



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

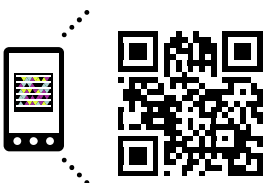
Volume 21, Issue 39 • October 1, 2026

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

Weekend nor'easter was a soaker



The gangway at Hoppy's Landing in Fairhaven is pulled up on Saturday, 9/26/26, to protect it and the dock from getting damaged by high winds during the weekend nor'easter that dumped 5.71 inches of rain on Fairhaven and a whopping 7.49 inches on New Bedford, just next door. 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.

Well, that was a fun little storm, huh? Okay, maybe not if you had some flooding or a tree come crashing down on your house. But, it was a fun little storm for the rest of us. I admit, I did not get far. I headed out to get some pictures and ended up hanging with my neighbors at the nearest hurricane party. See page 12 for that (no, really) and some info on rain totals.

The Select Board met this week (see page 11). The budget stuff hovers overhead like a ghost, and underneath like erosion from your latest favorite nor'easter. We're in the thick of it, folks, and it doesn't look like it'll be fun at all.

On another note, they are going to interview/hear presentations from law firms without getting their rates first. I was in the room, heard their rationale, and still think I would not have agreed to that. Talk about giving away your power. They must be taking lessons from congress.

Speaking of which....we have some candidate stuff in here (see pages 18 and 19). I don't run the same kind of candidate statements for state offices as I do for the local. But I do run an announcement. Since Montigny, Sylvia, and Ouellette all have challengers, two from Fairhaven and one from Acushnet, I made sure all six had their spot. We ran 10th Bristol a couple of weeks ago; the others are in this week's.

On page 23, you'll find a story on volunteer openings on boards and committees in Fairhaven. They're holding a separate meeting for it this year. Check it out.

ICE was in New Bedford last week, terrorizing people across the river. They are out of control, are accountable to no one, and are lawless. The Big Buffoon's goons are everywhere. Are you still wondering how Germany happened? This is how it happened. With the cruelty of ordinary citizens brutalizing their fellow human beings.

The mid terms can't get here soon enough. When the cult followers get trounced, we need to make it illegal, patently illegal, to send anyone to a third country. It's bad enough we violate our own laws to kidnap them, but to send them to countries they have no ties to and that will just kick them out onto the streets after the US money runs out, is beyond anything I could have imagined. We need to stop it. It should be against international law. But, I suspect there's a reason some other brute of a country wants the option.

And this crap about presidential immunity? Yeah, that has to go....fast.

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!

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

CPC application deadline is approaching

Press Release

The Fairhaven Community Preservation Committee is accepting applications for the FY28 funding round. The FY28 Community Preservation Submission Guidelines and Application Forms are available on the Town's Community Preservation Committee Webpage: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/community-preservation-committee>.

Since 2006, the Fairhaven CPC has

appropriated over \$8,400,000 that have created 126 affordable housing units, supported another 362 affordable housing units, protected over 755 acres, created and maintained several recreation facilities, and restored 60 historic preservation projects.

Activities that can be funded are:

- Acquisition, creation, and preservation of Open Space.
- Creation, preservation, and support of Community Housing.

- Acquisition, creation, and preservation of Historic Resources.
- Acquisition, creation, and preservation of land for Recreational Use.

The Deadline for CPC applications is Friday, October 2, 2026 by 11:00 a.m.

Further information is available from the Planning and Economic Development Department at 508-979-4023, Ext. 8123 or email recording secretary@fairhaven-ma.gov.

Fairhaven Cultural Council applications open

Press Release

Apply for a Cultural Grant!

Have a great idea to enrich the cultural lives of Fairhaven residents? Now you have the chance to turn your idea into reality! The Fairhaven Cultural Council is accepting grant applications.

We are seeking projects that promote excellence, access, education, and diversity in the Arts, Humanities, and Interpretive Sciences. All proposals must demonstrate a measurable benefit to the Town of Fairhaven and

its residents. We prioritize projects or programs taking place in Fairhaven. Our maximum grant award per applicant is \$1,000.

Potential grantees must apply online. Our application portal closes on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at 11:59 PM (ET). No paper or late applications are allowed. We accept applications once a year.

To learn more or to apply, visit our Mass Cultural Council page: <https://massculturalcouncil.org/local-council/fairhaven/>

Still have questions? Email Fairhaven Cultural Council Chair Beth Ann Gallagher at: culturalcouncil@fairhaven-ma.gov.

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An Online Consignment Shop For Your Family Furniture

www.FernandesFamilyFurniture.com



SCAN TO EXPLORE

We are the Fernandes Family! We are on a mission to relieve our neighbors of common furniture frustrations that overwhelm all families at one time or another.

Acquiring furniture built to last shouldn't be a burden that creates a dilemma. Pay premium prices and even go into debt—or settle for overpriced, poor-quality pieces.

Finding a new home for heirloom-quality furniture shouldn't force us to make an uncomfortable choice. Either waste it, or experience inconvenience and safety risks on popular online marketplaces.

"They don't make things the way they used to" isn't an opinion; it's become the American way. So what's happened to the craftsmanship that Americans once built their families around?

Engineered materials like MDF initially made low-cost furniture accessible. But today's market is dominated by rising prices and plummeting quality. While new heirloom wooden furniture is still available, the cost is unreasonable.

This shift reveals a hard truth: we've traded quality and community for the trap of convenience, settling for disposable goods over lasting, revivable value.

High-quality furniture isn't produced—it's crafted. What makes well-crafted wooden furniture so valuable is that it withstands decades of wear and tear, stands strong, and can always be brought back to life.

We believe that problems are opportunities in disguise. One neighbor is cornered into overpaying for furniture built to break or paying premium prices for new

heirloom-quality pieces. Another owns furniture that has outlasted their ability to appreciate it.

FernandesFamilyFurniture.com offers a better alternative that enables neighbors to conveniently solve each other's problems and ignites a long-overdue sense of community.

By merging traditional craftsmanship with modern convenience, we offer an accessible, easy, and transparent local platform. It enables neighbors to relieve each other's furniture frustrations.

FernandesFamilyFurniture.com is your local online consignment shop that functions as a community-driven marketplace. Discover local heirloom pieces or list your own at FernandesFamilyFurniture.com.



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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Costume Swap DL 10/6

Halloween Sustainability Costume Swap. Please drop off clean, used Halloween costumes and decorations in the bin at Town Hall, 40 Center St. or at The Millicent Library from now until October 6th. On October 7th from 4-6pm, there will be a free event at the library with a Halloween Swap table, along with other Halloween crafts.

Costumes should be clean, and non-violent (no gore). Don't limit yourself to just costumes. Jewelry, scarves, crazy hats, anything that can be used for a costume as well as decorations will be accepted. We will also have a DIY section for children to make their own costumes or add to an existing one.

Drop off Mon.-Fri., 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Center St. or The Millicent Library-Mon & Wed -9am-8pm, Tues & Thurs -9am-6pm, Friday 10am-6pm, Sat. 9am-3pm.

This program is Sponsored by The Millicent Library and Fairhaven Sustainability Committee

Register on our website: millicentlibrary.org/events-calendar

“In Their Own Words”

The Shepherd Center for the Performing Arts, 34 Center St., Fairhaven (use William St. entrance), will host a play by local playwright Beth Luey about the long friendship between famed author Mark Twain and Fairhaven tycoon Henry Huttleston Rogers, at 7 p.m. on Oct. 3 and again on Oct. 4 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$20 online, <https://theshepherdcenter.org>, and \$25 at the door.

Directed by Kiah Allaire, “Rogers & Twain In Their Own Words” is a conversation between two old friends, taken from their letters back and forth. There's a lot of talk about the new mansion that Rogers is building, the buildings he donated to the town, and Fairhaven politics. The dialogue is taken directly from their letters to each other.

Housing Survey

Fairhaven is currently creating its first Housing Production Plan, which

is a 5-year plan that outlines Fairhaven's strategy for producing and maintaining different types of housing in town.

The survey is anonymous and should take about 10 minutes to complete. Your feedback will help us write the most authentic and representative plan possible for Fairhaven.

Visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/fairhaven-housing-survey>

Parks & Rec Survey

The Town of Fairhaven has been working with SRPEDD and BETA Group to assess the community's existing parks and recreation areas. We are looking for your input to help shape the future of these important community spaces.

The survey begins with a few general demographic questions, followed by three open-ended questions for each park or recreation area:

- What do you like about the park?
- What improvements would you like to see at the park?
- Is there anything else you would like us to know about the Park?

You can provide as much or as little feedback as you would like.

Access the survey at <https://tinyurl.com/4tcwtpvb>

Gold Buying & Bake Sale

Sell Your Gold & Silver

Sat., 10/10, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., St. Joseph's Church, 74 Spring St., Fairhaven. Top prices paid for Unwanted Gold & Silver Jewelry in any condition, Silver Flatware, Tea Sets, Coins & more!! Find out what your items are worth and sell, if you want to.

Fall Bake Sale

St. Joseph Parish Fall Bake Sale, 74 Spring St., Fairhaven, Sat., 10/10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sun., 10/11, 7 a.m.-noon.

Featuring baked goods, gluten-free, dairy-free, books. Sales and donations are welcome before and after all masses. Sat. vigil, 4:30 p.m./Sun., 8 a.m. and 10 a.m..

Dog Pet Portraits

First Congregational Church of Fairhaven Fund Raiser, 34 Center St. (Use William St. entrance), Sat., 10/10, 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM, First Come First

Served. Suggested Donation: \$20.00 per dog/image

Photographers: Carole & Jim Mahaney. Image file will be delivered to the pet owner via email. Studio set in Maddaford Hall

Hauntings at Fort

What happens when the sun goes down at Fort Phoenix? On October 14, the Fairhaven Village Militia invites the brave—and the curious—to find out with Hauntings at the Fort, a special edition of the Militia's Evenings at the Fort program.

Beginning at dusk, approximately 5:30 p.m., guests will be led into the past for an evening of chilling tales inspired by Fort Phoenix's history, stories of the soldiers who once stood watch, and local legends passed down through the years.

Free Event, sign-up required. To register visit: <https://fairhavenvillage.militia.blogspot.com/p/coming-events.html>

Space may be limited, so those wishing to brave the night are encouraged to register when sign-ups open.

Run to Remember

The Annual LCpl Matthew Rodriguez 5K Run to Remember will be held on Sun., 10/25, at Fort Phoenix State Reservation, 100 Green St., Fairhaven, MA 02719, at 9 a.m. Register at TeamSmilingWarrior.org.

Pre-Registration fee (ends 10/23): Runners & Walkers, \$30; Active Military, \$25. Same-day registration +\$5.

For more info, call 774-306-6372, or email lauren@thesmilingwarrior.org.

Benefits The LCpl Matthew R. Rodriguez Memorial Foundation which was created in memory of LCpl Rodriguez, 19, a Fairhaven resident who was killed in Afghanistan on 12/11/13.

Yard Sale FR

Come shop with us Saturday, October 3 from 10 AM-3 PM at the Whitfield-Manjiro House, 11 Cherry Street in Fairhaven!

Hundreds of New, Used, Vintage items. All proceeds benefit the Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society and our mission of preserving history and promoting friendship and cultural exchange between the U.S.

HAPPS: cont'd on page 23



Northeast Maritime Institute Presents:

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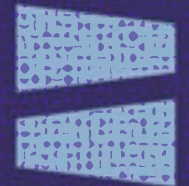
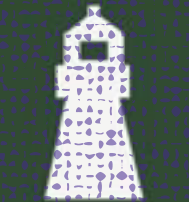
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15 Center St, Fairhaven, MA | nmi.edu/blog



Fairhaven resident finds seamless path from BCC to BSU

Press Release

When Elizabeth Pereira was deciding what to do after high school, she knew one thing: She wanted an affordable path to continue her education.

The Fairhaven native found that path close to home at Bristol Community College, where she graduated this year as the Class of 2026 valedictorian. This fall, she is continuing her education at Bridgewater State University through CC2BSU, a program that guarantees admission to BSU for students who earn their associate degree at Bristol or Massasoit Community College.

"It was local and super affordable," said Pereira, who chose Bristol Community College in part because of its proximity to home.

Pereira entered Bristol unsure of what she wanted to study, but during her time there she found her footing academically and became involved in campus life. She joined the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and had her artwork included in a juried art show.

As graduation approached, Pereira learned she was in the running for valedictorian.

"I honestly thought, 'what are the chances?'" she said.

When she was announced as Bristol Community College's Class of 2026 valedictorian, Pereira said the achievement felt both surreal and daunting.

"It not only reflects my own dedication, but also the unwavering support and encouragement I've received from my family, coworkers and teachers," she said.

Now a BSU student pursuing a major in business, Pereira is looking forward to getting involved on



Fairhaven resident, Elizabeth Pereira, Bristol Community College Class of 2026 valedictorian, is continuing her education at Bridgewater State University through CC2BSU. *Submitted photo.*

campus and meeting new people through classes and student organizations.

"I chose to continue my education at BSU because of its welcoming campus community, the highly affordable tuition, and for its commuter resources," she said.

Pereira is one of approximately 1,500 transfer students BSU welcomes each year. Through CC2BSU, eligible students who earn an associate degree at Bristol Community College or Massasoit Community College are guaranteed admission to BSU, creating a direct path from community college to a four-year degree.

For Pereira, the next step is about continuing a journey that began close to home.

"I'm looking forward to meeting new people through clubs, class, and by being on campus," she said.

Bridgewater State University is

Massachusetts' comprehensive public university south of Boston, offering undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 9,000 students. BSU is committed to providing an affordable, high-quality education and creating pathways that help students achieve their academic and career goals.

Learn more about BCC at <https://bristolcc.edu/>. Learn more about BSU at <https://www.bridgew.edu>

Community Colleges in Mass. are free for Mass. residents who have not yet earned a Bachelor's degree and meet a few other basic requirements, through two new programs: MassReconnect and MassEducate. Eligible students may also qualify for up to \$1,000 for books and supplies.

For more information about BCC call the enrollment center in New Bedford, 774-357-4002, or Fall River, 774-357-2590. any community college for more information.

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

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

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: 10/7, Tiverton Casino; 10/14, Hyannis Mall & Trader Joe's; 10/21, Providence Place Mall; 10/28, Warwick Mall; 11/4, Twin River Casino.

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.

Empowering Older Adults with Technology

1:30–3:30 Must bring your own device. Must call to sign up, 508-979-4029.

Oct. 19: Tips & Tricks for your smartphones and tablets.

Oct. 26: Catch the Fraudster

Nov. 2: Protecting your privacy

Nov. 16: Safe online shopping for the holidays.

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.

Oct. 5, *Arsenic & Old Lace*. Comedy/Crime. Mortimer Brewster, a Brooklyn writer of books on the futility of marriage, risks his reputation after he decides to tie the knot. Things grow complicated when he learns that his beloved maiden aunts Abby and Martha are serial murderers.

Oct. 19, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*. Mystery/Thriller. In a small American town, a diabolical circus and its demonic proprietor prey on the townsfolk. Dark's Pandemonium Carnival arrives in Green Town.

Pre-Order Your Cookbook!

Own a piece of your community's recipes from yesterday and today for tomorrow's table. See Jocelyn at the COA, \$15. Last day to pre-order your cookbook will be 11/4. Cookbooks will arrive 2 weeks after pre-order closing date. We will call when they come in.

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>

SPOOKFEST: HOUSE OF HOLLOWS

Join us for a night of Halloween fun for the whole community! October 23rd 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM @Fairhaven Recreation Center This is a FREE event and OPEN TO EVERYONE!! Enjoy: Costume Contest, Arts & Crafts, Treat and Special Guest Judges. Plenty of Halloween fun for all ages Come dressed in your favorite costume and get ready for an evening of spooky fun at the House of Hollows! Don't forget our Pumpkin decorating contest happening that night also! Carved, decorated—whatever you wish. FREE ADMISSION — EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

SKETCHYGOICHIE DRAW

Get ready to level up your creativity at SketchyGOichie DRAW! A high-energy digital art workshop

where kids can turn their ideas into awesome artwork using iPads and digital drawing tools! From drawing and rendering to color design, this workshop is packed with creative fun and hands-on learning. Perfect for kids who love art, technology, and making something amazing! Wednesday, November 19th, 5:30 PM –7:00 PM. Members: \$30 Non-Members: \$35 All materials are provided; just bring your imagination and get ready to create! Spots are limited, so grab yours now!

PINT-SIZED PICASSOS

Ages 3-5 Recreation Staff, Fairhaven Recreation Center Session B: Mon, Oct 19-Nov 9 (4 sessions) 10:00-10:45 AM Members: \$40 | Non-Members: \$50.

Join us for this messy pre-k art program and watch your little artists bloom as they paint, draw, and sculpt their way to becoming

creative and confident young individuals. Let the colors of imagination flourish in this enriching art adventure!

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

Garlic Butter Steaks

Two 6-oz. beef sirloin or ribeye steaks

1 tsp. garlic powder

3 tbsps olive oil

1 large yellow onion (thinly sliced)

1 red bell pepper (thinly sliced)

1 stick butter (softened)

3 gloves garlic (minced)

2 tps soy sauce

1 loaf sourdough bread (sliced & toasted

S&P

Sprinkle steaks with salt & pepper, garlic powder and 1 tbsp olive oil. Marinate for one hour.

In a heated skillet with 2 tbsps oil, saute onion and bell pepper until tender. Remove.

Melt butter in sauce pan over low heat. Add garlic and cook until fragrant. Remove from stove. Stir in soy sauce. Set aside.

Grill steaks until desired doneness. To serve, slice the steak across the grain, and let soak in warm garlic-butter mixture. Pile onion-pepper mixture over toast and top with sliced steaks.



seasons, it's bandannas, coats, boots — you name it. Lassie and Rintin-Tin never had to wear costumes, so why me?

Is there anything I can do to get my mom to stop, Frankie?

Camilla

Dear Camilla,

There's no reason you should accept wearing clothes. Run when you see her coming with an outfit. If she catches you, squirm and make it as hard as possible for her to dress you.

If that doesn't stop her, pee on her. My friend did this, and after a few

Dear Frankie

Dressing Up

Dear Frankie,
My mom insists on dressing me up for every holiday. If it isn't the reindeer costume, it's pink rabbit ears — and worst of all, the Halloween pumpkin outfit.

During off-

cleanups, her mom finally gave up.

Sometimes, Camilla, it requires extreme measures to get your point across.

Best, Frankie

© 2026 Geneva Woodruff

Dear Frankie is now available on video. See Frankie and Rufus discuss this letter at <https://tinyurl.com/du2p6znu>

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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Olde Tyme Holiday event revived

By Beth David
Editor

At its meeting on 9/28/26, the Fairhaven Select Board took several votes to allow the Old Tyme Holiday event to take place in and around town hall on 12/12/26.

The department that runs the event was eliminated due to budget constraints, so the Economic Development Committee, comprised completely of volunteers, has taken up the cause.

EDC Chairperson, Cathy Melanson, told the board that the event will be similar to prior years, with nonprofits located in town hall, and the other venues in the neighborhood independently planning to hold their events.

In the past, the Olde Tyme Holiday consisted of a variety of holiday festivities, including lots of opportunities to buy handmade items and food, join in on sing-alongs, and more. The Unitarian Church, the First Congregational Church, Northeast Maritime Institute, Masonic Lodge, and the Millicent Library have all had coinciding events, such as holiday shops, tours, and Santa visits.

Ms. Melanson said the nonprofits were very happy to sign on because it is a major fund-raiser for most of them. She also said that the other venues were all "on board," and would participate as in past years.

"People are very happy we're continuing it," she said.

The board made three positive votes: to authorize use of town hall, to authorize street closures, to authorize a one-day alcohol license.

The EDC will be discussing the event at future meetings, which are open to the public and posted on the town's website. Their next meeting is on 10/15, in Town Hall, at 5:30 p.m.

In another matter, the board approved a letter asking for increased state aid to support local budgets. The letter is written for other South Coast municipalities to sign on.

The board discussed strategy around when to send the letter, and had some wording changes.

There was also some discussion on whether or not to have the School Department or School Committee separately approve the letter.

The letter asks for more state aid

for schools (Chapter 70) and in unrestricted general government aid.

It also asks for a review and update of existing state formulas to reflect the actual costs facing communities.

The letter asks for the governor and legislature to "make increased and equitable state support for South Coast communities a priority in future budgets and legislative initiatives."

SB member, Rick Trapilo, and Town Administrator, Keith Hickey, will distribute the letter and try to get other SC communities to sign on.

In another matter, the board held a lengthy discussion around possibly choosing a new firm or firms for Town Counsel and Labor Counsel. Mr. Hickey said four firms responded to the RFP. He said he was waiting for some information from two of the

"We're in a pressure cooker right now," said Mr. Romano, adding that the community has spoken "loud and clear," and they want change.

firms, so board members did not have the proposals, but they did have a summary.

The board discussed interviewing the firms without knowing how much they proposed to charge for their services. Mr. Hickey said price is a factor, but comfort level with the firm or individuals in the firm might be more important.

SB Chairperson, Andrew Romano, said he thought the point was to save money, so how does it help not to know how much the firms charge. He also reminded everyone that he was against the whole idea from the start, because he wants to keep the current TC, Heather White, who has institutional knowledge, and he did not want to lose that.

"I'm honestly flabbergasted at what you just said," said Mr. Trapilo, adding that prejudging undermines the whole process.

He said he wanted to hear the presentations from all the firms.

The board went back and forth a

bit and in the end decided to invite the four firms to make a presentation with the board members not knowing their rates. The board will set a date to hear the presentations at a separate meeting or meetings.

The board tabled the discussion on creating an Artificial Intelligence use policy. SB member, Natalie Mello, said that after she put something together based on other policies she found, the town's IT department shared a policy they had written. The board will discuss it at the next meeting after they and department heads have a chance to review it and suggest changes.

The board also had a variety of discussions surrounding how the board interacts with departments. The issue clearly arose because Mr.

Trapilo has independently contacted the School Department, and subsequently, other departments looking for detailed budget information.

SB member, Pam Kuechler, said the School Department and town budgets have different statutory requirements. She said they should all be in collaboration, but they have to respect the statutory requirements.

"We have to work together," said Ms. Kuechler, who served on the School Committee for 15 years.

She said it is important to set the right expectations to the community. They should be working together, she said, not as individuals.

Ms. Kuechler said they will not always agree, but without the conversations, they will not get great resolutions down the road. In any case, it will not be easy.

Mr. Trapilo said the town is facing a systemic budget failure. He said he has simply been looking for information and has been frustrated at not getting it. So he sent letters directly to the school department.

"I stand by that," he said, adding that he does not know how to solve problems without information.

Mr. Trapilo also noted that he and Mr. Romano had a phone conversation about it and he was grateful for the clarification.

Mr. Trapilo said he had wanted the School Department to have the

SELECT: cont'd on page 22

Weekend nor'easter was a soaker

By Beth David
Editor

A relatively rare nor'easter dumped rain up and down the coast over the weekend, with New Bedford getting a whopping 7.49 inches in just a couple of days. Although the winds were not as bad as originally forecast, they did bring down some trees, which still have their leaves on them, making it easier to get toppled.

Wind gusts were mostly in the 50-60 MPH range, but did get up to 70 MPH in some places. Approximately 2200 lost power during the storm.

Fairhaven got 5.71 inches of rain,

Acushnet got 4.08".

All in all it was a pretty good storm that managed to get almost all outdoor events canceled. Most businesses stayed open.

At Off the Hook right next to West Island a group of hardy neighbors and other travelers decided to have a "hurricane party," although it wasn't quite a hurricane

"We're not going to give up on summer yet," said Jen Pease, who was there with her kids, and a few others, for a total of six kids and four adults, complete with coloring/activity books and other games.

She noted that the excursion was better than being cooped up "with this crew."

Nor'easters are named for their strong northeast winds as they move up the coast and spin counter clockwise. They usually come a little later in the fall and can cause widespread flooding and power outages.

Cape Cod got hammered, with erosion compromising houses on the shore. The storm churned up a crazy amount of sea foam that spread into streets in Scituate, and churned up beaches in Marshfield and in Maine.



ABOVE LEFT: The little skiff and the heavier lobster boat face in different direction as they both get pushed around by the wind at Hoppy's Landing in Fairhaven during a nor'easter on Saturday, 9/26/26. ABOVE RIGHT: The Pease and Barclay families pose for the local free sheet during their storm-day outing at Off the Hook. BELOW LEFT; Family members pose for the local free sheet during their storm-day outing BELOW RIGHT: Some friends and their faithful companion pose for the local free sheet. *Photos by Beth David.*



Town's EDC holds ribbon cutting at Krave Pouterie

By Beth David
Editor

One of Fairhaven's newest businesses is introducing the town to poutine, a Canadian specialty made with French fries, cheese curds and lots of other goodies for variety.

Economic Development Chairperson, Cathy Melanson, officially welcomed Krave Pouterie at a ribbon cutting on 9/24/26, saying that Fairhaven is happy to be getting new business, especially small businesses to come to town.

"We're here to tell everybody that we have a new business here, and we want ou to come and support them," said Ms. Melanson.

She said Fairhaven is a "wonderful little town."

Owner, Shelley Ring, said they have been open for about a month and are

"excited to get going."

She said poutine is a Canadian dish that came from Quebec in the 1950s.

It is, she said, the "unofficial dish" of Canada.

It is French fries, white cheddar

The gravy is so good. We
make it every morning
[Shelley Ring]

cheese curds and gravy.

"The gravy is so good," said Ms. Ring. "We make it every morning."

She described a couple of her

special variations, including her favorite, Smokey Swine, which includes pork. They also have a garlic parmesan crispy chicken.

"We're excited for you to come and try our poutine," said Ms. Ring.

Ms. Melanson said there were so many options, she would have to go every day to try them all.

Other variations include a Big Chik'n Mac, complete with special sauce; a "Golden Feva" poutine, with gold fever sauce; and side options.

Krave Pouterie is located at 2 Pequod Road on the corner of Alden Road, in the parking lot of Bask. They are open Thursday through Sunday. Hours are 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Thursday through Saturday; and noon to 6:30 on Sunday.

Find them on Facebook for updates, or to put in an order.



Members of the Fairhaven Economic Development Committee hold the ribbon while Shelley Ring, owner of Krave Pouterie, cuts it during a ribbon cutting for her business at 2 Pequod Road on 9/24/26. LEFT: Ms. Ring gestures as she speaks during the ribbon cutting ceremony. *Photos courtesy of FairhavenTV.com*

One seriously injured in Acushnet Motorcycle accident

Acushnet Fire Department Press
Release

Acushnet Police and Fire Departments responded to the intersection of South Main Street and Jean Street for a report of a motor vehicle versus motorcycle accident on Thursday evening, 9/24/26, at approximately 9:14 p.m. On arrival, first responders located a motorcycle lying in the roadway next to a vehicle and the lone rider, a 21-year-old male, on the

ground nearby. The victim was unresponsive at the scene and medical care was provided by members of both departments. The victim was stabilized and transported to St. Luke's Hospital Trauma Center in New Bedford, MA by Acushnet Fire & EMS Paramedics, where he was stabilized and subsequently transported to Rhode Island Hospital Trauma Center in Providence. The operator of the vehicle was trans-

ported to St. Luke's Hospital by Fairhaven Fire-EMS for further evaluation

South Main Street remained closed for several hours while members of the Acushnet Police Department and Massachusetts State Police CARS (accident reconstruction and investigation team) conducted an investigation of the incident.

The name of the victim is being withheld at this time pending the open investigation into the accident.

From our readers

My Promises Made, Promises Kept

As I promised during my campaign to serve as your Select Board representative, I believe Fairhaven needs a clear, disciplined, and fact-based strategy to address the Town's projected budget deficits, not simply a short-term fix.

I believe our approach should be built around three phases: Understand the Problem, Address the Immediate Shortfall, and Build a Sustainable Long-Term Financial Future.

Phase One: Get the Facts and Establish Financial Accountability

Before we can solve a financial problem, we need to fully understand it.

I directly took the initiative to request that our School Department leadership provide essential financial information to Town leadership so that we can better understand enrollment, staffing, expenditures, and the financial challenges facing our schools.

Likewise, I have requested that our Town Administrator request comparable financial requests of our Police, Fire, and BPW departments. These meetings are now proposed.

The similar information request includes:

- A three-year historical review of staffing and expenses
- Current staffing levels and organizational structures
- Identification of significant increases in operating costs
- A proactive examination of what a 3% reduction in each of the next three fiscal years could look like
- Proposed meetings with each department have been requested by our Town Administrator to openly discuss the information and potential solutions

We cannot responsibly make major financial decisions without first having a complete picture of where our TAX dollars are being spent.

That means looking at the School Department, Police, Fire, BPW, and Town Hall as one overall municipal financial picture.

Phase Two: Address the Immediate Budget Shortfall

Once we have the facts, the next step is to address the projected budget shortfall.

The objective should be to identify practical and measurable cost reduc-

tions, efficiencies, and revenue opportunities before asking taxpayers for additional money through a Proposition 2½ override.

This does not mean reducing essential services blindly. It means asking every department to participate in finding efficiencies and examining how services are delivered.

At the same time, I have drafted a South Coast petition to the Governor and Massachusetts Legislature seeking increased Chapter 70 funding and additional state support for municipalities. Hopefully, our Select Board will endorse this draft and petition all communities to sign on.

I consider this an important short-term opportunity to help close the financial gap, while recognizing that Fairhaven ultimately must address its own structural budget challenges.

Phase Three: Build a Sustainable Long-Term Financial Plan

The third phase is about changing the way we approach municipal finances so that Fairhaven is not continually confronted with the same structural deficits.

Our Budget Working Group now provides an important vehicle for this long-term work.

The Group can examine how Fairhaven operates and identify opportunities to fundamentally improve the Town's financial position over the next three to five years and beyond.

The goal I promised as a candidate is to build a multi-year balanced budget strategy, rather than addressing the deficit one year at a time.

Rick Trapilo, Fairhaven

Something to Seriously Consider

The question "What is a woman?" has generated an endless parade of definitions, some reasonable and others indefensible. A Supreme Court justice seemed to be baffled, bathroom use is a battleground, and major sports organizations reel within a circus atmosphere trying to operate by an honest definition of a woman. Given the current atmosphere and the media's appetite for money-making foolishness, my take is that there will be no end to it.

May I suggest another question that I believe is not only more fundamental, but will shed light in answering "What is a woman?"

Call this new question a "mandate." It's time for clarity by asking "What is man?" Not just "What is a man?", but "What is man?" This question has a solid biblical answer. It identifies the root rather than the fruit of the ongoing dilemma. God created man in His own image. Male and female He created them. He breathed life into the nostrils of Adam (man) and he became a living soul. From Adam's rib He created Eve ("mother of all living") to be Adam's fulfilling helpmate.

They were told by God to go and multiply. By God's standard and design therefore, "man" or what we refer to as "mankind", is comprised of both male and female. On the other hand, "A man" is a separate entity with identifiable genetic and biological distinctions from a woman. His role is to participate as a partner in the procreation process, be the family leader and take responsibility for its success or failure. His body size and shape can vary and his personality can reflect a wide range of sensitive, yet masculine attributes. A true helpmate will contribute vitally to the man's role.

There's no question that our current sex, gender, family, and community situation has been made twisted and confusing by the whims of our culture. The structure of a healthy community fashioned by God has been hijacked by the fallible notions of man and woman alike. Our selfishly corrupted ideas about the way things should work prevail in a warlike arena. Simply, we've drifted dangerously from God's format, and we're reaping what we've sown.

So, if "What's a woman?" remains the question of our day, we should draw our conclusion in the context of the questions "What is man?", and "What is a man?" We can take and trust in our Creator by His tenets that deal specifically with the question: "What is man?" The decision made equates to a life lived in blessing or one that smolders endlessly in strife. It's certainly something to seriously consider.

Steven J. Bouley, Fairhaven

Fairhaven Harbormaster Saved the Day

Huge shout-out to Fairhaven Harbor Master Tim Cox!

LETTERS: cont'd on page 17

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Become an AARP Tax Aide volunteer

Press Release

Tax season is still months away, but the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program is already busy recruiting volunteers for the upcoming tax season. AARP is the largest of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) and Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) programs in the nation, both IRS-supported initiatives. The program benefits low to moderate income families, primarily seniors, by providing free tax services. As site coordinator for the Fairhaven and New Bedford locations, I hear the stories every year, from seniors who cannot afford to pay someone to file their taxes and yet, the number of adults we can help is dependent on how many volunteers we are able to recruit, train and support. Even with locations in Fairhaven, Fall River, Mattapoisett, Marion, New Bedford, Rochester, and Westport, we turn people away every year.

This year we are looking for two types of volunteers. The first opportunity is to greet taxpayers as they arrive in the Fall River office, checking them in, handing out forms and otherwise acting in an administrative

capacity. All that is required is a CORI check and to attend the new volunteer orientation on December 1st.

The second role is as a volunteer tax preparer, needed at all of our sites. Volunteer tax preparers work directly with clients to prepare and file returns. Their backgrounds are varied. While some do have backgrounds in quantitative disciplines such as finance or engineering, others do not. No tax experience is required because volunteers receive extensive training, culminating in IRS certification. The training begins in December and runs through January. Volunteers are then paired with an experienced preparer when tax season kicks off in February. The majority of volunteers work two half-day shifts a week with flexible scheduling available to fit a variety of needs.

When asked why people commit to such an intensive volunteer program, the refrain is unanimous — because they enjoy helping people and having fun while doing it. Those interested can learn more and apply at aarpfoundation.org/TaxaideVolunteer.

For those who are interested in receiving help from Tax-Aide, calls for

appointments will be accepted starting the second week of January. Low to moderate income residents can call the local Councils on Aging in Fairhaven, Mattapoisett, Marion, New Bedford, Rochester and Westport. To make an appointment in Fall River, taxpayers must come to Government center from 9-12, Monday to Friday. You do not need to be a town resident to make an appointment at a given location. In fact, since spots in the larger towns fill quickly, residents may need to also call COA's in other towns to secure a spot.

One last thing to note: Residents who have been told they don't need to file taxes may want to make an appointment anyway as they may be eligible for financial relief via the Massachusetts Senior Circuit Breaker program. This program provides a refundable tax credit to help seniors, age 65 and older, to help offset rent and property taxes paid on a principal Massachusetts residence. The program was recently expanded by Governor Healey to offset rising property taxes and rents.

Won't you volunteer to help a neighbor today?



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Thank you for reading the *Neighb News*.

ST. GELAIS: cont'd from page 18
at a time," St. Gelais said. "The choices we make today shape our world tomorrow, and I'm asking the people of the 8th Bristol District for the opportunity to stand with them and work for them at the State House."

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ESTATE/YARD SALES

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LETTERS: cont'd from page 14

I want to publicly thank Harbor Master Tim Cox for completely saving the day for my family. Before I even arrived at the dock with the boat, Tim was already there helping my daughter safely back up the truck and trailer to the water.

When I did get to the ramp, the wind was blowing us right toward the rocks and our shifter broke.

Tim didn't miss a beat. He stepped in with quick thinking and calm control to help us get the boat out safely. He directed me to throw him a line at the stern and pulled me in where I could get onto the trailer. He even got in the water like it was nothing.

Without him I wouldn't have been able to get the boat out of the water. I just honestly can't thank him enough.

We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated, kind, and professional person looking out for our community.

If you see Tim around the harbor, please give him a big wave and a thank you!

Greg Desroches, Fairhaven

Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven

Board of Appeals

Tues., 10/6, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Assessors

Thurs., 10/8, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Board of Health

Wed., 10/7, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 10/5, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Commission on Disability

Thurs., 10/8, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Parks Workshop

Wed., 10/21, Town Hall, 6 p.m.
With SRPEDD to discuss public parks and uses

School Committee

Wed., 10/14, FHS Media Ctr., 6:30

Select Board

Tues., 10/13, Town Hall, 6 p.m.
Wed., 10/14, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Acushnet

Conservation Comm

Wed., 9/30, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Selectboard

Wed., 9/30, Town Hall, 4:30 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Oct. 2026		HIGH a.m. p.m.	LOW a.m. p.m.	
Thursday	1	---	1206	0452*	1734
Friday	2	0037	1309	0541	1834
Saturday	3	0142	1413	0646	2003
Sunday	4	0245	1514	0817	2147
Monday	5	0349	1620	0958	2328
Tuesday	6	0458	1728	1153	---
Wednesday	7	0559	1822	0021	1248
Thursday	8	0647	1907	0101	1335
Friday	9	0728	1949	0133	1420
Saturday	10	0808	2030	0157	1501
Sunday	11	0849	2111	0218	1525
Monday	12	0930	2153	0245	1538
Tuesday	13	1012	2235	0316	1559
Wednesday	14	1054	2318	0349	1627
Thursday	15	1139	---	0423	1659
Friday	16	0007	1231	0459	1737
Saturday	17	0104	1328	0540	1828
Sunday	18	0201	1423	0637	1942

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

Ouellette announces re-election run in state's 8th Bristol Race



S o m e people enter p u b l i c service to m a k e speeches, I got into p u b l i c service to s o l v e problems.

For more than twenty years, I had the privilege of serving Westport on the Selectboard and SRPEDD. I spent thirty years working in the Dartmouth and Acushnet Public Schools. I served my community as a reserve police officer and a call firefighter. All those experiences taught me a lot about what makes a community work.

They also taught me that very few problems get solved by one person. You listen, bring the right people to the table, then you roll up your sleeves and get to work. That is the approach I brought to Beacon Hill when you gave me the opportunity to serve as your State Representative, I am proud to announce that I am running for reelection.

When I first ran for this office, I told

you that I wouldn't be starting from scratch. I had spent decades working with municipal leaders, state officials, regional organizations, educators, first responders, businesses, and residents. I believed those relationships and that experience could help me get to work quickly for our district.

Over my first term, I've had the opportunity to put that belief into practice. I've worked at building more relationships that bring state resources home to our communities, infrastructure improvements, schools, and public safety. Investing time with our seniors and veterans, supporting local businesses and working families, and ensuring the residents of the 8th Bristol District have someone on Beacon Hill who understands the challenges they face.

I've secured important investments for communities throughout the district, including \$185K in my first term, and another \$2.5M bond bill funding. I've filed legislation and worked with Representatives whom I share communities with. Teamwork passes bills and brings more money to our communities. That's the work I'm most proud of. But I also know

that a State Representative's job can't be measured only by a list of bills, votes, or dollars in a budget.

Relationships are all stronger, work is underway, and we can deliver even more for the people of the 8th Bristol District. There are opportunities we didn't have two years ago that we are positioned to pursue today. After serving my first term, I have an even better understanding of where the state government can help our communities, and where we need to push it to do better.

When I first ran for State Representative, we asked you to "Believe in Steve". You put your trust in me, and I've never taken that lightly. This time, I'm not asking you simply to believe in what I might do. I'm asking you to look at what we've started together and where we can take it next. I'm proud of what we've accomplished and I'm excited about what's still possible. So, yes, we're still Believin' in Steven.

I respectfully ask for your vote and the opportunity to continue serving as your State Representative.

Steven J. Ouellette

Acushnet's St. Gelais gets on ballot in state's 8th Bristol Race



Jesse St. Gelais of Acushnet has officially secured the Republican nomination for State Representative in Massachusetts'

8th Bristol District after winning the September 1 Republican primary.

St. Gelais received 1,860 votes, or 63.5 percent of the vote, defeating Christopher Thrasher, who received 1,067 votes, according to official Massachusetts election results.

"I am incredibly humbled and grateful for the trust the voters of the 8th Bristol District have placed in me," said St. Gelais. "This campaign has never been about me. It is about the people who live here, work here, raise their families here, and are asking for a government that works as hard for them as they work every day."

A longtime Acushnet resident and private-sector insurance professional, St. Gelais has centered his campaign

on affordability, government accountability and transparency, stronger support for cities and towns, and protecting local control.

St. Gelais first sought the 8th Bristol District seat in 2024 as an unenrolled candidate, receiving more than 4,200 votes in a five-candidate general election. He returned to the campaign trail in 2026 as a Republican, emphasizing his private-sector background and his belief that working families need stronger representation on Beacon Hill.

"I have spent my career in the real world, working with families, homeowners, businesses, and municipalities and seeing firsthand what rising costs and government decisions can mean for people trying to make ends meet," St. Gelais said. "People are looking for results, not excuses. They want someone willing to listen, show up, ask the difficult questions, and fight for the communities we call home."

Among the issues St. Gelais has identified as priorities are reducing the cost pressures facing working families and seniors, addressing high energy costs, increasing and reforming

state aid to municipalities, strengthening transparency and accountability in state government, and ensuring that decisions affecting local communities include a meaningful local voice.

With the Republican primary concluded, St. Gelais will face Democratic incumbent State Representative Steven Ouellette in the November 3 general election.

"The primary is behind us, and now the real race begins," St. Gelais said. "Whether you are a Republican, Democrat, independent, or have never cared much about politics, my commitment is the same: I will work for you. I believe we can bring common sense, accountability, and balance back to Beacon Hill while putting the people of this district first."

St. Gelais added that his campaign will continue meeting directly with residents throughout the district in the weeks leading up to Election Day.

"I'm going to keep doing what I've done from the beginning, showing up, meeting people, listening, and earning their trust one conversation

ST. GELAIS: cont'd on page 17

Montigny announces re-election run in 2nd Bristol & Plymouth



Hello
Acushnet
and Fair-
haven.

As elec-
tion day ap-
proaches, I
would like
to take this
opportunity
to once again

ask for your vote on Tuesday, November 3rd. As your State Senator I have always put the needs of our community first, regardless of whether that position complies with Beacon Hill leadership. Too many of our seniors, families, veterans and hardworking taxpayers are grappling with out-of-control living expenses, including utility bills, taxes, and healthcare.

Throughout my legislative career I have pushed back against corporate utilities. As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Post Audit and Oversight, I launched an investigation into their costly pipeline repair program, and the Senate has since joined my call to eliminate this inflated charge

on your home heating bill. Despite this progress, the most recent energy bill lacked enough immediate savings and I voted against it.

Our healthcare system has been raided by corporate greed and the insidious lobbying culture dominating Beacon Hill. Private equity has no place in your care, and I will continue to push back on these special interests. Similarly, I will continue to hold shoddy nursing home owners accountable and ensure that new consumer protections for assisted living residents are implemented.

To help with your household budget, I have voted to keep your tax rates down. I voted against increasing the sales tax from 5 to 6.25 percent and I joined bipartisan efforts to suspend the state's gasoline tax long before the current election cycle. Most recently, I stood firm against a proposed increase to your motor vehicle excise tax. I also supported bipartisan efforts to double the personal income tax exemption and to help workers pocket more of their overtime and earned gratuities.

Exposing wasteful spending and

the cozy relationships on Beacon Hill that enable this behavior is vital for keeping our costs down. This year I was proud to lead a Senate Post Audit investigation into the failed highway service plaza bidding process. By partnering with the Inspector General, we were able to prevent a deal that would have cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars in unnecessary costs. I also voted for the audit ballot question and against legislation that sought to interfere with the voters' clear directive.

I strongly supported the Student Opportunity Act and the Fair Share Amendment that increased state support for our cities and towns. I've also earmarked hundreds of millions of state dollars into this region for major projects like Southcoast Rail, a revived downtown New Bedford, port infrastructure, and numerous capital improvements across Fairhaven. My seniority as Dean of the Senate allows me to deliver vast and necessary resources to our community while still maintaining my longtime independence.

In closing, I have lived my entire

MONTIGNY: cont' d on page 22

Fairhaven's McConnell gets on ballot to challenge Montigny



Greetings
Friends and
Neighbors

I am writ-
ing to thank
all the Re-
publican
and unen-
rolled voters
who chose a
Republican

primary election ballot on September 1st and cast their vote to nominate me, Robert S. McConnell, to appear on the November 3rd general election ballot for Second Bristol and Plymouth District State Senate. I feel truly humbled and honored for your support. You have nominated the first Republican nominee for this Senate seat since 1990. Congratulations on finally giving our District a choice on the ballot.

I am Bob McConnell appearing on the ballot as Robert S. McConnell. The Second Bristol and Plymouth District includes the Towns of Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Mattapoisett and the City of New Bedford.

As the chairman of the Fairhaven

Republican Town committee and the elected Republican State committee-
man for our District I am very active in our community. I serve as a POST-certified Massachusetts Deputy Sheriff with the Plymouth County Sheriff's Office where I have been employed since 1987. Since 1982 I've maintained a Massachusetts nursing license. I am an active member of the New Bedford Rifle and Revolver Club and the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. As a trustee, choir and church member of the Acushnet-Wesley United Methodist Church my passion is service to others.

This political campaign is not my first, I've demonstrated persistence and perseverance running for office in every election cycle since 2022. The issues which have compelled me to seek office are many, and many of you I'm certain are equally motivated to take action. I ask you to please exercise your most essential right to get out and vote.

I am, as many of you are, outraged that our First Amendment right to petition the government for redress of grievances are being derailed or

ignored. In 2024 Massachusetts voters adopted question one by 72% which expressly authorized the State Auditor to Audit the Legislature. This petition and overwhelming voter-approved demand for a legislative audit have been to date denied and ignored.

The emergency preamble for Chapter 135 of the "An Act modernizing firearm laws (H4885) signed by Governor Healey on October 2nd, 2024 making the law effective that day was an unnecessary urgency. I believe this action was intended to prevent petition signers and legislative opponents from suspending the law while pursuing a ballot initiative to repeal it. This action cannot stand. Vote NO on ballot question 9.

This tyrannical act alone has been described as "The greatest attack on civil rights in modern American history". The imposed energy cost surcharges, the unfunded housing mandates on our cities and towns, and the increasing intransigence of the disastrous Healey administration

McCONNELL: cont'd on page 22

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Oktoberfest

Sat., 10/3, 3 p.m.–midnight, Pope's Island Marina, New Bedford. Tickets: \$20 at the door. \$15 presale online

Join us for The 20th Annual NB OKTOBERFEST presented by the Southcoast Business Alliance (SCBA).

Featuring live bands and DJ, 20+ breweries, food trucks, engaging activities, and more.

Proceeds support at-risk youth & educational based charities along the Southcoast.

Artists Reception

Creative Catalysts returns for its second year with *The Lens of Literature*, a multidisciplinary exhibition exploring what happens when artists from different creative disciplines come together around a shared source of inspiration.

The public is invited to the opening reception of Creative Catalysts: The Lens of Literature on Sat., 10/3, from 4–6 p.m. at Groundwork Gallery, 1213 Purchase St., New Bedford, MA. (Enter via Maxfield St.) The exhibition will be on view through November 29.

Visit midoricreativity.com/creativecatalysts

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Dartmouth, New Bedford, and Westport Cultural Councils, local agencies which are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

AHA!

Thursday, October 8th. Tunes, Treats & Creative Streets! Here's a preview of what's happening:

Kick off the 30th anniversary of the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park! Pick up a 30th Anniversary Collector Card at the Visitor Center, paint it with watercolors, then fill in your card by getting it stamped at the park and partner sites throughout downtown New Bedford. (Note: The park's celebration continues all month long and through November's AHA! Night!)

As part of the park's 30th anniversary celebration, the Nathan and Polly Johnson House will be open to guests from 5:30–7 pm, courtesy of the New Bedford Historical Society. At this Underground Railroad 'station,' Nathan and Polly Johnson, prominent African American

abolitionists in New Bedford, sheltered many people escaping slavery. It was here, in September 1838, that Frederick Douglass found freedom, a new name, and with his wife Anna, his first home in freedom. (Bring your Collector Card to get it stamped here after you explore this important place!)

See all events at <https://ahanewbedford.org/next-aha/>

Science Cafe

Please join us for New Bedford Science Café, Tues., 10/6, from 6 to 8 p.m., The Last Round Bar & Grille, 908 Purchase St., New Bedford. Open to everyone. Free, save for the beer!

Our guest Kevin Stokesbury, Dean of the School for Marine Science and Technology (SMASST) at UMassD, will discuss "High-Tech Leap: Catching The Right Fish."

Back in 2012, Kevin's team developed the SMASST open cod-end system, a technology that is evolving into a highly efficient way of collecting data on the location & abundance of cod & other groundfish. When a net is towed, a video camera captures information about the fish passing through it. Kevin will describe the next phase: Helping fishermen to use the video system during normal fishing operations so they can see what's in their trawls in real time and avoid unwanted bycatch. This could help them avoid catching cod by mistake—and help restore the fishery, which has been in decline for decades.

Free parking in rear of building.

Disney At The Z

The Oscar-winning *Coco* is back on the big screen! The Z is pleased to present a family-friendly screening of the 2017 Disney/Pixar animated film, Sun., 10/4, at 2 p.m., at the Zeiterion, 684 Purchase St., New Bedford. Tickets: \$12, at <https://www.zeiterion.org/events/coco>

Coco features an all-Latino cast and follows Miguel, a 12-year-old Mexican boy who dreams of becoming a musician despite his family's strict, generations-old ban on music. When Miguel is accidentally transported to the Land of the Dead, he seeks the help of his deceased musician great-great-grandfather to return him to his family and reverse

their ban on music.

On October 17, The Z presents Mariachi Herencia de México as part of their Día de Muertos tour, which features an inspiring medley from *Coco*. *Coco* is rated PG. 105 minutes.

Arrive early for free face painting!

Coco is more than a movie, it's an experience! Join face paint artists Chakira Gonsalves and Maia Livramento before the movie for a "Día de Muertos" ("Day of the Dead") inspired face painting to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. Free! 1PM in the Baker Family Lobby.

SAVE THE DATES

Pork Roast Dinner & Raffle

Harvest pork roast dinner for all! Sat., 10/17, 5 p.m., First Congregational Church at Lunds Corner, 2195 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford. All welcome. Featuring dinner and raffle.

Tickets \$15 adult, 4 for \$50, children under 5 free

Harvest Craft Fair

Bring your family and friends to the 2026 Harvest Craft Fair sponsored by the Whaling City Catholic Collaborative and held indoors at the Holy Name Parish Center, 121 Mt. Pleasant Street in New Bedford on Saturday, October 17 from 9:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 18 from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

In addition to 28 Crafter's tables, the Fair will feature Basket Raffles, a Harvest Auction, the Women's Guild's Used Jewelry table, a huge 50/50 Raffle with separate Raffle Trees for Scratch Tickets and Gift Cards and a Silent Auction.

The Famous Holy Name Women's Guild Kitchen will be open with many favorites, including French Meat pie, Linguica, Caçõila and Chow Mein sandwiches, sea food and clam chowders, clam cakes and fries and of other tasty snacks. The Bake Sale tables and the Kandy Corner will feature lots and lots of home-made pies, cakes, pastry and candies.

Back this year will be a Children's Activity area with games and fun sponsored by the Parish's Youth Group and Scout Troop 24 will be taking pre-orders for their hand-made Christmas Wreaths.

Admission is the donation of one non-perishable item for our Food Pantry and the Craft Fair will be open rain or shine.

Harvest Fest

South Coast Harvest Festival. Fall family fun for everyone! The date has been changed due to an expected nor'easter. The new dates are Oct. 2-4, The Westport Fairgrounds, 200 Pine Hill Road, Westport: Fri., 10/2, 3-8 p.m.; Sat., 10/3, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sun., 10/4, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Autumn themed event featuring live music, fall food, an artisan market, fall garden displays, and antique trucks. Tickets can be purchased at the event and are \$10 for adults; \$5 for children 5 to 12, and free for children younger than 5.

Visit <https://southcoastharvestfestival.com>

In-Home Flu Vacc.

In-home flu vaccinations are available to residents of Acushnet, Fairhaven, and New Bedford who are 18 years of age or older and have difficulty getting to a community vaccination location.

Contact the New Bedford Health Department to schedule an appointment or for more information, 508-991-6199.

At Acushnet Library

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

- Thursday, October 1 @ 6 pm, Readers' Group. This month's selection is *Between Two Kingdoms* by Suleika Jaouad.
- Saturday, October 10 @ 12 pm - IN THE WHALE - The Greatest Fish Story Ever Told - a feature-length film about a Cape Cod lobster diver who was swallowed by a whale and lived to tell the tale, followed by an exclusive Q&A with the director, David Abel. Space is limited; registration is required.
- Monday, October 19 @ 2 pm - Movie Matinee - *You, Me & Tuscany*, rated PG-13, 1 hr. 45 min.
- Monday, October 19, 2026, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm - Knitting & Crocheting Group

Bike Run

Smoke Chrome for Veterans motorcycle run, Sun., 10/11, American Legion Post 265, 71 Hope St., Acushnet. Ride, eat, rock, give

back. \$25 for ride & BBQ, \$15 for BBQ only. Public welcome. Kickstands up at 11 a.m. Live music starting at 2 p.m. Rain or shine. Featuring Hogs for Homes smoking pork, raffles, gift cards and more. Proceeds benefit Homes for Our Troops.

ORR Gala

The Old Rochester Regional Tri-Town Education Foundation invites the community to attend its inaugural Fall Gala on Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026, at Century House in Acushnet.

The evening includes a cocktail hour and curated silent auction, featuring unique local experiences, vacation getaways and premium goods donated by regional businesses.

The gala will raise funds to strengthen educational opportunities for students and educators across Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester. Tickets may be purchased at <https://gofan.co/event/6711869>. Early registration is encouraged, as tickets are limited.

Proceeds from the event will directly benefit the Foundation's grant program, which funds innovation, specialized arts and science initiatives and experiential learning projects that enhance curriculum.

Spictoberfest

Spictoberfest, Boston's fall spicy harvest festival, returns Sat., 10/3, from 11 AM-6 PM at Boston City Hall Plaza's North Terrace. Launched in 2025, the free festival celebrates spice, flavor and culture with local food and small businesses, chef demonstrations, the "Are You Brave Enough" Hot Sauce Challenge, live music and dance, and the "Taste of the Harvest" Bar Lounge featuring farm-forward cocktails curated by Kyisha Davenport of BarNoir Boston.

The festival brings together chefs, hot sauce makers, urban farmers, craft beverage artisans, musicians and small businesses for a celebration of Boston's diverse food and cultural communities. Spictoberfest also spotlights locally grown peppers and fall harvest ingredients while creating opportunities for local entrepreneurs, farmers and emerging chefs.

Free Admission; VIP Tickets Available; Cash Bar TICKETS: (<https://Spictoberfest.eventbrite.com>)

WEB: www.Spictoberfest.com

At Mattapoisett Lib.

The following events are being held at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow St., 508-758-4171. Accessible.

Book Sale

The Friends of the Mattapoisett Library invite book lovers of all ages to their upcoming Fall Book Sale on Saturday October 3rd from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM in the Library Community Room at 7 Barstow Street, Mattapoisett. This event is a great opportunity to find gently used books at affordable prices while supporting the library's valuable programs and activities.

Book donations accepted on Thurs., 10/1 and Fri., 10/2 from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM. Community members are encouraged to donate gently used books. Jewelry will also be accepted for the annual winter jewelry sale.

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

Rowing Challenge

Calling all kayaks, canoes, row boats, dories, gigs and whaleboats

The Buzzards Bay Rowing Club will host its annual "Onset Rowing Challenge" on Saturday, October 3rd at 1:00 PM. Join us at Onset Beach!

Registration for the three-mile race begins at 11:00 AM, the day of the race. The race will begin and end at beautiful Onset Beach in Onset, MA. To pre-register, visit the Buzzards Bay Rowing Club web site at www.buzzardsbayrowing.org. The entry fee is \$40 per person if received on or before 9/20 and \$45 if received after 9/20 and includes water, swag for rowers and refreshments following the race. Awards will be presented to winners in various categories of craft including kayaks, sculls, coxed boats and rowboats.

Come on down and join the fun.

For more information, registration form and directions, visit our website www.buzzardsbayrowing.org.

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 Town Clerk

NOTICE OF APPROVAL OF BYLAW AMENDMENTS

The following bylaw amendments, adopted at the Fairhaven Annual Town Meeting convened on May 2, 2026, have been approved by the Office of the Attorney General and are published herewith in accordance with G.L. c. 40, §32.

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

ARTICLE 20 REVOLVING FUNDS

By majority vote, Town Meeting voted to authorize or re-authorize the following Revolving Accounts under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 53 E ½ and to amend General Bylaws Section 2-6 to add new revolving funds under the following terms:

Revolving Fund	Authorized to Spend	Revenue Source	FY27 Limit
Hazardous Materials	Fire Chief	Disposal fees/charges	\$100,000
Sustainability	Sustainability Committee	Fees/charges	\$10,000
Hoppy's Landing	Select Board and/or Town Administrator	Fees/charges from users of Hoppy's Landing	\$25,000
Town Hall Auditorium	Town Administrator	Town Hall Auditorium rental fees	\$5,000
Park Utilities	Board of Public Works	User fees	\$2,000
Shellfish Mitigation	Marine Resources	Mitigation fees	\$25,000
Mooring Fees	Marine Resources	Mooring fees	\$4,000
Mattress Recycling	Board of Health/	Fees from mattress disposal	\$3,000
Hoarding Remediation	Board of Health	Revenue from textile recovery boxes	\$2,000
Supportive Social Day Program	Council on Aging Director	Receipts reserved for appropriation for supportive social day	\$250,000
Roger A. Grimshaw Park	Council on Aging Director	Receipts from events at Grimshaw Park	\$5,000

ARTICLE 25 AMEND BYLAWS CHAPTER 169 §13 REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE

By majority vote, Town Meeting voted to amend Chapter 169-13 Removal of snow and ice by striking some of the existing language as indicated in strikethrough, or adding language as indicated in bold/underlined, as follows: § 169-13 Removal of snow and ice.

The tenant, occupant, owner or agent of any building or lot of land bordering on any street, lane, square or public place shall not allow or permit any accumulation of snow or ice to remain on the sidewalk adjacent to said building or lot of land within **48 hours of snow event**. Failure to comply with the order **will result in a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100)**.

ARTICLE 27 CITIZENS PETITION – Amend Bylaws c. 56-13

By majority vote, Town Meeting voted to amend Division 1: Bylaws, Part 1: Administration, Chapter 56 by adding "Subsection 56-13 Service by Elected Officials" An elected official shall serve only on the board or body to which they have been duly elected. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an elected official may serve on additional boards, committees or commissions solely in the capacity of a liaison, provided such an appointment is made by the elected officials appointing or governing board. An elected official serving as a liaison shall not be considered a voting member of such board, committee or commission unless otherwise expressly authorized by law or bylaw. An elected official appointed or elected pursuant to this section shall continue to serve in such capacity until the earlier of their next reappointment or re-election, unless sooner removed in accordance with applicable law or bylaw. Town Meeting Members are not considered elected officials with regard to this bylaw.

ARTICLE 28 CITIZENS PETITION – Amend Bylaws c. 56-14

By majority vote, Town Meeting voted to amend Division 1: Bylaws, Part 1: Administration, Chapter 56 by adding "Subsection 56-14 Service by Appointed Officials" An individual who is not an elected official may seek appointment to and serve on no more than two (2) boards, committees or commissions concurrently, unless otherwise authorized by a specific vote of the appointing authority. Any individual appointed pursuant to this section shall remain in their appointed capacity until the earlier of their next reappointment or re-election, unless sooner removed in accordance with applicable law or bylaw.

Respectfully submitted, Elisabeth E. Horan, Fairhaven Town Clerk
FNN: 9/24/26, 10/1/26

TOWN OF ACUSHNET

Notice is hereby given under Chapter 138, Section 15 of the MA General Laws that an open Board of Selectmen's Meeting will be held at the Acushnet Town Hall, which is located at 122 Main Street, Acushnet, MA, in the meeting room on Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 4:30 pm. to approve a Transfer of License for an existing Package Store License, Acushnet Wine and Spirits Inc. dba Scuttlebutts premises consists of one floor, 2,876 square feet across three rooms. There is one entrance and three exits, numbered 590 Main Street, Acushnet, MA 02743.

Board of Selectmen
Kevin Gaspar, Sr., Chairman
Robert Hinckley, Member
Ryan Rezendes, Member
FNN, 10/1/26, 10/8/26

Support the Food Pantry



This bin is in the Walnut Street lobby of the Millicent Library in Fairhaven; another bin is at Stop & Shop, and one is at the Acushnet Library. All food goes to the Shepherd's Pantry, 1215 Main Street, Acushnet (508-

763-9289). The Pantry spends more than \$5,500 each month to keep the shelves stocked. It serves more than 120 families each week.

Tax deductible donations may be sent to Shepherd's Pantry, PO Box 760, Fairhaven, MA 02719.

McCONNELL: cont'd on page 22

and supermajorities in the House and Senate need to be challenged.

Political competition is a sign of a healthy representative democracy. Your support of my campaign will not be in vain and indeed your vote will send a powerful "people's message" to Beacon Hill. I will be most grateful to serve you.

MONTIGNY: cont' d on page 22

life in this district and hear daily of the struggles and concerns facing our friends, family, and neighbors. I put this frustration into action even if it means voting against leadership. I hope to continue this work and respectfully ask for your continued support on November 3rd.

Thank you, Mark

SELECT: cont'd from page 11

budget discussion with the SB in a September meeting. He said they need to have the discussion soon. The School Department is the largest budget, taking up about 40% of the town's operating budget.

He said the problem is not going to go away.

Mr. Romano said he wanted to make it clear he was not keeping anything off the agenda, he was just postponing it. He had received some correspondence from School Committee members about the correspondence and questioning if it came from the board.

He said he cannot tell Mr. Trapilo what to do.

"You are an elected member," said Mr. Romano. "The only person you

answer to is the voters."

He added, though, that as SB members, they cannot "divorce" themselves from the board.

"We're in a pressure cooker right now," said Mr. Romano, adding that the community has spoken "loud and clear," and they want change.

"We are tasked with figuring it out," said Mr. Romano. "It's going to get worse before it gets better."

He said they will disagree, it will get "spirited," but they will move on and do what is best for the community.

Don't forget to tell
our advertisers you
saw their ads in the
Neighb News!

Fairhaven SB to hold meeting for appointments, D/L: 10/8

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Select Board will hold a meeting on Wednesday, 10/14/26, at 6 p.m. in Town Hall to review and make appointments for all committees and boards. It will be the first round of appointments since the bylaw passed limiting the number of boards a resident can serve on.

The new bylaws restricts elected officials from serving on any board other than the one they were elected to, unless they are appointed by that board to serve in a liaison capacity. Liaisons do not have a vote.

Appointed officials may serve on only two boards or committees, but

the Select Board can vote to override or make an exception.

All appointed committees from Art Curator to Zoning Board of Appeals, have some positions that will be appointed on the 14th.

Any currently serving official whose term is up for reappointment in 2026, must submit a new volunteer application on the town's website, or contact the Select Board's office to get help with the application process.

Many of the boards are one-year appointments, so all the positions will be reconsidered.

At its meeting on 9/28/26, SB members encouraged individuals to submit applications even if they think

a particular board has no opening. Some sitting members may choose not to apply, said SB Chairperson, Andrew Romano, so there could be an opportunity.

Deadline to apply is October 8 to be considered at the 10/14 meeting.

The complete list is available at <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/volunteer-for-a-board-or-committee/>.

Visit <https://fairhaven-ma.gov/volunteer-opportunities/> for the online application, or submit a letter of interest by email to Selectboard@Fairhaven-MA.gov; or mail to Select Board Office, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719; call 508-979-4023, ext. 9102 with any questions.

HAPPS: cont'd from page 5

and Japan.

Featuring new, used, vintage arts, quilts, jewelry, collectibles, holiday, scarfs, books, decor, and much, much more, including Japanese items. Come find a treasure and support a great cause.

Visit <https://whitfield-manjiro.org/>

Vendors Wanted

North Fairhaven Open Air Markets FIRST FALL FEST on 10/24 from noon to 5!! We are so excited.

If you would like to be a vendor, please email us ASAP at NorthFairhavenMarket@gmail.com. Space is limited, so act fast!!!!

SAVE THE DATES: Bike Path Ribbon Cutting DATE CHANGE

Phoenix Bike Trail Ribbon Cutting, Sat., 10/17, 11 a.m., Main and South Streets, Fairhaven. Special guest, State Rep. Mark Sylvia. Celebrate the resurfacing and other improvements recently completed. Refreshments. All are welcome. Sponsored by the Fairhaven Economic Development Committee and the Fairhaven Board of Public Works.

Fairhaven Parks Workshop

Wed., 10/21, Fairhaven Town Hall Auditorium, 40 Center St., 6-8 p.m. with SRPEDD.

The Town of Fairhaven has been working with SRPEDD and BETA Group to assess the community's existing parks and is looking for your input to help shape their future.

The workshop will include a brief presentation open discussion interactive activities. Residents can share opinions on Fairhaven's parks: what they value, what could be improved, and what they would like to see in the future.

If you have questions or comments, please email BPW@Fairhaven-ma.gov

Fall Fest & Horribles Parade

Bring the whole family and celebrate fall with us at the North Fairhaven Open Air Market Fall Fest at Livesey Park in Fairhaven, corner of Glenhaven and Parker, on Sat., 10/24, noon to 5 p.m.

Enjoy pumpkin painting, a bounce house, local vendors, music, delicious food, costumes, and plenty of family fun. Free to attend. Costumes are encouraged! Bring the kids, invite your family and friends, and join us for a fun fall day together! We'll end the celebration with the Halloween Horribles Costume Parade at 5 PM!

Academy Building/ Museum Open

It's the perfect time to reopen the doors of the Academy Building and invite you to explore Fairhaven's rich history. We will be open every Saturday, from 11-2, through the end of November, at 141 Main Street, on the West Lawn of Fairhaven High School. The museum is free to all and donations are much appreciated.

Did you know that the Academy

Building was built in 1798 as a private school and opened as the New Bedford Academy in 1800? .

You can view one of the preserved classrooms on the first floor. Be sure to go up to the 2nd floor to visit the Fairhaven Historical Society Museum while there!

Find us at <https://www.facebook.com/HistoricalSocietyFairhaven/>

Calling all Halloween Yards



Want to share your Halloween expertise with your neighbors?

Send pictures of your yard to the *Neighb News* and we'll share them with our readers

in our annual Halloween Trail issue on 10/22. Or call us at 508-979-5593 and we'll try to swing by and take a picture. Email: to NeighbNews@comcast.net; USPS: 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719. **Deadline: Friday, 10/16.**

YAHAAHAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHA



Gold & Silver Buying Event

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Saturday, October 10, 11am-3pm

WIN – Top Prices Paid To You!!

St. Joseph's Church (Private room available) • 74 Spring St., Fairhaven

For more information call St. Joseph's at 508-994-9714



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Find out what your items are worth and sell, if you want to.

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WIN – Donation made to St. Joseph's Building Fund!!

Marc Folco, a trusted businessman, with 50 years' experience, will

DONATE 10% of the total purchases at the event to St. Joseph's Church Building Fund.



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Sale hours: Sat., 10/10, 10-6
Sun., 10/11, 7-12 p.m.**



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