



# Fairhaven

# Neighborhood News

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



The little paper  
with a big voice!

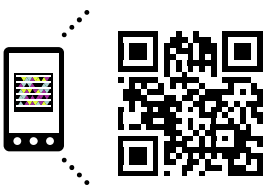
Volume 21, Issue 16 • April 9, 2026

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

## Hundreds join NFIA egg hunt



Children rush to gather up candy-filled plastic eggs in the field at Livesey Park in Fairhaven during the North Fairhaven Improvement Association's annual Easter Egg Hunt on 4/4/26. 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.

He just keeps getting more and more vile by the minute. He threatened to destroy a “whole civilization.” It’s like he’s watching Star Trek or Star Wars or something.

I don’t even need to say who he is...you know.

I was going to write about how he wants the University of PA to give him a list of Jewish students and staff. Can you believe that? Under the guise of safety of course. All abusers say that. The sad part is that a judge agreed with him.

It is now okay to list people by religion in order to turn them over to the government? In America?

But that’s child’s play to what this buffoon wants to do in Iran. People there actually linked arms around power plants hoping that he would have the sense not to bomb if civilians were there. He said it was illegal for them to be there. Is that rich or what?

How can anyone still support this guy? Is there anything at all he can do to make you realize how bad this all is? To realize the damage he’s done to our country?

We are no longer respected in the world, we are a rogue country. We are despised, but not because people envy us, it’s because we are bullies.

And guess how he’s paying for it all, his \$1.5 trillion recommended for the military? He’s gutting every social program you can think of.

How can anyone still support this guy?

He’s demented. It’s so obvious. He’s dangerous, reckless, and callous beyond description.

Meanwhile, he’s still yanking people off the streets and taking them to countries they have no ties to without even allowing them their day in court.

Are we F’G great yet, or what?

Excuse me while I go throw up now.

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

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Editor: Beth David

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## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our issue last week’s budget article, we wrote something that was unclear about Net School Spending. The proposed override would provide \$500 over Net School Spending. Net School Spending is the amount required by state law. The \$500K is over the requirement.

Also in the same article we published the wrong date for Fairhaven’s Annual Town Meeting. It is Saturday, 5/2.

We apologize for any confusion our errors may have caused

## Support local journalism

No one does local like a local newspaper. And it does not get more local than the *Neighb News*. Any small amount will help. Just clip the coupon and send check or money order to *Fairhaven Neighborhood News*, 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719. Ask for a bumper sticker that says “I Support the *Neighb News*.” And thank you for reading *the little paper with a big voice*.

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# Deadline for nomination papers is fast approaching

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 Tues., 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 Wotton (incumbent). Incumbent Louise Ponte took out papers for her seat on the Trust Commission.

Two Planning Board seats and one

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 and Krystal Lunn have 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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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.

## Fairhaven Cultural Council announces 2026 grant recipients

### Press Release

The Fairhaven Cultural Council would like to publicly acknowledge and congratulate the 2026 Cultural Council Grant Recipients. We received 54 grant applications during this cycle. Through monies from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Town of Fairhaven, we were able to fund 18 projects. These programs, events, and activities will take place in Fairhaven throughout the remainder of 2026.

The following grants were awarded for 2026:

- Aylin Cetik-Smith for Children's Art Lab Summer Camp Scholarships
- Susan Darwin for Fairhaven Summer Art Gallery Assistants
- Aaron Dore for the Alive Old Time Radio Play
- The Fairhaven Green Lanterns for a

- Drought Tolerant Pollinator Garden
- The Fairhaven Historical Society for the lecture "Liberty's First Crisis"
- The Fairhaven Improvement Association for Concerts Under the Stars, as well as, Homecoming Day Entertainment
- The Fairhaven Rec Center for Pollinator Gardens at the Rec Center
- The Fairhaven Village Militia for a Revolutionary War Living History Encampment
- Melanie Jankys for the Natural Heritage of Fairhaven Speaker Series
- Rhonda Matson for Backyard Band Jams Goes to Cushman Park
- Elizabeth Nelson for the Mini Big Top-A Mini Circus for Mini Readers
- New Bedford Ballet for Courage, Perseverance, and Trust: the Manjiro Story
- The North Fairhaven Improvement

Association for Music Night in the Gazebo

- Lana Quann for Watercolor for Beginners at the Council on Aging
- The Millicent Library for Growing Things by Margaret Moody Puppets
- Town of Fairhaven Conservation and Sustainability Department for the Fairhaven Environmental Stewardship Collective
- Matt York for the Classic Country Music Review at the Council on Aging

Congratulations again to all our grantees! If you are interested in finding out more about the Cultural Council or getting information about the next grant cycle, please feel free to email the Council at [culturalcouncil@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:culturalcouncil@fairhaven-ma.gov) or check out our Facebook and Instagram pages.

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Friends of Millicent Library Presents

# Poetry

WORKSHOP

MONDAY  
APRIL 27TH  
6 PM to 8 PM

TEENS &  
ADULTS

Facilitated by Friends member, Sarah Kiepper, a compliance officer, and doctoral student.

SEE DETAILS &  
REGISTER



Participants are invited to bring their own writing to work on, access provided poetry/prose prompts, & collaborate in group poetry/prose writing activities. Visit the Millicent Library's calendar to see all the event details.

# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## Frankie is on TikTok & Instagram

Dear Frankie has expanded to video! Now you can see and hear Frankie in her own voice as she doles out her dog-to-dog advice on TikTok and Instagram.

Please sign up as a follower and ask your friends and their friends to become followers so we can support shelters. A portion of all revenues from Dear Frankie goes to animal shelters. Search for dearfrankie doctodogadvice.

## Volunteers Needed

The Fairhaven Veterans Services Office will be placing the flags at the cemeteries on May 16th at 9:00 am with a rain date of the 17th same time.

We welcome all volunteers, we will meet at Riverside cemetery for 9:00. Any questions, call Jane or Mike at the Veteran office 508-02-4603.

## TM Warrant online

Fairhaven's annual Town Meeting warrant is on the town's website on the town moderator's page: <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/town-moderator/>

Annual Town Meeting is on Saturday, 5/2.

## 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](mailto:southcoastcinemaniacs@gmail.com)

## Blessing of Bicycles

Sun., 4/26, from 2–4 p.m., Fairhaven Fairhaven Unitarian Universalist Church, 102 Green St., Fairhaven, MA 02719. Free.

Four local organizations are joining forces to host the first annual Blessing of the Bicycles, a free, family-friendly community bike event.

Presented by Fairhaven UU Church, Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.), Fairhaven Livable Streets, and SouthCoast Places for People, the event will offer free, walk-up bike repair assistance and hands-on skill-building for riders of all ages — no appointment necessary.

Attendees can watch live demonstrations of two essential maintenance skills — how to lube a chain and how to fix a flat tire — and then have time for bike maintenance with guidance from volunteer mechanics on hand.

Information on how to donate used bikes to Youth Opportunities Unlimited's Community Bike Shop in New Bedford will also be available at the event.

The Blessing of the Bicycles is free, open to the public, and welcoming to all ages and skill levels. Light repairs will be performed on a walk-up basis. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own bike. E-bikes will not be accepted for repair at this event.

This program is funded in part by a grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council

## SAVE THE DATES:

### West Island 5K

Sun., 4/26, West Island 5K. Kids Mile starts at 10 a.m.; 5K starts at 11, 41 Causeway Road, Fairhaven, MA. Prizes in age and gender categories. Register at <https://westisland5k.org>. Kids Mile: \$5; 5K, \$25 before 4/15, \$30 after.

### Fairhaven GOP

The Fairhaven Republican Town Committee will be meeting at our new location at the Fairhaven Senior Center 227 Huttleston Ave (rt.6), on Tuesday, April 21st.

We hold our Monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of the Month promptly starting at 6pm. We are

accepting applications to join our growing membership. We will discuss the GOP April 25th Convention plans and instructions as well as discussing current candidates and holding a gubernatorial candidate straw-poll. This year's Saturday May 2nd annual Town meeting and the upcoming town elections will also be discussed. Please contact us at [fairhavenrtc@gmail.com](mailto:fairhavenrtc@gmail.com) or contact chair Bob McConnell, 508-863-0416

### Author Forum

Join us for an engaging book talk featuring Dr. Winston Langley, author of *Abolishing War*, in conversation with Dr. Deborah Winslow Nutter.

Sunday, April 19, 2026 at 4:00 pm–5:30 pm, UU Auditorium, 102 Green St, Fairhaven 02719. Free Admission. To register, visit <https://kalangarai-india.org/eventabolish-war/>

## 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>

## 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.

## New Boater Law

A new law in Massachusetts will begin 4/1 requiring all motorboat operators to complete a boating safety course. The law will be implemented in two phases:

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-boating-law-summary> or email [boatsafetycourse@mass.gov](mailto:boatsafetycourse@mass.gov)

# HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

## AHA! Night Parade

AHA! Night: Project Planet is this Thursday, 4/9. Here are the details about our annual parade and the new pop-up celebration in Custom House Square! Many thanks to Domino's Team New Bedford for sponsoring this month's event.

### Project Planet Procession

This year, the annual Project Planet procession will begin and end at Custom House Square after the ceremonial crowning of this year's Planet Protectors. Hip hop artist T'em Blessed returns to host the proceedings.

The SouthCoast Brass Band will help lead the parade, along with AHA!'s jellyfish puppets, and CW (Buzzard Bay Coalition's mascot). You'll also see Buttonwood Park Zoo's electric golf cart, a performance from Discover Language Academy's Folklore Group, a 12' boat from Community Boating, and signs and creations made from recycled materials!

### Parade Route

Enjoy the Project Planet Procession from anywhere along the route. The parade begins on Acushnet Ave at Custom House Square around 5:15 pm and makes a square, taking a right on Union St., a right on Pleasant St., a right on William St., and a final right on Acushnet, finishing where it began in Custom House Square for closing remarks.

### Project Planet Celebration in Custom House Square

Visit Custom House Square from 5-7 pm, where over twenty tables will be set up by local artists and organizations with interactive activities focused on protecting our planet. Play a variety of sorting games to learn what goes in compost bins and what can be recycled, learn mending skills, paint with ink made from local plants, build birdhouses, and so much more. Plus, the Sorbae Frozen Treats truck will be on hand for some tasty pops inspired by flavors from around the world.

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

## Bridge Closing

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing that it will be performing bridge repairs on the New Bedford-

Fairhaven Bridge that carries Route 6. Weekend closures will be in place, Friday, April 10, at 9:00 p.m. through Monday, April 13, at 5:00 a.m., and Friday, May 1, at 9:00 p.m. through Monday, May 4, at 5:00 a.m. Work is anticipated to be completed by Monday morning, May 4.

A traffic detour with signs and message boards will be installed to notify and direct traffic around the bridge closure. Access to local businesses will be maintained during all times of the bridge closure. Detour signs will be in place, with assistance from police details.

Marine traffic will not be impacted during each weekend closure.

## Cleanup

April 18 - Earth Day Cleanup - Behind Cotali Mar Restaurant, 1178 Acushnet Ave. 9-12, North End Neighborhoods with Love the Ave.

Be sure to attend to be part of the big name reveal for the Name the Whale event.

Schedule: 9:00 a.m. - Sign in, pick up tools and gloves, grab some coffee and donuts, and get assigned an area to clean. 11:30 a.m. - Return to headquarters, clean your hands, grab some pizza, and get ready for the Big Name Reveal.

This Earth Day, we are calling on every person and every community to take a stand for clean air, clean water, renewable energy, and the protection of our health and the countless species that share this planet with us.

Free t-shirts to all participants. Tools and gloves will be provided. Coffee and donuts for breakfast. Pizza lunch! If you have an OCS shirt from a past cleanup, feel free to wear your vintage tee - totally optional, and it won't affect getting a new shirt after the logo and name reveal.

## NB Film Fest

The New Bedford Film Festival returns for its 3rd annual celebration from Thursday to Sunday, April 9-12, 2026, bringing bold, diverse cinematic storytelling to the heart of the South Coast. What began as a grassroots effort to elevate local filmmakers has quickly grown into a multi-day festival that attracts artists, audiences, and industry voices from across the region and beyond. Rooted

in New Bedford's creative identity, NBFF is dedicated to showcasing authentic stories while cultivating emerging talent and strengthening the city's creative economy.

The event kicks off with a free event happening at Steeple Playhouse and in collaboration with AHA! New Bedford on Thursday, April 9th. It then continues over four days where the festival transforms downtown New Bedford into a vibrant hub for film and culture, featuring a filmmakers breakfast, screenings, panels, workshops, and networking events across venues like the Steeple Playhouse, New Bedford Art Museum, Gallery X, and the New Bedford Harbor Hotel.

For more information, view full schedule of events and purchase tickets, visit <https://www.newbedfordfilmfestival.com>

Tickets from \$20 to \$250.

## SAVE THE DATE

The Garden Club of Buzzards Bay (GCB) Plant Sale! The GCB's popular plant sale is back with even more offerings this year - top quality annuals, unusual perennials, spectacular succulents, a selection of native plants, beautiful hanging planters, delicious herbs, fabulous tomato plants, heirloom dahlia tubers, rare plants, and planters.

Sat., 5/2, 9 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on the grounds of The Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum, 396 County Street, New Bedford

## SC Places for People

Join us on April 15, 6pm at Rose Alley, 94 Front St., Downtown New Bedford

Our April meetup features Kim Goddard, Executive Director of the AHA! program, the downtown cultural organization that works with over 70 local organizations, businesses, and artists to create free art and culture nights for - all in - New Bedford. Kim will share her perspective on placemaking as an economic development strategy - what it looks like when a community invests in making its downtown genuinely worth showing up to, and what that means for the people and businesses who call it home.

# HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

## Acushnet Election

Acushnet's election will be held on Tuesday, 4/28/26. Nomination papers are now available. The last day to register as a voter is Friday, 4/17.

The polls will open at 10 a.m. and close at 2 p.m. on Election Day. All precincts vote at the Acushnet Elementary School, 800 Middle Road.

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

## 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](mailto:friendsofmattapoisettlibrary@gmail.com).

## Daffodils for Cause

Sat., 4/11, 10 a.m. to noon. Silverbrook Farm, 592 Chase Rd, North Dartmouth

Join us for a beautiful and welcoming morning designed to bring women together to connect, support one another, and give back to our community by collecting and donating daffodils to the residents of Whaler's Cove Assisted Living.

Set at the scenic Silverbrook Farm, this special gathering offers a relaxed space to meet new people, strengthen existing connections, and be part of something meaningful. Whether you're coming with friends or attending on your own, you'll be

welcomed with open arms.

This event is all about community, connection, and making a positive impact.

Spots are limited, so be sure to reserve yours today at <https://www.sclgbtqnetwork.org/daffodils.html> Sponsored by South Coast LGBTQ+ Network.

## At Acushnet Library

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

- 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.

## SAVE THE DATES:

### Bird Club

*The Wonderful World of Warblers!* Wednesday, April 22 at 6:00pm at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow St.

Discover the wonderful world of warblers. Warblers are among the most beautiful birds, but also challenging to identify. We'll explore the fascinating world of these tiny migrants, from their amazing colors to their complex songs, behaviors, and habitats.

Learn practical tips for identifying warblers in the field, including how to recognize key visual field marks, understand habitat preferences, and distinguish similar-looking species. We'll also dive into the art of birding by ear, helping you decode their songs.

Go to <https://www.nbcbirdclub.com> to see all upcoming bird walks. All events are free and open to the public. Please register for a bird walk by emailing ([jmbarrett426@gmail.com](mailto:jmbarrett426@gmail.com)) or calling (774-207-8515) Justin Barrett.

## Mothers Day 5K

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 Mother's Day 5K has 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.

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>

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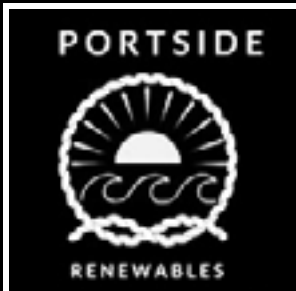
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Visit our website at: [http://fairhavenma.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA\\_COA/index](http://fairhavenma.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA_COA/index)

## 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: 4/15, Mashpee Commons; 4/22, Wrentham Village Outlets; 4/29, Hyannis Mall & Trader Joe's; 5/6, Plainridge Casino; 5/13, Mashpee Commons; 5/20, Wrentham Village Outlets.

## 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 13.** *St. Vincent.* Comedy & Drama. A young boy whose parents

have just divorced finds an unlikely fiend and mentor in the misanthropic, bawdy, hedonistic war veteran who lives next door.

## Supportive Social Day Program

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

## Join Us for Lunch

We serve lunch every weekday at 11:30 a.m. To schedule a lunch, call the day before by 10 a.m. Voluntary donation of \$3 (Please note price chance). To let us know you want to join us, and to arrange for a ride, call

508-979-4029.

## Office Hour With State Rep. Mark Sylvia

State Rep. Mark Sylvia will hold an office hour every second Monday of the month at the Fairhaven Council on Aging/Senior Center, from 9–10 a.m. If you need to speak with him before then, call 617-722-2400. **Next date: April 13.**

## Walking Group

Walk with friends at the Rec Center gym next door from 12–12:30 p.m., Monday–Friday. FREE. Classic hits from the 50's, 60's, 70's. It's the perfect way to stay active, lift your spirits, and connect with others during the chill months ahead.

## Legal Help

Free 15-minute consultation with Atty. Suzanne Seguin. Call the center for info, 508-979-4029.

South Coastal Counties Legal Services, advocates for older adults, 508-979-7150.

# 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>**

## Kool Kids 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.

## SketchyGOichie DRAW!

Get ready to level up your creativity at SketchyGOichie DRAW! — a high-energy digital art workshop where kids can turn their ideas into awesome artwork using iPads and digital drawing tools! From drawing and rendering to color design, this workshop is packed with creative fun and hands-on learning. Perfect for kids who love art, technology, and making something amazing! Wednesday, June 10 5:00 PM – 6:30

PM. All materials are provided—just bring your imagination and get ready to create! Spots are limited, so grab yours before they're gone! Members: \$30 | Non-Members: \$35

## 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

## Easter Bunny Bars

*These festive popcorn bars make a great Easter treat for kids and adults alike!*

- 2 tbsp butter
- 3 1/2 cups miniature marshmallows, divided
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 8 cups popped popcorn
- 1 1/2 cups candy-coated miniature eggs
- 2 tbsp pastel-colored sprinkles

Melt butter in large saucepan set over medium-low heat; stir in 3 cups marshmallows, and vanilla until melted. Remove from heat. Immediately stir in popcorn until well coated.

Press into parchment paper-lined and greased 13- x 9-inch baking pan; smooth top with greased spatula. Immediately sprinkle with remaining marshmallows, miniature eggs and sprinkles; press toppings lightly to adhere to popcorn layer. Let stand for about 30 minutes or until set.

Cut into bars. Store in airtight container.

### Tips:

Use colored mini marshmallows, if preferred.

Chocolate lovers can drizzle melted chocolate over top.

# Dear Frankie



## Frankie is on TikTok & Instagram

Dear Frankie has expanded to video! Now you can see and hear Frankie in her own voice as she doles out her dog-to-dog advice on TikTok and Instagram.

Please sign up as a follower and ask your friends and their friends to become followers so we can support shelters. A portion of all revenues from Dear Frankie goes to animal shelters. Search for dearfrankiedogtodogadvice.

## Egg Hunt

*Dear Frankie,*

Every year, there's a neighborhood egg hunt at the dog park. It's a big deal. Just about everyone comes if they're not on crutches or at death's door.

Dogs of every size, shape, and age join in, and that's where the trouble begins. The big adolescent male dogs always get the most eggs. They run the fastest and body-slam anyone who gets in their way when they see an egg.

Do you think there should be a separate hunt for small dogs, puppies, old dogs, and big dogs?

I'm a 10-year-old Pekinese. What

chance do I have against an adolescent Rottweiler?

*Turner*

*Dear Turner,*

Well, body slamming certainly shouldn't be accepted at a holiday event.

Whoever is in charge needs to put a stop to it and make it clear that dogs that body slam will be banned from participating in future hunts. Boys will be boys has its place, but not at an egg hunt.

One idea to level the playing field might be to give the puppies and older dogs a five-minute head start, followed by the small dogs, who get three minutes before the big dogs start.

Another idea is to put five eggs in the puppies' and older dogs' baskets, three in the smaller dogs' baskets, and one in the big boys' baskets before the hunt starts, to ensure that no basket goes home empty.

Thinking about it, I like my second suggestion best.

*Best, Frankie*

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

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# Fairhaven High School's *Anastasia* wows audiences

By Beth David

Editor

Fairhaven High School's performance of "Anastasia" two weeks ago was well received by audiences, and even got a great review on Facebook on opening night.

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.

The performance included elementary and middle school students.

"Fairhaven High School's musical rendition of *Anastasia* was well done," wrote John Sullivan on Facebook. "The cast that includes elementary, middle and high school actors did themselves proud on opening night."

He said he "highlight" was the performance of Emmalyn Pereira, a freshman.

"It was obvious that the cast was having a great time, especially the elementary actors whose energy was contagious bringing smiles to the audience," wrote Mr. Sullivan. "The stage was brightened by really good actors and singers including the

surprise performance of the rookie thespian, eighth grader, August Bradshaw."

"Other cast members like Ethan Curry, performed like seasoned professionals," he wrote.

"It really was amazing!" added Trisha Affonce.

The cast also included Ethan Curry as Dmitry, Hazel Hochella as Countess Lily, Raya Lucas as Vlad Popov, Madison Rogers as the Dowager Empress, and Corrinne Roberts as Gleb. Costume design by Deb Roderick, Set design by Todd Miggilaci, Lightning design by Robert Lomax.



LEFT: Student performers sing and dance during the performance of the musical, "Anastasia" at Fairhaven High School on 3/28/26, with a cast that includes elementary, middle school, and high school students. Cast members take a bow at a performance on 3/29/26. Submitted photos.

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# NFIA Egg Hunt draws hundreds

By Beth David  
Editor

Approximately 400-500 children and their adults joined the fun at the annual egg hunt sponsored by the North Fairhaven Improvement Association on 4/4/26. The totally free event includes an egg hunt with 3,000 candy-filled plastic eggs; special prizes to those who find the 120 special wooden eggs; goodie bags; hot chocolate; raffle prizes, and hugs and pictures with the Easter Bunny.

Held at Livesey Park in North Fairhaven, the event designates certain areas of the park for different age groups so the little ones don't get overrun by the big kids.

This year, as the NFIA's Pauline Parker explained about the wooden eggs, a group of over-anxious youngsters headed to the playground, which jumpstarted the event. No problem, the NFIA is a flexible crowd.

The list of sponsors and donors to

thank was extensive, with people donating baskets and gift certificates for the raffle, items for the wooden egg prizes, and candy.

The princesses helped, too, calling out raffle numbers, picking the numbers and handing out the prizes: Miss New Bedford, Deolinda "Dolly" Mendes; Miss New Bedford Teen, Addison Kohler; Jr. Miss Apple Peach, Elyza Wagner; Miss Apple Peach, Aubrey Sousa.

Ms. Parker made a point of asking everyone to pick up after themselves to keep their park clean. She noted that the event was accessible for people with mobility issues and read a statement about inclusion.

"Inclusion is about creating a world where everyone feels valued, respected and empowered, regardless of their background, identify or abilities. It means embracing diversity, fostering environments where all voices are heard, ensuring that

opportunities are accessible to everyone.

"True inclusion goes beyond tolerance — it requires active participation, empathy, and a commitment to equity. When people feel included, they can thrive, contribute meaningfully, and help build stronger, more connected communities and that is exactly how we feel here at NFIA. We invite everyone of all abilities to participate in any program that we are supporting and our hope is that other organizations continue to do the same."

The NFIA meets the third Thursday of the month at 267 Adams St., Fairhaven; email [northfairhavenimprovement267@gmail.com](mailto:northfairhavenimprovement267@gmail.com) or visit <https://northfairhavenimprovementassoc.weebly.com> or email [northfairhavenimprovement267@gmail.com](mailto:northfairhavenimprovement267@gmail.com)

They are actively looking for volunteers and members to help with the events they sponsor every year.



ABOVE LEFT: Rosie poses with her basket and the very respectable number of eggs she gathered at the North Fairhaven Improvement Association's annual Easter Egg Hunt on 4/4/26. ABOVE MIDDLE: Young Emery seems to know exactly what the prize is as mom holds up a gift card to Back Porch Ice Cream ABOVE RIGHT: Young Crew is cool in his shades as he digs into the spoils of his hunt. BELOW LEFT: The hot chocolate crew, L-R: State Rep. Mark Sylvia, and North Fairhaven Improvement Association President, Andrew Romano, are all smiles as they hand out hot chocolate BELOW RIGHT: L-R: Jr. Miss Apple Peach, Elyza Wagner; Miss Apple Peach, Aubrey Sousa; Miss New Bedford, Deolinda "Dolly" Mendes; Miss New Bedford Teen, Addison Kohler help out by calling and picking the raffle numbers. *Photos by Beth David.*



# Fire destroys house on Day Street in Fairhaven, displaces 5

By Beth David  
Editor

According to a press release from the Fairhaven Fire Department posted on Facebook, on Easter Sunday, 4/5/26, at 7:44 a.m., the Department responded to a fire at 31 Day Street.

While responding, Fairhaven Police updated that there were flames showing. Chief Correia requested a first alarm assignment to bring in additional resources due to the reports as well as the department's Engine 4 staffing was committed to an ambulance request at another location. Personnel that were arriving for shift change were able to respond in Engine 4 on a delay.

The first arriving engine, Engine 2, was given information upon their arrival that an occupant was possibly

still inside. Crews encountered heavy fire from the side of the structure.

A primary search was conducted and information received shortly thereafter that the occupant had left the home prior to the incident. The fire was brought under control within fifteen minutes while crews continued to check for extension and performed additional ventilation.

No injuries were reported and the American Red Cross was brought in to assist the displaced residents.



The cause of the fire is still under investigation, and determined to be accidental at this time.

"Thank you to our mutual aid partners, New Bedford Fire Department, Mattapoisett Fire Department, and Acushnet Fire Department for their assistance, as well as the Providence Canteen Cape Cod

Division," reads the post.

According to online town records, the home is owned by Theresa and Regis Spangler. According to a Facebook post by Lisa Schroeder-Plante, five people lived at the residence and they have all been displaced.

"On Easter Sunday, my worst nightmare happened: a house fire took everything," she wrote. "Just shy of two years ago, my daughter and I had been homeless for 10 months. The Spangler/Fitzgerald family took us in and treated us like family. I will forever be grateful to this amazing family. Thank you, Theresa, for sharing your home with us; we love you, and you will always hold a place in our hearts. Now to try and start again... again."

A GoFundMe page has been set up, asking for \$4,500. As of press time, it had raised just under \$2,273. Visit <https://www.gofundme.com/f/aid-for-kristens-family-after-the-fire>



TOP: Fairhaven's Ladder 1 responds to a house fire at 31 Day Street, Fairhaven, on Easter Sunday, 4/5/26, which caused heavy damage to the house and displaced at least four people. ABOVE: The house is heavily damaged. Photos from Fairhaven Fire Department Facebook Page.

## Tax calculator is available on Fairhaven town website

By Beth David  
Editor

The town of Fairhaven is contemplating a Proposition 2 1/2 override vote in June. Property owners are concerned about the increase in property taxes they will have to pay if the override passes.

The town has added a tax calculator to its website so individuals can see how the override will affect their individual properties.

You will need the amount that your property is assessed at by the Assessor (not what you can sell it for). You can get that number from your tax bill, a link on the Assessors page, <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/>

assessors/, or directly at <https://fairhaven.patriotproperties.com/default.asp>

The calculator is a spreadsheet that downloads to your device. Where it says "Property Value," the number \$450,000 has been prefilled. Just click on that number and change it to the amount your property is assessed at by the town's assessors.

The document defaults to the sheet entitled "No override," which will calculate how much the tax increase would normally be.

You can then click on the next sheet, "\$760,149 override" to see how much the tax will increase with the override. The third sheet has FY26

(current year) tax.

According to the calculator, a \$450,000 house (the average in Fairhaven), paid \$4,136 in property taxes for FY26 (current year). The same house would pay \$4,279 in FY 27 with no override (a \$143 difference); and \$4,366 with the override, a difference of \$87 compared to the no override number, and a \$230 difference compared to FY 2026.

The Excel document will also be available on our website: [www.neighbnews.com](http://www.neighbnews.com)

The town has also added an online form for people to comment on the budget. Visit <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/budget-contact-form/>

# FHS Boys Lacrosse wins in overtime thriller 7-6

By Caden Lisa

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven High School boy's lacrosse team defeated Dighton-Rehoboth at home, 7-6, on 4/6/26. The Blue Devils played from behind during the beginning of the contest, as the Falcons netted two goals to start the game. Liam Pickup tied the game at four with nine minutes to go in the fourth quarter. Fairhaven scored two goals in the next 90 seconds to build a 6-4 lead.

The Falcons clawed back to tie it up and force the game into overtime. Fairhaven dominated possession in the final frame and ultimately closed out the afternoon with Gavin Hermon's second goal of the match. Cody Souza recorded the first two goals of the match for the Blue

Devils. Liam Pickup recorded two crucial goals as well.

Following the match, the Blue Devils have a 3-2 record. Fairhaven boy's lacrosse will be back at Alumni Stadium on Friday for a 3:45 p.m. game against the Seekonk Warriors.

For more high school sports photography around Fairhaven, follow @cadens.camera. content on Instagram.



TOP: Fairhaven Blue Devil, #6 Tristan DeMedeiros, fights off an opposing Falcon during the lacrosse game on 4/6/26 when Fairhaven beat Dighton-Rehoboth 7-6 at home. ABOVE LEFT: Fairhaven Blue Devil, #20 Jackson Vargas, runs step-for-step with an attackman ABOVE RIGHT: Fairhaven Blue Devil, #5 Gio Lopez, defends against an opposing attackman BELOW LEFT: Fairhaven Blue Devil, #25 Gavin Anderson, wins at the X and charges ahead BELOW RIGHT: Fairhaven Blue Devil, #15 Logan St. Germain, roars with enthusiasm after scoring a goal in the fourth quarter. Photos by Caden Lisa for the Fairhaven Neighborhood News.



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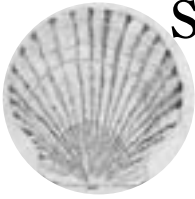



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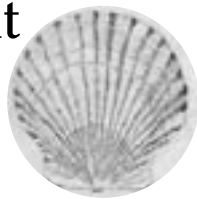
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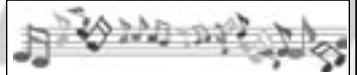
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**TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS Special Motor Equipment Operator & Heavy Motor Equipment Operator** The Town of Fairhaven is seeking a full-time Special Motor Equipment Operator and a full-time Heavy Motor Equipment Operator for the Highway Department. A detailed job description can be found at [www.Fairhaven-MA.gov](http://www.Fairhaven-MA.gov) under "Employment Opportunities". Submit resume and cover letter to Fairhaven Board of Public Works, 5 Arsene Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719. These positions will be available until filled.

**Hiring Part-Time Sales Associate**  
Village Fine Wine & Spirits in Mattapoisett seeking part time sales associates for cashier and light stocking duties. Retail or hospitality experience preferred but not required. Wine and spirits knowledge is a plus. Nights and Weekends 10-15 hours. Competitive wage based on experience. Contact Jason at 781-706-6914 or email [villagefws@gmail.com](mailto:villagefws@gmail.com) for more details

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## TIDE TABLE

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

	April 2026	HIGH a.m. p.m.	LOW a.m. p.m.
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 ---
Wednesday	15	0703 1923	0018 1224*
Thursday	16	0744 2004	0103* 1306*
Friday	17	0828 2050	0149* 1351*
Saturday	18	0915 2139	0240* 1441*
Sunday	19	1006 2230	0332* 1532*
Monday	20	1057 2323	0419* 1621*
Tuesday	21	1153 ---	0505* 1709*
Wednesday	22	0021 1256	0556 1804

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

## Upcoming Meetings

### Fairhaven

#### Board of Assessors

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

#### Board of Health

Wed., 4/22, Town Hill, 5 p.m.

#### Commision on Disability

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

#### Conservation Comm

Mon., 4/27, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

#### Cultural Council

Wed., 4/22, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

#### Economic Development

Thurs., 4/16, Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.

#### Finance Committee

Thurs., 4/23, Arsene St., 6:30 p.m.

#### Marine Resources

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

#### Open Space & Rec Plan

Thurs., 4/23, Town Hall, 11:30 a.m.

#### Planning Board

Tues., 4/14, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

#### School Committee

Wed., 4/15, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

#### Select Board

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

#### Tree Removal Hearing

Thurs., 4/16, Arsene St., 5 p.m.

### Acushnet

#### ELECTION

Tues., 4/28, Elementary Sch, 10-2  
NOTE TIME CHANGE

#### Council on Aging

Wed., 4/15, Sr. Center, 10 a.m.

#### Historical Commission

Tues., 4/14, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

#### Library Trustees

Fri., 4/9, Acushnet Lib., Noon

#### Planning Board

Thurs. 4/16, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

#### School Comm/Selectboard/ Finance Committee

Wed., 4/15, 6:30 p.m.

#### Select Board

Tues., 3/31, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

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# Public Hearings/Legal Notices

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

## 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 Notice of Public Hearing

The Town of Fairhaven will hold a Public Hearing at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 16th, 2026 in the Board of Public Works Conference Room, 5 Arsene Street,

Fairhaven, MA 02719.

In accordance with MGL Chapter 87, Section 3. Discussion of requested removal of 18 hazardous trees located at 3 Wood Street (±36" Maple), 5 Staffon Road (±27" Ash), 7 Staffon Road (±22" Ash), 18 John Street (±26" Maple), 28 Garrison Street (±29" Maple), 30 Perry Street (±21" Maple), 30 Perry Street (±12" Maple), 45 Center Street (±23" Maple), 53 Pleasant Street (±30" Maple), 71 Harding Road (±24" Maple), 88 Chestnut Street (±16" Maple), 131 Chestnut Street (±13" Maple), 25 Fort Street (±21" Maple), 27 Fort Street (±15" Maple), 93 Laurel Street (±21" Maple), 117 Washington Street (±36" Boxelder), 29 Atlas Street (±18 Maple) and 30 Charity Stevens Lane (±26" Cherry).

Anyone opposed to the removal of these trees should do so in writing per MGL 87 at said hearing.

FNN: 4/9/26

## Free Political PR

The *Neighb News* will give all candidates for townwide public office in Fairhaven and Acushnet a chance to get their message out. You may submit a candidate statement of approximately 500 words (MAX), with a picture, and we will publish at no charge before the election.

Please contact the *Neighb News* as soon as possible so we can plan for space allocation in the issues leading up to the election.

**DEADLINE: Friday, 4/30, for Fairhaven (6/9 election); Friday,**

**4/17, for Acushnet (4/28 election)**

Send by email to [NeighbNews@comcast.net](mailto:NeighbNews@comcast.net). Call 508-979-5593 or email with questions.

The *Neighb News* will also publish candidate events that are completely free and have no fund-raising component to them. Submit up to 100 words.

Fund-raising events can be promoted with paid ads. Visit our website at [www.neighbnews.com](http://www.neighbnews.com) for rates, or email for rate card.

## Support the Food Pantry

This bin is in the Walnut Street lobby of the Millicent Library in Fairhaven; another bin is at Stop & Shop, and one is at the Acushnet Library. All food goes to the Shepherd's Pantry, 1215 Main Street, Acushnet (508-763-9289). The Pantry spends more than \$5,500 each month to keep the shelves stocked. It serves more than 120 families each week.

Tax deductible donations may be sent to Shepherd's Pantry, PO Box 760, Fairhaven, MA 02719. Visit [https://foodbanks.org/detail/the\\_shepherds\\_pantry\\_acushnet\\_ma.html](https://foodbanks.org/detail/the_shepherds_pantry_acushnet_ma.html)



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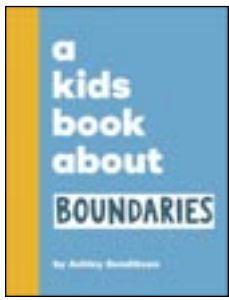
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# FHS grad releases children's book about boundaries



## Press Release

Southcoast native and nationally recognized advocate Ashley Bendiksen has released a new children's book designed to help families talk about boundaries, safety, and self-advocacy.

Her book, *A Kids Book About Boundaries*, published by DK Books / Penguin Random House, helps children understand how to identify unsafe situations, communicate their needs, and respect the boundaries of others. Written to be read together by a parent or caregiver and child, the book offers a practical way for families to begin important conversations about personal safety and healthy relationships.

A former Miss New Bedford and Fairhaven High School graduate, Bendiksen held numerous leadership roles with area nonprofits, driven by her passion for youth empowerment, community wellbeing, and social

justice.

Today, Bendiksen is a nationally renowned expert speaker who works with students, educators, families, and youth-serving organizations across the country on topics including healthy relationships, abuse prevention, and trauma resilience. A teen trauma survivor herself, she combines lived experience with professional expertise to help others recognize red flags and build a sense of agency, while equipping adults to better support struggling youth.

"Boundaries are about more than just physical safety," Bendiksen says. "They're about emotional well-being, respect, and helping children understand that their voice matters. It's the kind of book I wish I had growing up, which makes sharing it especially meaningful."

Through relatable examples and kid-friendly language, the book introduces children to different types of boundaries — physical, emotional, and social — and provides simple phrases and scenarios that help them practice speaking up and advocating for themselves.



Ashley Bendiksen, an award-winning abuse prevention advocate, speaker, and coach, specializing in topics like boundaries, self-advocacy, and overcoming trauma, has released a children's book, "A Kids Book About Boundaries." Submitted photo.

*A Kids Book About Boundaries* is part of the bestselling *A Kids Book About* series and is designed for school-aged children and their families.

The book is available wherever books are sold, or learn more at [www.ashleybendiksen.com](http://www.ashleybendiksen.com).



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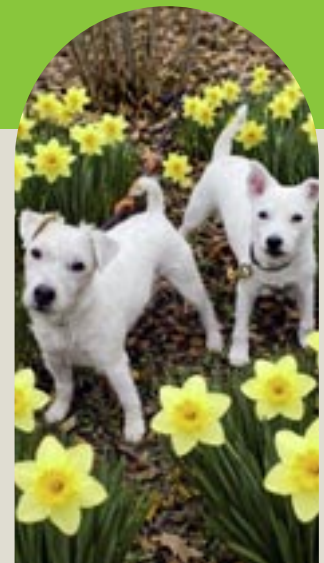
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