

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

A FREE! publication of all things Fairhaven

The little paper with a big voice!

Volume 21, Issue 45 • November 12, 2026

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

Acushnet honors veterans



Acushnet Schools music teacher, Brian Shanburn, leads the Ford Middle School chorus in "God Bless America" during the Acushnet Veterans Day celebration on 11/7/26 at the American Legion Hall. See page 12. *Beth David photo.*

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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.



Publisher Beth David... VROOM VROOM!

Oh well. Here we go again. I had the best of intentions to write something very profound about the election results this week, but, alas, time got away from me. Fear not, though, loyal readers, the Big Buffoon is doubling down (Stephen Nazi Miller...are you kidding me?) the House is doubling down (Jim YellYellYell Jordan?). Oh, yeah. There'll be plenty of material to work with.

Meanwhile back at home...well, we have a situation. See page 13 for a couple of Select Board stories, and page 3 for a followup on the local elections.

Fairhaven is holding a Special Town Meeting on Tuesday. See page 4 for a summary of the articles, including the Flock-type license reader ban.

The Rec Center had a fun Bingo night. Get a recap on page 14. It looks like it was lots of fun, and they also collected hundreds of pounds of food for the pantry.

It's that time of year, when we will all (hopefully) be overindulging in lots of goodies. Speaking of which... the Lebanese Christmas bazaar is this week (see page 6), with all those wonderful foods you're expecting.

Acushnet held its Veterans Day celebration this weekend. The parade got canceled because of the rain, but the rest of the program took place in the American Legion Hall. See page 12 for that.

We'll be having our annual Shopping Issue in a couple of weeks, so if you've been thinking of becoming a regular advertiser, now is the time. See page 14 for a mini version of the details. I just had so much content this week, I had to pull some stuff.

There's still lots of other good stuff in here. 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!



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Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our election story last week, the numbers for the governor's race in Fairhaven were wrong. The correct numbers are Gov./Lt. Gov: 3,557 for incumbents Maura Healey and Kim Driscoll (D), who won statewide; 3,591 for Minogue/ Oliver (R); 291 James/Kittredge (Ind). We apologize for any confusion the error may have caused.

Acushnet's St. Gelais flips seat from Dem to Rep

By Beth David
Editor

Last week's election results took a little bit longer to count than usual. The *Neighb News* had to go to print with some races and ballot questions still not decided. Now, 99% of the votes are in. Domestic mailed-in ballots postmarked by 11/3 had to be in by 11/6. Ballots mailed from outside the US have until 11/13 to arrive and still be counted. So counting cannot be finished until after then. The results need to be certified by 11/18.

According to the Boston Globe, Question 5/State Revenue cap, was too close to call by press time last week. They are now reporting that it passed, 1,325,491 (52.3%) to 1,209,504 (47.7%). Question 7, that would have allowed 5,000 square foot lots statewide, failed by a narrow margin: 1,288,797 (50.6%) to 1,255,842 (49.4%).

Locally, the numbers for the governor's race in Fairhaven had the wrong numbers, due to a "formula" error, according to Town Clerk, Elisabeth Horan.

The correct numbers are Gov./Lt. Gov: 3,557 for incumbents Maura Healey and Kim Driscoll (D), who won statewide; 3,591 for Minogue/ Oliver (R); 291 James/Kittredge (Ind)

Fairhaven cast a total of 7,857 votes out of 13,888 registered voters for a 56.6% turnout.

In Acushnet, the race for 8th Bristol/Precincts 2 & 3, with Acushnet resident, Jesse St. Gelais (R), challenging Democratic incumbent, Steven Ouellette, had not been called by press time last week. But when the numbers came through, it was a stunning upset by Mr. St. Gelais, who won, 9,006 to 8,547 with 99% of the votes counted by press time this week.

In Acushnet, it was 1,036 for Mr. Ouellette, and 1,961 for Mr. St. Gelais. The district includes all of Westport, parts of Acushnet, Fall River, Freetown, and New Bedford.

Acushnet cast a total of 4725 ballots for a 53% turnout rate.

Both Acushnet and Fairhaven took longer than usual to count votes. Both said it was mostly due to the nine ballot questions. Some people who mailed in ballots did not mail in both pages, complicating things.

In the voting booth on election day, people just took a lot longer to fill out the ballots, leading to lines.

In Acushnet, the lines got long and some people got verbal about it.

Acushnet Town Clerk, Pam Labonte, said she had to get firm with people, and "read them the riot act" when she heard some people were being rude to election workers.

There was an "explosion" of people in the afternoon. Adding to that, she said, was at least one person who decided to interfere to take control and made things worse.

Generally, people are in the voting booth for a couple of minutes. She said one poll worker decided to keep track this year and found that some people took almost 20 minutes to fill out the ballots.

Quite a few people made mistakes, had to get new ballots, and start all over again.

Then, when counting, because of the two-page ballot, workers had to make sure that all the numbers matched. If you had, say, 1,000 people checked in, you should have 2,000

ELECTION: cont'd on page 19



Special TM facing nine articles, including Flock ban bylaw

By Beth David
Editor

Fairhaven Town Meeting members will vote on nine articles at the special TM on Tuesday. Most articles are spending articles, carried over from FY 26. There are also two bylaws articles.

Article one would allow $168,628.08 in insurance proceeds to be used to repair damages to an elementary school caused by the 2026 blizzard. It will cover flood damages and other repairs.

Article 2 will fund the Dispatch Union Memorandum of Agreement. There is no amount in the article because the money is included in the police department's FY2 budget.

The agreement is in the online packet for the Select Board's 10/13/26 meeting.

Article 3 is a request to authorize the Board of Public Works to enter into an agreement to lease space on and around the water tower off Sconticut Neck Road for an antenna.

Article 4 would transfer the remaining balance of the West Island Treatment Plant Capital Improvements in the amount of $253,156 to the Sewer Nitrogen Plant article from 2022.

Article 5 would transfer $30,348 from salary reserves to supplement the FY27 Accounting Department budget. The article allocates funds to fully fund the Assistant Town Accountant position and fund the costs of hiring a new Town Accountant.

The SB discussed this article at their 10/13/26 meeting, explaining that the Assistant Town Administrator/ Town Accountant is retiring in July of 2027. The town administrator hopes to fill the position before the end of that fiscal year (FY27). The funds would fully fund the position for the remainder of FY27 and also cover the costs of having the outgoing Town Accountant work with her successor for approximately one month to assist in the transition.

Article 6 would assign the Conservation Restriction of 117 acres on Weeden Road/DeNormandie Farm West to the Conservation Commission from the Buzzards Bay Coalition.

Article 7 would allow the town to adopt the Mass. General Laws statute establishing a trust fund agreement for OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits/retirement fund). The town established an OPEB Liability Trust Fund in 2011 but did not fully execute a Trust Fund Agreement after the vote. To establish the fund, the town must re-adopt the OPEB Trust.

Article 8 will amend a number of by-laws as recommended by the Charter Committee. The town adopted a charter, and the committee was charged with reviewing existing bylaws and recommending changes to bring them into conformity with the provisions of the charter.

Town Meeting will also be asked to vote on a new bylaw in Article 9 to ban Automatic License Plate Readers from anywhere in Fairhaven, and to prohibit any town department from accessing any third-party networks.

The law also requires any contracts for existing ALPR systems to expire, and for the equipment to be dismantled and removed.

The bylaw has exceptions for standard recording equipment used by law enforcement.

TM: cont'd on page 17

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Pork Chops: $9.95 • Stuffed Chicken: $10.95
HOURS
Sun.: 8 a.m.–1 p.m. • Mon.–Wed.: 7 a.m.–2 p.m.
Thurs.: 7 a.m.–7 p.m. • Fri.–Sat: 7 a.m.–8 p.m.

Leaf Collection

This year's curbside leaf collection will be from November 17th through December 11th. Leaves must be placed at the curb by 7 a.m.

Leaves will be picked up the day after your regular trash day. After a holiday collection will be one day later. Place leaves in boxes, barrels or paper leaf bags.

NO PLASTIC BAGS. DO NOT USE YOUR TRASH OR RECYCLE BIN (ABC CARTS). Limit of 25 per stop. Brush and vines are NOT accepted. Contact the Board of Public Works office, 508-979-4031 for further information.

Visit https://fairhaven-ma.gov/2025-leaf-collection/

Merry Jams

FAME (Fairhaven Association for Music Education) presents Merry Jams, a live music fund-raiser to support Fairhaven High School's Music Program, Frid., 12/4, at 7 p.m., at the Shepherd Center for the Performing Arts, at the Congregational Church, 34 Center St., Fairhaven (use the Walnut Street entrance).

Featuring: Brenda and Dan, Axis Quartet, Unscrewed Acoustic, Mike Mahoney & Ken Richards, Neal McCarthy featuring Marc Friedman & Mark Russell.

Tickets are $25, available at https://theshepherdcenter.org/events

10th Anniv Gala

Against All Odds — a 10th Anniversary Gala, Sun., 11/15, at 3 p.m., Unitarian Memorial Church 102 Green Street Fairhaven, MA

Raise a glass with us as Seaglass Theater Company celebrates 10 years of performances with a gala concert on November 15th. A star-studded array of artists return to perform selections from Seaglass Theater's rich musical history. Join us after the concert for a festive reception with nibbles and sips!

Tickets: $30 + $3.85 online fee at https://seaglassgala.eventbrite.com

Visit www.seaglasstheater.com or call 508-951-7187

SAVE THE DATES:

Christmas Fair

Trinity Lutheran Church, 16 Temple Place, Fairhaven MA 02719. Saturday, 11/21, 10:00am to 2:00pm

Let's Help Each Other: Food and Clothing Drive

Please join us for a Food and Clothing Drive on Sat., 11/21 from 12-2pm. We will be in the parking lot of the Fairhaven Recreation/Senior Center next to Stop and Shop.

We are collecting: Foods: Canned goods, small cereal cups, mac & cheese, soups, cookies, crackers, boxed milk. Also collecting men and women's shoes, jackets, shirts and pants that are new or cleaned and washed in good condition. We are also collecting gift cards for: Restaurant Depot, BJ's, Market Basket, Dollar Tree, Family Dollar, Price Rite and Ocean State Job Lot. All donations will go to Mercy Meals and More of New Bedford.

For more information please contact SouthCoast Activists at southcoastactivists@proton.me

Blue Devil Craft Fair

Blue Devil Craft Fair at Fairhaven High School, 12 Huttleston Ave. (Rte. 6), Fairhaven), Sat., 11/21, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. Proceeds benefit the classes of 2017 & 2028.

25th Anniversary

For 25 years, the Recreation Center has been a place where friendships grow, families make memories, and our community comes together. You are part of that story—and we would love to celebrate with you!

Join us for our 25th Anniversary Celebration: Sun., 12/6, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Fairhaven Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Avenue.

Enjoy: Vendors from the North Fairhaven Market, Program demonstrations, Fun crafts for the kids, Anniversary cake, And more!

Whether you've been coming for years or are visiting for the first time, all ages are welcome. Bring your family, invite a friend, and share your favorite Rec Center memories as we make new ones together!

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/

Sing, Sing, Sing

Do you like to sing? Singers ages 14 and up are invited to sing in the choir at the First Congregational Church in Fairhaven, 34 Center Street.

Rehearsals are on Sunday morning beginning at 9:00 A.M. and our service begins at 10:00 A.M., through 11:00 A.M. If you are interested or have any questions please call the church at 508-993-3368.

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 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

Lebanese Christmas Bazaar

It's time for the annual Lebanese Holiday/Christmas Bazaar by Our Lady of Purgatory Maronite Catholic Church, featuring delicious Lebanese food & tasty desserts, craft tables, money and basket raffles, silent auctions & our caravan of values.

Join us at our community center, 4254 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford, on Sat., 11/14 from 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; and Sun., 11/15, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

For more information contact us at officeolop@gmail.com or (508) 996-8934. See you there!

Road Victims Remembrance

World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims, Sun.. 11/15, 1:30 p.m., Pope's Island near Noah's Place Playground

Each November, communities around the world pause to remember the people killed and injured in traffic crashes. Please join SouthCoast Places for People and the SouthCoast Bikeway Alliance for a short vigil to honor those we've lost and to commit to making our streets safer for everyone.

Following the brief ceremony we'll host a reception for attendees at Cork, 90 Front St., New Bedford, upstairs. All are welcome. Please dress warmly.

Charlie Brown Live

TICKETS ARE GOING FAST!

A Charlie Brown Christmas, live on stage, Sat., 12/5, at 2 & 7 p.m., at the Zeiterion, 684 Purchase St., New Bedford. Tickets: $35–$79, at https://www.zeiterion.org/events/a-charlie-brown-christmas

The beloved holiday classic comes to life on the historic Zeiterion stage!

Join Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy, Linus, and the whole Peanuts gang as they produce their own Christmas play and ultimately learn the true meaning of the season.

Adapted from Charles M. Schulz's timeless story of the spirit of Christmas, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* features actors who portray the Peanuts characters on stage, singing and dancing to the unforgettable music of Vince Guaraldi.

It's a present the whole family can enjoy, from the young to young at heart — especially ages 4 and up. There's no better way to discover the magic of the season!

The show is approximately 90 minutes, including a 20-minute intermission.

Santa's coming!

Jolly Old Saint Nicholas will make a special appearance before both performances of *A Charlie Brown Christmas.* Visit him in the lobby and say hello!

Model Boat Talk

On Sat., 11/14, from 1–3 p.m., Reidar Bendiksen will present his new model of F/V Lillian B., a submarine chaser that was converted into a commercial fishing vessel after the Second World War. During his presentation, Reidar will discuss the history of the Lillian B. during its time in the New Bedford fleet as well as the design and construction his scale model. The model of Lillian B. will be on view at the Fishing Heritage Center for the program and beyond. Presentation begins at 2:00pm.

While this is a free event, we are encouraging pre-registration with a donation to support the Fishing Heritage Center! Reserve your spot at https://fishingheritagecenter.org/20451-2/

Harbor Plan Public Comment

The public comment period for draft Explanation of Significant Differences #8 is open from today, October 30, 2026, to November 28, 2026. Comments must be submitted no later than November 28, 2026. The administrative record can be viewed at https://tinyurl.com/2uuaeh89 .

Comments must be summited via https://tinyurl.com/3ym82kv6. Comments in their entirety become public record.

Draft ESD 8 and other public meeting materials can be found at https://tinyurl.com/yuvnr97c.

Author Event

On Wed., 11/18, from 6–8:30pm, Spinner will host Nathaniel Philbrick, author of In the Heart of the Sea and Mayflower at the Steeple Playhouse, 159 William Street, New Bedford, MA.

Philbrick will introduce his newest book, The Rush: California Gold, the Civil War, and the Making of the Modern World. The Author-Talk begins with an informal meet-and-greet, featuring beverages and hors d'oeuvres, followed by Philbrick's presentation, and concludes with an audience Q&A. Davoll's General Store will provide copies of the book for purchase and signing at the event.

Tickets to the Spinner Author Talk event are $40 and are available through PayPal (https://tinyurl.com/4un2ny35) or by calling the Spinner office (508-994-4564).

Habitat House Session

Buzzards Bay Area Habitat for Humanity (BBAHFH) announces three single-family homeownership opportunities. Applications will be available as of Nov. 15, 2026, for three Habitat for Humanity homes. The homes will be located at 1256 and 1268 Pleasant St. and 59 Merrimac St. in New Bedford. The application deadline is 1/20/27.

BBAHFH will hold two public information sessions to advise the community of its plans to construct three single-family homes each having three-bedrooms and 1 ½ bathrooms. The homes will be sold to first-time homeowners who are income eligible (earning 30 to 60 percent of the city's median income) at an affordable price of $250,000. A deed restriction will be attached to each property ensuring that the homes will remain affordable.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one of the informational sessions, where applications will also be handed out. The sessions will take place on Sunday, November 15 at 5:00 p.m. and Monday, November 16 at 6:00 p.m. at the Waypoint Event Center – Fairfield Marriott located at 185 MacArthur Drive in New Bedford.

General information about qualifying for a Habitat home is available on the website: www.BuzzardsBay Habitat.org under the homeownership tab. Applications may also be requested by calling the Habitat office 508.758.4517 or emailing BuzzardsBayAreaHabitat@yahoo.com to have an application mailed to you. Translation services are available on request.

Bike Run/Toy Drive

The Acushnet Lions Club and the River's End Cafe, proudly sponsor their annual Toys for Kids & Food Drive Motorcycle Run, Sun., 11/29. $10 or unwrapped toy donation (no stuffed animals please), and non-perishable food donation gets you in.

Now accepting food and toys at the Rivers End Cafe, 7 Tarkiln Hill Road, Acushnet. Starts at 10 a.m. at the River's End Cafe, 7 Tarkiln Hill Road, Acushnet. Kickstands up at noon for ride to the Shepherd's Pantry in Acushnet. Then back to the River's End.

Food Drive

Drive and Drop: Neighbors Helping Neighbors Through a Monthly Food Drive

The Mattapoisett Congregational Church at 27 Church St., Mattapoisett invites the community to join a simple monthly effort to help ensure that everyone has enough food to put on the table. On November 19th, and the third Thursday of every month from 5:00-6:30 pm, please drive by the Church's Mechanic Street parking lot and drop off your donation of non-perishable food to one of the volunteers waiting for you. The food will be donated the next day to Damien's Pantry in Wareham.

In addition to nonperishable items, consider donating diapers, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and toiletries.

GreenwayMtg

The Northern Scenic Greenway is a proposed segment of the regional South Coast Bikeway intended to create safer conditions on local roads between Westport, Dartmouth, and New Bedford.

South Coast residents, businesses, property owners, and other interested stakeholders are invited to attend a public meeting about the Northern Scenic Greenway Initial consideration on Tues., 11/17, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at the Dartmouth High School Auditorium, 555 Bakerville Road, Dartmouth. The meeting is sponsored by South Coast Bikeway Alliance (SCBA), in partnership with the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) and Pare Corporation

The project team has completed an assessment of existing corridor conditions, opportunities, and constraints and is beginning to develop and evaluate a range of context-sensitive alternatives that seek to balance pedestrian, bicycle and vehicle needs with community character, environmental resources, and corridor limitations.

Attendees will have an opportunity to learn about the project, review work completed to date, and provide feedback on priorities, opportunities, and concerns. No preferred alternative has been selected, and public input gathered through this process will help inform the development and evaluation of future alternatives and recommendations.

Your input matters. Join the conversation, share your ideas, and help shape the future of walking and biking connections along the corridor.

For additional information, visit: https://southcoastbikeway.com/northern-scenic-greenway/

Bird Club

Investigating the Footsteps of a Birder: Elisabeth Goddard Weeks. Presented by Mike LaBossiere. Wed., 11/18, 6:30 p.m., Marion Natural History Museum, 8 Spring St, Marion, MA 02738

Join Mike as he continues to sift through the fascinating clues left in a journal once owned by Elisabeth Goddard Weeks, a birder from our own area. Through her writings, we'll explore her life with birds, her interests, her travels, and how her life and journal intersect with Mike's own birding journey.

What can a century-old journal tell us about the birds, birding traditions, and natural history of our region? Come along as we piece together the story of a birder whose footsteps may be closer to home than you think.

Please note the building has two entrances: one in the front and one in the back. The entrance in the back has "friendlier" steps as well as an elevator. A parking lot with access from Main Street behind the Marion Town House can also be utilized to access the back entrance. Ample street parking is available in the front of the building on Spring Street.

We'll also be discussing the upcoming Christmas Bird Count at the meeting.

All meetings are free and open to all.

Shrek Jr.

The performing arts group, Take a Bow, presents, Shrek The Musical Jr., Fri., 11/13, at 7 p.m., and Sat., 11/14 at 2 & 7 p.m., Westport Middle/High School, 400 Old County Rd., Westport, MA. 02790. Tickets: $15. Visit https://cur8.com/24595/project/141645

Based on the Dreamworks Animation motion picture and the book by William Steig.

Tickets: $15. Visit https://cur8.com/24595/project/141645

Based on the Dreamworks Animation motion picture and the book by William Steig.

Get ready for a fairy-tale like you've never seen before!

Forest & Farm Day

Get back to the land on Sat., 11/14, from 2–5:30 p.m. (alpacas will be there from 2-4 pm.) when the Mattapoisett Land Trust hosts a Forest and Farm Day at its Grace Pond property on Bowman Rd. to highlight this beautiful, and often overlooked, preserve. All are welcome. There will be lots of fun and free activities to engage the whole family including our popular campfire with smores, hot cider and live music. Pine Meadow Farm will be onsite bringing alpacas, goats and assorted critters. The farmers will also offer a hands-on wool activity, and kids will be able to make a pinecone bird feeder. .

Grace Pond is located at the end of Bowman Rd. close to 15 Bowman Rd. with plenty of parking available. Visir https://mattlandtrust.org or see us on Facebook and Instagram.

Christmas Craft Fair

Christmas Craft Fair, Sun., 11/22, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church, 124 Front St., Marion. Support local artisans: gifts, food, music. All are welcome. Community members are encouraged to invite friends and family and make the fair part of their Thanksgiving-weekend preparations.

More than 25 vendors will fill indoor and outdoor spaces with a diverse selection of merchandise, including handmade jewelry, artwork, candles, ceramics, woodworking, crocheted creations, holiday decorations, honey, and other distinctive gifts and specialty products.

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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: 11/18, Hyannis Mall & Trader Joe's; 11/25, Providence Place Mall; 12/2, Tiverton Casino; 12/9, Hyannis Mall & Trader Joe's; 12/16, Providence Place Mall.

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.

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.

Nov. 16, *Planes, Trains & Automobiles.* A Chicago advertising man must struggle to travle home from New York for Thanksgiving, with a lovable oaf of a showre-curtain-ring salesman as his only companion.

Nov. 23, *The Sweeter Side of Life* PG. A big-city housewife is dumped by her sleazy husband, and she finds herself having to adjust to small town life in her father's bakery.

Empowering Older Adults with Technology

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

Nov. 16: Safe online shopping for the holidays.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Thurs., 11/26, 11:30 a.m., at Fairhaven Council on Aging/Senior Center. Full turkeu dinner with dessert.

RSVP to 508-979-4029 by Nov. 16.

Get Crafty!

Let's get crafty for the Holidays! Join us on the following Fridays from 10–11 a.m.: Holiday cards on Nov. 13; Stockins on Nov. 20. $10 per person. Call to sign up, 508-979-4029.

La Salette Festival of Lights

Tues., 12/8, depart 3:30 p.m., return 8:30 p.m. Fairhaven COA/Sr. Ctr. $35 pp includes school bus transportation and family style dinner of meat pie or turkey and dessert! Must sign up and pay by Nov. 25. Call 507-979-4029.

Please join us for our annual trip to La Salette in Attleboro to enjoy the beautiful and dazzling display of Christmas lights! We'll begin the eveniing with a delicious family-stle dinner, followed by time to take in the magic and sparkle of the spectacular light display.

Fairhaven Recreation Center

Open Mon-Thurs, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fri., 6 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-2 p.m.; Closed Sunday • 227 Huttleston Ave, 508-993-9269 https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/recreation-department

Kool Kids Thanksgiving Break Grades K-5

Fairhaven Recreation Center, Rec Staff, Mon + Tue, Nov 23-24, 12:004:00PM Member: $30 | Non-Member: $35 Fairhaven Elementary Schools have half-days the week of Thanksgiving. While school is out, kids will enjoy an afternoon filled with a variety of activities including active indoor/outdoor games, arts and STEAM activities, team-building challenges and more. Make the most of these two afternoons by joining us at the recreation center!

Transportation from the elementary schools to the recreation center is provided.

Elf Yourself!

18+ Pickleball Party & Toy Drive! Get ready to serve up some holiday cheer!

This is your chance to dress as Santa's favorite Elf! Awards for....Best Elf Outfit, Most Holiday Cheer, and The Grinchest. Join us for a fun and festive afternoon of pickleball, music, and holiday spirit — all while supporting Toys for Tots. Admission: One new, unwrapped toy (donated to Toys for Tots) Date: Friday, December 4th Time: 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM Location: Fairhaven Rec

25th Anniversary Celebration

December 6th 10:00 PM - 2:00 PM Join us as we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Fairhaven Recreation! Come celebrate this special milestone with us as we look back on 25 years of fun, community, and memories. Enjoy vendors from the North Fairhaven Market, demonstrations by our talented instructors showcasing their classes, fun crafts for the kids, anniversary cake, and so much more! Bring your favorite memories of Fairhaven Recreation and join us in making new ones. We look forward to celebrating this exciting anniversary with our community!

Black Friday Fun Day!

Looking for something fun for the kids while you tackle your Black Friday shopping? Join us on Friday, November 27th from 6:00 AM-3:00 PM for a full day of holiday fun at the Recreation Center!

Children will enjoy a breakfast (pancakes) and pizza lunch, along with arts and crafts, games and activities in the gym, and a fun Christmas movie to wrap up the day.

It's the perfect way for kids to spend Black Friday making new friends, staying active, and getting into the holiday spirit!

Recreation Staff Fairhaven Recreation Center Friday, Nov 27, 6:00 AM–3:00 PM Member: $40. | Non-Member: $50

Recipe of the Week

Oven-Baked Pork Chops

2 red and/or yellow peppers, sliced
1 cup corn kernels (fresh or frozen)
3 Tbsp. olive oil
1 1/2 tsp. seafood seasoning, such as Old Bay
1 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
1/2 tsp. black pepper
6 bone-in pork chops (1/2 to 3/4 inch thick)
1 tsp. smoked paprika
1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons barbecue sauce
1 14-ounce bag shredded coleslaw mix
2 scallions, thinly sliced
1/3 cup apple cider vinegar
1 tsp. sugar

Position racks in the upper and lower thirds of the oven. Preheat to 450˚. Toss the bell peppers and corn on a rimmed baking sheet with 2 tablespoons olive oil, 1 teaspoon seafood seasoning, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper. Spread in a single layer and roast on the lower oven rack, stirring once, until tender and lightly browned, about 20 minutes.

Meanwhile, toss the pork chops with the remaining 1 tablespoon olive oil in a bowl, then sprinkle with the smoked paprika and the remaining 1 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon pepper.

Set a rack on a rimmed baking sheet. Put the pork chops on the rack and brush with 1/4 cup barbecue sauce. Roast until the pork is lightly browned and about halfway cooked through, 10 to 12 minutes. (A thermometer inserted near the bone should read over 100˚). Switch the oven to broil. Top the chops with the remaining 2 tablespoons barbecue sauce and broil until lightly caramelized and just cooked through, 5 to 7 more minutes.

Add the coleslaw mix and scallions to the pan of roasted peppers. In a small bowl, stir together the vinegar, sugar and remaining 1/2 teaspoon seafood seasoning, then pour over the tray of vegetables. Toss well. Serve pork chops with the warm slaw.

Dear Frankie



Aging

Dear Frankie,

I'm a ten-year-old black Lab. The other day, I flipped through old photos of myself and could hardly believe my eyes.

With every passing year, my face and paws have grown a little grayer. Gone was that glossy, jet-black coat I had back in the day.

Do you think I should try that stuff my mom uses on her hair to make it dark and shiny?

Finn

Dear Finn,

Dogs, like people, feel differently about aging. If having a black muzzle and paws would make you feel better about yourself, go for it. However, before you take the plunge, check with your vet to see if there is hair dye made specifically for canines.

And, of course, get your mom's permission. If she agrees, you might dye your hair together and make it your monthly bonding time.

Best, Frankie

There's more Dear Frankie to enjoy! Watch Frankie and Rufus bring this week's column to life in a fun new video. Visit Dear Frankie on Facebook to watch the episode and follow along for more video advice and laughs: https://tinyurl.com/mux5nknv

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

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From our readers

The Bag Collected Saturday Has a Longer Journey

Fairhaven's Troop 52 announced a Scouting for Food collection at St. Mary's on Main Street on November 7. The practical request was straightforward: bring nonperishable food so it can help someone who needs it. The collection day passes quickly. Hunger does not.

A donated bag must still be sorted, stored, and made useful to a household. Someone has to check that the food is within date, handle the heavy boxes, and understand what a family might actually prepare. The most important part of the process may take place after everyone who brought a donation has gone home.

Luke 3:11 records John the Baptist saying that a person with two coats should share with someone who has none, and one with food should do likewise. That is not a request for applause. It is a concrete call for a person with resources to notice a person without them.

The principle belongs to everyone willing to act. If a family has food in the cupboard that it can responsibly spare, giving can be direct. If a volunteer can help with lifting or organization, those skills matter too. If a neighbor knows where assistance is available, accurate information can be a gift of its own.

Fairhaven's community organizations are not interchangeable, and recipients are not interchangeable either. A student's family, a worker facing reduced hours, and an older resident living alone may need different kinds of support. What unites them is the right to be treated without judgment.

The next time a food drive is announced, we can ask an additional question: what would make the effort more useful after collection day? Could someone help with transportation? Are the goods suitable and requested? Can people be directed to assistance without being made to feel ashamed?

A town should celebrate the young people who collect food. It should also remember the neighbors whose names never appear in the event announcement. A full bag is a beginning, not the end of our responsibility.

Douglas Vandergraph, Fort Collins, CO

Brendalee Smith Says "Thank You"

THANK YOU 10TH BRISTOL DISTRICT!

To the most "Let's Do This" Team!! We broke a record in the state, shortest campaign with GREATEST return!!

THANK YOU to our incredible campaign team, my family, our volunteers, and every single person who came out to support a momentum of common sense and accountability! Your dedication showed that our community is ready to stand up, engage, and make our voices heard!

This isn't the end of our work. We gave people a choice, we elevated the issues that matter to hard-working families, and we are going to keep building on this momentum.

I'm so grateful to everyone who stood with us, and I look forward to continuing to listen, serve, and work for our community.

All the best
Brendalee Smith, Fairhaven



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Acushnet holds veterans ceremony

By Beth David
Editor

The parade got canceled because of the rain, but that did not stop Acushnet from honoring veterans on Saturday, 11/7/26. The group just moved to the American Legion Hall for some patriotic songs by the Ford Middle School Chorus, some speech-making, and some breakfast by High Seas restaurant.

Acushnet Veterans Services Officer, Brad Fish, emceed the event, starting out by saying they had to cancel the parade.

Speakers included newly minted representative-elect from the 8th Bristol district and Acushnet resident, Jesse St. Gelais; outgoing Rep. Steven Ouellette; Rep from the 10th Bristol, Mark Sylvia; Acushnet Selectboard chairperson, Kevin Gaspar; Cmdr. of the VFW, Deven Robitaille; 2023 Veteran of the Year, Bill Comeau; well known veteran, August "Gus" Cote; and the reading of a Veterans Day Poem by Mike Jenney, Cmdr. of the American Legion; and a reading of the Governor's proclamation by Mr. Fish.

Acushnet Elementary School students left colorful notes of thanks to veterans that decorated the tables. Some veterans took them home.

Guest Speaker, Bill Comeau, brought his friend Rick Janson to the front of the room with him. The went into the service on the same day. When they came back they stayed apart, he said, because they reminded each other of things they did not want to remember.



He said they were motivated to join the service because of their family members who had served, and a sense of duty.'

Mr. Comeau said they both served in Vietnam and Rick got two purple hearts protecting Mr. Comeau.

"Thank you, Rick," he said.

Mr. Comeau said he felt he was not really a veteran until he was older and joined veterans groups out of a duty to help other veterans.

He also said that when he was in the service, his mother and other people sent cookies and other stuff. He encouraged people to continue to do that.

"I want to thank all the people who sent that stuff because they enjoyed it and we enjoyed it," he said.

He also said it was hard for his mother and others who are left at home.

He was just happy to be home, he said.

"I survived," said Mr. Comeau. "And it was pretty tough."

He said when someone signs up, they know they might lose their life, but the do it out of a sense of duty.

August "Gus" Cote, 93, a Korean War Veteran, delivered the invocation, praying for those who served and laid down their lives "to protect and defend our great freedom," asking that we remember their sacrifices.

"We pray for those who bear the scars of their service. asking for

VETS: cont'd on page 16





TOP Veteran Bill Comeau (RIGHT) speaks while his friend, Rick Janson, who served with him in Vietnam listens during the Acushnet Veterans Day celebration on 11/7/26 at the American Legion Hall. ABOVE LEFT: Korean War Veteran, August "Gus" Cote, 93, gives the invocation ABOVE RIGHT: The crowd listens to the speaker during the Acushnet Veterans Day celebration on 11/7/26 at the American Legion Hall. *Photos by Beth David.*

Fairhaven SB decides to use CORI checks on volunteers

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Select Board voted at its meeting on 11/9/26 to require a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check on any individual applying to be on a town board or committee or looking to be reappointed. The issue came up when a resident discovered that a registered sex offender was on two town boards.

In a rather embarrassing twist for the town, a poster with the person's photo and Offender Detail sheet is posted right outside town hall, among other places.

Although the board did not name the individual, the *Neighb News* has learned he is Timothy Garcia, 48, the only town official on a poster outside town hall. He has been on both the Livable Streets and Sustainability committees for five years, with annual appointments, and is listed on the state's website as a level 2 sex offender. He was convicted in 2011 and 2012 for indecent assault and battery on a child under 14 years of age (1 count); rape and abuse of a child (2 counts); and aggravated rape and abuse of a child (2).

After the town was alerted, Town Administrator, Keith Hickey, contacted Mr. Garcia and gave him the option of resigning, or appearing at a hearing of the Select Board, either in Executive Session, which is closed to the public, or in open session, to discuss his removal. He opted to resign.

He had been reappointed to both boards at the 10/14/26 meeting.

"How does something like this happen," said SB member, Rick Trapilo, who was at the 10/14 meeting and voted to appoint Mr. Garcia.

"That's what we're talking about," said SB Chairperson, Andrew Romano.

The matter was brought to the attention of the board by Jennifer Cardoza, who said she recognized his name from when she worked at the Rec Center.

All board members who were present, Andrew Saunders was absent, agreed that asking for a CORI was not unreasonable. Mr. Hickey said the CORI checks do not cost the town anything.

"I have mixed feelings about this," said SB member Natalie Mello, explaining that she is "equally appalled" at the situation, but wondered if a CORI check is "too broad of a brush."

SB member, Pam Kuechler, said her workplace CORIs everyone. If something comes back, it is not an automatic denial. She said they have guidelines to follow and they make reasonable decisions based on the length of time and type of offense.

And that was part of the discussion: How to handle it if something does come back on the CORI.

In the end, the board voted to have Mr. Hickey draft a policy that the board will discuss at their next regular meeting.

The board also considered holding all appointments until the 12/14 meeting to give them time to get the policy in place. However, there were several appointments on that night's agenda that seemed somewhat urgent.

Keith Silvia asked to be appointed to the Bell Committee and the Economic Development Committee. The Bell Committee's work is almost over, so the appointment would be for just a few months.

the board discussed whether it was necessary to appoint him if he could do the work anyway.

They went round and round a it.

"Let's just put him on the board," said Mr. Trapilo.

The vote was 3-1, with Ms. Mello voting "no."

The board also appointed him to the EDC, with EDC chairperson, Cathy Melanson, making an impassioned

SELECT: cont'd on page 17

Fairhaven Residents say Building Insp. has too much discretion

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Select Board heard from several residents at its meeting on 11/9/26 during the public comment session regarding building projects on West Island that neighbors say violate either bylaws or state law.

Bob Pink told the board that the situation is creating a cloud on some titles/deeds.

At present, there are several houses being built on West Island (WI) that are on undersized lots. The lots are owned by the same person, which is generally against bylaws and Mass. General law, creating contiguous lots, or continuous lots. If the lots are owned by the same person, they cannot be split into to nonconforming (undersized) lots and then be cleared to build on.

Neighbors contend that Building Commissioner, Rick Forand, has issued building permits without the projects going to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), or the Conservation Commission (ConCom).

At a meeting with WI residents, Mr. Forand explained the process, saying he was the one to decide if a project needs to go in front of either of those boards or more, such as Board of Health.

Neighbors have no idea a project is happening until site work begins.

That decision removes the option or abutter notification of the project, Mr. Pink told the board. I also eliminates the expert review that ZBA and ConCom would provide.

Jim Vanburen gave specific examples of lots in common ownership on Cottonwood and Dogwood streets that now have two or even three foundations for new homes. None of the lots is large enough according to the bylaws, and none of the projects were subject to a public hearing in front of the ZBA.

"All I'm asking is that you take a look at it very carefully," said Mr. Vanburen.

Mr. Pink also suggested that any project on West Island should always have to go to ConCom.

Patrick Carr, who is the chairperson of the ZBA, and is also on the Capital Planning Committee and the Public Safety Advisory Committee, all appointed boards; and is on the Planning Board, an elected position; told the board that the SB was not the appropriate place to discuss the issue. He said residents should have taken the issue to the ZBA.

"The Select Board has no jurisdiction over zoning," said Mr. Carr.

Mr. Carr also said it was inappropriate to discuss anything about the building inspector without him there to defend himself.

David Coppes said he agreed that the matter should go to the ZBA so abutters could have been notified.

Later in the meeting, during the member items, SB member Natalie Mello suggested that they put the

BLDG INSP: cont'd on page 18

Fairhaven Rec holds Family Bingo Night & Food Drive

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Recreation Department held its annual Family Bingo Night and Food Drive on 11/5/26, and collected a whopping 537 pounds of food for the Shepherd's Pantry.

The free night had 150 participants of all ages join in on the fun, including free pizza and punch, baked goodies, prizes, and ten games of bingo.

"The event was a tremendous success, with 150 participants joining us for an evening of Bingo, food, prizes, and community fun," wrote Bernadette Barreira, Recreation Director, in an email. "Attendance increased by 60 people compared with last year, and the generosity of our Rec Center community was incredible."

Participants beat the 300-pound food donation goal by 237 pounds, nearly 270 pounds more than last year.

"We were also fortunate to have the support of members of the Fairhaven Select Board. Select Board Chair Andrew Romano generously covered the cost of the pizza for the evening, while Select Board Vice Chair Natalie Mello contributed toward the cookies and brownies, brought canned goods, joined us for the event, and helped call one of the Bingo games," she said.

The Rec Center's five-time Member of the Month, Rick Spoor, join in the fun a special guest Bingo caller

"Rick has been a wonderful supporter of the Rec Center," wote Ms. Barreira. "And it was great to have him take part in such a special community evening."

The evening was also made possible through the generosity of many local businesses and community partners who donated prizes, food, or other support: Roots + Daisies Beauty Parlor, SOCO Tavern, The Armoury Wargames & Hobbies, K&A Creations, Mrs. Jackson Freshly Baked Goods, The Nook, Dorothy Cox Chocolates, Acushnet Creamery, McGraw's Back Porch Ice Cream, Riccardi's Italian Restaurant, Farm2Cup, Four Paws Up Bakery & Boutique, Main Street Scoops,



Traveler's Alehouse, Kinder Motion and Dance of New England, The Potting Bench Florist.

"We are incredibly grateful to everyone who attended, donated food, supported the event, and helped make the evening such a success," wrote Ms. Barreira. "It was wonderful to see so many families and community members come together for a fun night while also supporting the Good Shepherd's Pantry."





TOP: Fairhaven Recreation volunteer, Rick Spoor, calls the numbers during the annual Family Bingo night at the Rec Center on 11/5/26. ABOVE LEFT: Some of the 150 participants of all ages listen for their numbers ABOVE RIGHT: Volunteers help collect 537 pounds of food. Submitted photos.

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VETS: cont'd from page 12

healing for them in mind, body, and spirit," said Mr. Cote, and for those in harm's way to come home safely.

He also mentioned those who "govern," adding, "and there are a lot of them here today," with a chuckle.

"Asking that you turn their hearts and minds to the work of establishing a peace born of a justice and equality," said Mr. Cote.

He then turned his attention to those who get caught up in conflicts around he world.

"...civilians and peacekeepers and the poor who have no escape. Asking that we have the courage to defend the defenseless, make room for those who flee for safety, and look to that day when we will train for war no more."

Cmdr. Robitaille said, "It kind of stinks we didn't get to have a parade. I love marching in the parade."

She said veterans are humble and often take the spotlight off themselves, but it is our day, she said. So go out and celebrate your service.

"I call it my Christmas," she said, adding it took a while to get there.'.

Mr. Jenney reminded everyone that both the Legion and the VFW are open to the public. He urged everyone to visit the establishments to show support for the organizations and the veterans they serve.

Mr. Gaspar thanked veterans for their courage and sacrifice and everything they've done for the country and the country.

"We are proud to honor you today, and we are grateful for your service every day," he said.

Mr. St. Gelais told the crowd that the freedoms we sometimes take for granted came at tremendous cost. Veterans left everything they knew for something greater than themselves.

"I consider it a tremendous honor and responsibility to serve a community that is home to so many extraordinary veterans," said Mr. St. Gelais. "And I believe that honoring our veterans means more than just thanking them one day a year. It means standing beside them, listening to them, and making sure we're there for them when they need us. You answered the call to serve us. Now it's our responsibility to serve you."

Rep. Sylvia noted the importance of the role of Veterans Services Officer, and thanked Mr. Fish and also Mr. Jenney, who is the VSO in Fairhaven.

"Today is an important day to honor the service and sacrifice of all our veterans and recognize that our freedom is a result of that commitment and sacrifice," said Mr. Sylvia.

He said he grew up in the 70s and it was veterans in all walks of life who mentored him, raised children, and taught him the importance of patriotism and government and liberty.

Mr. Ouellette said he felt it was important to support veterans and reminded everyone to call 988, and press 1 if you are a veteran.

To Vietnam Veterans, he said he hopes they realize the efforts that go into making up for the "less than grateful" response the got when they got home.

"I really appreciate you, and I'm just glad I could be here to celebrate with you," he said.

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TM: cont'd from page 4

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, 11/17/26, at 7 p.m. in the Hastings Middle School Auditorium, 30 School Street. The meeting is open to the public and will be livestreamed by FairhavenTV.com and run Comcast Channel 97.

Fairhaven has a representative TM, so only elected representatives can vote. The meeting is open to the public and they may speak if TM members vote to allow it.

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SELECT: cont'd from page 13

plea for the appointment. She said she needs all hands on deck with the upcoming events the committee is sponsoring, and she has not been able to get a quorum.

The board also voted to appoint Karyn Ferreira to the Conservation Committee, and Aaron Novy to the Millicent Library Board of Trustees. Everyone appointed on Monday agreed to have a CORI check and to make themselves available at the 11/23 meeting if anything shows up on the check.

Board also set a policy for waivers for residents who apply to be on more than two appointed boards. The new bylaw allows individuals to be on a third board if the SB specifically votes to allow it for each person. The board set guidelines for the waiver to be fair. Factors the board may consider, include, but are not limited to: whether a board has difficulty getting volunteers for that particular board or if has trouble obtaining a quorum; if the applicant has unique experience or institutional knowledge; whether the adjoint appointment creates any scheduling conflict; whether other applicants are available.

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

Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven

Board of Health
Wed., 11/18, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Board of Public Works
Mon.,11/16, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Board of Registrars
Fri., 11/13, Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.

Cultural Council
Wed., 11/18, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Economic Development
Thurs., 11/19, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Livable Streets
Thurs., 11/19, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee
Wed., 11/18, FHS Media Ctr., 6:30

Select Board
Mon., 11/23, Select Board., 6 p.m.

(Special) Town Meeting
Tues., 11/17, Hastings MS, 7 p.m.
PREVIEW/Orientation/Precinct Mtgs: 11/12, 6 p.m.

Acushnet

Conservation Comm
Wed., 11/18, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Selectboard
Mon. 11/23, Town Hall, 4:30 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

Nov. 2026		HIGH a.m.	HIGH p.m.	LOW a.m.	LOW p.m.
Thursday	12	0926	2153	0217	1504
Friday	13	1009	2239	0256	1536
Saturday	14	1057	2331	0335	1612
Sunday	15	1150	---	0416	1654
Monday	16	0027	1245	0505	1749
Tuesday	17	0119	1336	0614	1855
Wednesday	18	0209	1427	0728	1951
Thursday	19	0301	1524	0830	2041
Friday	20	0357	1623	0929	2132
Saturday	21	0450	1713	1027	2223
Sunday	22	0535	1758	1118	2312*
Monday	23	0618	1841	---	1204*
		---	---	---	2359*
Tuesday	24	0703	1928	---	1253*
Wednesday	25	0752	2020	0049*	1348*
Thursday	26	0845	2114	0145*	1442*

*= 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"

TOWN OF ACUSHNET PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Acushnet Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Monday, November 23, 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 of NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY, Verizon New England Inc, requests permission to locate poles, wire, cables and fixtures, underground cables, conduits and manholes, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures, in, under, along and across the following public way or ways, Plan # 6219787.

Main Street, Acushnet

To install 1 (one) new JO stub pole to be labeled 120/167S In the right of way of Main St.

The Acushnet Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing at its meeting on Monday, November 23, 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 of NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY a company incorporated for the transmission of electricity for lighting, heating or power, that it desires to construct a line for such transmission, together with overhead wires, across the public way or ways hereinafter specified.

Mendall Road

At a location approximately 750 feet south easterly of its intersection with Garrison Ln.

Board of Selectmen
Kevin Gaspar, Sr., Chairman
Robert Hinckley, Member
Ryan Rezendes, Member
FNN, 11/5/26, 11/12/26

Fairhaven Housing Authority INVITATION TO BID

The **FAIRHAVEN HOUSING AUTHORITY,** the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Hardwire Smoke and CO Detectors at State Aided Development: McGann Terrace (667-2) in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **JOHN MURPHY JR. ELECTRICAL CONSTRUCTION & ENGINEERING, INC.**

The Project consists of but not limited to:

Install a new fire alarm system, including limited asbestos work and removal of the existing fire alarm system.

The work is estimated to cost **$275,224.00.**

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 11/20/2026 at 5:00PM EST for general bids.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §§26 to 27H inclusive.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, **Electrical,** and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until **27 November 2026** at **2:00PM EST** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates) and made payable to the **FAIRHAVEN HOUSING AUTHORITY.** Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under $50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

General bidders must agree to contract with minority, women and veteran-owned business enterprises as certified by the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO). The participation benchmark reserved for such enterprises shall not be less than 5% MBE, 5% WBE and 3% VBE for all state and state-assisted construction projects over $150,000. **Request for waivers must be sent to EOHLC (Chad.Howard@mass.gov) 5 calendar days prior to the General Bid date. NO WAIVERS WILL BE GRANTED AFTER THE GENERAL BIDS ARE OPENED.**

The Contractor and all subcontractors (collectively referred to as "the Contractor") agree to strive to achieve minority and women workforce participation. The Workforce Participation benchmark is set at **6.9% for women** and 1**5.3% for minorities.** The Workforce benchmark percentages are a **statutory** requirement under MGL c. 149 § 44A(2)(G).

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled Date and Time: 11/18/2026 at 10:00AM EST

Address: McGann Terrace, Fairhaven, MA 02719

Instructions: Meet at the main entrance to McGann Terrace.

The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at: Nashoba Blue Inc., 433 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749; 978-568-1167

FNN 11/12/26

Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing

Tuesday December 1st, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. .
Town Hall Banquet Room, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts
Public Hearings In-Person at Town Hall or via Zoom. Join the Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85949001422?pwd=GnxVqiuvsvMbggTdj2lLLGuQaeYmzR.1
or call 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 859 4900 1422
Passcode: 052001

1. REF# ZBA-026-026: 46 Balsam Street, Map 43C, Lot 018, Cert# 26023. Applicant/Owner: Joel Briner, seeks a Variance for relief of the required 5ft setback for an accessory building prior to issuance of a building permit. per Zoning By-Law 198-22 #4 accessory buildings and relief of installing accessory building per 780-R105.1
2. REF# ZBA-026-027: 0 Nakata Ave, Book 15113, Page 303.Applicant David Schwamb of 903 Sconticut Neck Rd, seeks administrative appeal for Building Commissioner enforcement per 198-4 and appeal per 198-7, per 198-16 use regulations, note #8 campers

Patrick Carr, Chair, Fairhaven ZBA
FNN: 11/12/26, 11/19/26

BLDG INSP: cont'd from page 13

issue on a future agenda. She said although the ZBA may be the place for zoning, the SB can still get updated on commonly held lots.

Town Administrator, Keith Hickey, said there have been some concerns about town approved construction on lots that should be considered combined lots.

"So I'm happy to have that conversation," he said.

The public comment period is a chance for members of the public to address the board without having to be on the agenda as an official item. Board members do not necessarily know who is going to speak or what they are going to talk about.

They also do not discuss or deliberate on those matters unless they happen to be on the agenda anyway. The Open Meeting Law requires the board to stick to matters on the agenda for deliberation or votes. They are allowed to hear the public comments and can then decide to place the subject on a future agenda.

DISCLOSURE: Editor Beth David, lives on West Island.

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ELECTION: cont'd from page 3

"cards" or pages.

"It really tested every one of us," said Ms. Labonte. "It really did."

This was also the first election when the state allowed more pre-processing of early voting ballots. Clerks could conduct "Advanced Removal" and "Advanced Deposit."

Both required counting the ballots, checking off who voted, and submitting that information to the state website. Acushnet had 1,229 early ballots; Fairhaven had about 3,200.

In Acushnet, they conducted removal, and opted to feed the ballots into the machines on election day. The numbers, of course, still have to match up, when compared against the actual voter list.

In Fairhaven, they opted to do both. That required two memory cards (plus a redundant backup) for each tabulator (the machine you put your ballot in after it is marked). Then, on election night, the early card and the same-day card numbers are added together. Again, the final number must match the number on the voting list.

Simply put, it just took longer because there were more steps.

In an interview a few days after the election, Mr. St. Gelais said he felt good after winning. And exhausted, of course. He never counts his chickens before they hatch, though, so he went in being optimistic, but cautious.

"I did the work," he said, and at the end of the day, if he lost, he would go back to "normal life," which is working in the family's insurance business.

He said he was "extremely, extremely moved and grateful" to voters and volunteers, and "very humbled."

"Our hard work paid off," he said. "A lot of people were rooting for me."

He ran as an independent two years ago, and he said that experience helped him this time around.

Mr. St. Gelais said he feels he can be a good voice for Acushnet despite his party being in the minority on Beacon Hill. There will probably be 25 Republicans to 134 Democrats starting in January, with one independent and a couple of races not quite finished counting.



L-R: Jesse St. Gelais (R), Representative-elect in Mass. House of Reps 8th District; Steven Ouellette (D), current 8th Bristol Rep.; and Mark Sylvia (D), 10th Bristol; pose for the local free sheet at the Acushnet Veterans Day event on Saturday, 11/7/26, at the American Legion Hall in Acushnet. *Photo by Beth David.*

Mr. St. Gelais also pointed out a surprise he got during the campaign. He discovered that his great-great uncle, Joseph Saulnier, held the 8th Bristol seat in the 1950s. Mr. Saulnier's son, Donald, supported his cousin, "every step of the way."

Mr. St. Gelais said he knew he had the uncle in politics, but had no idea he represented the 8th Bristol.

He said he felt a push he could not understand on the hard days (knocking doors "can be tough"), and feels it might be from his ancestor.

""It's wild," he said, adding he believed "the man upstairs" was looking out for him.

In a phone interview a few days after the election, Mr. Ouellette said he and the rest of the delegation worked very hard to get the money they got for Acushnet, including about $1 million for the Slocum Street project. He said he also had about a million dollars in bond projects and he was not sure what would happen to that.

He said maybe he should have brought those things up more often in the campaign, and now he is "very concerned it might slow down."

"I don't think Acushnet realized how hard we worked for that money," said Mr. Ouellette.

"I'm not a whiner," he said. "This is what they voted for."

He added he is just worried that because Mr. St. Gelais is in the minority, and Acushnet is not a big tax producer for the state, that they may lose out.

"There's so much work to do, and I'm bumming that I don't get to strive for it."

"I love my town," said Mr. Ouellette, noting that Westport is the only municipality that is 100% in the district, and for 30 years it had been a Fall River person representing them.

At a Veterans event on Saturday in Acushnet (see page 12), all three Acushnet reps were there and spoke: Mark Sylvia, who was re-elected; Mr. Ouellette, and Mr. St. Gelais. The three were friendly with each other and posed for photos with the N*eighb News.*

Mr. Ouellette gave his card to Mr. St. Gelais, offering to help him get up to speed with the stuff that the public hasn't seen yet.

"I just want to deliver for my district," said Mr. St. Gelais.

"He's gonna have his hands full," said Mr. Ouellette

Editor's note: Information for statewide and district races, and ballot questions came from the Boston Globe website at www.bostonglobe.com/elections/massachusetts/2026/general



Acushnet Precinct III workers, Margaret Motta and Kyle Moore, wait for a booth to open up before they can check in voters who are in line at the door, during the election on 11/3/26. *Photo by Beth David.*

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