BID

The Town of Fairhaven invites sealed bids for the "Phoenix Rail Trail Rehabilitation and Related

Work", in accordance with the Contract Documents prepared by Department of Public Works, 5 Arsene Street, Fairhaven, Massachusetts, 02719.

Sealed bids marked "Phoenix Rail Trail Rehabilitation and Related Work", will be received at the Board of Public Works Office, 5 Arsene Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719 not later than 10:00 a.m., April 17, 2026 E.D.T. and at 10:00 a.m., April 17, 2026 E.D.T. will be publicly opened and read. The Board of Public Works reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.

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

FNN 4/2/26

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS INVITATION TO BID

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

Sealed bids marked "Cushman Park Courts Rehabilitation and Related Work", will be received at the Board of Public Works Office, 5 Arsene Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719 not later than 10:00 a.m., April 17, 2026 E.D.T. and at 10:00 a.m., April 17, 2026 E.D.T. will be publicly opened and read. The Board of Public

Works reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.

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

FNN 4/2/26

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS INVITATION TO BID

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

Sealed bids marked "Walnut Street Sidewalk Rehabilitation and Related Work", will be received at the Board of Public Works Office, 5 Arsene Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719 not later than 10:00 a.m., April 17, 2026 E.D.T. and at 10:00 a.m., April 17, 2026 E.D.T. will be publicly opened and read. The Board of Public Works reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids if it is in the best interest of the Town to do so.

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

FNN 4/2/26

From our readers

Proposition 2-1/2 in Context

It is critically importance for the Select Board to provide the taxpayers with the full context, transparency, and financial outlook of the Town in order to maintain public trust.

If the Town is going to ask taxpayers to support an override, then the Town has an obligation to present the full financial picture. That includes clearly communicating the foreseeable impact of major capital projects that are already on the horizon.

At last year's Annual Town meeting, \$50K was appropriated to advance design and cost analysis of a Public Safety Facility and the (unofficial) Capital Improvement Plan on the Town website projects \$6.5M in borrowing in FY 2027 and another \$40M in FY 2028. Taxpayers deserve to understand what this means now, in relation to other financial considerations.

A project of that size would, obviously, require a debt exclusion vote and could result in roughly \$350 to \$450 annually to the average taxpayer.

The Select Board should provide straightforward tax projections and timelines for the Public Safety Complex along with a debt service plan that would show projections of

total debt on the books for the Town in future years, accounting for existing and projected borrowing combined. This would really help illustrate to the taxpayers what lies ahead.

Voters should not be asked to make decisions in stages when the broader financial implications are already known or reasonably foreseeable.

In our own homes we would not try to establish a budget without considering an anticipated loan for a new car, nor would we sign a new car loan without considering an existing home equity loan or another long-term debt that we are anticipating. It is important to have all relevant information in mind when making major decisions.

I also believe that when the Town presents the budget, it should be accompanied by an explanation of how that budget stacks up against the Towns' established Financial Policies, adopted in 2024. That is a very important document. I believe it would be in the best interest of taxpayers for the Select Board to present a summary, annually, of how the budget aligns with each of those policies or to provide a direct explanation of where and why it does not.

The decisions in front of the Town are significant. They require honesty, clarity, full disclosure and assurance

that the recommendations presented to Town Meeting members adhere to established Financial Policies.

Taxpayers deserve nothing less

Bob Espindola, Fairhaven

Voices of Easter

English clergyman and writer, Benjamin Jenks (1647-1724), said, "O our God, let your grace be sufficient for us."


With Easter approaching, many voices will try to share what is the essence of this celebrated time. Some will consider Easter as simply another day. Others will say it's a festive time with egg hunts, bunnies, new outfits, baskets of goodies, and/or one of the few times during the year to attend church or a family meal. Sadly, some will insist that Easter is another religious nuisance — one that comes from a pagan origin and is a myth, deception, or fairytale.

Given the reality of these voices, I'd like to share what I believe to be the core value of Easter from a Christian perspective. It is found in God's unmerited favor and power at work. The word for this is grace.

There is no other source that states this profound distinction of grace as precisely as it does in 2 Corinthians 5:21: "For our sake, God made Christ to be sin for us, who

LETTERS: cont'd on page 17

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