

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

A FREE! publication of all things Fairhaven

The little paper with a big voice!

Volume 21, Issue 46 • November 19, 2026

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

Fairhaven honors veterans with parade



The Big Flag flutters in the wind in front of Fairhaven High School during the Veterans Day ceremony on 11/11/26. 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!

Wow, have we got a story for you! The remains of a World War II veteran have just been identified. Our own Pauline Parker was the DNA match for her great uncle. What a story. She never even knew about him. Her mémé never talked about her brother. That is just crazy....82 years later. See page 13 for that.

Honestly, people, keep your grubby little hands to yourself. Someone has been stealing our papers from a number of drop sites. You're real First Amendment champions, huh? So, I'm asking my readers, if you see someone walking off with more than a couple of papers, take a picture of the SOB and send it to me. I'm happy to publicly shame them. I mean, really, if you're that afraid of the truth, maybe you need to rethink your life.

Now...to national. OMG: The Big Buffoon is kissing the you-know-whatses of Putin and Xi Jinping. Just stop already...can someone make it stop?

Did you see him waving the two little flags, the US and Philippines? He looked like the class dunce. Well, I guess he usually does.

Town Meeting has spoken...to Flock or be Flocked? See page 3 for that.

And our cover story: Veterans Day. I've said it before and I'll say it again, if you have never seen the "Big Flag" flying at the high school, you really need to make a point of getting to the next one. It is a sight to behold. If you see a vet, thank him or her. And support the local VFW and Legion clubs. They are all just barely hanging on. But they are very much needed

And last, but not least, the holiday events are really ramping up. See....all over this issue. And next week is our annual shopping issue. I don't know, though, maybe instead of our young couple buying a house, they should buy a cramped little condo. I couldn't afford to buy a driveway in my neighborhood now, never mind a house. Oh wait...it's all a hoax, right? Phew...we can still do it.

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

Fairhaven Town Meeting votes to an Flock-type cameras

By Beth David
Editor

Fairhaven Town Meeting members voted to ban Flock-type cameras from town at a Special TM on 11/17/26, despite a presentation by the police chief supporting the cameras and a warning by Town Counsel, Heather White, that the vote may not be legal.

Ms. White told TM that the town had a "strong Police Chief" model, so it was doubtful that TM had the authority to ban the cameras. Other TM members also spoke against the article, saying that the Select Board was the appropriate authority to make the change.

The citizen petition was submitted by Joseph Russell. In his presentation, Mr. Russell said the article would not break any contracts, it simply allowed the current contract to expire, and did not allow the police department to renew it.

Flock Cameras, referred to as Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPR) have become controversial because the system is connected to other cameras nationwide. It is not the conventional ALPR that just records the plate number. Flock cameras take a photo of the back of every car that passes through the intersection, and creates a searchable database with identifying information, such as roof racks or dents. Flock calls it a "Vehicle Fingerprint. The cameras can be accessed by law enforcement around the country.

Abuses have been found in multiple municipalities, with police officers tracking former romantic partners, and looking for people without due cause.

The *New Bedford Light* also ran an article last week saying a Fairhaven Police Officer used the vague term "welfare check" more than 750 times.

Fairhaven Police Chief Daniel Dorgan said the officer did not want to flag that he was looking for drug dealers because the auditing information on the cameras can be obtained by the public, and therefore, the subject.

Which, it seems, only proved the point of skeptics, that the information could get into the wrong hands.

Mr. Russell told TM that the camera records everyone, innocent or not.

"Rights aren't only for people with something to hide," said Mr. Russell.

He noted that the police chief told the Select Board that Fairhaven shares information with about 260 other cities and towns from Fairhaven to Florida. He noted that the town does not share with the federal government...now.

"But a setting is not a wall," said Mr. Russell. "Every protection on this network is a checkbox in a software menu, and checkboxes get changed."

He said conventional cameras are still allowed, and cameras on homes are allowed.

"What ends is recording everybody, all the time, in order to find somebody, someday," he said.

More than 40 municipalities in the state have blocked the use of Flock cameras.

Chief Dorgan made his case in favor of the cameras, showing cases that were solved because of the unique capabilities of the Flocks.

He also highlighted the many safeguards, and stressed that not all

STM: cont'd next page



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officers can access the system. They need training, he said.

Chief Dorgan said the photo does not see where a car turns, it only sees the car's rear. The data are deleted in seven days, and the town does not share with federal agencies.

Several people spoke, with at mix of those against the cameras and those for it.

Jim Anderson said it was "nonsense to say that AI cannot access the system.

Former police chief Gary Souza supported the officer who had been the subject of the NB Light article. He asked if the officer was part of the drug task force and Chief Dorgan confirmed it.

The Chief said the searches were for law enforcement purposes and the officer had concern for the integrity of the investigations.

TM member Ilga said that unless the town had its own servers, an actual hard drive in its possession, then they do not own the date.

Anne Soares said the town has no idea how the information is being used.

TM member Cameron Durant said TM was the wrong place to propose the ban. He said the authority was with the Select Board.

"We're on the wrong side of history with this right now," said Kevin Grant. "But we can change that tonight."

Wayne Hayward said he was torn by the article. In any case, he said, "The horse if out of the barn," as far as protecting personal data is concerned.

In the end, the vote looked close enough to require a count. Town Moderator, Mark Sylvia, clarified that a "yes" vote would end the use of the cameras and a "no" vote would leave things as they are.

The vote was 92 yes, and 77 no.

The measure will now go to the Attorney General's Office, which will decide if it can be legally implemented.

Town Meeting members also approved a series of bylaws changes recommended by the Special Bylaw Review Committee which reviewed bylaws to bring them into conformity with the newly adopted Town Charter.

An article calling for reassignment of a Conservation Restriction from the Buzzards Bay Coalition to the Conservation Commission on Weeden Road was passed over at the request of the ConCom chairperson.

In article 4, TM also voted to transfer $253,256 from the West Island Treatment Plant Capital Improvements from 2020, to the Sewer Nitrogen Plant Article from 2022. Public Works Superintendent, Vinnie Furtado, said the WITP improvements came in under budget. The upgrade of the plant on Arsene Street is ongoing.

He noted that the Board of Public Works saved the town about $30 million by jumping through hoops to get grants and securing a zero interest loan from the state for $50 million in borrowing for the project.

At the very end of the meeting, TM member Cindy Johnson made it a point to thank the BPW and Mr. Furtado for going through the hoops, eliciting lots of clapping.

In other business, TM members voted in favor all other articles:

- Article 1 to appropriate $172,114.21

STM2: cont'd to page 17

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Thurs.: 7 a.m.–7 p.m. • Fri.–Sat: 7 a.m.–8 p.m.

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.

Christmas Fair

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

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

Food/Clothing Drive

Let's Help Each Other

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

Academy Building/ Museum Open

LAST WEEKEND!

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/

SAVE THE DATES:

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!

Holiday House Tour

Join the Fairhaven Historical Society for the Annual Holiday House Tour on Sunday, December 6, 2026, from 1 PM to 5 PM. The Tour starts at the Fairhaven Academy Building located at 141 Main Street, where you will receive the brochure and map for admission to the homes.

Tickets are $25 for members of the Fairhaven Historical Society and $30 for the general public. Get tickets at https://givebutter.com/2026-holiday-house-tour-fhvn

Tickets can also be purchased in person at the Millicent Library, 45 Center Street, Fairhaven, during regular operating hours.

Please dress accordingly for the weather.

Learn more about us at www.historicalsocietyfairhaven.org

Olde–Tyme Holiday

Join the Fairhaven Economic Development Committee for the 28th annual Olde-Tyme Holiday event on Sat., 12/12, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Held in the center of town in and around town hall, 40 Center St., Fairhaven, the event includes several local venues with vendor fairs, food, outdoor activities, Santa sightings, and much more.

If you are interested in being a vendor, email edcchair@fairhaven-ma.gov

Winter Vendor Fair

Join us for the 4th annual Winter Craft & Vendor Fair p.m. Sat., 12/5, 10–3, at Hastings Middle School, 30 School St., Fairhaven. Shop, eat, enjoy, support our students! No entrance fees. All are welcome.

Featuring a day filled with holiday cheer, shopping and family fun: lots of unique vendors & crafters; food trucks outside; FAME bake sale; food vendors in cafeteria; live music inside; fire truck outside; kids craft area; raffles, door prizes, and more.

Santa will be here for pictures. Professional photographer on site.

Thank you for supporting our students. We can't wait to see you there.

At The Shep

At Shepherd Center for Performing Arts, 34 Center St (William St entrance), Fairhaven. A radio play adaptation of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol' by Jess Wilson at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 3. Tickets are $20 online or $25 at the door. Visit theshepherdcenter.org

Turkey Shoot

Sun., 11/22, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at New Bedford Revolver and Rifle Club, 246 Bolton St., NB. $1/lucky target/3 shots. All ages accepted, no license required. Door prices, auction, 50/50 raffle, food, fun prizes. All profits to be donated to local charities.

Visit https://www.nbrrc.com/.

Visit https://www.nbrrc.com/. Shooting: 25 targets per relay, prizes awarded to the highest score per relay. So, there are prizes all day long. Children's sized rifles and ammunition supplied.

195 Phase 3 Starts

The Mass. Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing that construction for the Route I-195/Route 18 Interchange Rehabilitation Project in New Bedford will advance to Phase 3. Phase 3 entails shifting westbound traffic onto the newly built I-195 westbound highway viaduct while construction continues on I-195 westbound and on the westbound exit 26 on- and off-ramps.

Beginning on 11/20.

For more information on detour routes and the general project please visit the project website at: https://tinyurl.com/2tx62fbb

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!

Harbor Plan Public Comment

The public comment period for draft Explanation of Significant Differences #8 is open 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.

Carols & Cocktails

November is the kickoff to the holiday season, and it's time to start making your festive plans! New Bedford Festival Theatre [NBFT] will bring a holiday revue - *Carols and Cocktails* - to the Zeiterion stage this December.

Carols and Cocktails will run for ONE NIGHT ONLY at the Zeiterion Theater [The Z], 684 Purchase St., New Bedford, Saturday, December 12, 7 pm.

Tickets: All-in ticket pricing is $35. Group, senior, and student discounts are available.

Tickets can be purchased online, in person at The Zeiterion Box Office (684 Purchase St., New Bedford), or by calling The Zeiterion Box Office at 508-994-2900.

Dock-u-mentary

New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center (FHC) and New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park (NPS) are pleased to announce the next free Dock-u-mentary film screening of the fall/winter 2026-2027 season. The film screening will take place on Fri., 11/20, at 7:00pm at the National Park's auditorium at 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford.

We will screen the 2009 documentary *Truth: Fishing Crisis or Government Management?* In 1976 the United States Congress passed the Magnuson-Stevens Act to provide for the conservation and management of the American Fisheries. But that's not quite how it turned out. Truth presents the true story of American commercial fishermen struggling against the sea, the weather, tough economic times and the federal government to protect their families, their homes, their heritage, and their dignity. Runtime: 52 minutes

Learn more at fishingheritage center.org/calendar.

SAVE THE DATES

WWII Veteran Services

Help us honor a World War II MIA who was just identified, after more than 80 years Missing in Action.

Services will be held for PFC William Gervais on Mon., 12/7,the anniversary of his capture. There will be a short service at 10:30 a.m. at Saunders-Dwyer Funeral Home, 495 Park Street, New Bedford. A full military service will follow at 12:30 p.m. at Mass. National Cemetery, Connery Ave., Bourne.

The public is welcome to attend, and to line the route/overpasses along Route 195.

(See page 13 for story.)

Holiday Greens Sale

The Garden Club of Buzzards Bay will hold its annual Holiday Greens Market on Sat., 12/5, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum Coach House, 396 County Street, New Bedford.

A favorite holiday tradition, the Greens Market will feature a beautiful selection of handmade and individually decorated wreaths, centerpieces, tabletop trees, swags, and more, all created by members of the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay.

Proceeds support the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay's Grant Program, which funds projects and initiatives in conservation, civic beautification, sustainable agriculture, and scholarships.

Plymouth Parade

Join Plymouth, MA, America's Hometown for its annual Thanksgiving Parade on Sat., 11/21. Opening ceremonies at 9 a.m., followed by the parade and a full day of events. Visit https://tinyurl.com/4u8j9jwh or https://seeplymouth.com

Food Drive

Drive and Drop

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 nonperishable 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.

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.

Another highlight will be the fair's raffle baskets, featuring an assortment of appealing items that can make wonderful Christmas gifts, housewarming presents, or thoughtful surprises for friends and family. Visitors are encouraged to explore the selection and try their luck while supporting a meaningful cause.

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 nonperishable 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.

SAVE THE DATES:

Padanaram Stroll

Join us for a magical evening of holiday cheer at our 48th Annual Holiday Stroll! Fri., 12/4, 4–8 p.m., Padanaram Village.

Shop Local, Meet Santa (He'll be at the parking lot on the corner of Elm Street & Bridge Streets); 6th Annual Buoy Tree Lighting, as the sun sets; and…Live holiday music to get you in the festive mood, delicious treats and warm beverages, a joyful atmosphere that will make your heart glow with holiday spirit, a chance to connect with friends and neighbors in our beautiful community.

Invite your friends and family to join in the fun! Let's make this holiday season memorable together.

A Christmas Carol

he Dartmouth High Theatre Company is poised to make all your Christmas wishes come to life with their upcoming production of Mr. Dickens Presents…A Christmas Carol, at Dartmouth High School auditorium on Thursday, December 3rd at 7:00PM, and Friday, December 4th at 7:00PM, with two additional performances on Saturday, December 5th at 1:00PM and 7:00PM.

Tickets are available at the Dartmouth High Theatre Company website and general admission adult tickets are $20.00 each. Student and senior tickets are $15 each.

You can also call or text to reserve your ticket at 508-441-4602. Dartmouth High School is located at 555 Bakerville Road.

Jewelry/Puzzles

Come shop at the Friends of the Acushnet Public Library's Holiday Jewelry and Puzzle Sale on Sat., 12/5 from 9:30 am - 12 pm . The sale will be held in the library's Community Room, at 232 Middle Rd., Acushnet.

Enjoy some refreshments as you browse fine, vintage and costume jewelry as well as beautiful jigsaw puzzles. Prices start at just $1. Come find that one-of-a-kind piece for yourself or for a gift and stock up on puzzles that will provide entertainment during dreary winter days! Cash only. All proceeds support library programs and services.

Jewelry Sale

The Friends of the Mattapoisett Library (FOML) invite you to the 2026 Annual Jewelry & Accessories Sale. It is a wonderful opportunity to do some holiday shopping or treat yourself from a great selection of costume, upscale and vintage jewelry and accessories at VERY reasonable prices. We will also feature high-end pieces in our Silent Auction. Bidding will be open for the three days and will end on Saturday at 1:00 PM.

DATES: FOML Members-Only Preview Sale, Thurs., 12/3, 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM; General Public Sale: Fri., 12/4, 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM and Sat., 12/5, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM at the library, 7 Barstow Street, Mattapoisett.

If you are not yet a member, you can join the Friends of the Mattapoisett Library with a $20 donation. To sign up visit the library circulation desk, or join at the door on the night of the Preview Sale.

We are currently accepting donations of gently used jewelry and accessories. Please drop your donations off at the library circulation desk. All FOML fundraising efforts directly support library programs for children, teens, and adults, including the purchase of all museum, zoo, and park passes.

Holiday Open House

Do you hear what we hear? That's the sound of the holidays speeding toward us! Join Westport Historical Society's Holiday Open House, Sundays: 12/6, 12/13, 12/20, from 1–4 p.m. At the newly renovated Bell School and history center 25 Drift Road, Westport MA

We can't promise lords a-leaping or drummers drumming, but there will be hot cider, WHS stocking stuffers to buy, including a special Head of Westport Celebration Calendar and a photo op with Mr and Mrs Claus on Sunday Dec 20 between 1 - 2!

Visit https://wpthistory.org/events/holiday-open-house/

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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: 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. 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.

Nov. 30 *Home for the Holidays* PG-13 After being fired, making out with her soon-to-be-ex-boss, and discovering that her daughter plans to spend Thanksgiving with her boyfriend, Claudia Larson faces the unenviable task of spending the holiday with her exceedingly dull family.

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.

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.

Every Day at the COA

- SHINE rep: Call for appointment
- Transportation: Call in advance
- Reassurance Program: Daily telephone check-ins
- Medical Transport: Please call
- Nutrition Prog: 11:30 a.m./$3
- Outreach Services: Call for appt.
- Walking in the Rec Ctr: 12:-12:30

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

Hasselback Potatoes

6 large baking potatoes
8 tablespoons butter unsalted
1/2 teaspoon salt, or to taste
1/2 teaspoon pepper or to taste

Optional toppings:
4 slices bacon, fried and chopped
1/2 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
2 tablespoons parsley fresh, chopped
Sour cream

Preheat oven to 425°.

Use aluminum foil to line a baking sheet.

Scrub the potatoes well. Slice into the potatoes, but don't cut them all the way down, stop about 3/4 of the way in.

Cut the butter into thin slices and insert them into the slices in the potatoes. Place on a baking sheet.

Bake for 45 minutes. Then, cover with aluminum foil and bake for an additional 20 to 30 minutes until soft and done.

Remove from oven, cover with toppings, and eat hot.

From commandcooking.com

Dear Frankie



The Match

Dear Frankie,

My dad died several years ago. So, I wasn't surprised when I overheard my mom telling her friend Amy that she wished she had someone special in her life.

Amy suggested she go online and contact Match. Since she began corresponding with Match, she hasn't been herself. When she gets a message from Match, which doesn't please her or, worse yet, when she doesn't get a message, she calls Amy and says in a whiny voice, "Do you think I'm being too forward? Should I say I like sports? Tell me the truth, does my blue dress make me look fat?"

Recently, she started talking in a funny voice on the phone and saying things like, "That's so sweet of you to say," or "Have you always been so kind and sensitive?"

For the life of me, I can't figure out what's come over her. I asked my friends, and they were shocked that I didn't catch on that she was on an online dating site.

Fritzie said that's where her mom met her dad. Does this mean I am going to get a new dad?

Chloe

Dear Chloe,

It does appear your mom has joined an online dating site. Her behavior is typical of humans who haven't dated for a while.

Dating as an adult after being married can be stressful because it's uncharted territory. Your mom wants to be seen as charming and attractive. However, dating is new to her, and she is unsure whether she is approaching it in the right way. Over time, she'll become more comfortable with what she says and wears.

If you are concerned that a new dad will be showing up any time soon, rest assured the chances are slim.

There is a saying: "You have to kiss a lot of frogs before you find a prince."

In short, it means it will take many texts, phone calls, and dates before your mom finds that special someone. Your mom may not be looking for a dad for you. She might be looking for someone she would like to spend time with and be a friend. If you do get a new dad, the good news is it doubles your chances for tummy rubs, walks, and treats. How bad could that be?

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/myhy9wt3

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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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Millicent Spirit Week celebrates children's books

By Beth David
Editor

The Millicent Library staff held Spirit Week to celebrate Children's Book Week, November 9 to 13. Staff members dressed up as a variety of characters.

Monday was Mark Twain Day to kick off the week, Librarian Day on Tuesday, Hungry Caterpillar Day on Thursday, and Children's Book Character Day on Friday. Wednesday was Veterans Day so the library was closed.

The highlighted books were: *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, Alice in Wonderland, Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse, The Teeny-Tiny Woman,* and *Daisy-Head Mayzie.*

The Millicent Library is located at 45 Center St., Fairhaven. Visit www.millicentlibrary.org to learn about programs for adults and children.





The Millicent Library staff held Spirit Week to celebrate Children's Book Week from 11/9–13. Staff members dressed up as characters in a variety of children's books. LEFT: Staff members dress up for Mark Twain Day. RIGHT: Staff members dress up as characters from children's books, including "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie," "Alice in Wonderland," "Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse," "The Teeny-Tiny Woman," and "Daisy-Head Mayzie" on 11/13/26 for Spirit Week to celebrate Children's Book Week. *Submitted photos.*

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• Thursday, Dec. 3th
5:00 - 7:30

PUBLIC SALE
• Friday, Dec. 4th
4:30 – 6:00
• Saturday, Dec. 5th
10:00 - 2:00pm

*Not a Member of the Friends of the Mattapoisett Library?
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Fairhaven honors veterans with parade, ceremony

By Beth David
Editor

The Town of Fairhaven held its annual parade and ceremony on Veterans Day on 11/11/26. The parade stepped off at Benoit Square and traveled on Main Street to Fairhaven High School for the raising of the 30x50-foot "Big Flag" and a short ceremony. The public was invited for food and refreshments at the Council on Aging/Senior Center after.

The speaking program included a welcome by Emcee Mike Jenney, Fairhaven's Veterans Services Officer; an opening pray by Deacon Douglas Medeiros of St. Joseph Parish; patriotic songs by the Greater New Bedford Choral Society and the Fairhaven High School band; a reading of the governor's proclamation by Select Board chairperson, Andrew Romano; remarks by State Rep. Mark Sylvia; and a reading of "What is a Veteran," by Mr. Jenney.

Several hundred people gathered at the high school for the ceremony.

Mr. Sylvia told the crowd that veterans returned home and became the teachers, coaches, parents, and other mentors of his life and the lives of his generation. He thanked them for setting an example and raising a generation.

Mr. Jenny read "What is a Veteran," a tribute to the many who served, what they did in service, and what they did when they came back; and to the many who did not come back.

"He is an ordincary and yet an extraordinary human being — a person who offered some of his life's most vital uears in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others whould not have to sacrifice theirs," said Mr. Jenney.



"So, remember, each time you see someone who has served our contry, just lean over and say, 'thank you.' That's all most people need, and in most cases, it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded."





TOP: Marine Veteran Bill Collins travels with his own flag, holding it as he watched the Veterans Day parade and during the ceremony at Fairhaven High School on 11/11/26. ABOVE LEFT: Veterans of the US Air Force, Marines, and Navy march in parade. ABOVE RIGHT: Army Veteran, Chuck "Hell on Wheels" Cromwell, gives a big smile for the local free sheet as he waits for the program to start at the high school. BELOW LEFT: Children line the sidewalk on Main Street to watch the parade BELOW RIGHT L-R: Fairhaven Select Board members, Rick Trapilo and Natalie Mello, and State Rep. Mark Sylvia, hand out flags along the parade route. *Photos by Beth David.*





Recently identified WWII veteran has Fairhaven ties.

By Beth David
Editor

Imagine you get notified, by none other than the US Military, that your great uncle's remains from World War II may have been located.

And then imagine you had no idea you had a great uncle who was MIA.

For Pauline Parker, of Fairhaven, that is not a hypothetical. Her great uncle, PFC William Gervais, Jr., has just been identified after 82 years, using her own DNA.

"I didn't even know my mémé had a brother," said Ms. Parker, so no one in the family had been expecting him to be found. They didn't know he was lost.

"I think she didn't want to talk about it," said Ms. Parker, who herself gets emotional talking about it. "She didn't know if he was even alive."

Ms. Parker heard from the military in 2018. She sent off a swab of her DNA, and then did not think about it too much. This past June, she was notified that she was a match.

She and her husband, Barry, are both impressed at the lengths the military went through to tentatively identify the set of remains found in Belgium, and then to track down a relative 80+ years later: From Gervais, to Fleurent (Pauline's mémé) to Lemieux, to Parker.

"Somebody really did a lot of investigating," said Ms. Parker.

In December 1944, her Great Uncle was assigned to Company F, 2nd Ranger Battalion, according to a press release from the military. On Dec. 7, the unit was part of the effort to take and secure Hill 400 near

WWII VET: cont'd on page 18





LEFT: Pauline Parker gets emotional as she and her husband Barry talk about the circumstances surrounding the DNA identification of her Great Uncle, PFC William Gervais, a US Army Ranger who was lost in WWII and identified in June. He will be buried in the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne. RIGHT: Barry and Pauline Parker pose with a framed photo of PFC Gervais. An historian in Maine digitally altered the photo to put him in uniform and colorize the photo as his official military portrait could not be located by the US military. *Photos by Beth David.*

Fairhaven PD welcomes eight new police officers

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Police Department welcomed eight new police officers, four who graduated from the academy last week and four experienced officers who were hired over the summer from New Bedford PD. The four new graduates are: Daniel Daponte, Dylan Fonseca, Cameron Gordon, and Mark Ponte. Th four transfers are: Jonathan Andrews, Leira Vazquez-Berrocales, Andy Pereira, and Cameron O'Neil.

On Monday, 11/16/26, the four graduates were sworn in by Town Clerk, Elisabeth Horan in front of town hall.





ABOVE LEFT: Fairhaven Town Clerk, Elisabeth Horan, swears in four new police officers in front of town hall on 11/16/26 after all four graduated from the police academy on Friday. L-R: Dylan Fonseca, Mark Ponte, Cameron gordon, Daniel Daponte RIGHT: The new officers pose with their new colleagues and superiors on the steps of town hall after being sworn in L-R FRONT: Mark Ponte, Dylan Fonseca, Cameron Gordon, Daniel Daponte. *Photos courtesy of Fairhaven Cable Access.*

Obituary: Beatrice S. Johnson



Beatrice S. Johnson

Beatrice Sylvia Johnson, 93, passed peacefully at home surrounded by her family on Tuesday, October 27, 2026. She was the beloved wife and constant companion of the late Milton B. Johnson, Jr. Born March 19, 1933, in New Bedford, MA, she was the devoted daughter of the late John S. Sylvia and Idalina (Goncalves) Sylvia and sister to the late Mary Mitchell, Sylvester Sylvia, John Sylvia and Joseph Sylvia.

A graduate of New Bedford High School, Beatrice went on to work at Cornish Insurance and was a longtime employee at Lumiansky Insurance Agency in New Bedford. She later worked at Bristol County Agricultural Extension Service in Dighton and retired from the Bristol County sheriff's office. Many of her coworkers became lifelong friends. In her later years and in retirement, she was the first smiling face anyone met when they entered her husband Milt's accounting and tax preparation office in Fairhaven. Staying informed about government and politics was an important part of her family's DNA, and for many years, she helped her brothers through all of their campaigns.

Her warmth, kindness and three successful battles with cancer were the inspiration for the Relay For Life team, The Loving Bees, which raised money to help find a cure for cancer. Bea appreciated the time and effort her friends and family gave to this cause for so many years.

Bea was a communicant of St. Mary's Parish in Fairhaven, where she attended faithfully with her dear friends, in particular her closest friend Natalie Sheffield. They enjoyed each other's company during lunches and talked often.

Known to many as "Aunt Bea," Beatrice had so many beloved nieces and nephews throughout the United States and in Madeira, Portugal, with whom she communicated often. She loved traveling, especially to Madeira with her children, and Florida with Milt and their grandchildren. She was loved by many for her ability to listen and for the unconditional love she offered throughout her life. She always enjoyed turning a chance encounter with a stranger into a personal relationship and never turned down an invitation to breakfast, lunch, or shopping with friends.

In her later years and for three wonderful months this past summer, Bea spent her time at the family cottage on Sconticut Neck in Fairhaven (affectionately referred to as "the Bea Hive"). She loved any opportunity to bring her family and friends together, and the Bea Hive did just that during the summer months.

Beatrice is survived by Debra Duff and her husband Robert Duff of Fairhaven; John DeSimas and his partner Carol Medeiros of Fairhaven; and Richard Johnson and his wife Louise Johnson of Fairhaven. She also lovingly remembered Stephen Johnson, who predeceased her.

She is also survived by her beloved grandchildren James DeSimas of Los Angeles, California; Michael Johnson of Summerville, South Carolina; Mark Johnson of New Bedford; Shawn Johnson of New Bedford; Jayme Duff of Acushnet; Michelle Pacheco of Westport; Kristina Besse of Fairhaven; and many great-grandchildren whom she adored, including Samantha, Christopher, Dylan, Erik, Ethan, and Julia.

Beatrice's family would like to extend their thanks to the many thoughtful friends and family members who checked in and visited her recently and who loved and supported her throughout her life. They also want to thank the caring and compassionate healthcare staff of the SICU at St. Luke's Hospital, especially the wonderful staff in the Knowles unit, who treated her and her family with the utmost care and compassion; and the caring and supportive staff at both Southcoast Hospice and Regan Care Partners, who helped care for Beatrice throughout her final journey.

Beatrice's Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, December 5, 2026, at St. Mary's Church in Fairhaven at 10:00 AM. Burial to be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Beatrice's memory to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 6704, Hagerstown, MD 21741 or by going to cancer.org/donate.

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Select Board hears from auditor, investment firm

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Select Board heard from the town's auditing and investment firms at its meeting on 11/9/26.

Tony Roselli of Roselli, Clark & Associates (RCA), conducted an audit of town financial statements to 6/30/25. The firm was hired after the previous firm did not perform as expected.

The firm found no major issues, but did report some smaller findings that had to be addressed. Mr. Roselli said the town is working sufficiently to address the issues.

One issue was with the cash reconciliation process that probably stems from having separate accounts for the collector and treasurer.

He said now that the town has combined those two positions, there should not be a problem.

One reconciliation error was just over $62K that had been carried over for some time. The town accountant identified $36K, which was an overpayment to the IRS. the rest was adjusted.

The firm also found a BC/BS error, that resulted in $152K overpayment.

Several other minor errors were identified and recommendations were made to ensure the errors are not repeated in the future.

He also said that town has more 44 bank accounts, which he believes is more than the town needs. He suggested that the town try to get that number down to 15 or 20.

The board also heard from Bartholomew and Company, which handles the town's investment accounts.

SB member, Rick Trapilo, had some questions at a previous meeting about the firm's fee structure.

Michelle Newcomb and Kathleen Cyganiewicz summarized the town's investments for the board, and explained the statutory requirements for risk taking and other regulations.

Ms. Newcomb said the fee structure is based on the total relationship. She said she believed the town's fees were about 1%, with break points.

"We find that fee schedule to be very competitive," said Ms. Newcomb.

The information from the presentations is available on the Select Board's page on the town's website (go to agenda and minutes).

In another matter, the board voted on a timeliine to hire the next fire chief. Chief Todd Correia is retiring in the fall of 2027.

He told the board he wanted to make sure the town had enough time to go through the whole process. The next Civil Service exam is in February, he said, but that is too soon. He said they need at least six months. He recommended they call for the August exam.

The board approved the timeline and voted to authorize the Town Administrator to call for the exam.

Mr. Trapilo noted that it might be a good time to look at the structure of the department and "take a step back," to try to save money. He said the Budget Working Group had talked about regionalization of the fire department.

SB Chair, Andrew Romano, noted that they were not voting to hire a fire chief. They were only voting on the Civil Service Process. He said they BWG could simultaneously look into regionalization.

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H. L. Mencken

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Thank you for reading the *Neighb News.*

STM2: cont'd from page 4

in insurance proceeds to fix water damage from a broken pipe at East Fairhaven School during the February 2026 blizzard.

- Articles 2, to fund the Dispatch Union Agreement.
- Article 3, to allow the BPW to lease space on and around the water tower on Sconticut Neck Road for a communications antenna
- Article 5: transfer $30,348 in unexpended wages for the FY27 Accounting Department budget to used for succession planning and the costs of hiring a new town accountant.
- Article 7: Establish/readopt OPEB Trust.

Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven

Board of Appeals
Tues., 12/1, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Public Works
Mon.,11/30, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

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

Budget Working Group
Tues., 11/24, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

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

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

Planning Board
Tues., 11/24, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee
Wed., 12/16, FHS Media Ctr., 6:30

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

Acushnet

Selectboard
Mon. 11/23, Town Hall, 4:30 p.m.
Mon. 12/2, 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	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*
Friday	27	0938	2209	0242*	1530*
Saturday	28	1033	2308	0335*	1617*
Sunday	29	1132	---	0427	1710
Monday	30	0011	1234	0534	1832

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

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Public Hearings/Legal Notices

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

Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearing

Tuesday 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

TOWN OF ACUSHNET REAL ESTATE CLASSIFICATION HEARING

In accordance with Chapter 369 of the Acts of 1982, the Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on the issue of allocating the local property tax among the following: residential, open space, commercial, industrial, personal property.

The hearing will be held at the Acushnet Town Hall Meeting Room at 4:30 PM, on Wednesday, December 2, 2026, for the purpose of determining whether or not Acushnet shall remain with a classified tax rate as in past years.

All interested taxpayers are invited to attend and provide input to the Board of Selectmen, who must decide if Acushnet will have one or more tax rates. The Board of Assessors will be in attendance to provide information and data relevant to making that determination.

Kevin Gaspar, Sr., Chairman
Robert Hinckley
Ryan Rezendes
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FNN, 11/19/26, 11/26/26

WWII VET: cont'd from page 13

Bergstein, Germany, in the Hürtgen Forest. Soon after successfully taking the hill, the battalion had to defend against the German counterattack. During the fighting, Gervais and another Soldier, Pfc Carl Winsch, were instructed to make contact with another platoon on a different part of the hill. They never made it to the platoon. Due to continuous artillery fire and the threat of additional German attacks, the battalion could not search for Gervais. He was listed as missing in action.

Another soldier, Technical Sergeant (T Sgt) John Cripps, saw two American soldiers being escorted as prisoners by German soldiers into an enemy pillbox. He assumed the Americans were PFC Gervais and PFC Winsch.

PFC Gervais was born in New Bedford, and lived at 36 Howard Street and worked as a bartender when he was drafted.

He was part of the elite rangers, the soldiers who climbed up those makeshift ladders to get up 100 foot cliffs at Normandy.

In the vernacular, he was a "badass," said Mr. Parker.

The packet of information the family received is filled with details on Mr. Gervais's service record, his medical history (he got teeth from the army), and several letters.

His mother got the letter one year after he was MIA, with an official finding of death.

Records show that in 1950 the military conducted a six-week search for him and other MIA.

In 2020, historians discovered the remains of six soldiers. Five had identification tags. The one that did not was William Gervais. PFC Winsch has still not been found.

PFC Winsch and PFC Gervais became close friends, so much so hat Mr. Winsch's sister, Elvira Elinger, wrote a letter to the military in 1974 asking them to keep looking for her "brother," but she clearly named him as PFC Gervais.

"It just hurts not knowing anything about his missing in action. There are so many MIA from Vietnam being looked into. I hope you may shed some lite [sic] on our loved one William Gervais 31140372," she wrote.

Ms. Parker gets emotional when talking about the relative she never knew existed.

> I love him. I don't know him, but I love him [Pauline Parker]

"We admire him,"said Barry.

"I love him," said Pauline. "I don't know him, but I love him."

She even posted on Facebook: "I've gone from a person who I didn't know existed to a distant relative who I am learning to love and respect and honor who they once were. Uncle William."

She said that her cousins are coming from all over to join the memorial services.

"They wanted to bury him in Germany. They said their cemetery is beautiful," said Ms. Parker. "I said, 'no,' we have a beautiful cemetery in Bourne."

She said she is glad they can get him home and not leave him in Germany where nobody knows him.

Bourne is where his relatives are, and they go all the time to visit and decorate graves.

"I said, 'keep him close,'" she said. "I said we want to bring him home so we can visit and honor him and he will get love and respect by family."

"It's not every day you hear of a World War II veteran being found," said Mr. Parker.

The memorial service will be on December 7, the anniversary of his capture. There will be a short service at 10:30 a.m. at Saunders-Dwyer Funeral Home, 495 Park Street, New Bedford. A full military service will follow at 12:30 p.m. at Mass. National Cemetery, Connery Ave., Bourne.

The public is invited to attend and to line the route and overpasses on the highway to honor PFC Gervais.

"We want to go as big as we can," said Mr. Parker.

"So come out, line the road, line the overpasses," said Ms. Parker, getting emotional. "As everything gets closer I cry. It's overwhelming."

The military has not told them which airport the remains will be flown into locally, said Ms. Parker, or when. The family and, and will, be on he tarmac.

In one more interesting twist, the army was not able to find PFC Gervais's official military portrait, but they did find a picture of him with his unit. An historian in Maine took that picture and used modern software to put him in a uniform and colorize the photo. Ms. Parker had it framed.

A press release from the military also includes several newspaper articles, including one from when he was reported missing, although the wrong photo is in the article.

Obituary: Rita M. Paré



Rita M. Paré

Rita M. Paré, 97, of Fairhaven, passed away on Thursday, November 12, 2026 at Our Lady's Haven in Fairhaven after a period of declining health. She was the loving wife of Ernest J. Paré. They were married for 72 years. She was by his side throughout it all.

She was born in Rochester to the late John and Matilda (Watts) Bernier and grew up in Fall River. As a young girl, Rita was on the Notre Dame Drill Team in Fall River. Rita retired from the Acushnet Rubber Company after many years in final inspection. She was a member of the Apcoite Club. She loved to play bingo with her friends. For many years, she volunteered at Our Lady's Haven with her husband. Rita was a member of the Legion of Mary and a Eucharistic Minister for St. Joseph's Parish. She loved attending the Fairhaven Social Day Program and made many friends while there.

Rita is survived by her children Daniel R. Paré and his wife Patricia of New Bedford, Claudette J. Costa of Fairhaven, Jeanette M. Junier and her husband Carl of South Carolina, William P. Paré and his wife Lori of Mattapoisett, Patricia C. Jarvis and her husband Richard of South Carolina, and Nancy E. DeSousa and her husband Christian of Acushnet; her sister Gertrude Liberatore of Westport; eighteen grandchildren; twenty-nine great grandchildren; and ten great great grandchildren; several step grandchildren and step great grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her husband Ernest J. Paré; her two daughters shortly after their birth; her sons David E. Paré and Richard T. Paré; her grandson Ryan E. Paré; and her siblings Paul L. Bernier, Thomas Bernier, Jacqueline Landry, and Jeannette Soucy.

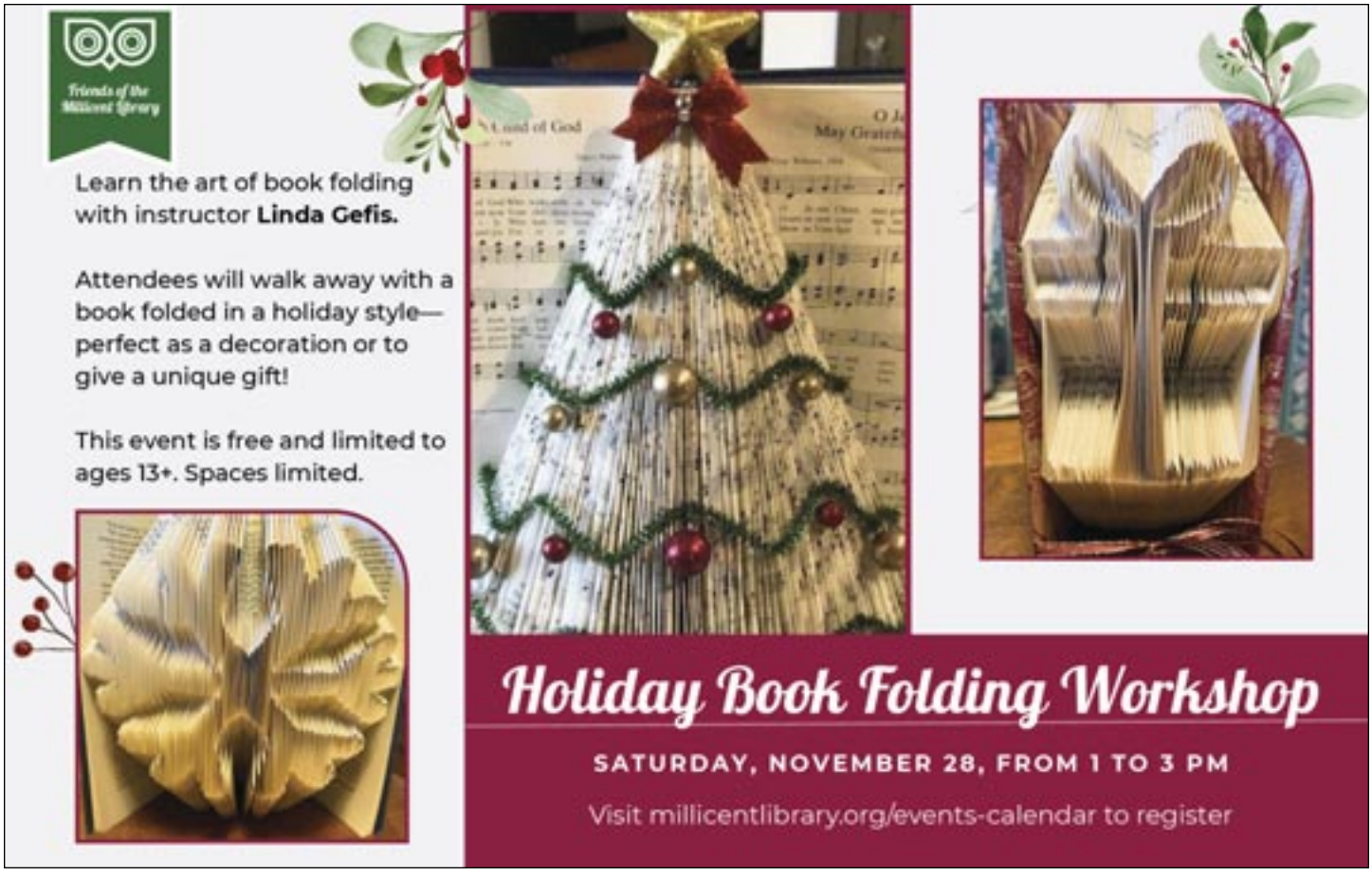
In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the St. Joseph's Building Fund in Rita's memory.

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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