



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 21, Issue 19 • April 30, 2026

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

West Island race draws nearly 200



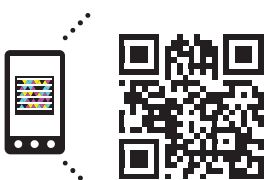
The 13th annual West Island 5K drew 156 finishers and 41 for the Kids Mile on Sunday, 4/26/26. Proceeds from the race benefit the Fairhaven High School Cross Country program, West Island Improvement Association scholarship fund, and Strive and Achieve. ABOVE: Young runners turn the corner at the start of the 13th annual West Island Kids Fun Run on 4/26/26. See page 13. Photo by Beth David.

First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Judge Murray Gurfein, Pentagon Papers case, June 17, 1971:

"The security of the Nation is not at the ramparts alone. Security also lies in the value of our free institutions. A cantankerous press, an obstinate press, a ubiquitous press must be suffered by those in authority in order to preserve the even greater values of freedom of expression and the right of the people to know."



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From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

We have a jam-packed issue this week. Wow...I amaze me sometimes.

This Saturday is Fairhaven's annual Town Meeting. We wrote an overview last week, but this week, there are some tweaks to the budget (see page 3). The animal shelter will be saved! Hallelujah!!!

Really, guys. Can we save the lofty language for lofty stuff? I love our animal shelter, too. And I appreciate that it has been a true, no-kill shelter. But it is not "vital" to the community. Most communities don't have them, and the ones that do are not footing the bill with public funds.

What they do have is public education, and police and fire and public works and highway guys.

So, okay, let's keep the shelter going this year, but for heaven's sake, let's let a non-profit take it over. We still own the building. We can lease it to them for a nominal fee and we can dictate certain things, like it has to stay no-kill, that the town gets to take its animals there for free, or anything you want. The reality is that it is the rare service we can truly get off our plate and not lose the service.

Almost all the others in the state are run by nonprofits. Let's learn from them.

Two street related meetings are coming up next week, both on Wednesday. One is for Fairhaven (see page 13); one is for Acushnet (see page 7). In Acushnet, the state might actually improve So. Main Street. Pretty cool, huh? And in Fairhaven, the BPW wants to create a maze, kind of like Fall River. Cool, huh?

The Cherry Blossom Festival is this weekend (see page 5), and youth baseball kicks off with its annual parade (see page 7).

In DC, a would-be assassin stormed a hallway in the hotel where the White House Correspondents Dinner was taking place with the president, VP, and cabinet members present. Of course, this somber, scary, sober moment was met by the Big Buffoon blaming the Democrats and saying he needs his fancy ballroom in the White House.

Honestly, I just can't with this guy. The ballroom, really? That's where you go?

Nobody should be trying to shoot anyone. Full stop. Can we at least agree on that?

There's plenty of other stuff in here. 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

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

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Budget changes before TM

By Beth David
Editor

At its meeting on 4/27/26, the Fairhaven Select Board voted to change their recommendation for the operating budget and the proposed override that will be voted on at Town Meeting this Saturday, 5/2.

Town Administrator, Keith Hickey, said the state budget is not finalized, but the latest iteration gives the town \$94,000 more than expected. He made a recommendation for an amendment to the budget adding \$90,000.

Mr. Hickey proposed that the town use \$90K to restore the animal shelter and make the Animal Control Officer full time (\$30,861 for wages and \$24,700 for shelter expenses); restore the \$25,000 (the full amount) for police overtime and \$9,439 (of \$25,000).

The reduction to the override totals \$110,971. The \$20,971 difference represents funding a full time ACO, but not a part time ACO, and reducing Animal Control Expenses based on prior year expenditures.

These changes would be made to article 8, which is the operating

budget without an override and eliminates the ACO and the shelter, eliminates \$25K each in overtime for Police and Fire; and eliminates the tourism department.

Article 9 proposes to send a Proposition 2 1/2 override ballot question to the voters. It asks for \$760,149 to fund ACO and the shelter, police and fire overtime at \$25K each, restore the tourism department, restore one of two lost positions in the highway department, and add \$481,376 to the School Department.

Lots of discussion and several motions later, the board ended up voting for a different allocation than recommended by Mr. Hickey.

SB member Andrew Romano first proposed allocating the whole \$90K to the school department.

Mr. Romano said he did not like the message it sends to fund the animals and not the schools. He said they should be doing all they can to support the schools and let the volunteers set up a nonprofit to run the animal shelter. He said they reached out to state representatives

SELECT: cont'd on page 13

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. 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 for rates, or email for rate card.

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From our readers

Monroe Supports Kuechler

I am proud to offer my strong support for Pam Kuechler as a candidate for the Fairhaven Select Board.

I had the privilege of serving alongside Pam on the Fairhaven School Committee for many years, and during that time I saw firsthand the qualities that make her an outstanding leader. Pam brings a combination of professionalism, integrity, and thoughtful decision making to every role she takes on. She understands the complexities of municipal budgets and is not afraid to make the difficult decisions that are often required to serve the best interests of the community.

In her role as Executive Director of PACE, Pam has demonstrated strong leadership, sound financial management, and a deep commitment to the people she serves. Her experience extends well beyond theory, she has real, practical knowledge of how to balance competing priorities while remaining focused on long-term stability and success.

Just as important as her professional qualifications is who Pam is as a person. She is a genuinely good and decent individual who treats everyone with respect. That is why she is so widely respected by those who know her and those who have had the opportunity to work with her.

Fairhaven is facing challenging financial times, and we need steady, experienced leadership to help guide us forward. Pam Kuechler has the knowledge, temperament, and character to be exactly that kind of leader. I am confident she will serve the town well and be a valuable resource for our community.

I strongly encourage voters to support Pam Kuechler for the Fairhaven Select Board.

Brian Monroe, Fairhaven

Support the "HERO ACT"

In a town like Fairhaven, we take pride in honoring service, sacrifice, and community. But at Town meeting, we're faced with a simple question — are we truly living up to that promise?

The HERO Act gives us the opportunity — right here, at the local level — to do something meaningful for the men and women who gave so much for us. Especially our disabled veterans, who came home carrying burdens most of us will never fully

understand.

These are our neighbors. They shop in our stores. They sit in our churches. They raised their families here. And many of them are now struggling to stay in the very homes they fought to protect.

This isn't about politics. It's about respect.

Adopting the HERO Act exemptions means easing the property tax burden on disabled veterans' primary homes — the place where they should feel safest. It's a small gesture compared to their sacrifice, but it's one that says clearly: Fairhaven stands with you.

We can't repay what they've given — but we can show gratitude in a real, tangible way.

Let's do the right thing. Let's adopt the HERO Act — for our veterans, for our values, and for the kind of town we believe Fairhaven should be.

Thank you.

Rick Trapilo, Fairhaven

Anne Morton Smith Supports Kuechler

I am writing to offer my personal endorsement of Pam Kuechler for Selectboard. In my view, she brings the level-headed, fair-minded, experienced, and compassionate leadership that Fairhaven needs as we navigate complex challenges in both finance and policy.

Pam has a long and meaningful record of service to our community. Most recently, she stepped forward to serve on the committee responsible for selecting our next town administrator. Her fifteen years on the School Committee have given her a deep understanding not only of the issues facing our schools, but also of municipal finance and the broader needs of the Town. Many residents know how difficult our relationship with State school-funding rules can be; throughout those challenges, Pam has consistently worked toward communication, collaboration, and practical solutions. Many people in town describe her as a bridge-builder, and I believe that is exactly what Fairhaven needs right now.

In her role as executive director of PACE in New Bedford, Pam has developed a strong understanding of the needs of economically disadvantaged residents. She knows how to balance those needs with the interests of the community as a

whole, and she has built productive relationships with partners at both the State and Federal levels. Her experience managing complex financial and organizational responsibilities is a tremendous asset for Fairhaven.

Pam's deep roots in both Fairhaven and New Bedford, as well as her strong connections throughout the region, create opportunities for new partnerships that can help move Fairhaven forward as a vibrant coastal community. She is committed to strengthening our economic future by making the most of our unique waterfront assets while also protecting the character and quality of life that residents value.

At a time when Fairhaven faces important decisions about its future, we need someone who listens, understands all sides, and remains committed to the people of this town. I believe Pam Kuechler is that person. I hope you will join me in voting for her for Fairhaven Selectboard on June 9.

Anne Morton Smith, Fairhaven

Espindolas Support Two in SB & PB Races

The Timothy-Hiller Fiasco showed exactly why it is so important to elect officials who prioritize transparency and accountability. In that case, critical information was withheld from members of the Planning Board until it was too late, allowing a 16-home subdivision to bypass due process.

Our town deserves elected officials who value honesty, openness, and accountability — and who act when those principles are compromised. Kevin Grant and Miles Grant have demonstrated those qualities.

As members of the Planning Board, both Kevin and Miles were among those kept in the dark until the constructive approval was granted. Once they became aware, they tried to bring the project back through an open process and to see what could be done to mitigate its impact on neighbors. They also pushed for greater transparency, including the release of meeting minutes and a full investigation.

Kevin has consistently shown leadership and responsiveness. After a particularly frustrating Planning Board meeting — where neighbors

LETTERS: cont'd to page 19

AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

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.

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.

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 oliviapimental@nemasketgroup.org

Nat'l 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.

Fairhaven For All

The next meeting of Fairhaven For All is Monday, May 4th, 6:00 PM at the Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven (Use Walnut Street entrance).

Founded in January, 2024, a group of residents came together, united around a shared vision—to foster a community defined by welcome, inclusivity and acceptance. We meet monthly, usually the first Monday of the month, to discuss issues raised by group members, support community events that promote welcome and belonging and initiate programs consistent with our mission. We aim to cultivate a culture where justice, equity and belonging are central to everyday life in Fairhaven! You are welcome to join us.

Marsh Island Talk DATE CORRECTION

Marsh Island: Restoring the Eco-systems of Buzzards Bay, Mon., 5/4 (NOTE DATE CORRECTION), 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

SAVE THE DATES:

Encampment

The Fairhaven Village Militia will host its annual Spring Encampment, "Harbor of Courage," on Sat. 5/16 from 10 a.m. to dusk, and Sun., 5/17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at historic Fort Phoenix. Featuring a special firing of the Fort's large cannons at dusk on Saturday, and a battle reenactment between the Tories and the Patriot militia on Saturday at 2:00 PM. Free.

This year's event is part of the national commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States and marks the 251st anniversary of the First Naval Engagement of the American Revolutionary War, which occurred just off Fairhaven's coast.

Safety Storytime

Join local author Ashley Bendiksen for a special safety-themed storytime featuring a reading of her new book *A Kids Book About Boundaries!* Children and families will also have the opportunity to meet a local School Resource Officer and build confidence in recognizing trusted adults and staying safe in their communities, plus: Activities & Crafts, Book Sale & Signing.

Date: Sat., 5/9, 11 a.m. to noon. , Auditorium, Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven. Sign up on our website: <https://millicentlibrary.org/events-calendar>

Memorial day Parade

Fairhaven will hold its annual Memorial Day parade on Mon. 5/25. Marchers will meet at the back of the High School, corner of Main and Route 6, at 8:30 with the parade stepping off at 9:00. They will march to Riverside Cemetery where there will be a ceremony. If the weather does not cooperate we will have a service at the senior center at 11:00. Regardless of the weather there will be a gathering at the senior center following the ceremony.

If you are unable to walk and would like to ride in the parade, contact the COA/Senior Center, 508-979-4029.

Suddenly in Command

The US Coast Guard Auxiliary's Flotilla 65 is offering the two sessions

STILL IN TOWN

of the Suddenly In Command boating class in May. Each class is 2 1/2 hours long and is designed to instruct those not generally at the vessel helm in the critical basics in case of an emergency. Would you know what to do if the Captain of the boat became ill? What if a passenger falls over board or the boat runs aground? When bad things happen you may be "Suddenly In Command".

The classes are FREE but are expected to fill up quickly. Register on-line for either May 28, 7 to 9:30pm at <https://tinyurl.com/7p7us9nf> or May 30, 9 to 11:30am at <https://tinyurl.com/2ppz8atj>

Both classes will be held at the

Acushnet River Safe Boating Club (ARSBC) on 80 Middle Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Schaeffer, Public Education Staff Officer at (781)422-9746 or via email: schae5900@gmail.com

July 4 Parade: Register NOW

Registration is officially open for "MA250: A Revolutionary Fourth." This landmark parade and ceremony, scheduled for Saturday, July 4, 2026, represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to honor Fairhaven's unique Revolutionary War heritage alongside the 250th anniversary of

American independence.

From the roar of vintage engines to the thunderous boom of Fort Phoenix's Large cannons, the town has curated a schedule that leans heavily into its deep historical roots.

In honor of the Nation's 250th birthday, the Town is seeking participants of all sizes — from neighborhood blocks and solo marchers to local businesses and large-scale floats — with the Fairhaven July 4th Celebration Team encouraging the community to put their "creativity and pride on full display" to help make the event truly legendary. Visit DiscoverFairhaven.org to sign up

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

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, 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.

Plant Sale

The Garden Club of Buzzards Bay (GCBB) Plant Sale! The GCBB'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

One of the region's most unique

maritime events, on 5/2, 9 a.m., Pope's Island Marina. 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.

Race day begins with a 8:am check-in, followed by the first crew starting at 9:am. 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.

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.

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.

cont'd next page

STILL OVERTOWN

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.

SAVE THE DATE:

Oars & Strikes Bowling FR

Buzzards Bay Rowing Club presents Oars & Strikes Bowling Fundraiser to fund the Heidi Hacking Memorial Scholarship, at Wonder Bowl, 66 Hathaway Rd., New Bedford, Sat., 5/9, 12:30pm Registration, 1:00pm-3:00pm Bowling. ALL ARE WELCOME! OPEN

TO EVERYONE!

\$300 per team, Teams of up to 6 ppl. Team entry includes: 2 Hours of Bowling. Shoe Rental, Swag, 1 Pizza/team. Also featuring raffles, prizes, music. Teams encouraged to show Team Spirit, Team Costumes and/or Team Tees

Register at <https://givebutter.com/oars-strikes-bowling-fundraiser>. Interested but don't have a team? Email us at buzzardsbayrowing@gmail.com and we will match you with a team!

HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

Grange Tree Sale

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 and mention fundraiser.

Public Info Mtg

A Public Informational Meeting will be held by Mass DOT to discuss the proposed project, reconstruction of South Main Street, from Main Street to Alden Road Acushnet, MA, on Wed., 5/6, at 6:30 p.m., at Ford Middle School Auditorium, 708 Middle Road, Acushnet, MA. See ad on page 18.

Free Concert

Stop by the Mattapoisett Library, 7 Barstow St., Sat., 5/2, 2 PM to see and hear Matt York. The longtime New England singer/songwriter will perform songs and tell stories about two musical icons, Dylan and Cash, and the important role their friendship played in the trajectory of folk and country music! All ages welcome! This program is supported in part by a grant from the Matta-

poisett Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

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.

SAVE THE DATES

Community Cleanup

Acushnet Community Cleanup, Sat., 5/9, 9 a.m., Acushnet Town Hall, 122 Main Street. Pre-registering helps us to plan for important volunteer services. You can pre-register online at <https://forms.gle/Hn2rEmbSAhmz1CQL9> or add your name to the sign up sheet on the bulletin board inside the Town Hall and at the Parting Ways Building.

Walk-ins welcome, arrive by 8:30 a.m. to sign up at the table located outside of Town Hall. Parking will be available at the Parting Ways Building and Town Hall parking lots. Tools and bags will be provided, along with some light refreshments.

This event is in conjunction with Operation Clean Sweep

Target Protest

Join us on Saturday, May 9th at 1 p.m. on Rt. 6 in front of Target in North Dartmouth, MA when we stand out in support of a Mother's Day Weekend Target Boycott!

For too long, Target has been steadfast in its complicity in the Regime's violation of our Constitu-

tional rights. The people have shown that our power is strong in efforts to demand change and to stop abuses of power. While many of us have been boycotting Target already, this action is important to build momentum, share new information, and include those who may not be able to participate in permanent boycotts.

*Bring your signs, your friends and family, and your positive and peaceful attitude! Festive attire, singing, music, bubbles, and flowers encouraged.

*We will be standing on the sidewalk on Rt. 6 in front of Target and on the sidewalk on the road leading into the plaza.

*Please park in the lot in front of the TGI Fridays building for easy access.

Acushnet Memorial Day

Please join the Town of Acushnet and our Veterans in honoring those that gave the ultimate sacrifice. At Veterans Park on Sat., 5/23, at 930am for our ceremony. There will be refreshments served at Acushnet American Legion, 71 Hope Street, following the program. Inclement weather ceremony will be held indoors at Acushnet American Legion

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>

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

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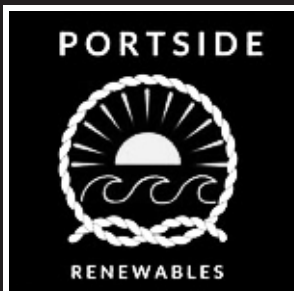
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Visit our website at: http://fairhavenma.virtualtownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA_COA/index

Memorial Day Cookout

Join us on Friday, 5/22, at 11:30 a.m. for our annual Memorial Day Cookout, serving hot dog, hamburger, potato salad, coleslaw, chips, watermelon.

Please call to sign up by 5/18, 508-979-4029. Graciously sponsored by Coastline. Suggested donation of \$3 to Coastline for the meal.

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: 5/6, Plainridge Casino; 5/13, Mashpee Commons; 5/20, Wrentham Villaget Outlets; 5/27, So. Shore Plaza; 6/3, Tiverton Casino

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.

May 4. *Star Wars Episode IV — a New Hope.* Adventure, Action, Epic, Sci-Fi. A farmboy joins forces with various allies to save their galaxy from the evil Empire's planet-destroying battle station, while also rescuing the princess leading the rebellion against.

May 11. *Miss Willoughby and the Haunted Bookshop.* Crime. Mystery. A university professor with an insatiable appetite for investigation is asked by some old family friends to investigate a series of hauntings at their antique bookstore.

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.

Catch the Fraudster

Empowering Older Adults with Technology. Mon., 5/11, 1:30–3:30 p.m. Must call to sign up and bring your own device, 508-979-4029.

Set up like a friendly trivia game, we look at short, realistic scenarios and learn to identify what's really going on. Is it legitimate? Is it suspicious? Or is it trying just a little too hard? The fun comes from comparing instincts, laughing at how sneaky the tactics are, and realizing just how often scammers reuse the same tricks. No memorizing the latest list of scams, just learning how to recognize the patterns scammers rely on to allow you to beat them.

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>

TrueBounce Co-ed Basketball Clinic

Recreation Staff, Cushman Park. May 23–June 20th (5 sessions). Saturdays: Grades 4-5, 9am-10am; Grades 6-7, 10am-11am; Grades 8-9, 11am-12pm. Members: \$100. Non-Members: \$110 (6 sessions)

Fairhaven Recreation is partnering with TrueBounce Guardians to bring an exciting new Co-ed Basketball Clinic to Cushman Park this spring! This 5-week clinic will feature 3 on 3 skills & drills with league play, giving players the chance to build skills, gain confidence, compete, and have fun in a positive and energetic environment.

Se Jong Tae Kwon Do

Ages 18+ FREE. Fairhaven Recreation Center (8 sessions) Thursdays. May 5th-June 26th 5:30-6:30PM

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All-Abilities Fishing Derby

Join us for a fun, inclusive All-Abilities Fishing Derby on Friday, June 19th, from 12:00–3:00 PM at Hoppy's Landing in Fairhaven, MA. This event is open to all ages and abilities, designed to be welcoming, supportive, and enjoyable for everyone — whether you're a seasoned angler or trying fishing for the first time. Participants are encouraged to bring their own fishing poles if available. A limited number of poles will be available to borrow on a first-come, first-served basis. Come enjoy a great afternoon by the water with family, friends, and

the community! This event is free!

Qigong Class with Robin Fielding

Fairhaven Rec ages 16+. Wednesday, 5 PM–6 PM: Join us for a calming and restorative Qigong class led by experienced instructor Robin Fielding.

Qigong is a gentle mind-body practice that combines slow, flowing movements, focused breathing, and mindful awareness to promote relaxation, balance, and overall well-being. This class is suitable for all fitness levels and abilities. Participants will be guided through easy-to-follow movements designed to reduce stress, improve flexibility, support circulation, and cultivate inner calm. No prior experience is necessary. Come as you are, wear comfortable clothing, and enjoy an hour dedicated to movement, breath, and mindfulness. You can register for this class without payment. The \$10 will be paid directly to the instructor.

Recipe of the Week

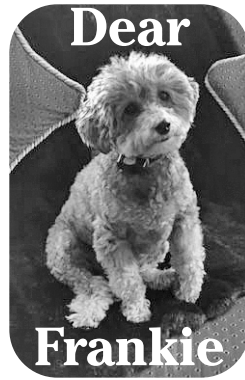
Spring Peach Mocktail

3.5 oz. peach juice
 1 tsp Meyer Lemon Juice Fresh
 1/2 tsp Apple Cider Vinegar
 1 tsp honey
 3-4 ice cubes
 Tonic Water
 Thyme and dried lemon slice to garnish

In 8 ounce glass add peach juice, lemon juice, vinegar, and honey, Mix well.

Add ice and top the rest of the glass with tonic water

Garnish with fresh thyme and a dried lemon slice.



Dear Frankie

The End of an Era

Dear Frankie,
 In the last year, my mom has had several auto accidents. She didn't hit anyone or crash into another car, but she did have to replace a fender, a side mirror, and a

front grille.

Except for the accident involving driving over a low wall, the other accidents occurred while she was backing up. Our old station wagon doesn't have a backup camera.

The other night, my siblings came to the house to tell her she had to stop driving before she caused bodily harm to someone or herself. They didn't mention harm to me, even though I was with her during each accident. I'll address my feelings about that in a future letter.

My mom has been crying, ranting, and complaining to her friends ever

since she had that conversation about how unfair and wretched she has been treated by ungrateful brats. Is there anything I can say or do to make her feel better?

Buckley

Dear Buckley,

It does sound like it may be time for your mom to call it quits.

You can understand, however, how difficult it is to be told that you can't do something you have done all your adult life. This will be a big dent in your mom's independence.

I'm sure your sibs told her about cabs, Uber, and car services, but some seniors find it hard to plan outings and call drivers.

If I were you, I would keep a low profile and be the child she can always depend on to have her back. You can never tell, it might result in a load of treats.

Best, Frankie

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Comments and letters can be sent to Frankie at dearfrankiecolumn@gmail.com. The Fairhaven Neighborhood News

FRANKIE: cont'd on page 17

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Fairhaven baseball defeats GNB Voc-Tech 7-1

Caden Lisa

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Blue Devils hosted the Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech Bears on 4/24/26 at the Joe Jason Senior Champions Field at Pope Park in Acushnet, Mass.

Fairhaven did not concede a run until the final inning. Pitcher Ryan Pires pitched all seven innings of the match. Pires was cold-blooded on the mound, recording 12 strikeouts and only allowing one hit.

With the win in the books, the Blue Devils move to 7-2 on the season. Fairhaven baseball will be back at Pope Park to take on Bourne on Friday, May 1 at 6:00 p.m.

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



TOP: Fairhaven Blue Devil, Evan Lamontagne, gets into his batting stance on 4/24/26 when Fairhaven beat GNBVT 7-1 at home. ABOVE LEFT: Nick Lajoie slides into third base. ABOVE RIGHT: Pitcher, Ryan Pires, stares down the plate during his windup. BELOW LEFT: Kyle Soares, smiles after getting on base. BELOW RIGHT: Matt Moniz, roars with enthusiasm after recording a double. *Photos by Caden Lisa.*



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Neighbors protest proposed 40B project at GB Knowles site

By Beth David
Editor

Neighbors who live on Peirce's Point Road made up some signs and stood out on Route 6 in front of the G. Bourne Knowles property to protest the 40B development with 224 rental units proposed for the site. Lots of drivers blew their horns in support on Saturday morning, 4/25/26, as they sped by on Route 6.

Deborah Gabriel said the neighbors were taken by surprise after the proposal was discussed at the Select Board meeting on 4/13/26 (see FNN 4/16/26 issue). She said they were out there with signs to let people know what is going on.

"Most people don't know about it," she said.

Frank Ferreira said he is seriously contemplating selling his house because it will be so close to the development.

"I planned to live here the rest of my life," said Mr. Ferreira, adding the value of his house will go down considerably if the rentals are built. "No one wants to live next to those."

Other neighbors said the tranquility of their seaside retreat will be ruined.

Lynn Sweet, the 40B consultant on the project, said that the actual buildings will not be near the houses

that are not near Route 6.

The plans, however, do not show exactly where the buildings will go. The architectural rendition shown to the Select Board, which is available in the 4/13/26 SB packet online, is just to show the concept. The company will have to show exactly where the buildings will go before the next step. There are some wetlands in the back of the property, so it is likely all the buildings will be close to Route 6.

There is also some question as to who owns what part of Peirce's Point Road. The town plows to the bike path, so it seems that the town owns that far. The neighbors believe GBK owns from the bike path to the bridge, and one of the neighbors owns from the bridge to the point.

Ms. Sweet said that will have to be verified before any plans are created.

The neighbors have contacted the town, they said, and are supposed to meet with town officials to discuss the plans and how it will affect their neighborhood.

Ms. Sweet said the project is a "friendly" 40B, so they are very open to speaking with neighbors to hear what their concerns are.

"They should be asking questions," she said. "If I were a neighbor I would have questions."

She added that it is still very early

in the process, so now is a good time for neighbors to weigh in.

The next steps are for the developer to flush out the plans a little more and send a project eligibility application to the state, with the support of the Select Board. If the project gets the eligibility letter, it then goes to the Zoning Board of Appeals, which will hold a public hearing. The ZBA issues a "comprehensive permit" which will include a variety of conditions for the project to be built. Because there are wetlands on the property, the project will also most likely have to go to the Conservation Commission, too. Then it goes back to the state for approval.

The town needs 222 affordable units to meet the 10% threshold required to stop 40B developments. Twenty-five percent of the proposed units will be designated affordable in perpetuity, making the entire complex count towards the town's 10%.

Fairhaven has several other developments with affordable units. All of them, except for Fairhaven Village, are affordable in perpetuity. The 169 units at FV will expire in 2039, when they can be rented at market rate.

Ms. Sweet's contact information is in the online presentation. She can be reached at ldsweet@ldsconsultinggroup.com

SELECT: cont'd from page 3

to get more money to fund the schools and then they are spending it on the animal shelter.

"You are not alone," said SB member Natalie Mello, adding that the fact the town is so close to Net School Spending "should be an embarrassment."

She said we claim to value education but then do not fund it.

"A budget is a reflection of your values," said Ms. Mello, adding if they truly value education as much as they say, they need to spend money on it.

SB chair Charles Murphy said it takes a long time to set up a nonprofit. Funding the shelter for one more year would give the volunteers time.

The motion to use the whole \$90K for the schools failed, 2-3, with Mr. Romano and Ms. Mello voting for it, and Mr. Murphy, Keith Silvia, and Andrew Saunders voting against.

Mr. Romano then made a motion to allocate the money to fund the ACO and shelter and use the rest for the schools: \$30,861 to Animal Control Wages, \$24,700 to Animal Control Expenses and \$34,439 to the School.

That motion passed, 3-2, with Mr. Romano, Ms. Mello, and Mr. Murphy supporting it, and Mr. Silvia and Mr. Saunders voting "no."

The budget will have to be voted on at TM, and members can make amendments. The board is also meeting in the morning, before TM on Saturday, when they can also make changes to their recommendations.

In another matter, the board voted against a proposal to use the Rogers School for a summer art exhibit and program. Local artist, Susan Darwin said she had three artists lined up to create an immersive experience using the front part of the old school.

The building has been empty for

years and has lead issues, and is also an historical building gifted to Fairhaven by town benefactor, Henry Huttleston Rogers.

Ms. Darwin made a passionate plea to use that building. She said she had contractors to do the work. SB members, however, voiced concerns about liability and the building itself.

Ms. Darwin said she was willing to take the risk.

"But it's magical," she said. "Those buildings ere meant to be used. They were gifts to the town."

The board voted 2-3 against it with Mr. Romano and Ms. Mello supporting it, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Silvia, and Mr. Saunders against.

The board also voted against changing the number of police officers at the polling station. Resident, Frank Crowell, wrote a letter stating that one officer is sufficient, not three.

Nearly 200 take to street in West Island race

By Beth David
Editor

Nearly 200 runners and walkers took to the streets on West Island for the 13th annual West Island 5K and Kids Fun Run. The 5K had 156 runners, and the Kids Mile had 41.

The fun, family-friendly event also drew lots of spectators. Prizes were awarded in categories by age and gender.

First place went to Alex Tripoli of Fall River, who crossed the line in 17:29; second was David Louria of Bristol, RI, in 18:16; 3rd was Damro Pao of Fall River, in 19:47.

For the women, Fairhaven's own Maggie Carol crossed over first in 20:20; Sara Poulin of Marion, came in second in 21:04; Genesis Goss of Fall River, made third in 22:15.

For the young'uns, the top three boys were Saleh El-Kerdi of Dracut in 6:09; Denver Shimala of Fairhaven, in 6:19; and third place went to Jaxon DaSilva of Fairhaven in 7:58.

For the girls, it was Virginia Gonsalves of Fairhaven in first at 7:37; Bella Landers of New Bedford was second in 8:36; and third place was Mirabella Gonsalves of Fairhaven in 8:38.

Prizes included cash and gift certificates. Giveaways included a beach towel and t-shirts for runners, which were also for sale.



Proceeds from the race benefit the Fairhaven High School Cross Country program, West Island Improvement Association scholarship fund, and Strive and Achieve.

Visit <https://westisland5k.org>



TOP: Young runners turn the corner at the start of the 13th annual West Island Kids Fun Run on 4/26/26. ABOVE LEFT: Lake Stone aims right for the timing mat at the end of the West Island Kids Fun Run. ABOVE RIGHT: Edyta Gray flies through the air as she crosses the finish line. Photos by Beth David.

BPW exploring traffic alterations, including one-way streets

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Board of Public Works and Fairhaven Police Department will hold an informational meeting on Wednesday, 5/6/26, to discuss proposed traffic alterations in neighborhoods throughout town, which will include changing some streets from two-way to one-way.

Many streets in town are very narrow, allow two-way travel and allow parking on both sides of the street. It makes it difficult for cars to get by each other and for fire trucks.

"We're just trying to make things safer," said Highway Superintendent Josh Crabb, adding that the streets in

question do not meet the minimum standards for parking on both sides.

The streets in question include Main Street and Middle Street from Washington to Ferry. The plan is to make both streets one way in opposite directions, with Plan A sending Main Street headed south (to Ferry) and Middle headed north; and Plan B just the opposite.

The other neighborhood facing changes includes all the cross streets between Sycamore and Main from Howland Road to Magnolia. The roads would alternate up or down the hill starting with Deane Street heading down from Main to Sycamore, then Morton from Sycamore to Main, etc.

The authority for making the changes lies with the BPW and Police Department, said Mr. Crabb, but the Select Board must also approve it because they are the regulatory body for sign changes. The BPW will have to hold at least one public hearing.

At the 5/6 meeting town officials will also discuss speed studies from different parts of town. Copies of all the traffic reports, and one-way studies are available at <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/document/highway-dept-traffic-reports/>

For a link to join the meeting remotely, visit the town's meeting calendar online at <https://fairhaven-ma.gov>

Bicycle enthusiasts help each other with bike repair

By Beth David
Editor

The “blessing” part of the “Blessing of the Bicycles” kind of got lost in the shuffle, but the repair shop was most definitely a big hit. Four organizations teamed up for the bicycle repair workshop at the Unitarian Church in Fairhaven on 4/26/26: Fairhaven UU Church, Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Y.O.U.), Fairhaven Livable Streets, and SouthCoast Places for People.

A steady stream of people, some on bikes, some not, of all ages showed up for several hours to learn how to change a tire, adjust brakes, and other important tasks on bicycles. Volunteers also helped people who were having a particular problem with their bikes.

Lola Berman took her bike to have the inner tube replaced. She said she tried to do it herself, but, “It didn’t work out.”

She said she rides often in the summer.

Jax Sylvia had a very rusty chain on her bike, and it kept falling off. Volunteer, Bob Espindola, lubed it up for her. Ms. Sylvia, who lives in Acushnet, said she rides her bike everywhere, especially in New Bedford. She just takes it on the bus.

Young Teddy said the gears on his bike kept skipping, slipping, and making weird noises. Volunteer, Adam Wells, fixed it up for him.

Young Nicholas got a free tire pressure gauge and a quick lesson on the spot to learn how to use it. He said he also had his brakes adjusted, but, the brake pads are worn, so he’ll have to buy new ones.

Laurie Despres went by to have the handlebars on her bike raised up a couple of inches, and was very happy with the results after volunteer, Geoffrey Sullivan, took care of it.

Audley Bodden was there with his family. He took video to learn about... well, everything. He said only one of his children can ride a bike. They were looking forward, though, to riding this summer and using the Fairhaven bike path.

Bicycles are a great way to connect



L-R: Adam Wells explains a few things to Teddy who got the gears fixed on his bike during the bicycle repair workshop at the Unitarian Church in Fairhaven on 4/26/26. Photo by Beth David.

with the community and one’s surroundings, said Will Gardner, one of the organizers.

“They are affordable, give kids independence and freedom,” he said, adding that when they ride a bike through town, they are not just passing through. They are saying “hi” to neighbors, visiting businesses, and seeing everything around them.

Mr. Gardner said he was very happy with the turnout for the inaugural event. Especially since it

BIKES: cont’d on page 17

Acushnet holds election with no contested races

By Beth David
Editor

A total of 6.36% of registered voters turned out in Acushnet on Tuesday, 4/28/26, to vote in an election that had no contested races. Five races on the ballot were empty, with no one at all running for those seats. Of 8,883 registered voters, 565 cast their ballots for all town-wide offices. Due to the lack of contested races and the seats

that had no candidates, polling hours were cut back to 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Ryan Rezendes will take the Select Board seat held by David Wojnar, who did not run for re-election; Paul Soucy was elected to Housing Authority.

All other races were filled by incumbents and. Re-elected to their seats were: Pam Labonte, Town Clerk; John Brown, Assessor; Robert Medeiros, Board of Health; Ronald

Houde, Jr., and Mellissa Ann Cordeira, School Committee; Peter Gampa, Planning Commissioner; Joanne Cioper, Cemetery Board; Joan Howland, Library Trustee; Town Moderator, Tree Warden, Park Commissioner, Commissioner of Trusts, Library Trustee, all had a seat with no candidate. Contact the Town Clerk’s office to find out how you can be appointed to fill one of those slots, 508-998-0215.

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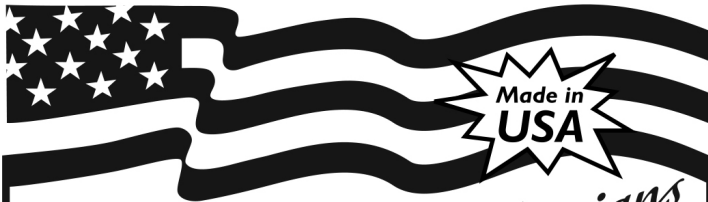
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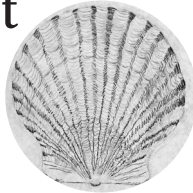
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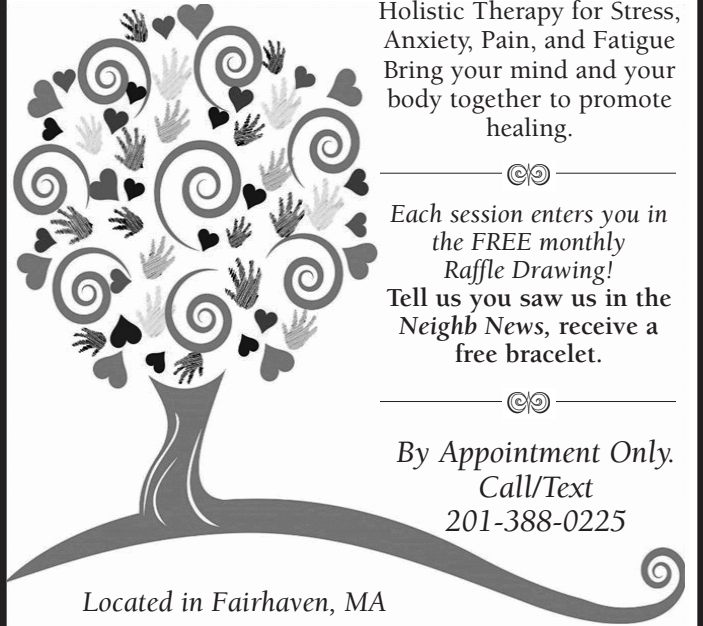
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I'm looking for a few good dogs whose owners would like daycare (\$25-\$30), boarding (\$42-\$45), or night-time care (\$30-\$35) at my cozy Fairhaven home and yard. Join the PAC! Call/text 508-525-6272. www.PACdogs.com

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CUSTODIANS Reliable person needed for full time custodial position, daytime hours. Part time also available. Will need to pass background check. Good references required; exp. helpful. Call 508-400-4494.

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 for more details

FRANKIE: cont'd from page 10

publishes the Dear Frankie column. To receive a free online subscription, readers can email neighbornews@comcast.net, request their name be added to the email list or visit www.neighbornews.com to read the paper online or to download the latest issue.

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BIKES: cont'd from page 14

rained earlier in the day and probably scared some people off.

"Bikes are a great excuse to get people out and connecting with each other," he said.

Mr. Gardner is well known around down and through his Substack newsletter as a huge biking advocate who uses his bicycle for transportation all year long.

The event also included giveaways such as a tire lever to remove the tire from the rim; lights and reflectors; pant straps; and information on the South Coast Bikeway which aims to have a 50-mile continuous system of bike paths, multi-use paths, and bike lanes connecting existing routes in Rhode Island to Cape Cod.

For more information, visit <https://SCBikeway.com> at southcoastbikeway.com and SC Places for People at <https://luma.com/ugj96u1d> and Fairhaven Livable Streets on Facebook.

FIRE: cont d from page 18

staffing levels.

We would like to acknowledge Fairhaven Police, Fairhaven EMA and our mutual aid partners; New Bedford Fire Dept., Acushnet Fire Dept., Mattapoisett Fire Dept. Additionally, we would like to thank Mattapoisett Police Dept. for providing an ambulance for an emergency that occurred separately from this incident.

Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven

Board of Appeals

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

Board of Health

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

Board Public Works

Informational Mtg on Proposed Traffic Alterations

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

Candidates Night/League of Women Voters

Thurs., 5/7, Hastings MS, 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

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

Wed., 5/13, Town Hall, 4:30 p.m.

TOWN MEETING

Mon., 6/15, Ford MS, 7 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	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
Friday	8	0109	1344	0613	1825
Saturday	9	0203	1435	0714	1938
Sunday	10	0254	1526	0817	2048

*= Predicted minus tides from -0.1 ft. to -1.0 ft

**Predicted minus tides from -1.1 ft to -2.0 ft or more

Public Hearings/Legal Notices

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

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS 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). 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. LAVALLEE,
CHIEF ENGINEER
FNN, 4/23/26, 4/30/26

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

To Join the Meeting from home Log on to:
<https://zoom.us/j/93163358101?pwd=NXg5WnUxZ3lLK3drSVBmM2JPTXE0QT09>
or call 1-929-205-6099 - Meeting ID: 931 6335 8101 -
Passcode: 740257

Live on Fairhaven TV Channel 97 and
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

TOWN OF FAIRHAVEN INVITATION TO BID

UNION WHARF – PHASE VI IMPROVEMENTS

The Town of Fairhaven (Town) is soliciting Proposals for Union Wharf-Phase VI Improvements, located at 2 Union St., Fairhaven, MA. The project generally consists of installation of 185 LF of proposed steel sheet pile bulkhead and associated concrete cap. The project also includes miscellaneous repairs and improvements including but not limited to new float and gangway, adjustments to existing float configurations, miscellaneous site improvements, installation of pavers and asphalt pavement, and all associated site work. The Engineer's estimate for the project is \$1,500,000.

Invitation for Bid documents are available electronically by contacting Beth Schuh (at the office of the Project Engineer, Foth Infrastructure & Environment, LLC), via email at: beth.schuh@foth.com, with subject: "UNION WHARF - IFB REQUEST" on or after APRIL 29, 2026.

Bidders are hereby informed that this project, in accordance with the Contract Documents, contains participation goals of 8% of the Bid price for minority-owned business enterprises and 4% of the Bid price for women-owned business enterprises.

The Town will receive Proposals at the Town of Fairhaven's Marine Resource Center, located at 40 Center St., Fairhaven, MA 02719, no later than MAY 28, 2026, at 12:00 P.M., at which time all Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Included with the Proposal shall be a 5% Bid deposit. Postmarks, faxes, and emailed Proposals will not be considered. The Town reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any or all Bids if it be in the public interest to do so. A Performance Bond and a Payment Bond, each of a surety company qualified to do business under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, satisfactory to the Owner, and each in the sum of 100% of the Contract Price, will be required of the successful general Bidder.

The award of a contract is subject to the Owner's receipt of all regulatory approvals from local, state or federal agencies. The award is also subject to availability of sufficient funding. Modification to funding may be required based on the results of the bid solicitation.

A non-mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting/Site Inspection will be held on MAY 6, 2026, at 11:00 A.M., at the project site, located at 2 Union St., Fairhaven, MA.

Town of Fairhaven Select Board
FNN 4/30/26

Fire on Bridge Street displaces one

Fairhaven Fire Department Press Release

On Tues., 4/28/28 at 1:35 p.m. Holbrook Regional Communications Center dispatched this department for a reported porch fire at 86 Bridge Street, Fairhaven. While companies were responding, Fairhaven Police reported that there were flames showing. Group 4 is assigned to duty today. Engine 2, Engine 4, Ladder 1, Car 1, Car 2, and Car 3 responded and a box was struck to recall off duty personnel. New Bedford Fire Dept, Mattapoisett Fire Dept. responded to the scene for the working fire assignment and Acushnet Fire Dept. covered our station.

The building is a 2-story wood frame structure with 8 apartments equipped with an automatic sprinkler system which did not activate. The

fire, which began on the exterior of the structure, had spread across the main means of egress and began to extend into the interior attic space. A primary search was conducted and all occupants had evacuated or were not currently home.

The fire was suppressed within the first several minutes. Overhaul conducted in the attic space revealed that the fire had extended approximately 2-3 feet on the underside of the roof, the surface of the insulation and duct work.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation by this department. One resident had been displaced at the time this release.

Both of our Engines and Ladder were able to respond due to no other emergencies requiring our current

FIRE: cont'd on page 17



Fairhaven's Ladder 1 responds to a fire at an eight-unit apartment building at 86 Bridge Street in Fairhaven on 4/28/26 that displaced on person. Photo courtesy of the Fairhaven Fire Department.

Fairhaven Schools are something to be proud of

*Submitted by Tara Kohler
Fairhaven Superintendent of
Schools*

Our schools are something this community has every reason to be proud of. Every day, I see our educators, staff, and students doing the hard work of creating safe, supportive, and high-quality learning environments. That commitment is the foundation of Fairhaven, and it remains as strong as ever. What has changed, however, is the financial reality we face behind the scenes.

For years, our district has worked diligently to be responsible stewards of your tax dollars. We have sought out grants, built strategic partnerships, and made difficult decisions to protect the classroom experience. But we have reached a point where belt-tightening and “stretching a dollar” are no longer enough to keep pace with rising costs and the increasing needs of our students. The base budget approved by the School Committee, Select Board, and Finance Committee simply maintains what is in our schools today, however forces a merging of our preschool program.

It is important to view our schools

not just as an educational necessity, but as a vital economic engine for the Town of Fairhaven. Protecting our schools is a direct investment in Fairhaven’s fiscal health. The override funding request brought forward by the Fairhaven School Committee and Select Board for your consideration is focused on restoration. Specifically, this funding will:

- Restore two elementary teaching positions that were previously lost to budget shortfalls
- Restore a vital Special Education program at the Wood School, correcting an issue cited by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
- Maintain neighborhood Preschool programs at both East and Wood Elementary Schools

Strong schools do not happen by accident; they happen when a community chooses to stand behind them. I am urging all Town Meeting members, and any resident interested in serving our town as a town meeting member, to join us this Saturday, May 2nd at the Walter Silveira Auditorium at the Hastings Middle School at 8:30 a.m. A “Yes’ vote on Article 9 is a vote for the democratic process. It simply moves the Proposition 2 1/2 decision to a general election ballot, allowing the entire community to decide.

Thank you for your continued support of our educators and, most importantly, our students. I look forward to seeing you at Hastings Middle School as we work together to protect the future of Fairhaven.

Town of Fairhaven Assessed Home Value and Proposition 2 ½ Override Impact Fiscal Year 2027

Assessed Home Value	2027 Tax Annual Increase (Standard)	2027 Tax Annual Increase (With Override)	2027 (+/-) Annual Increase (With Override)	2027 (+/-) Monthly Increase (With Override)
\$400,000	\$128	\$204	+ \$76	+ \$6.33
\$700,000	\$224	\$357	+ \$133	+ \$11.08
\$1,000,000	\$320	\$510	+ \$190	+ \$15.83

**Note: The information provided above is derived from the Tax Override Estimator posted on the Town of Fairhaven website.*

LETTERS: cont'd from page 4

were told they could ask questions but were then prevented from doing so — Kevin came outside Town Hall to speak directly with residents. He listened to concerns, shared his own frustration with the process, and engaged thoughtfully with the community. He is always prepared, willing to take a position on difficult issues, and has served the Planning Board with distinction for years. He has earned another term.

Miles brings energy, independence, and a commitment to community engagement. He is running for the Select Board to contribute fresh ideas and help the town navigate current challenges. He is not afraid to ask difficult questions or challenge the status quo. Through his work on the Livable Streets Committee, he has made a point of connecting with residents — organizing group rides to local businesses and engaging directly with community members. He also organized a walk through the

Timothy-Hiller neighborhood to see firsthand the impact on residents and hear their concerns. That effort was deeply appreciated.

Kevin Grant has proven his value on the Planning Board, and Miles Grant offers a much-needed new perspective on the Select Board. We strongly support Kevin Grant for Planning Board and Miles Grant for Select Board and hope you will join us in voting for them on Tuesday, June 9th.

Bob & Ann Espindola, Fairhaven

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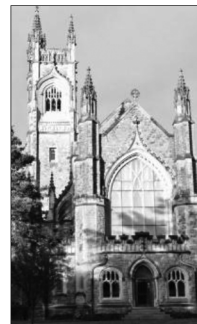


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welcomes all!**

10 a.m. May 3:
'Mothers and Peace'

Rev. María Uitti McCabe in the pulpit

*Save the date! Grand fund-raising
auction, 5-8 p.m. June 6. Admission,
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The Rev. María Uitti McCabe

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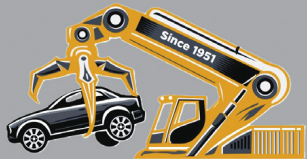
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