



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

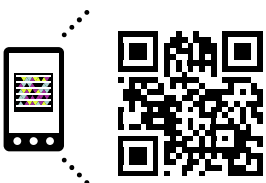
Volume 21, Issue 32 • August 13, 2026

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

Inclusive Beach Day highlights assists



Fairhaven Commission on Disability member, Pam Roy (CENTER RIGHT), is completely free of her wheelchair while in the water. She needs a special beach chair, available at Fairhaven Town Beach, to be able to get to the water along the sand. Here she poses with family for a picture during the Inclusive Beach Day at the town beach, sponsored by the Fairhaven Commission on Disability on 8/7/26. See page 12 for story. *Photo by Beth David.*



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First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

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

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

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

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

So, what was that about, Romano? Huh? GEESH.

I may not agree with Mr. Trapilo's philosophy on how to run a town, but this budget group was his baby from the start (see page 3). Seems to me it was a petty little power play to take it away from him and even worse to give it back. I truly hope this is an aberration. Because, honestly, that just sucked to watch.

I am happy that Mr. Trapilo is on the group, though. It's his baby, let his vision shine. If it works, we'll all be happy. If not, at least we tried.

Now that doesn't mean I will always think these expected outcomes should always happen, well...as expected. But this is something he campaigned on, and I would dare to say, is a big reason he got elected.

So....let's not do that again, okay?

Moving on....

The SB had a looooong meeting, so they definitely did other stuff. But, time got away from me this week. I'll have to get to that stuff next week. It'll give me more time to look into this Flock camera stuff. Yeah, Flocks, we've got 'em.

PJ Keating is changing things up again, and the neighbors are not exactly thrilled. See page 13 for an idea of what they are planning.

Our cover story is kind of cool. Fairhaven's Commission on Disability held an Inclusive Beach Day for people with limited mobility. See page 12 to see the cool stuff that make it possible to get people in the water safely.

The coward in the Senate confirmed the Big Buffoon's personal attorney as Attorney General. First thing he did? Make it clear the president and his pals don't have to ever answer any questions, by expanding the Department of Justice's definition/parameters of executive privilege. This is the same guy who wants to make sure the Big Buffoon, his kids and all their business associates don't have to pay taxes. They're all billionaires.

Is that what you signed up for?

If you're okay with this you are surely in a cult.

Do we even need to talk about how he used his own staff members and the press as decoys while he slipped away on a separate plane in secret leaving Iran and everyone else thinking he was on the old Air Force 1?

Yeah, he's a real prince, using human decoys.

There's other stuff in here, of course. Thumb through to find it all, and while you do that, be sure to notice who our advertisers are so you can tell them you saw their ads in the *Neighb News*.

Until next week... 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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Fairhaven Select Board chooses budget group members

By Beth David
Editor

At their 8/10/26 meeting, the Fairhaven Select Board chose six from 11 applicants to serve on the newly created Budget Working Group. The Finance Committee chair or a designee of that committee will also serve on the group.

The brainchild of SB member Rick Trapilo, the group is tasked with reviewing municipal operations to identify opportunities to strengthen the long-term financial sustainability of the community.

The WG is organized to have seven members, with each seat to be filled with a specific purpose: 1, FinCom member; 2, CPA or other accounting/budget professional; 3, business owner/manager; 4, resident with public safety experience; 5, educator; 6, resident with experience in procurement, construction, etc.; 7, IT professional.

Ten of the applicants filed by the deadline, one did not. Robert N. Baldwin, the former superintendent of schools in Fairhaven, missed the deadline but made it in time to get on

the agenda.

Kevin Gallagher, the former Fire Chief in Acushnet, also submitted a late application, which the board received on the same day as the meeting. SB chairperson, Andrew Romano, said he would like to consider the application for category 4.

Mr. Romano, asked each person the same question: how would they ensure their decisions complied with Mass. General Law and the town's bylaws even if they conflict with the person's personal opinions.

"I think this is going to be a pretty intense exercise," said Ken Blanchard, a member of the Finance Committee who applied to be on the WG. He also has a background in finance and municipal services.

Mr. Blanchard told the board he worked for five different mayors, eliciting a bit of laughter from the group. He said anyone who understands what that means knows it means he has survival tactics and knows how to adapt.

The board chose former Town Administrator, Mark Rees, for category 2, budget professional.

Mr. Rees told the board that he and his wife decided to retire in Fairhaven after he was hired as the TA.

"We love this community so much," he said, adding that he wants to continue to make it a great place.

There were several contenders for the business owner/operations manager category. The board chose Jason "Jay" Lanagan, a developer who has experience with abandoned properties and properties with "complex permitting problems."

Mr. Trapilo asked how Mr. Lanagan would handle potential conflicts since the WG will be delving into all the properties in town including town assets.

Mr. Lanagan said there are many people on boards in Fairhaven who conduct business in town.

"I don't see how it's any different," said Mr. Lanagan, adding there would be some form he would fill out.

Mr. Trapilo said his question needs to be answered by the community if there is any inference that people on the WG are there to benefit them-

BUDGET: cont'd on page 19

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City to unveil Melville statue

Press Release

On Aug. 14 at 11 a.m. at Seamen's Bethel, 15 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford, the City will dedicate its Herman Melville statue. Free and open to the public.

The statue will be located at the Bethel, where Melville once sat in a pew in the southeast corner of the chapel surrounded by other whalers in worship before he sailed out of

New Bedford on the voyage that inspired *Moby-Dick*. Seamen's Bethel is known as the Whaleman's Chapel in the novel.

In December 1840, the 21-year-old Melville signed onto the crew of the whaleship *Acushnet*, a 359-ton square-rigged ship that departed New Bedford for the Pacific Ocean and did not return for nearly two years.

A decade later, he chose New

Bedford and his adventure as inspiration to write *Moby-Dick*, the novel widely regarded as the preeminent work of American literature.

The New Bedford Whaling Museum is hosting a four-day literary and cultural series of events that weekend on Melville and New Bedford's defining role in shaping *Moby-Dick*. (See below)

Melville in Our Seaport weekend

Melville in Our Seaport is a four-day literary and cultural celebration honoring the enduring influence of Herman Melville and New Bedford's defining role in shaping his most celebrated work. Through scholarship, conversation, performance, music, film, and community partnerships, the weekend explores the city's continuing relationship with Melville while inviting audiences to experience his legacy in fresh and engaging ways.

Coinciding with the installation of New Bedford's permanent Herman Melville statue at Seamen's Bethel, the festival brings together nationally recognized writers, scholars, artists, filmmakers, and local cultural organizations to celebrate New Bedford's remarkable literary heritage.

Purchase tickets for individual events, or make a weekend of it with a discounted weekend pass which includes admission the New Bedford Whaling Museum and to each program segment at the Museum for the full weekend. The Weekend Pass is \$85 for Museum Members and \$225 for Non-Members (this includes 4-Days of Museum Admission).

It's a weekend you'll never forget in a city that changed the course of American literature.

Visit <https://www.whalingmuseum.org/program/melville-in-our-seaport/> to purchase tickets

Weekend pass includes

Museum Admission for all Melville in Our Seaport days (Thursday, 8/13 through Sunday, 8/16)

- **CUFFE TAXED** Film Premiere & Discussion
- Melville in Our Seaport Symposium with a featured conversation and Q & A with Chief Curator & Director of Museum Learning Naomi Slipp, Ph.D. and Adrienne LaFrance, Executive Editor of *The Atlantic*
- Melville Scholars' Roundtable,

moderated by Marina Dawn Wells, Ph.D., with Melville Scholars Bob Wallace, Mary K. Bercaw Edwards, and Gerard Anthony McGowan

- Cocktail Reception & Visit to the Herman Melville Statue
- *In the Whale* Film Screening & Conversation: Award-winning filmmaker David Abel presents *In the Whale*, the remarkable true story of a man who survived being swallowed by a whale

Individual Ticketed Events

Thursday, 8/13, 3 p.m.

\$10 for public;

\$5 for Museum Members.

A virtual conversation, moderated by Ymelda Rivera Laxton, Curator of Contemporary Arts & Community Projects at the Whaling Museum. The talk will feature contemporary authors whose work has been influenced by Melville's enduring legacy and will be followed by audience Q&A.

Featured Authors: Elizabeth Doss, Playwright, Herman Melville's great-great-granddaughter, and author of *Poor Herman*; Xiaolu Guo, Novelist, filmmaker, and author of *Call Me Ishmaelle*, a contemporary retelling of *Moby-Dick*; Phil Adamo, Author of *Kill Ahab: Confessions of a White Whale*

Friday, 8/14, 1:30 p.m.

Symposium Day

\$50 for public, \$25 for Members.

Talks, books, Q&As, Roundtable.

Saturday, 8/15, 5:30 p.m.

Cocktail Reception and Visit to Herman Melville Statue

\$50 for public, \$25 for Members

Enjoy live music in the Lagoda Gallery before strolling across the street to the newly installed Herman Melville statue for photographs, and remarks by the sculptor Stefanie Rocknak, and special performances celebrating Melville's connection to New Bedford.

Sunday, 8/16, 2 p.m.

Screening of "In The Whale" \$25 for Public

Join us as we feature a documentary film titled *In the Whale*, the account of a man who survived to tell the tale of being swallowed by a whale. Filmmaker David Abel will be in attendance for a brief Q&A session after the screening.

In the shark-filled waters off Cape Cod, Michael Packard has long tempted fate. For several months a year, Packard and his longtime mate, Josiah Mayo, cast off nearly every morning around dawn and navigate through the half-light to their diving grounds off Provincetown, the idiosyncratic, isolated community where they grew up. Packard buckles on his scuba tank and plunges into the cold waters to hunt on the seafloor.

As the region's last-remaining commercial lobster diver, the aging father has had his share of harrowing experiences, which include close encounters with great whites, nearly drowning, and having to pull up the body of a fellow diver. He even survived a plane crash in the jungles of Costa Rica, where he ran a charter fishing business. But what happened to him on a routine dive during a clear June morning was something he never imagined possible, and many around the world refused to believe.

In an experience of biblical proportions, Packard was engulfed by a humpback whale, caught in the watery cavity of its massive mouth. After some 30 seconds of a pitch-black captivity, in which he expected to die, he was spit out, fins first, to the surface, where Mayo and another fisherman rescued him.

The publicity was similarly dizzying for the reclusive fisherman, whose survival story spread around the world in news dispatches. But what came after the limelight dimmed was even more significant for Packard.

AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Teddy Bear Parade

Celebrate 41 years of teddy bear fun at the Millicent Library's annual Teddy Bear Parade! Sat., 8/15, 10 a.m. to noon, corner of William and Walnut Street, Fairhaven (45 Center St.).

Bring your favorite stuffed friend, enjoy face painting, clowning with Daisy D. Dots & the Smile Factory! Meet on the Unitarian Church Lawn for this beloved tradition.

Pet Portraits for Dogs

Fund Raiser for the First Congregational Church of Fairhaven, corner William and Center Streets (use William St. entrance). Studio set in Maddaford Hall

Sat., 8/15, 8 a.m.–3 p.m., First Come First Served. Photographers: Carole & Jim Mahaney

Image file will be delivered to the pet owner via email. Suggested Donation: \$20.00 per dog/image

Evenings at the Fort

Step back in time this season with the Fairhaven Village Militia during their "Evenings at the Fort" series at historic Fort Phoenix! Held on select Wednesday evenings, these free, family-friendly events offer a unique opportunity to learn about the rich history of the Fort and view the bunker alongside guided militia men and learn about the role Fairhaven played in the revolutionary war.

The events are weather-permitting and handicap accessible. Mark your calendars for this season's schedule:

August 19: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

September 16: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

October 14: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Republican Town Committee

Our Fairhaven Republican Town Committee urges all concerned Fairhaven citizens to attend our Tuesday, August 18th meeting, which will be held at the Fairhaven Recreation Senior Center 227 Huttleston Ave., Fairhaven, at 6pm.

We will be informing and discussing the many opportunities to serve our Town and community. The September 1st State election ballot candidates and upcoming November

3rd State election and ballot questions will also be discussed.

Our committee chairman Bob McConnell will appear on the November 3rd 2026 State election ballot for Second Bristol and Plymouth District State Senate seat and will report on his exciting campaign.

Please consider attending, you are welcome. We are accepting applications for committee membership also. Call Bob McConnell at 508-863-0416, email @ fairhavenrtc@gmail.com or contact us at our Facebook page Fairhaven Republican Town Committee.

At The Millicent

The following events will be held at the Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven. Accessible.

Baby and Toddler Storytime

Tuesdays through Sept. 29,
10:00 – 10:30 AM

Explore stories, songs, and play with your baby! Each weekly Baby and Toddler Storytime includes Early Literacy fun and family playtime to discover board books, play, and socialize with other families.

Recommended for ages 3 and under. Siblings are welcome!

Outside on the Unitarian Church Lawn, weather permitting - otherwise, inside the Storytime Room.

Family Storytime

Wednesdays through Sept. 30
10:30 – 11:30 AM

Join us for stories, songs, movement, and crafts at Family Storytime with Amanda.

For families, recommended for kids ages 3+. Siblings are welcome!

Outside on the Unitarian Church Lawn, weather permitting - otherwise, inside the Storytime Room.

SAVE THE DATES:

Book Signing

Local artist, Rafaela Quintin, will sign copies of her book of poems, "The Imperfect Path," on Sun., 8/23, from 2–4 p.m., at North Star Apothecary, 410 Alden Rd., Fairhaven. Join us for an afternoon of poetry, books, and good vibes. Books will be available for purchase, or bring your cop and get it signed.

Outdoor Movie

Join us for a magical outdoor movie night under the stars as we

celebrate the 55th anniversary showing of "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory!" Bring your blankets and lawn chairs and enjoy a fun-filled evening with family and friends at Fairhaven Recreation.

The movie begins at 7:00 PM on August 28, and admission is just \$10 per family. Popcorn and a sweet treat will be provided, making this a deliciously fun night you will not want to miss. Register your family today!!

In case of bad weather movie will be shown in the gym

Taste of Portugal

The Fairhaven Lions Club presents Taste of Portugal, Sat., 8/29, at the Fairhaven Council on Aging, 229 Huttleston Avenue, Fairhaven, MA 02719. Dinner 5-7pm and Music 7-9pm

Serving a traditional Portuguese Dinner: Choice of Cacoila or Chicken. Featuring raffles, dancers, and more.

Tickets: \$25.00 pp. All proceeds benefit the Eye Research and Scholarship Fund. Call or text Liz for tickets 774-454-6322

OLOA Feast

The 96th Annual Our Lady of Angels Feast, Sat., 9/5— Mon., 9/7, featuring on the OLOA Feast grounds, 7 Jesse Street, Fairhaven.

Dubbed the "biggest little feast," the 96th annual OLOA festa is a showcase of local Portuguese culture, featuring three days of Portuguese and American food and entertainment. Admission and entertainment are free, purchase required for food and beverages.

Sat. 9/5, 5 p.m.–midnight; Sun., 9/6, noon to midnight; Mon., 9/7, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., procession at 1 p.m.

Millicent Library HVAC FR

We're working to improve comfort, accessibility, and preservation at the Millicent Library with a much-needed HVAC upgrade. We need your help to make it happen.

Your support will help protect our historic building, safeguard our historical collections, and create a more welcoming space for everyone in our community.

Every donation makes a difference. Please consider contributing at <https://givebutter.com/MillicentLibrary>

Thank you for supporting the Millicent Library.

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

FREE Scallopalooza

Back by popular demand, the 2026 Scallopalooza Scallop Shucking Contest will be happening this summer on Thursday, August 13, from 5-8 PM at 38 Bethel Street in front of the Fishing Heritage Center. Scallopalooza is our nationally-recognized celebration of New Bedford's commercial scallop industry, bringing together local seafood lovers, fishing families, businesses, and community members for an evening of scallop shucking, live music, local vendors, and waterfront culture.

FREE. Watch local fishermen compete for the title of New Bedford's best shucker starting at 6:30pm! The event will also include live music

Visit <https://fishingheritagecenter.org/scallopalooza/>

AHA

AHA! Night: Summer in the Seaport takes place on Thursday, August 13th. The fun begins around 4 pm and continues after dark. Visit <https://ahanewbedford.org/next-aha/>

Melville Statue+

On Aug. 14 at 11 a.m. at Seamen's Bethel, 15 Johnny Cake Hill, the City of New Bedford will dedicate its Herman Melville statue.

See page 4

Dance Fest

The FIRST South Coast Dance Festival is a three-day celebration of contemporary dance featuring live performances, an immersive yurt experience, and a dance film screening with our guest artist and Q&A. Events take place August 14-16 at South Coast Movement Arts and Down to Earth Yurt in Dartmouth. All are welcome!

Join us for three unique dance events celebrating movement, performance, and film. Register at: <https://socomovementarts.com/events>

Thurs., 8/14, 6 p.m., \$20, at SC Movement Arts, 201 Pope's Island, NB, featuring stuffNjunk. Performance by longtime friends and dance duo Miguel Quiñones III and Steve Vaughn.

Fri., 8/15, 6 p.m. \$30, Yurt Performance, Down to Earth Yurt, 821 Potomska Rd., S. Dartmouth. Experience a unique dance performance

inside a beautiful yurt on a scenic South Dartmouth farm. Presented by the Dartmouth Cultural Center.

Sat., 8/16, 2 p.m., \$10, film screening and Q&A, at SC Movement Arts, 201 Pope's Island, NB. Experience the newest dance film by Boston Ballet dancer and Boardwalk Ballet Artistic Director Finn Duggan, followed by an exclusive Q&A with the artist.

Free Concerts

The Summer Sound Series of weekly concerts returns to Downtown New Bedford, bringing crowds and free entertainment on Friday nights through the beginning of September.

During Summer Sound Series concerts, there will be free parking available at the Elm Street Garage and the Zeiterion Garage. All concerts are weather permitting.

All concerts run from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The 2026 Summer Sound Series Schedule is:

AUG. 14: PEARLY BAKER BAND

Location: Purchase Street. Genre: Grateful Dead tribute/jam band

AUG. 21: JAMMIN'

Location: Lower Union Street, Genre: Reggae. Note: Kicks off the 3rd Eye hip hop festival

AUG. 28: BRIAN & THE CASSETTES

Location: Purchase Street. Genre: Indie. Note: Special Guests TBD

SEPT. 4: ENTRAIN

Location: Lower Union Street. Genre: Funk and world

Underground RR Walking Tour

Free. Sat., 8/15, 2:30-4:30 p.m., New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, 33 William St., New Bedford.

Join Park Ranger Rufai for an immersive Underground Railroad Walking Tour, where you'll uncover the hidden stories of those who defied oppression and carved a new future for themselves.

The Underground Railroad—a courageous network of people from all walks of life—was a lifeline for enslaved individuals seeking liberty. Guided by resilience and hope, they journeyed to safe havens from Philadelphia to Canada, breaking the chains of bondage and reclaiming their right to determine their own lives.

New Bedford stood as a beacon of promise, a city where the whaling industry provided refuge and opportunity for formerly enslaved people. Here, they built families, businesses, and futures free from the grip of enslavers. Their fight for justice echoes through time, influencing movements that continue to challenge racial injustice today.

Walk their footsteps. Hear their stories. Feel their struggle and triumph. Be part of a living history experience that connects past and present in a powerful way.

Free Shakespeare

Shakespeare in New Bedford: Hamlet, August 13, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 7:30pm; August 16 & 23, 2pm. At Rotch-Jones-Duff House, 396 County St., NB. In Partnership with Reverie Theatre Group

Bringing the Bard's most poignant plays to audiences of all ages and walks of life, RTG presents a chilling and timely take on Hamlet. Set in a Baptist church in the present-day, American south, this production interrogates the supposed divide between church and state, while also exploring the play's most enduring themes of mortality, madness, and moral corruption. Donations are accepted in lieu of a ticket fee.

This program is supported in part by grants from the Acushnet, Dartmouth, Mattapoisett, and New Bedford Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. It is also supported in part by the Wicked Cool Places grant funded by the City of New Bedford through its Arts, Culture & Tourism Fund, and is facilitated by New Bedford Creative at the New Bedford Economic Development Council. Additional funding provided by the Stoico Foundation.

SAVE THE DATES:

Lebanese Festival

Join Our Lady of Purgatory Maronite Catholic Church at our annual Lebanese Festival on the OLOP Parish Grounds at 4254 Acushnet Avenue, New Bedford, MA 02745. Fri., 9/11 from 5-11 p.m.; Sat., 9/12, noon-11 p.m.; Sun., noon-5 p.m.

CONT'D next page

STILL OVERTOWN

Rain or shine. No outside food, drink or hookah.

Free admission. Cash bar and food available for purchase. Featuring live entertainment, delicious Lebanese

and American food, saj, dancing, raffles, hookah. Entertainment by Mitchell Kaltsunas (Friday), Ahmad AlKaisi (Saturday), Wood Dr. Band (Saturday afternoon).

Sponsorships available. For more information, please contact the Parish Office at (508) 996-8934 or by e-mail at officeolop@gmail.com.

HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

Shellstock

Sat., 8/15, 3–7 p.m., Westport Fairgrounds, 200 Pine Hill Rd., Westport, MA. Tickets: \$35, at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/shellstock>

Shellstock 2026 is a summer community event featuring Roomful of Blues as musical entertainment, raw bar, food trucks, and beer & wine for sale as well as an exciting door prize. This event supports our work to rebuild shellfish beds through hands-on restoration, science-based planning, and community education.

Shellstock is an community celebration & fundraiser! Proceeds benefit Shellstock, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Our mission is to support and empower local shellfisheries in their journey toward sustainability and resource rebuilding!

Bible Study

The Lamb of God Christian Church of Mattapoisett will be presenting the following events in August:

Sunday Church Services and Adult Bible Study every Sunday@5:30 P.M. American Legion Hall, 3 Depot Street, and held at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, in the lower meeting room, August 18@6:00 P.M. Free Food Outreach, August 19 @3-5 American Legion Hall, 3 Depot Street. Outdoor Prayer Outreach, Sundays 3-5 P.M. @Mattapoisett Rail Trail and Ned's Point (Weather permitting). For more information call (508) 998-6990, or E-Mail: pastor@lambogodma.org

At Acushnet Library

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

Music on the Porch Day

Celebrate Play Music on the Porch Day with us, Sat., 8/29. The Jethros will perform from noon to 2 pm under the pavilion (not a porch, but that's OK!)

Summer Concert Series

Concerts are held rain or shine, 6–7:30 p.m. In the event of rain, join us under the pavilion or in the community room. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Acushnet Cultural Council, a local agency supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

Aug. 26 (Rescheduled from 7/29 due to weather): G & Friends. Marie S. Howard School Alum George Piva returns to the Acushnet Public Library. G & Friends will perform contemporary adult music under the pavilion from 6 pm. This five-piece band features George Piva on Guitar, Marvin Perry on Vocals, Mike Moran on Bass, Rick Andre on Drums, and Dennis Cook on Sax.

Raffle

The Friends of the Acushnet Public Library will be holding a 50/50 raffle at each of the Acushnet library's Wednesday evening outdoor Summer Concert Series.

Tickets are \$5 each (cash only) and can be purchased during the library's Wednesday evening Summer Concert Series. The Friends will also be accepting jewelry donations at the Wednesday concerts for their annual September jewelry sale fundraiser.

SAVE THE DATES:

River Cleanup

Join the Fairhaven-Acushnet Land Preservation Trust for a cleanup of the Acushnet River creating clear pathways along the river to support the herring's migration next season. Bring your water shoes, bathing suits, waders, and towels and deepen your connection with the Acushnet River.

Meet on Sat., 8/22, at White's Factory, Hamlin St., Acushnet, 8 a.m.–noon. Rain or Shine.

To RSVP and for more info, contact the FALPT Land Manager, 774-521-8489.

Cruise Night

Thurs., 8/27, Acushnet Town Green/Parting Ways, 122 Main St., 5–8 p.m. Classic cars, great food from local

vendors, and oldies music with DJ Dave Blast from the Past. Sponsored by the Town of Acushnet

Revolutionary War Encampment

The Acushnet Historical Society invites the public for a free and live Revolutionary War Encampment, honoring our local history, Sun., 8/23, at the Long Plain Museum, 1203 Main St., Acushnet, 1–3 p.m. Featuring militia from Fairhaven, Dartmouth, Rehoboth performing on-site demonstrations of life in Revolutionary era America, including tin-smithing. Step back in time and experience history come to life right here in Acushnet.

Also refreshments and ice cream from Acushnet Creamery will be available for purchase.

The museum will be open for you to discover Acushnet's rich history. Preserve our past, connect with our history, inspire our future.

For more information, contact Pauline Teixeira, President of Acushnet Historical Society, 774-395-3975.

CV Recogniton Music Fest

Sat., 8/22, 3–9 p.m., Stackhouse Fairgrounds (16 Faith Street, Dartmouth, MA 02740). Tickets: \$50 Advance (Grab them early and save!)

\$60 At the door Visit <https://www.cvrinc.org/blank-5> for tickets

Delicious food and drinks will be fully stocked and available for purchase! Don't wait until the day of—tag your crew, clear your calendar, pack up your lawn chairs and get your tickets today! Let's pack the fairgrounds!

Shoutout to our incredible sponsor, Colonial Honda of Dartmouth, for helping make this day happen!

Pedal for the Path

The South Coast Bikeway Alliance (SCBA) will hold its seventh regional bike ride, Pedal for the Path, on Sunday, August 30. Beginning and ending at Running Brook Vineyard, 335 Old Fall River Road, Dartmouth. Register at <https://southcoastbikeway.com>

Trapilo responds to anonymous letter

By Rick Trapilo

Fairhaven Select Board member

I want to thank the Town employee who took the time to share a thoughtful letter regarding my recent comments about Fairhaven's financial condition and need for a hiring and wage freeze. Although the letter was submitted anonymously, I respect the sincerity and dedication behind it.

During our July 27 Select Board meeting, the Chair characterized my comments as "insulting" to Town employees. I respectfully disagree. That characterization misses the fundamental point of my concerns.

The structural deficits identified in our recent financial forecast did not develop overnight, and they were not created by our employees.

Responsibility for the Town's long-term financial position rests with the decisions, policies and planning of Town leadership over many years, including previous Select Boards, Town Administrators and department heads responsible for budgets, staffing, compensation, capital expenditures and long-term financial planning.

There is a lesson that has been demonstrated repeatedly in both the public and private sectors: **when leadership fails to address financial problems early, hardworking employees are often the ones who ultimately pay the price.**

They face hiring freezes, delayed wage increases, layoffs, increased

workloads, reduced resources and, potentially, reductions in services. Employees do not create these financial problems, yet they can suffer the greatest consequences when leadership allows them to grow.

That is precisely what I am trying to prevent.

Fairhaven's financial forecast projects deficits ranging from

Transparency and honest discussion are not attacks on our employees.

They are essential to responsible government.

approximately **\$1.6 million to more than \$4 million through Fiscal Year 2031.** These numbers demand that we ask difficult questions now — while we still have the ability to make thoughtful and measured decisions.

My proposal for a temporary hiring and wage freeze was not intended to diminish our employees or suggest that they are "the problem." It is proposed as a temporary fiscal management measure while we examine the causes of the structural deficit and develop sustainable solutions.

That examination must include

revenues, expenditures, staffing, operational efficiencies, capital planning, contractual obligations, service levels and opportunities for economic growth.

Our employees and department heads must be part of that conversation. They understand firsthand where efficiencies may exist, where resources are stretched and where investments are necessary to maintain the services our residents expect.

I am hopeful that the soon-to-be established Budget Task Force will help bring together the information, experience and ideas necessary to move Fairhaven toward a sustainable financial future.

Transparency and honest discussion are not attacks on our employees. They are essential to responsible government.

Ignoring a structural deficit would be a disservice to taxpayers, employees and future generations of Fairhaven residents.

My responsibility as a Select Board member is to help ensure that Fairhaven remains financially strong enough to support its employees, maintain essential services and meet its obligations to taxpayers — not only today, but for years to come.

I believe we ultimately share the same objective: **a financially stable Fairhaven that provides excellent public services and treats its employees with the respect they deserve.**

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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: 8/19, Wrentham Outlets; 8/26, Thames St., Newport, RI; 9/2, Plainridge Park Casino; 9/9, Plymouth Shopping; 9/16, Mashpee Commons.

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.

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.

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.

Aug. 17, Roustabout Comedy. Elvis is a karate-chopping biker who's hired as a carnival Roustabout. At first he just provides muscle and a diversion for the beautiful carny girls. Then he picks up a guitar and gets the midway rockin'.

Aug. 24, Adrift Romance, Drama, Action, Adventure, Disaster, Melodrama, Thriller, Suspense. *Based on a true story.* Tami Oldham and Richard Sharp couldn't anticipate that they would be sailing directly into one of the most catastrophic hurricanes in recorded history. In the aftermath of the storm, Tami awakens to find Richard badly injured and their boat in ruins. With no hope of rescue, Tami

must now find the strength and determination to save herself and the only man she has ever loved.

Aug. 31, Trading Places Comedy. Louis Winthorpe III is an executive in one of Philadelphia's leading investment firms. While Billy Ray Valentine has spent his entire life in the ghetto surviving on his wits. The find their positions reversed in a scheme set in motion by the greedy, conniving Duke brothers, founders of the brokerage firm where Winthorpe is a partner.

Swim with the YMCA!

Join the Fairhaven Council on Aging on Fridays, through August 14th for private water aerobics at the New Bedford YMCA.

\$5 per class, includes transportation from the Fairhaven COA. Bus departs at 8 a.m. Call 508-979-4023 to sign up and discuss options if you have a financial hardship.

Office Hour With State Rep. Mark Sylvia

State Rep. Mark Sylvia will hold an office hour at the Fairhaven Council on Aging/Senior Center, on Mon., 8/17 from 9–10 a.m. If you need to speak with him before then, call 617-722-2400.

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>

WILLY WONKA/ OUTDOOR MOVIE

Fairhaven Recreation Center/Back field, August 28th, 7pm–9pm \$10 per family. Join us for a magical outdoor movie night under the stars as we celebrate the 55th anniversary showing of *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory!* Bring your blankets and lawn chairs and enjoy a fun-filled evening with family and friends at Fairhaven Recreation.

The movie begins at 7:00 PM. Popcorn and a sweet treat will be provided, making this a deliciously fun night you will not want to miss. Register your family today!! In case of bad weather movie will be shown in the gym

Simba's Medley Excerpts

Fairhaven Recreation Center Instructor Aly Pereira Wed, Sept 16–Oct 21 3:45 PM–4:45 PM (6 Classes) Member: \$120 | Non-Member: \$135. Come join the fun of learning how to take part in a musical theatre performance. Children will learn the basics of putting together a production. In this class, boys and girls will audition for a role in the musical "Simba's Medley Excerpts."

This play has been rewritten along the theme of the original "The Lion King." Children will sing, dance, and act their way into a world of excitement. Costumes are encouraged, but not necessary. No experience is needed. Everyone receives a speaking role of some kind.

Youth Basketball Clinics

Grades K-5. Coach Donald Joseph+ Recreation Staff Fairhaven Recreation Center Sat, Dec 6–Jan 17 (7 sessions), 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Member: FREE Non-Member: \$50.00 Join this exciting recreational clinic, led by Coach Donald Joseph, Fairhaven High School Varsity Basketball Coach! This clinic focuses on teaching the essential fundamentals of basketball. Each week, participants will engage in skill-building exercises and drills, providing a supportive environment to develop their basketball skills and enhance their love for the game. Don't miss the opportunity to learn from an expert and take your skills to the next level!

Recipe of the Week

Grilled Steak with Salsa Verde Board Dressing

Cooked steak is sliced on a seasoned cutting board instead of being marinated first. The salsa verde is based on the Italian classic.

2 lbs boneless ribeye steaks, trimmed

2 tbsp fresh parsley leaves

2 tbsp fresh cilantro leaves

1 tbsp fresh mint leaves

1 tbsp fresh dill

1 tbsp capers, drained

1 clove garlic

1/2 tsp lemon zest

1/3 cup olive oil

Set grill to medium-high. Pat steaks dry and season with salt and pepper. Grill steak with grill lid closed until medium-rare, flipping halfway through, about 4 minutes per side.

Meanwhile, on a cutting board, chop herbs, capers, garlic and lemon zest. Add oil and stir together gently on cutting board.

Place grilled steaks on top of cutting board sauce. Let steaks rest 1 to 2 minutes. Thinly slice steaks against the grain, letting hot meat juices mix with board sauce. Add salt and pepper to taste and serve immediately.

From stopandshop.com



It makes Celeste feel bad because no one ever notices me.

She says she ignores the attention and thinks I should too. I wish I could let it go, but I just can't.

Ruby

Dear Ruby,

You can't control how people react to Celeste, but you can decide how you handle it.

Since you know this happens when you're out together, try making it fun. Before you go out, make a bet with Celeste about how many compliments she'll get.

Be sure to tell our advertisers you saw their ads in the *Neighb News!*

Dear Frankie

The Lesser

Dear Frankie,
Having a beautiful friend like Celeste isn't always easy.

Whenever we go out, people stop to admire her and tell me how gorgeous she is, as if I didn't already know.

Whoever guesses closest wins a favor or a treat from the other. This way, you might even start hoping people notice her, just to win the game.

Best, Frankie

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Dear Frankie also publishes a video series. Find her on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. Search for dearfrankie dogtodogadvice.

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

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Bill Murray makes surprise appearance at the Z

Press Release

After multiple sightings of the actor's cardboard cut-out around New Bedford, The Zeiterion reeled in the real Bill Murray for a surprise appearance on Monday, August 3. Murray answered audience questions following a screening of *What About Bob?*, which was the first of five films in the Bill Murray Movie Monday Marathon.

The series continues with *Caddyshack* on August 10, *Ghostbusters* on August 17, *Stripes* on August 24, and *Groundhog Day* on August 31, which has many wondering if the comedy legend will return to The Z for another film this month. Tickets are \$12 per movie and can be purchased at zeiterion.org, in person at the box office, or by phone at 508-994-2900.

Murray addressed the audience from the historic Zeiterion stage at the conclusion of "What About Bob?" He encouraged questions and shared behind-the-scenes stories.

The audience erupted with laughter after Murray said, "This is really nice. I can't believe there's this many people...when I was told there was so

many people here I almost turned around and went home."

"I'm so happy that people are going to movies again," continued Murray. "It's really important to see movies together in the theater and I think you should keep coming."

As one of summer's most legendary travelers through New Bedford, Murray has become something of a local folk hero — popping into restaurants, surprising locals, and posing for photos around town. The Z honors Murray's devotion to the area with a marathon of five of his most popular films.

For decades, New Bedford gathered at The State Theatre to experience the magic of the movies, from Saturday matinees to unforgettable evening blockbusters and even world premieres! The Zeiterion celebrates that legacy by bringing beloved titles back to the big screen for a Movie Mondays Series, including



Actor Bill Murray addresses the audience during after the first of the Bill Murray Movie Marathon Series at the Zeiterion on 8/3/26. Submitted photo.

State Theater legacy films, music, popular hits, and the Bill Murray Movie Marathon. From timeless classics to cult favorites and musical milestones, these films honor the tradition of shared cinematic joy in a grand single-screen setting. Plus, bundle five Movie Mondays tickets in a single purchase and save \$10 with the code MOVIE5.

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Inclusive Beach Day highlights assists

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Commission on Disability (COD) held an Inclusive Beach Day on Friday, 8/7, at the Town Beach to give people with mobility issues a chance to see what the town has to offer to get people in the water.

The first thing is the long mat that goes from the parking lot to the beach. That one is there all season. Then there is the chair mat that goes on the beach, close to the water for wheelchairs to park while their owners take dip.

Then there is the special wheelchair (the town has two), with big wide tires and a fast-drying fabric than can traverse the sand and sit right in the water.

Full time Lifeguard, Brett, helps people get in and out of the chair and keeps an eye on everyone while they are in the water.

Anyone who needs special assistance just has to let the parking attendant know and they will alert Brett who will help the person in and out of the chair, and will set up the chair mat.

Pam Roy, a member of the Fairhaven COD who uses a wheelchair, said she had not been able to go the beach for years, until Fairhaven got its beach chair.

Now, she gets in the water several times a month.

Without the chair, and Brett's help,

she said she would not be able to go to the beach at all.

"So, it's a really good thing," said Brett. "Just to see the smile on people's faces who had not been in the water for 20 years."

Ms. Roy's sister, Paula Rego, said they did not know about the chairs until last year at the COD's first Inclusive Beach Day event.

"We didn't even know the service was out there," said Ms. Rego.

"Last year was my first time at West Island Beach in my entire life of living in Fairhaven," said Ms. Roy, 56. "All because of the Commission on Disability."

"Because the town invested in the right equipment," said Ms. Roy's cousin, Donna, who is the one who usually drives her to the beach.

If you need assistance to access the beach, especially on weekends, call the Fairhaven Board of Public Works 508-979-4030, and tell them you need beach assistance. During the week, just go to the parking lot and tell the attendant. The Council on Aging has a few passes for



the parking lot.

To learn more about the Commission on Disability, visit the town's website at <https://fairhaven-ma.gov>. Contact the Council on Aging/Senior Center to learn about other services and programs available (see page 9), 508-979-4029.



TOP: A special beach chair is ready for duty, able to traverse along the sand, during the Inclusive Beach Day at the town beach, sponsored by the Fairhaven Commission on Disability on 8/7/26. LEFT: A wheelchair and a beach chair share the special mat for wheelchairs RIGHT: People make their way off the beach using the beach mat that is easier to walk on than the sand. *Photos by Beth David.*

PJ Keating proposes significant changes to operations

By Beth David
Editor

Representatives from PJ Keating met with the Acushnet Planning Board on 8/6/26 to present a series of proposed changes to the operations at the South Main Street plant.

The quarry, asphalt mixing, and crushing operation has been mired in controversy in recent years due to noise, dust, and odor complaints by nearby residents. The situation got worse in 2021 when the company moved the asphalt plant to the front of the property, closer to South Main Street and more neighbors. (See 11/11/21 issue.)

The move resulted in a series of lawsuits, countersuits, and finally a resolution with the company to be able to resume most operations.

At the 8/6 meeting, PJK representatives said the proposed changes were in keeping with a host community agreement (HCA) they made with the town. They will be moving some operations to the back of the property, and expanding some.

The operations include asphalt mixing, concrete mixing, aggregates (different size stones), crushing. The quarry is where the material is excavated and then broken up at different locations on the site. Some material is trucked in. Various sizes of stones and sand are sorted and stored on site for customers to pick

up and truck out.

The busy operation supplies aggregates to hundreds of companies, resulting in a steady stream of heavy trucks in and out all day.

Company representatives said the changes will make it quieter for neighbors and produce less dust around residences.

Neighbors were skeptical.

"We've been fighting this battle for

I just don't know why
we're doing this dance
again. It's great right
now. Let's just leave it
[Mike Desrosiers]

35 years," said Gilbert Martin. "The answer is not to make it bigger."

He said the answer is for the company to stay within the boundaries and keep it quiet and clean.

"How on earth is expanding going to make it better for the neighbors," said Mr. Martin. "I don't understand that logic."

Michael Desrosiers asked a few questions about the changes in the operation for the last couple of years.

PJK president, Derrick Hill, said the company will be ramping up some operations, including the hot mix asphalt and aggregate sales.

So the blasting and dust will get worse, said Mr. Desrosiers. It is strictly an economic issue for the company, he said, without consideration for the neighborhood.

Mr. Desrosiers also said that in the beginning only the Board of Health responded to neighborhood concerns.

"You've been a great neighbor the last two years. I don't want to see that change," said Mr. Desrosiers. "I don't trust you as far as I can throw you."

"Our goal is to be a good neighbor," said Mr. Hill. "We're doing what we can to create that goodwill."

He said the HCA has specific provisions for mitigating dust, noise and odor.

Mr. Desrosiers scoffed at the idea of monitoring, saying they had monitoring before and the company did what they wanted anyway. He said the Board of Health needs to get involved for the new proposal to move forward.

"They're the only ones who stood by us," said Mr. Desrosiers.

PB Chairperson, Mark Francois, said they had nothing to do with the BOH. He said the PB was there to talk about set backs, and mitigating dust, etc. He emphasized that it was the first meeting, and the plan would be subject to peer review and be scrutinized by other boards.

"I know it's the beginning," said Mr. Desrosiers. "It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know there's going to be problems."

He said they should go to his house in the summer to see how bad it gets.

"I just don't know why we're doing this dance again. It's great right now. Let's just leave it," said Mr. Desrosiers.

Mr. Martin also invited them to go to his house and "have them run a couple of loads."

"You will see," he said.

Christian DeSousa, said the public had no input in the HCA. It was not a public forum.

Mr. Martin said they were blindsided by the proposal.

In the end the board continued the public hearing to 9/3.

In another matter, the PB approved a special permit for a shared driveway off Mendall Road for a property

ACUSH: cont'd on page 18



The plans for a change in operation at PJ Keating in Acushnet show an area of expanded operations in the southeast corner of the property (bottom right), as presented at the Planning Board meeting on 8/6/26. Photo by Beth David.



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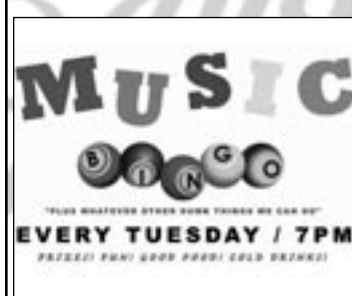


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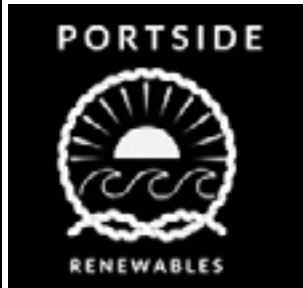
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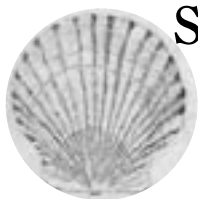
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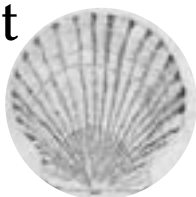
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Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven Board of Health

Wed., 8/26, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Board of Public Works
Mon. 8/17, Arsene St., 5:30 p.m.

Bylaw Review Comm
Thurs., 8/13, Remote, 6:30 p.m.

Commission on Disability
Thurs., 8/13, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Community Preservation
Wed., 8/19, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Cultural Council
Wed., 8/19, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Livable Streets
Thurs., 8/20, Remote, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board
Tues., 8/25, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Select Board
Mon., 8/24, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Sustainability Comm
Tues., 8/18, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Acushnet

Board of Appeals
Thurs., 8/20, Police Station, 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission
Wed., 8/26, Police Station, 6 p.m.

Selectboard
Wed., 8/19, Town Hall, 4:30 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Aug. 2026		HIGH a.m. p.m.	LOW a.m. p.m.
Thursday	13	0857	2118	0300* 1507
Friday	14	0945	2206	0338* 1553
Saturday	15	1032	2251	0407* 1628
Sunday	16	1117	2337	0434 1700
Monday	17	---	1205	0503 1733
Tuesday	18	0026	1256	0535 1814
Wednesday	19	0119	1349	0614 1917
Thursday	20	0212	1441	0709 2228
Friday	21	0304	1535	0817 2339
Saturday	22	0402	1637	0918 ---
Sunday	23	0510	1739	0030 ---
		---	---	1024 ---
Monday	24	0606	1827	0110 ---
		---	---	1145 ---
Tuesday	25	0649	1907	0142 1218

*= 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"

Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing

Tuesday Sept. 1, 2026, 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
7952 Passcode: 361259

1. **Zoning Determination:** The Board will reclassify on the zoning determination associated with the applications for the properties located at 249 Main Street and 97 Balsam Street. Upon further review, the requested zoning relief was improperly classified as a variance rather than a special permit. The Board will not reconsider the underlying decision on the application.

Patrick Carr, Chair, Fairhaven ZBA
FNN: 8/13/26, 8/20/26

Town Clerk's Office

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Town Hall · 40 Center Street · Fairhaven, MA 02719
Telephone: 508-979-4023 · Email: clerk@fairhaven-ma.gov

NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT

The following amendment to the Town of Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw, adopted at the Fairhaven Annual Town Meeting convened on May 3, 2025, has been approved

by the Office of the Attorney General and is published herewith in accordance with G.L. c. 40, § 32. Claims of invalidity of the amendment by reason of any defect in the procedure of adoption or amendment may only be made within ninety (90) days of the second publication of this notice.

Copies of the bylaw amendment may be examined and obtained at the Town Clerk's Office, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA.

ARTICLE 19: AMEND BYLAWS CHAPTER 198 ZONING

Motion was made and seconded that the Town vote to amend Chapter 198 of the Fairhaven Town Code, entitled "Zoning," a.k.a. the Town of Fairhaven Zoning Bylaw, as follows:

(i) by amending Section 198-14, entitled "Establishment of districts," at the end of

Subsection A, to add the following new overlay district:

Fairhaven Smart Growth Overlay District (FSGOD) and

(ii) by amending Appendix A, Section 3.1 to read "The Fairhaven Smart Growth Overlay District, herein after referred to as the "FSGOD," is an overlay district having a land area of approximately 89.32 acres in size that is superimposed over the underlying zoning districts and on the Zoning Map as set forth on maps entitled "Fairhaven 40R Smart Growth Overlay Smart Growth Zoning Map (Plaza Area SGOD), April 2025 Revision", amending the existing map entitled "Fairhaven 40R Smart Growth Overlay 4-2 Smart Growth Zoning Map (Plaza Area SGOD), dated 6/19/2024.

and

(iii) and, further, to amend the "Town of Fairhaven Zoning Map," as referenced in Section 198-14(B) of the aforementioned Code, by adding the map entitled "Fairhaven 40R Smart Growth Overlay Smart Growth Zoning Map (Plaza Area SGOD), April 2025 Revision", and prepared by Dodson & Flinker.

Respectfully submitted, Elisabeth E. Horan, Town Clerk
FNN 8/6/26, 8/13/26

TOWN OF ACUSHNET PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Acushnet Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. at the meeting room in Town Hall, located at 122 Main St., Acushnet, MA. This hearing is on the petition Job # WO# 15268287 from NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC.

Request permission to locate underground cables, conduits and manholes, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, in, under, along and across the following public way or ways:

Middle Road, Acushnet:

To install 1 (one) new JO pole to be labeled 104/39.5 in the Right of Way of Middle Road

Board of Selectmen

Kevin Gaspar, Sr., Chairman

Robert Hinckley, Member

Ryan Rezendes, Member

FNN, 8/6/26, 8/13/26

ACUSH: cont'd from page 13

at Mendall Road and Perry Hill Road owned by Frank and Karen Knox, to connect three lots

David Davignon of Schneider, Davignon and Leone, told the board the project also required two variances, which they received from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

One variance was to reduce the leveling area from 50 feet to 25 feet due to the steep hill off Mendall Road. The other was to change the radius of one of the turns, or the driveway would be in the middle of the lot.

The ZBA granted both variances.

The project also received approval of the stormwater permit and approval from the Conservation Commission for various portions of the driveway.

Homeowners will be required to

create a homeowners association to maintain the driveway and stormwater infrastructure.

Abutters were not thrilled with the plan.

Robert Howland said he was worried about water runoff and the clearing of so many trees.

Mr. Davignon explained some of the stormwater mitigation in the plan. He said the water will drain past Mr. Howland's property.

Mr. Howland was not impressed with the plans. He said good luck getting a plow down there.

"At least I'll have a nice place to walk my dog," said Mr. Howland.

Linda Taylor said she was concerned because the driveway would pass so close to her house. She also

insisted that she only got notice for one of the public hearings. When shown the green card for the one in question, she said it was not her signature.

Ms. Taylor asked if the developers could at least put up some arborvitaes or other plantings along the part of the driveway that passes close to her house to provide some privacy.

Mr. Davignon said he could ask the home owners, but he could not promise anything. Board members confirmed that the bylaw regulating shared driveways did not give them authority to mandate the plantings.

The board approved the driveway with one condition, that the developers move one of the lots to comply with the setback or get a variance from ZBA.

Apple Peach Pageant seeking contestants

Press Release

Acushnet's Miss Apple Peach Pageant is seeking contestants for their annual competition to be held on Friday, September 4th as the kick off to the following weekend's Apple Peach Festival.

Miss Apple Peach 2025, Elyza Wagner, and Jr. Miss Apple Peach 2025, Aubrey Sousa, have enjoyed being active in town events and have participated in Acushnet events such as the Little League Opening Day, the

Christmas Lighting, the Lions Club's Duck Race, the Halloween event, and have volunteered at the schools. They have been very busy in the community and have enjoyed an impactful year.

The pageant is open to all young women from Acushnet in grades 6-12. Students in grades 6-8 will compete for the title of Jr. Miss Apple Peach and students in grades 9-12 will compete for the title of Miss Apple Peach, the winner of which will

receive a \$500 scholarship. In total, \$1,000 will be awarded and is sponsored by the Acushnet Lions Club.

There is a \$30 registration fee and contestants will compete in four phases of competition. No previous experience is required and there is no talent portion in the competition.

To register or for more information, visit social media pages, call/ text 508-965-4465 or email MissApplePeach@gmail.com. Sign up at <https://forms.gle/J4QHiZGWNJcTRNbv5>

From our readers

Trojan Horse is Good Analogy

I offer this letter as a follow-up to the excellent letter by the chair of the League of Women Voters SouthCoast, Eileen Marum, published in the July 30, 2026 issue of *Fairhaven Neighborhood News*. In that article, the analogy of the "Trojan Horse" from Greek lore was used in exposing the Save America Act as a camouflage for casting doubt on election integrity. It is a blatant attempt to discourage

participation in our elections by increasing the difficulty in doing so.

A similar tactic is being waged in assaulting our civil rights programs supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion, often referred to as DEI.

Over the years, various programs have been developed to help those among us who have unmet needs. Such programs have been developed and codified into laws to overcome racial and ethnic inequities, LGBTQ and transgender rights, and civil and labor rights. Some recent Executive

Orders (EOs) abandon decades of success by our federal and state governments in helping to root out discrimination and equalizing opportunity for underrepresented groups.

As with the mirage created to cast doubt on our fair and secure elections, symbolized by the Trojan Horse analogy, so too we should not be swayed by the castigations showered on many of our federal and state programs successfully designed to offer help to those who are in need.

Jack W. Dean, Mattapoissett

BUDGET: cont'd from page 3

selves. They will be looking at tough issues.

Category 4 for a resident with public safety, such as police, firefighter, EMS was tabled.

Mr. Trapilo nominated Mr. Blanchard, but the vote failed, 2-3, with Mr. Trapilo and Andrew Saunders voting yes, and Mr. Romano, Natalie Mello, and Pam Kuechler voting no.

Ms. Mello then motioned for the appointment to be tabled so they could consider the late application, ie, Mr. Gallagher.

"That goes totally against what we are trying to do here this evening," said Mr. Trapilo.

He said they had a deadline that they should stick to. They made an exception for one, but to make the exception for an application that just came in that day goes "totally against" the rules that were decided on for the process.

"Let's just stick to what we published," said Mr. Trapilo.

In a split vote the board decided to table the appointment for category four, public safety.

The board chose Dr. Baldwin for category 5: education, school finance, or school administration experience.

"I just want to give back to the community that's given me so much," said Dr. Baldwin.

He responded Mr. Romano's question, saying he would never go against any laws.

"And my opinions, you'll probably never know them," said Dr. Baldwin.

The board chose Daniel Lopes, a former Board of Public Works member, and a lifelong Fairhaven resident.

Mr. Lopes said he has been fortunate to have a lot of mentors in his life.

"We're stubborn at heart as Fairhavenites," he said. "But we're volunteers first and foremost."

He works at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, one of the largest non-profits on the Cape.

"We watch pennies over there," he said.

Gunnar Hexum was the only applicant with IT experience, although he could have fit into other categories, including public safety, as he was a paramedic in New York City.

"If he can be a paramedic in New York City, he can do anything," said Mr. Trapilo.

About the task of the WG, Mr. Hexum said: "It's going to be painful. No question about it. It's going to be painful."

The opening for category 4 is posted on the town's website and is open for applicants. Deadline to apply is noon, August 19. Visit <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/volunteer-opportunities/> to apply.

After the interviews, the board chose a liaison to the WG.

In a bit of a twist, Mr. Romano said he wanted to be the liaison, a point he had referred to in passing during the earlier discussion.

Mr. Trapilo made his case, saying he has a long financial background in business.

"I have solved large budget issues," said Mr. Trapilo, adding he wanted to commit the time to bring some solutions to Town Administrator, Keith Hickey.

"I truly want to be the liaison," said Mr. Trapilo.

Mr. Romano said he had been against the forming of the group at the beginning, but now that it has gone through, he wanted it to be

successful.

"I have a lot of energy," said Mr. Romano, adding he has a lot of relationships with people in the community that he is willing to tap into.

He also said he has connections in Acushnet.

SB member Pam Kuechler, said she appreciated that Mr. Trapilo started the process. She said it shows the community

Later in the meeting, Mr. Romano asked for reconsideration of the item. He said as they were getting ready to go into executive session he could "sense" how upset Mr. Trapilo was.

"Very upset," said Mr. Trapilo.

Mr. Romano said he only put his name out there because he wanted the group to be successful and was not considering Mr. Trapilo's reaction.

"You weren't," Mr. Trapilo quickly interjected. "What did you expect?"

Mr. Romano said he would like to withdraw his name from consideration as the liaison to the WG.

"And I would say the board has voted. Leave the vote as it is," said Mr. Trapilo. "Let the chips fall where they may."

He added that he can live with the board's vote.

"We have an unbelievable group of people who stepped forward," said Mr. Trapilo, adding he trusted that Mr. Romano would work for the best interest of the town.

"I wanted to do this, but I respect the vote," said Mr. Trapilo, adding there was no need to go back.

Mr. Romano insisted that he would not be taking the position and asked if any other board member wanted to.

In the end the board voted to make Mr. Trapilo the liaison in a 4-1 vote, with Mr. Trapilo voting "no."

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