



# Fairhaven

# Neighborhood News

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



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with a big voice!

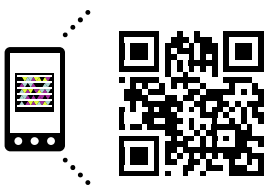
Volume 21, Issue 18 • April 23, 2026

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

## Celebrating the earth



Colin Queen (front), Brandon Estrella, and Kelly Camara staff the table at the Fairhaven Conservation Commission's Earth Day event on 4/18/26 at Cushman Park. 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.

Aiyaiyai! It's springtime, somebody tell Mother Nature. I think she's drunk again. Maybe she should go run the FBI, or the Department of Warmongers. Or apparently, any number of cabinet departments.

Anyway, the calendar says it's spring.

Earth Day events last week, and our cover story this week. Unfortunately Mother Nature scared people away. But there's more coming up.

The West Island 5K is this weekend (see page 5); an on-the-water event, brrr (see page 14). And, of course, Fairhaven Town Meeting the first glorious Saturday in May (see page 4). It's usually a very glorious day outside, just when we all have to be inside, right? The Rec Center is having a special Saturday Kool Kids to provide free child care for Town Meeting Members (see page 4 or 9). So, no excuses. This is your tax money being spent so you need to get there.

And, the election field is set...probably (see page 16). There's an off-chance someone could withdraw, but unlikely. It ends up there are only two contested races. After it all shook out, with some people not returning papers and the rest of them deciding on the full terms or partial terms, we ended up with two contested races. I guess it's better than none, right?

And our own Jessica Fidalgo landed a cool gig as the legislative aide for one of the state reps (see page 14). Now that's fun! Congratulations, Jessica. But don't you be getting any ideas about leaving this small pond, okay? Not yet, anyway. Still a lot of mess to clean up.

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...  
VROOM VROOM!

# Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Volume 21, Issue 18

Thursday, April 23, 2026

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Editor: Beth David

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## CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

## TA & School Super explain budget

By Beth David  
Editor

Fairhaven Town Administrator, Keith Hickey, and Superintendent of Schools, Tara Kohler, have released a video to explain how the proposed budget will affect the school department with and without the override.

Town Meeting members will vote on a balanced budget that makes cuts to several departments and funds the schools at just barely over the Net School Spending (NSS) amount mandated by the state. Town Meeting will also vote on a budget override proposal for an additional \$760,149 that would have to pass at the ballot box on 6/9 to go into effect.

Ms. Kohler explained that the override would allow the school to reinstate two teaching positions that were cut last year, and restore a special education (SPED) program

that was also cut last year. It would also provide enough funding to put the schools comfortably over NSS.

Ms. Kohler said that when the district cut the SPED program, they had to get a waiver from the state.

The risk now, she said, with being "scary close" to NSS, is if the town dips below the minimum, the state can step in and force the town to fund the schools at a certain level.

Ms. Kohler said the state average is for school districts to fund schools at 27% over NSS. Fairhaven is at 2.4%, putting it in the bottom 35 of 300 districts.

The video is available on FairhavenTV.com at <https://tinyurl.com/5cxs5kmt> and on the town's YouTube channel: <https://tinyurl.com/3mfu9r3t>

*See related story on page 4*

## Free Political PR

The *Neighb News* will give all candidates for townwide public office in Fairhaven 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, 5/1, for Fairhaven (6/9 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.

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# Fairhaven Town Meeting to vote on 29 articles, budget override

By Beth David  
Editor

Fairhaven Town Meeting members will face 29 articles, including an override to the budget and some bylaws changes, at the Annual TM on 5/2/26. This year, the Fairhaven Recreation Center is offering free child care to Town Meeting members, and \$35 for the day to other residents who want to attend, but are not voting members. The format will be similar to the Kool Kids program. See page 9 for details. Call 508-993-9269 to sign up.

In its letter to TM members, the Fairhaven Finance Committee noted that they were unable to agree on the Education Budget (school department). They will meet again before TM anticipating "new information." Presumably they mean the governor's budget, which has not been finalized yet. Fairhaven receives about 22% of its budget from state aid, about \$14 million, with \$10 million designated for the schools, and \$2.8 million in unrestricted funding.

On 5/2, TM members will be asked to vote on Article 8, which presents a balanced budget with a total of

\$62,935,726, with \$29,750,111 for the schools. That budget includes cuts in personnel and services including: eliminating the Office of Tourism and the Animal Shelter, and making the Animal Control Officer (ACO) part time; not filling two vacancies in the Highway Department; not filling a vacancy in the Recreation Department; reducing an administrative

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Article 9 provides an additional \$760,149 in funding through a Proposition 2 1/2 override.

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position in town hall; eliminating life guards at West Island town beach, hazardous waste day, and the town beach bathrooms (they will be replaced with portable toilets). Other cuts include reductions in tree planting and removal, building inspections and marine assistance. There is also less money for street repair.

Article 9 provides an additional \$760,149 in funding through a Proposition 2 1/2 override. Prop 2 1/2 is a state law that limits the amount municipalities can raise on the tax levy (property taxes) to 2 1/2 percent of the previous year's valuation. The town also raises revenues with local receipts (permits, fees, excise taxes), and receives state aid.\*

Article 9 lists line by line the services that will be restored. TM will vote on each item separately. If it passes, the measure will appear on the ballot in the town's 6/9/26 election. If voters approve the override, then it will go into effect with Fiscal Year 2027 that starts on 7/1/26. If it does not, then the budget in Article 8 will be implemented.

Article 9, if passed as written, will restore the ACO position to full time (\$62,532); restore the animal shelter (\$9,000); restore police and fire overtime (\$25,000 each); restore Tourism wages (\$76,532) and operating expenses (\$25,709); restore one of the two vacant positions in the highway department (\$50,000).

TM: cont'd on page 13



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**UU Society of Fairhaven welcomes all!**

**10 a.m. April 26:  
'The Jonah Complex'**

Rev. Maria Uitti McCabe in the pulpit

Children are welcome at the service!  
Nursery care also is available from 9:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Harrop Center

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The Rev. Maria Uitti McCabe  
102 Green St., Fairhaven [uufairhaven.org](http://uufairhaven.org) 508-992-7081

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# AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

## 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.

## Poetry Workshop

Free event presented by the Friends of the Millicent Library, for teens and adults, Mon., 4/27, 6–8 p.m., at the Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven. Facilitated by Sarah Kiepper, Friends of the Millicent Library member, a compliance officer, and doctoral student. To register, visit the Millicent Library calendar: <https://millicentlibrary.org/events-calendar>

During the first hour, participants will be invited to (1) bring their own writing to work on, (2) access provided poetry/prose prompts, or (3) collaborate in group poetry/prose writing activities.

During the second hour, participants will be invited to share their writings/creations or published poetry/prose by others with all attendees.

## 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

## Garden Beds Avail

Have you ever wanted to try gardening but didn't know where to start? Perhaps you're interested in saving money by growing your own organic vegetables? Maybe your yard is too small or too shady for a garden? Or maybe, you just want to be part of a "growing green" community?

If you've answered yes to any of these questions, you're in luck. The Fairhaven Community Garden has garden beds available at three locations in town: East Fairhaven Elementary School, Hastings Middle School and Wood Elementary School. The annual fee is \$10 per 4x8 foot bed. All gardeners agree to use organic practices only.

If you are interested or have a question, visit our website at [fairhavencommunitygarden.org](http://fairhavencommunitygarden.org) where you'll find more information and the 2026 gardening application, or you can email the site coordinator at [sitecoordinator@fairhavencommunitygarden.org](mailto:sitecoordinator@fairhavencommunitygarden.org).

## Fairhaven Dems

Then ext meeting of The Fairhaven Democratic Town Committee will be on Wed., 4/29, at The Millicent Library, in the Auditorium at 6pm. Everyone welcome to attend. 45 Center St., Fairhaven.

For more info contact [Fhvdems@gmail.com](mailto:Fhvdems@gmail.com).

## Cherry Blossom Fest

You're Invited to Ohanami! Join us for a day of culture, community, and celebration at the Cherry Blossom Festival hosted by the Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society! Sunday, May 3, 10am–3pm, Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship House, 11 Cherry Street, Fairhaven

Enjoy a variety of experiences for all ages: Ikebana (Japanese flower

arranging); Kamishibai (paper theater); Folk music; Taiko drumming performance; Martial arts demonstration; Origami & Japanese name writing; Open house at Captain Whitfield's home

Optional Japanese Bento Box lunch (\$20) Includes lunch, drink & dessert. Must be reserved in advance Visit <https://tinyurl.com/46rzw3cm> FREE admission

Bring your family, invite a friend, and come celebrate the beauty of spring and Japanese culture together. The Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society.

## Candidates' Night

The League of Women Voters of SouthCoast is hosting a Candidates' Night Forum 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, May 7, 2026, at the Elizabeth Hastings Middle School, 30 School Street, Fairhaven, MA. The community and candidates are invited.

Candidates running unopposed will have 5 minutes to introduce themselves, give a brief overview of their qualifications, why they would be a "good fit" for the position, and their understanding of the scope of the office they are seeking.

Candidates running in contested races will have 2 minutes to introduce themselves and explain their qualifications, laying out their understanding of the scope of the office they are seeking. In addition, candidates will have 1 minute and 30 seconds to answer questions posed by the moderator and have a 1-minute closing statement.

The Forum will be in accordance with the League of Women Voters' guidelines, e.g., "no empty chair" or proxy for a candidate, and no personal references about other candidates. No cell phones or other electronic devices will be allowed during the Forum.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Eileen Marum at [u\\_emarum@umassd.edu](mailto:u_emarum@umassd.edu), 508-748-1282, by May 1, 2026.

## 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

HAPPS: cont'd next page

## STILL IN TOWN

meet at Riverside cemetery for 9:00. Any questions, call Jane or Mike at the Veteran office 508-02-4603.

### SAVE THE DATES:

#### Nemasket Group 5K

Looking to get moving for a great cause? It is that time of year again for our Annual 5K Walk/Run! The event will be held on Saturday, May 2nd, at Fort Phoenix State Reservation in Fairhaven, MA. Registration/Check in 8 a.m. Steps off at 9.

Linked here is the link to sign up today!: <https://givebutter.com/02Crjv>

We hope you can join us for a day filled with fun, great energy, and prizes for our winners! See you there.

There will be gift card prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd males and 1st, 2nd, and 3rd females, along with prizes for the largest team and biggest fundraiser. Your registration fee also includes a T-shirt.

Call or email Olivia if you have any

questions: 508-999-4436 or [oliviapiemental@nemasketgroup.org](mailto:oliviapiemental@nemasketgroup.org)

#### Marsh Island Talk

Marsh Island: Restoring the Ecosystems of Buzzards Bay, Tues., 5/5, 6:30–7:30 p.m., UU Auditorium, located across from the library at 102 Green St., Fairhaven, <https://millicentlibrary.org>

To register, sign up on our website: <https://tinyurl.com/2f2knr3e>

Join us for an informative conversation with Sara N. da Silva Quintal, Senior Restoration Ecologist with Buzzards Bay Coalition and Laura Ludwig, Program Director of the Marine Debris & Plastics Program for the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown. They'll discuss the clean up and restoration of Fairhaven's Marsh Island. We'll review the progress of the project thus far, ongoing restoration and all of our role in keeping debris out of marine habitats. The Marsh Island Restoration is New Bedford Harbor's

largest natural restoration project

#### National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer is more than a date; it's a moment for our nation to pause, unite, and turn toward God.

In 2026, we honor its 75th year alongside America's 250th. Please join us Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 12:00 noon in front of the Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Centr St., and be part of this powerful time of prayer for our Nation and its leaders.

#### Solidarity SITE CHANGE

Show solidarity every night in the streets to stop ICE and to STOP the ear in Iran. Visibilities will be held around the region in different municipalities each night until we remove the regime and abolish ICE.

In Fairhaven, join us every Thurs. at 6 p.m., at the corner of Rte. 6 and Main Street, west side, in the park

## HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

### Bingo Night

Join us for Bingo Night with Jordan Paiva, Sun., 4/26, at 4 p.m., at Holy Name of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Center, 121 Mt. Pleasant St., New Bedford. \$25/booklet per person; \$10 extra card. No prize under \$50! Also featuring 50/50 raffle; special scratch ticket, bring your \$5 scratch ticket and \$5 to play. The kitchen will be open: burgers, hot dogs, chicken tenders, fries, snacks, beverages. Invite your family and friends to support out Whaling City Catholic Community.

We are accepting gift cards and cash for prizes, contact Kathi at 508-728-8214.

### NBSO at RJD

The Rotch-Jones-Duff House, 396 County St., New Bedford, is welcoming musicians from the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra for a concert on Tuesday, April 28 at 7pm.

This date is rescheduled from the previously canceled February date. Guests will enjoy classical favorites in the historic RJD parlors. Admission is \$15 and can be purchased at the door. Capacity is limited, so come early for your choice of seating.

Visit [rjdmuseum.org](http://rjdmuseum.org)

### SAVE THE DATE

#### Plant Sale

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

#### Wicked Whaleboat Challenge

One of the region's most unique maritime events, on 5/2, 9 a.m., Pope's Island Marina. See page 14 for details.

#### Science Cafe

Please join us for New Bedford Science Café, Tues., 5/5, from 6–8 p.m., The Last Round Bar & Grille, 908 Purchase St., New Bedford

Our guest David Robinson, the Director & Chief Archaeologist of the Massachusetts Board of Underwater

Archaeological Resources, will discuss "The Surprise Discovery of Revolutionary War Shipwrecks in New Bedford Harbor" and the important lessons learned.

During New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site remediation activities, unanticipated discoveries were made in 2009 and 2016 of the submerged and charred remains of two Revolutionary War-era coastal schooners. David's underwater investigations revealed that they were likely among the 70 vessels torched and sunk on September 5-6th, 1778, during the infamous British attack on New Bedford Harbor. Although the harbor-floor was subjected to archaeological surveys prior to Super Fund activities, marine remote sensing had not detected either wreck. Why?

"It left me with a horrible thought," recalls David. "How many other shipwrecks might have been missed in this and other surveys?"

David, a native of Rhode Island who has investigated over 50 shipwrecks, will relate the riveting story of how stumbling onto these hidden hulls ultimately led to improved detection methods.

Free parking in rear of building.

cont'd next page

## STILL OVERTOWN

### Offshore Wind Results

David Bidwell, professor of marine affairs at the University of Rhode Island, will share research results on offshore wind community discussions at a free public presentation on Wednesday, May 6, at 6 p.m., at the New Bedford Free Public Library, 613 Pleasant St., New Bedford.

Hosted by the Old Bedford Village Community Development Corp. to provide area residents with information related to prior research and community discussions in the area,

as well as discuss community priorities and concerns over offshore wind energy development activities.

At URI, Bidwell's work focuses on how people interact with renewable energy technologies, including offshore wind in southern New England. He began conducting research in New Bedford in 2024.

The one-hour event will report findings from interviews, surveys, and community workshops held last year in New Bedford; New London, Conn.; and Turner Station, Maryland.

Each of these communities has served as a hub for offshore wind. The study, aided by Boston University and the University of Delaware, aimed to capture community experiences, understand community priorities and concerns, and suggest ways to track the industry's community impact.

To register, visit the event page on the New Bedford Free Public Library's website: <https://tinyurl.com/y4dytr4u>. Contact David Bidwell at [dbidwell@uri.edu](mailto:dbidwell@uri.edu).

## HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

### Acushnet Election

Acushnet's election will be held on Tuesday, 4/28/26. Nomination papers are now available. The polls will open at 10 a.m. and close at 2 p.m. All precincts vote at the Acushnet Elementary School, 800 Middle Road.

### Acushnet Streets

The Town of Acushnet has developed a draft Complete Streets Prioritization Plan, identifying 30 potential projects to improve walking, biking, and driving throughout town. Join us for a public meeting on Wednesday, April 29 from 6:00-7:30 PM at the Acushnet Police Station Conference Room (64 Middle Road), with a brief presentation at 6:15 PM. Review the proposed projects, share your feedback, and help shape priorities for future improvements.

Can't attend? Explore the projects and provide input online here: <https://tinyurl.com/AcushnetCSPP>

### FAYB Opening Day

Fairhaven Acushnet Youth Baseball will hold its opening day parade on Sat., 5/2, at 10 a.m. Teams will march from St. Francis School up Main Street to Pope Park. After a bit of speech-making and some award-giving, the games will begin. The public is encouraged to attend.

### Earth Day FR

Acushnet Grange is holding a Tree Sale in memory of Carl St Don, a 70 year member who passed away in November 2025. Join us for an Earth Day Tree Sale event dedicated to preserving our planet and creating a

greener future for generations to come at the Acushnet Grange Hall, 1121, Main Street, from 12pm to 2pm, Sat. May 2

Featuring Cahaan trees 10-18" \$10 each and Norway Spruce 9-15" \$8 each. The trees are bare root seedling packaged in burlap bags with planting instructions.

Preorders preferred there is a limited quantity of each. To reserve your trees contact Joshua at 774-901-0594 or email [cunhajm@live.com](mailto:cunhajm@live.com) and mention fundraiser.

### Girl Scout STEM Fest

Sat., 5/2, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Camp Cedar Hill, 265 Beaver Street, Waltham, MA

STEM Fest is the premier STEM event of the year at Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts. This event is open to ALL Girl Scout levels with activities and experiments created for different ages. The event fee includes a collectible fun patch and STEM-themed giveaways. Check back regularly for an updated list of partners and activities!

Girl Scouts of Eastern Mass.s will host its annual STEM Fest, a hands-on science, technology, engineering, and math event for Girl Scouts of all ages. Participants can explore interactive challenges led by local STEM partners, meet professionals in the field, and choose their own activities throughout the day.

Activities are designed for a range of age levels, from Daisies through Ambassadors (grades K-12), with opportunities to experiment, build, and discover new interests in STEM. The event includes a collectible patch and themed giveaways.

Adult supervision is required for

younger participants; older Girl Scouts may attend as a drop-off event. Financial assistance is available for eligible participants.

Cost: Registration required; fee includes patch and materials. \$40

More info: [gsema.org/stemfest](https://gsema.org/stemfest)

### A Cappella Group

The Harvard Krokodiloes, Harvard University's oldest a cappella singing group, will bring their signature blend of musical excellence and humor to the SouthCoast with a special performance at the Old Rochester Regional High School Auditorium on Saturday, April 25th from 7:00-8:00 PM. Old Rochester Regional High School Auditorium, Fundraiser for the Old Rochester Ambassadors

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for students. Tickets can be purchased at the door, but please reserve them through this link: <https://tinyurl.com/kroksorr>

### Poetry Reading

Celebrate National Poetry Month!

Come to the Mattapoissett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow St., on Wed., 4/29, from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm for an engaging and informative performance by actor Stephen Collins as he brings poet Robert Frost to life.

Collins has been performing and giving teaching seminars at various venues on literary figures such as Melville, Whitman, Hardy, Shakespeare, Frost, Millay, Yeats, Whistler, and Contemporary Poetry. Described as a hybrid between performance and lecture he has received numerous accolades for his work. The program is free, open to all, and no reservations are necessary.

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

Visit our website at: [http://fairhavenma.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA\\_COA/index](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: 4/29, Hyannis Mall & Trader Joe's; 5/6, Plainridge Casino; 5/13, Mashpee Commons; 5/20, Wrentham Villaget Outlets; 5/27, So. Shore Plaza.

## 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 27. *The Boss*.** Comedy. A titan of industry is sent to prison after she's caught insider trading. When she

emerges ready to rebrand herself as America's latest sweetheart, not everyone she screwed over is so quick to forgive and forget.

## 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.

## Age Friendly Mobility Plan

April 28, 12:30 p.m. The Age-Friendly Mobility — Southeast Mass Plan will identify needs, priorities, and recommendations for future SRPEDD technical assistance work relating to improvements in older adult mobility across the Southeastern Mass's 27 communities. SRPEDD staff will be on site to hear about your transportation and mobility concerns.

## Wellness Clinic & Blood Pressure Check

With Fairhaven Community Nurse. Every Wed., from 11:15 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

## 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.

# 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

## Classic Beef Chili

*A crowd-pleaser*

- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 cups chopped yellow onion
- 8 garlic cloves, minced
- 3 lbs. ground chuck
- 1 (6-oz.) can tomato paste
- 3 Tbsp. chili powder\*
- 2 Tbsp. ground cumin
- 1 Tbsp. kosher salt
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 1 tsp. dried thyme
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 2 (15-oz.) cans pinto beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (15-oz.) can dark red kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 (28-oz.) can crushed tomatoes
- 2 cups reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 1 (12-oz.) bottle beer

Heat oil in a large Dutch oven over medium-high. Add onions and garlic, and cook, stirring often, until tender, about 5 minutes.

Add ground chuck, and cook, stirring until beef crumbles and is no longer pink, 8 to 10 minutes. Drain beef mixture well, and return to Dutch oven.

Add tomato paste, chili powder, cumin, salt, pepper, thyme, and oregano, and cook, stirring often, 2 minutes.

Increase heat to high. Stir in beans, tomatoes, chicken broth, and beer, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low, and simmer, stirring occasionally, about 30 minutes.

*\*For spicier chili increase the chili powder up to 1/3 cup. It provides an excellent level of spice and heat and is still balanced by the other ingredients.*

*From SouthernLiving.com*



# Dear Frankie

## Love in Bloom

Dear Frankie, Spring has sprung, and love is in full bloom at the dog park.

Whenever I look, it seems there is another couple gazing into one another's eyes, rubbing heads, and wagging their tails in synch. It is heartwarming and, at the same time, heartbreaking.

I used to be one of those dogs, but those days are gone for me. Henry, my partner of years, treats me well, but the days of a gentle nudge, hide and seek, and a knowing smile have passed. When I snuggle against him at night, he pretends he's asleep and turns over. When I lick his face, he never reciprocates.

I should be grateful that I live with such a nice and upstanding guy. But some days I feel lonely.

Wilma

Dear Wilma,

There's more to a relationship than being nice. You said those days are gone for you, so I am assuming it wasn't always like this with Henry.

Often, long-term couples take their partners for granted and get lazy about showing they care.

Why don't you tell Henry how much you miss the affectionate and caring things he did in the early days of your relationship, and how important they are to you? You can also ask Henry if there is anything he would like you to do to reignite the romance.

If he is as nice and upstanding as you say he is, he should be willing to step to the plate.

Best, Frankie

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

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## From our readers

### Manjiro Story to be Featured in Taiga TV Series

I wanted to share some exciting news from Japan.

"NHK has announced that its 2028 Taiga drama (an annual, year-long historical television series produced by Japan's public broadcaster) will be titled 'John Man', with actor Kento Yamazaki in the leading role as John Manjiro. The drama will focus on the remarkable life of Nakahama Manjiro, the 19th century fisherman who was rescued by an American ship after being stranded at sea and later became an important bridge between Japan and the United States." [

With the 200th anniversary of John Manjiro's birth coming next year, and with this major announcement, things are sure to become very lively here in Tosashimizu. I am also expecting that this will spark even more Japanese interest in New Bedford and Fairhaven as well.

I would also like to personally express my sincere respect and gratitude to all friends of Manjiro and Captain Whitfield around the world for your continued love and your enduring support of international friendship. The long years of dedication by so many people have helped keep this story alive and meaningful across generations.

I will be happy to share more news as it develops.

All the best,

*Jason Sardinha, Tosashimizu, Japan  
Mr. Sardinha works for the city of Tosashimizu in a role that oversees the sister-city relationship with Fairhaven*

*EDITOR'S NOTE: "John Man" is scheduled to be filmed this summer and run in 2028. There is no US dis-*

*tribution information available. The official press release is in Japanese, but Mr. Sardinha has provided a translation to the Neighb News. Visit [neighbnews.com](http://neighbnews.com).*

### Fairhaven Does Not Need an Override

To the tax payers of Fairhaven. There is no need for an override this year!! The 500k buffer for the schools is not needed, by their own words they turn back money almost every year.

As the budget moved along the schools were 18k above Net School Spending (NSS). However, what they do not tell everyone is the State allows a 5% variance on NSS. So the schools can spend less than the State number up to 95% before any penalties passed down to the Town. If we reduce the school budget by .5% both the animal shelter, tourism and one position in BPW will be restored along with some overtime cut from Police and Fire.

The need for an override will come in fiscal 2028 and 2029 as the deficit then will be significantly larger. Enough is enough on overrides. We have choices to make, let's not get fooled as this process moves forward.

*Steve Riley, Fairhaven*

*Mr. Riley is a member of the Fairhaven Finance Committee*

### Where is the Outcry for the Children?

When I walk past the Rogers School, the library, or gaze up at the "Castle on the Hill" that is Fairhaven High, I am reminded of Henry Huttleston Rogers, a man who believed education should be our town's highest priority. He didn't merely say it; he gave us schools and institutions as a pledge to future

generations. That legacy rests on our shoulders today.

As a former member of our School Committee and Select Board, I have seen how classrooms become the bedrock of who we are. I've watched a timid child find confidence, a struggling student discover a talent, and a graduate step into the world with the courage our town helped give them.

Rogers understood that teaching a child to read, to think, to care, is to invest in the very soul of Fairhaven. Look around, how many Fairhaven graduates do you see leading this town into the future? They carry on the legacy of pride in this community through service to it.

Good schools make Fairhaven more than a place to live, they make it a place worth loving. They keep families here, draw new neighbors, and bind us together with a shared pride that echoes from the library steps to the high school tower. When we honor Rogers' vision, when we fund teachers, counselors, programs, and safe buildings, we honor him and the promise he made to every child who walks our streets.

I have seen firsthand the nights teachers stay late, the parents who express gratitude for the help from counselors, the pride in our football team winning another Super Bowl, and the joy of graduation as an entire town applauds these young lives launched. These moments are the living proof that investing in education is investing in our community's heart and future.

Henry Rogers entrusted us with beautiful, enduring gifts. Let us repay that trust by ensuring every child in

LETTERS: cont'd on page 18

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# Fairhaven Conservation Commission holds Earth Day event

By Beth David  
Editor

The weather definitely put a damper on the Fairhaven Conservation Commission's Earth Day event at Cushman Park on 4/18/26. Cold, rainy, and windy, the day was not hospitable for an outdoor event. That did not, however, dampen the enthusiasm of ConCom chairperson, Brandon Estrella, and his #1 helper, Colin Queen. Conservation & Sustainability Coordinator, Kelly Camara, provided backup.

The educational event included fun activities to get people, especially children, engaged in learning about the natural world. A prize wheel allowed people to spin and get the prize that it stopped on, such as a geode, frisbee, paint set, a button that says "One Earth, One Love, One People."

Mr. Estrella also said the town is hoping to create a community greenhouse using a greenhouse they got from G Bourne Knowles when it closed. He said they are looking at a couple of possible locations in town.

"We will have native plants," said Ms. Camara, adding they will be donated or sold at nominal cost to groups that will plant them around town. If they can scale up enough, they will sell to the general public.

"We definitely want other groups involved," said Ms. Camara.

Mr. Estrella noted, however, that funding is especially tight this year, so they will have to "be creative."

He said he hopes to partner with

the schools so the greenhouse can be used as a learning space.

Mr. Queen spun the wheel and got "you pick" as his option. He chose a geode and they cracked it open to reveal lots of shiny crystals inside.

The Moroccan geode is a rock that is filled with white quartz crystals. It is estimated to be 34 million years old. They are created when dissolved minerals seep into a hollow area, such as near tree roots, and harden into an outer shell. Minerals continue to form on the inside walls of the shell, growing towards the center.

The educational table also had a cast of a giant megalodon shark tooth, an extinct species of shark that grew up to 80 feet long and had a wide enough jaw for a human adult to fit inside. Shells, bugs, driftwood, a whale's tooth cast, and other natural items one might find in nature, filled a table for people to touch, explore and ask questions. There was even a replica of the greenhouse they hope to build.

And buzzing along the ground was "Robo Bunny," a stuffed rabbit on a remotely operated car, to spark a



conversation about how important rabbits are to the ecosystem.

Learn more about the Fairhaven Conservation Commission at [conservation@fairhaven-ma.gov](mailto:conservation@fairhaven-ma.gov) or find them on Facebook.

Earth Day was born on April 22, 1970. That single day drew 20 million Americans into the streets and sparked the modern environmental movement. Now, one billion people in 193 countries participate.

Our Power, Our Planet is Earth Day 2026's theme reflecting a fundamental truth: environmental progress doesn't depend on any single administration or election. It's sustained by daily actions of communities, educators, workers, and families protecting where they live and work.

Visit <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2026/> to learn more.



TOP: Colin Queen hops up to avoid "Robo Bunny," who helps explain the importance of rabbits to the ecosystem at the Fairhaven Conservation Commission's Earth Day even on 4/18/26 at Cushman Park. LEFT: A cast of a giant megalodon shark tooth, is available for the public to examine, along with a couple of other critters. RIGHT: Melanie Jansky picks a pink frisbee from Brandon Estrella after spinning the prize wheel. Photos by Beth David.

## TM: cont'd from page 4

Article 9 will also appropriate \$481,376 to the School Department to bring it to \$500,000 over Net School Spending. NSS is the minimum spending the state requires (see page 3 for related story). Article 8 funds the schools at \$18,624 over NSS. The School Superintendent has stated that the current amount is inadequate to ensure that the district stays above NSS, because many unforeseen expenses can happen during the school year. Funding the schools at the Article 9 amount will also restore two teaching positions and a Special Education program that was eliminated last year.

In addition to the operating budget, TM will be asked to appropriate the spending from the enterprise accounts, which are funded by fees and can only be spent in the department that collected the fees, such as water department using water fees. Enterprise funds include Water (\$4,278,282), Sewer (\$7,449,215), Town Cable (\$251,204), School Cable (\$201,755).

TM will also be asked to approve \$1,996,038 from Free Cash for 16 capital expenditures, including \$400,000 for public works equipment, including a street sweeper; police cruisers (\$172,066); PFAS Free Firefighting gear (\$133,285); a truck for the Harbormaster/Shellfish Warden (\$59,539); \$210,000 for football field bathrooms; \$700,000 for roof replacement at the Tripp School.

TM will also be asked to approve borrowing of \$756,000 to fund replacement of the Wolf Island Well, to be paid with Water Enterprise funds. This requires a 2/3 vote at TM.

Article 19, proposes \$828,505 in spending by the Community Preservation Committee. These funds come from a surcharge on property taxes. Spending is restricted to three main areas: the acquisition, creation, and preservation of open space, historic resources, community housing.

CPC projects include \$320,000 for repair of the town hall west retaining wall. The project involves disassembling the wall, rebuilding stone-work, brick sidewalk, and installing a new drainage system. Other CPC projects include: \$140,000 for exterior masonry at Fairhaven High School; Oxford Terrace window replacement (\$100,000); \$70,000 for Livesey Park Tennis and basketball courts resur-

facing; \$95,000 to restore the antique fire engine owned by the town; \$30,000 for trash compactors at sites throughout town to reduce trips by the BPW; \$25,000 for Millicent Library Center Street lighting; \$25,000 for three Millicent Library restoration/preservation projects; \$10,000 for historic property survey, for a comprehensive town-wide historical inventory; \$5,000 to Riverside Cemetery to restore some gravestones; \$3,505 for Macomber/Pimental park to create a walkable garden space with signage.

Other spending articles include: \$377,929 from the Stabilization Fund for snow removal costs associated

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### Two bylaws changes would restrict the number of boards/committees held by elected and appointed officials.

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with the 2026 blizzard; \$280,000 from Free Cash for Union Wharf construction; \$326,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund for a backhoe and water telemetry for the wells; \$625,000 from Sewer Enterprise Fund for a dump truck (\$125,000), West Island Generators (\$400,000), inflow & infiltration (\$100,000); \$95,000 from the Ambulance fund for paramedic training (\$20,000), and \$75,000 transfer to the Ambulance Stabilization Fund; and the following from Free Cash \$18,600 for Shellfish propagation, \$20,000 for Rogers School Maintenance, \$40,000 for town facility emergency repairs, \$250,000 for Post-Employment/OPEB Trust Fund, \$10,000 for Rec Center equipment replacement, \$75,000 for compensated absences.

In addition to spending articles, TM will be asked to vote on several bylaws changes.

Article 25 would change the snow and ice removal bylaw to require property owners to clear sidewalks in front of their buildings "within 48 hours of a snow event" or face a fine of \$100.

Two bylaws changes, submitted by citizen petition, would restrict the number of boards/committees held by elected and appointed officials.

Article 27, would restrict elected officials to serving only on the board/committee they have been elected to. They would only be allowed to serve on other boards as non-voting liaisons of the board they were elected to.

Article 28 would restrict appointed officials to serving on two boards/committees at the same time, unless "otherwise authorized by a specific vote of the appointing authority."

Article 24 would establish an Affordable Housing Trust, allowing the town to create affordable housing for low- and moderate-income households, to support efforts to improve housing affordability, and to fund community housing. Article 26 would require at least 50% of CPA funds to go into the Housing Trust for FY 27.

TM will also be asked to adopt chapters 22I and 22J of the "Hero Act," which gives property tax breaks to veterans. The change would increase the amounts

Article 23 would petition the state legislature to create a special act to exempt the Fire Chief from Civil Service.

Fairhaven's Annual Town Meeting is on Saturday, 5/2/26, at 9 a.m. at Hastings Middle School. Fairhaven has a representative Town Meeting, meaning only TM members can vote. Residents may ask to be recognized and can speak if TM members vote to allow it. If your precinct has openings, you may be appointed at the precinct meeting on 5/1/26. Contact the Town Clerk's office, 508-979-4023.

The TM warrant is available on the Town Moderator's page at <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/town-moderator/> and at the Select Board office in Town Hall.

*\*The town's website has a tax calculator on the budget page. Residents can enter the assessed value of their homes and the calculator will estimate the taxes on the house with no override and with an override. Visit <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/fy2027-budget-information/>*

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Salaries of town employees are included in the annual report starting on page 173. It is available online at <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/town-moderator/> or from the Select Board's office.*

# Fairhaven's Fidalgo is Rep. Ouellette's new Legislative Aide

*Press Release*

Eighth Bristol District Representative Steve Ouellette announces the hiring of Jessica Fidalgo as Legislative Aide, effective April 17, 2026, following the retirement aide Craig Dutra.

Craig Dutra joined Representative Ouellette's office at the beginning of his term in 2025 and has been a steady presence in serving the district. He will continue his work in local leadership in Westport, remaining active in the community.

Jessica joins the office with a background in municipal leadership, customer service, and government operations. She attended the Citizens' Legislative Seminar in 2025, gaining knowledge of how the state Senate operates. She just completed an internship in our office, where she gained hands-on experience in constituent services, legislative research, and district office operations.

She will be graduating from BristolCC in May with Honors and multiple awards. Her work in municipal settings has involved

elected leadership on the planning board, supporting the operations of both the board and the office, research and bylaw writing for zoning and the approval of applications. She has years of experience engaging with residents, supporting local boards and committees, and navigating community concerns with a focus on responsiveness, education, and problem-solving. She brings a strong understanding of how local and state government intersects with a commitment to making government more accessible to the people it serves.

In her role as Legislative Aide, Jessica will support municipalities and constituents with state services, assist with legislative priorities, and help strengthen outreach and communication across the district. The office will continue to emphasize accessibility, timely response, and collaboration with municipal leaders and community organizations.

Residents seeking assistance with state agencies or legislative matters are encouraged to contact the office, 508-677-0905



Jessica Fidalgo of Fairhaven has been hired as Legislative Aide to state Rep. Steve Ouellette (RIGHT), 8th Bristol District. *Submitted photo.*

Office of Representative Steve Ouellette 8th Bristol District: PO Box 1171, Westport, MA, 02790; 1 Government Center Office 237A, Fall River, MA, 02720; State House Room 33, Boston, MA, 02133

## Wicked Whaleboat Challenge slated for 5/2

*Press Release*

Rowers, spectators, and waterfront enthusiasts are invited to kick off the spring season with one of the region's most unique maritime events: the Wicked Whaleboat Challenge, set for Saturday, and open to the public, May 2, at Pope's Island Marina, 102 Pope's Island (Rte. 6), New Bedford.

Race day begins with an 8 a.m. check-in, followed by the first crew starting at 9 a.m.. Spectators are encouraged to line the dock for an up-close view of the action as crews navigate a course designed to test not only speed, but precision, teamwork, and seamanship.

Unlike traditional rowing races, the Wicked Whaleboat Challenge emphasizes skill-based maneuvers rooted in classic whaleboat handling. Crews face a timed, staggered course featuring backwards rowing starts, tight port and starboard turns, and even a person-overboard recovery drill involving "BOB," the event's infamous overboard dummy. At any given time, three boats will be on the course, ensuring a dynamic and spectator-friendly experience.

Teams compete in identical fiber-

glass replica Beetle style whaleboats, making the event accessible to crews from around the globe. This year's event will have crews from San Francisco to London.

Following the races, attendees can enjoy a festive waterfront atmosphere featuring a community chili tasting and fresh New England chowder courtesy of local New Bedford favorite, The Black Whale who has sponsored the event for years. Visitors will have the chance to vote for their favorite "Best-est" chili while mingling with crews and fellow spectators.

Awards are presented for first, second, and third place, along with the tongue-in-cheek "Drowned Captain" award, given to the team that takes the longest to recover

BOB from the water.

With its blend of competition, tradition, and lighthearted fun, the Wicked Whaleboat Challenge promises an exciting day on the water for participants and spectators alike. Admission for spectators is free, making it an ideal outing for families, locals, and visitors looking to experience New Bedford's rich maritime culture firsthand.



Harbor Seal Team 6, participating in the 2025 Wicked Whaleboat Challenge, maneuvers to the person overboard dummy (BOB) after having tossed it overboard at an earlier marker so the bow rower can recover it and race to the finish line. *Submitted photo courtesy of Hillary Moll.*

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# Two contested races in Fairhaven election

By Beth David  
Editor

Not too much has changed since our last update, but the deadlines for taking out and returning nomination papers have both passed in Fairhaven. The field is set, most likely, with only an off chance that someone could withdraw by 5/7. Two races have contested seats: Select Board and Planning Board.

Fairhaven's election is on Tuesday, 6/9/26. 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.

Three people are running for two seats on the Select Board: Miles Grant, Pam Kuechler, and Rick Trapilo. Incumbent Keith Silvia had taken out papers for this seat, but he did not return them.

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

year's ballot.

Both Mr. Grant and Ms. Simmons will be on the ballot to get re-elected. Also vying for a full-term seat is Mona Phillips.

Two candidates are vying for the two-year unexpired term: Andrew Panek and Jennifer Cardoza.

Two School Committee seats and one unexpired term will be on the ballot. Incumbents, Brian Monroe and

---

Fairhaven's election is on  
Tuesday, 6/9/26. The last  
day to register to vote 5/29

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Stephanie Pickup are both not running. Ms. Pickup took out papers but did not return them. Krystal Lunn also had taken out papers but did not return them. So the possibility of a contested race for SC disappeared.

Newcomer, Michael Sherman, will be the only one on the ballot for the one-year, unexpired term. Donna McKenna, who was appointed to that

vacant seat, will be on the ballot for one of the two three-year terms. Also running for one of those seats is Erik Baumann.

Two candidates will run for two seats on the Board of Public Works: Marcus Ferro, and incumbent Brian Wotton.

On the Board of Health, incumbent Justine Frezza will be on the ballot for her seat. Incumbent Louise Ponte will be the only one on the ballot for her seat on the Trust Commission. On the Housing Authority, newcomer Jacob Galary will be on the ballot for one seat being vacated by Ronnie Manzone.

## Town Meeting Members

Fairhaven's annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, 5/2, at the Hastings Middle School, at 9 a.m. Although it is too late to get on the ballot to become a Town Meeting member, it is still possible to be appointed. If there are any vacancies in your precinct, the other members in that precinct can vote you in before Town Meeting. Contact the Town Clerk's office, 508-979-4023, to learn how.

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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 for more details

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—Margaret Sullivan, “Ghosting The News”

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Looking for minor repair of fiberglass hulls on 2 kayaks at my home in Fairhaven. Contact is jerold.ellner@rutgers.edu

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## Upcoming Meetings

### Fairhaven

#### Board of Appeals

Tues., 5/5, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

#### Conservation Comm

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

#### Finance Committee

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

#### Historical Commission

Tues., 5/5, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

#### Planning Board

Tues., 4/28, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

#### School Committee

Wed., 5/20, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

#### Select Board

Mon., 4/27, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

#### TOWN MEETING

Sat., 5/2, Hastings MS, 9 a.m.  
Precinct mtgs, 4/30, HMS, 6:30

### Acushnet

#### ELECTION

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

#### Conservation Commission

Wed., 5/13, Police Sta. 6 p.m.

#### Mass DOT/So. Main St.

Wed., 5/6, Ford MS, 6:30 p.m.

#### Select Board

Tues., 4/28, 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	23	0125	1400	0712	1930
Friday	24	0226	1500	0917	2147
Saturday	25	0326	1602	1042	2322
Sunday	26	0430	1708	1145	---
Monday	27	0534	1804	0021	1232
Tuesday	28	0626	1848	0110	1310
Wednesday	29	0707	1926	0155	1337
Thursday	30	0746	2003	0240	1337

	May 2026	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Friday	1	0824	2041	0317	1350
Saturday	2	0904	2120	0319	1418
Sunday	3	0944	2201	0316	1453
Monday	4	1026	2242	0343	1532
Tuesday	5	1108	2326	0414	1610
Wednesday	6	1155	---	0448	1649
Thursday	7	0014	1249	0526	1731

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

# Public Hearings/Legal Notices

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

## ACUSHNET CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Acushnet Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Acushnet Police Station, located at 64 Middle Road, Acushnet, Massachusetts.

RDA

• **Public Hearing RDA – Americo B. Elias, 151 Perry Hill Road, Map 8 Lot 21.** A Request for Determination was filed by Americo B. Elias for property located at 151 Perry Hill Road, Map 8, Lot 21. The Applicant proposes to upgrade the septic system to Title 5 compliance which will include the placement of the septic tank, pump chamber and some forcermain pipe within the 100 ft. Buffer Zone of an off-site Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

James Souza, Chair  
FNN, 4/23/26

## THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION NOTICE OF A PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Acushnet – Reconstruction of South Main Street, from Main Street to Alden Road  
Project File No. 612611

A Public Informational Meeting will be held by Mass DOT to discuss the proposed project in Acushnet, MA. WHERE: Ford Middle School Auditorium, 708 Middle Road, Acushnet, MA 02743

WHEN: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 at 6:30PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this meeting is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments made at the meeting will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of the reconstruction of South Main Street from the Acushnet-Fairhaven Town Line to Main Street (a total distance of approximately 1.22 miles). The project will include milling and hot mix asphalt overlay of the existing roadway pavement, construction of new concrete sidewalks, and a new shared use path adjacent to the west side of South Main Street. In addition, the project consists of stormwater drainage improvements, extension of an existing culvert, pedestrian curb ramps, new crosswalks, and on-street parking in the vicinity of Garfield Avenue.

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for

videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In the event of inclement weather a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at <https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events>.

JONATHAN GULLIVER,  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR  
CARRIE E. LAVALLÉE,  
CHIEF ENGINEER  
FNN, 4/23/26, 4/30/26

## Town of Acushnet, MA INVITATION TO BID

To Provide Renovations to the HVAC System at the Council on Aging

The Town of Acushnet, Massachusetts is seeking an experienced licensed contractor with commercial experience to provide renovations to the HVAC system at the Council on Aging facility according to the attached scope of work located at 59 1/2 South Main St, Acushnet, MA 02743.

Bid specifications are available on the Town's website at <https://www.acushnet.ma.us/1927/Procurement-Bids> and at the Select Board's Office, 122 Main St, Acushnet, MA 02743, M-F 8:00 am– 4:00 pm. Sealed bids shall be accepted at the Select Board's Office, until Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at which time they shall be publicly opened inside the Selectmen's Office at Town Hall.

All sealed bids must be marked "Sealed Bids for COA HVAC," and either mailed or handed in-person at the Select Board Office, Town Hall, 122 Main St, Acushnet, MA. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids and to waive informalities if deemed in the Town's best interest to do so.

FNN, 4/23/26

## Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

Tuesday May 5th, at 6:00 p.m.

Town Hall Banquet Room, 40 Center Street  
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Public Hearing In-Person at Town Hall or  
via Zoom. Join the Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/94115137952?pwd=MXp0VWpkTFBEUmluT1pWSctiVzJCQT09>  
or call 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 941 1513  
7952Passcode: 361259

1. REF# ZBA-026-008: 431 Scoticut Neck Rd, Map 29, Lot 18. Applicant and Owner Brian Reis seeks variance of size requirements. Pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-22 A-1 and possible height requirement. Pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-22 A-2.

2. REF# ZBA-026-009: 279 Mill Rd. Map 39, Lot 027B, Book 2436, Page 211. Applicant and Owner Peter

Deterra seeks variance for minimum footage 140 feet proposed is 81.64 Pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-18.

3. REF# ZBA-026-010: 1 Parker Street, Map 221A, Lot 195, Book 15232, Page 171. Applicant Carrie Scott seeks a Special Permit to authorize housing chickens on property in a Single Residence (RA) district not to exceed 10 chickens, not to include roosters, for the coop to be at least 20 feet from any dwelling and at least 10 feet from the property line, and for the applicant to submit an operations and maintenance plan for manure, food and water to the Board of Health, pursuant to the Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-16, Use Regulation Schedule and Chapter 405, Animals.

4. REF# ZBA-026-011: 1 Crow Island, Map 44, Lot 1, Book 15071, Page 274. Applicant and Owners Bruce Kennedy and Kathryn Barnett seeks a variance for proposed 1008 sq foot shed with proposed height of 29 feet. Max size is 700sq feet and max height is 20 feet. Pursuant to Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw 198-22-A-1 and A-2.

Patrick Carr, Chair, Fairhaven ZBA  
FNN: 4/16/26, 4/23/26

## Fairhaven Planning Board NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 6:30 pm  
Town Hall, 40 Center Street  
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Notice is hereby given that the Fairhaven Planning Board will conduct a Public Hearing at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday May 12, 2026, at Town Hall, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA. The Planning Board Meeting will be conducted in Town Hall and remotely and will be televised live on Fairhaven TV Channel 97 and [fairhaventv.com](http://fairhaventv.com)

To Join the Meeting from home Log on to:  
<https://zoom.us/j/93163358101?pwd=NXg5WnUxZ3lK3drSVBmM2JPTXE0QT09>  
or call 1-929-205-6099 - Meeting ID: 931 6335 8101 -  
Passcode: 740257

Live on Fairhaven TV Channel 97 and  
[fairhaventv.com](http://fairhaventv.com)

The purpose of the hearing will be to receive information and public comment on the following application: SP26-01 –77 Adams Street - David's House at Fairhaven, Owned by Congregation of the Sacred Hearts, requests a special permit for conversion of the "circa 1800" historical church rectory building into Residential treatment Program for First Responders – together with the construction of a proposed 424 sq. ft. addition.

Copies of the applications are on file for public review at the Planning Board Office, Town Hall, by appointment and on the Town website. To schedule an appointment to review the application call the Planning Department at (508) 979-4023, Ext. 8128 or go to: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/planning-board/pages/current-permits-being-reviewed-special-permits-definitive-subdivisions>

Jessica Fidalgo, Chair, Planning Board  
FNN: 4/23/26, 4/30/26

## LETTERS: cont'd from page 11

Fairhaven has the education and opportunity those buildings were meant to hold.

As my daughter graduates this year, I will have had children in Fairhaven Public Schools for almost 26 years. I am grateful and proud of the education my children received and the support of the teachers, counselors and coaches. I will vote to continue to fund this school district to the level it needs to sustain the programs for future generations.

Because I believe, just like Henry Huttleston Rogers believed, our children are worth it.

Stasia Powers, Former School Committee Member, Former Select Board Member, Fairhaven resident

## Oppression, or Opportunity?

O, yes! the people of Fairhaven are wise, realizing that our majority Living options and opportunities, has taken a spoil.

Our current Housing Market has caused a flood against our own

Massachusetts zoning laws, and Fairhaven's 2040 Master Plan.

Zoning laws and Master Plans that lawfully declare housing opportunities, for all income levels. Really?

Yet we have literally priced out the educated Median Income earners, from having opportunities to purchase or build, their own home.

You dear readers, are a witness of what I am saying here.

Median home prices, no longer

LETTERS: cont'd on page 19

# Obituary: Thomas J. Tyson



## Thomas J. Tyson

Thomas J. Tyson, 80, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, April 18, 2026.

Born on May 18, 1945, in New Bedford, Thomas

lived in Fairhaven for many years and was a current resident of Mattapoisett. He was the son of the late Joseph and Leonora (DeMello) Tyson. Thomas earned a Bachelor's degree in chemistry from Southeastern Massachusetts Technological Institute.

Thomas recently retired after a distinguished career as Vice President of Research and Development Manufacturing at Technic, Inc. In that role, he was known for the kind of measured leadership that values both precision and progress — bringing quiet diligence and sound judgment

to work that required consistency, expertise, and responsibility.

Thomas is survived by his wife, Barbara (Cullivan) Tyson. He was predeceased by his former wife, Sandra L. (Ingram) Tyson. He is also survived by his children: Daniel Tyson and his wife Kendra; Kelly Mello and her husband Jason; Donna Faucher and her husband Brian; Beth Tyson; and Matthew Soares and his wife April. He is survived by his sister, Judy Bernier and her husband Henry; his cousin and best friend, Fred Jackson and his wife Jeannette; his sisters-in-law, Donna Tyson and Pat Tyson; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brothers, Timothy Tyson and Alan Tyson.

Thomas was a proud grandfather to Jack, Alyssa, Nick, Nathan, Cody, Connor, Ryan, Gabriel, Emma, and Ellana. His love for his family and grandchildren was a constant in his life — steady, generous, and deeply felt.

Outside of work, Thomas found lasting enjoyment in boating, fishing, skiing, photography, woodworking,

golfing, traveling, reading, and driving his John Deere. He especially loved the White Mountains.

Thomas also gave his time and leadership to youth athletics, serving as former President of Mariner Youth Soccer and former President of the Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association. He was instrumental in the creation of the current Mariner Youth Soccer fields in Fairhaven, a lasting contribution that reflects his commitment to community and to creating opportunities for young people to grow and thrive.

Visiting hours will be held at Waring-Sullivan Home at Fairlawn, 180 Washington Street, Fairhaven, on Thursday, April 23, 2026, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. A Funeral Service will be held at the funeral home on Friday, April 24, 2026 at 10 am. Burial will follow at Riverside Cemetery, 274 Main St., Fairhaven.

Flowers are welcome or donations can be made to Mount Washington Valley Adaptive Sports Program, [www.mwvas.org](http://www.mwvas.org).

## LETTERS: cont'd from page 18

hold the humanitarian plum line, with actual Median incomes.

Median built homes were created by law for the Median income.

Let us Level with each other.

Developers, Realtors & Investors are the only people who cleverly benefit financially in the housing market, as far as equity and wealth building is concerned. Plus they receive incentives from the State, to build affordable housing, that isn't affordable.

Hey, they are people too, But..... so are the rest of us. And who said this was OK?

240 units in the name of affordable housing will certainly have the ability to shelter more people. But not only are the starting rents, exorbitant, \$1650-\$1850, but they come with forever increases.

It is good to know that 25% of the people will receive rental assistance through our taxpaying dollars, but what about the rest of the 75%, who helps pay for the 25%, who receives rental assistance?

Residents of Fairhaven witness the fact, via a signed petition on the warrant, that Median priced homes/

rents, have become extinct. Incomes between \$68,000 to \$150,000 per household are priced out of home purchasing.

Once upon a time, I worked both as a loan officer for the Down Payment Assistance Program, and for the USDA in Rural Development. Back then, before 9/11 occurred, we used to build beautiful smaller quality homes that families starting out, could afford. This is when we cared about giving people an opportunity to invest in home purchasing.

The 40B rental development will bring in a lot of people at one time, but will hardly give residents opportunity to grow equity and have consistent monthly payments. It will not provide nearly as much revenue for the town, as would building small family homes.

If everyone is struggling to pay rent, then it stifles a healthy community cash flow.

The 40B model will grow the problem we already have.

True community growth is gradual and enduring.

Since our 2040 Master Plan was finalized in 2018, there are nil oppor-

tunities for the middle income residents and first time homebuyers. These are the people who provide vital services to the community, with no opportunity to invest in their own home.

People like EMTs, Ambulance Drivers, Cardiac & Respiratory technicians, for example, are saving people's lives, but can't afford the \$750,000 dollar homes being built here. And extravagant rents make it impossible to save for the future.

Opportunities or monopolized oppression? You decide.

*Michelle Costen, Fairhaven*

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# Spring Is Here

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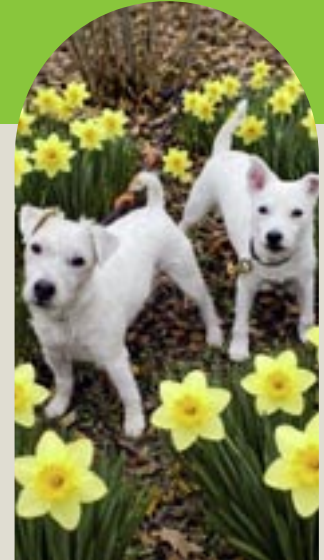
## Howe Allen Realty

Spring is the best time to focus on curb appeal. You have probably already begun to see daffodils appear and shortly after that grass will be greener and the buds on trees will blossom into leaves.

Before selling, consider some ways to make your home stand out. Ask me for free tips on enhancing your curb appeal!

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857.222.3214  
[Howe@howeallen.com](mailto:Howe@howeallen.com)



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