



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 14, Issue 12 • March 21, 2019

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

100 years and going strong



Ellen Martin is clearly losing her patience with all the picture-taking at her 100th birthday party on 3/18/19, as her daughter, Rhonda Lee Whitehair, joins her by her side. See page 12 for story. *Photo by Beth David.*



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First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

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

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

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

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

Wow, 100 years old. How cool is THAT? Our cover story is about Ellen Martin, who has made it to the age of 100 and is still going strong. (See page 12.)

We always say the coolest thing about this job is all the great people we meet. And this is one of those times that proves it.

She wasn't particularly thrilled about having her picture taken, though, so I'm sure she'll be positively delighted that she's on the cover (hee hee).

What a fun little party her neighbors put together for her.

Oh, and spring has sprung...sort of. The date got here, but the temperature still thinks it's winter.

Time, however, marches on anyway. And that means the last candidates night is next Wednesday, at West Island (listing on page 5). If you can't go to it, be sure to tune into Comcast channel 18 or watch it online.

Oh...and speaking of online meetings. Break out the popcorn!

Woohoo. The BPW was mucho fun to watch. DAMN, I wish I could've been in the room. But, watching it was fun, too. All meetings are available at www.FairhavenTV.com. The sound is pretty good. The quality of the picture is pretty good, too. The improvements of the last couple of years are really making a difference.

Good work by the cable access employees.

Well, there's other stuff in here, of course.

Glenn was in Boston this weekend. He just had to get to the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and I just had to get him credentialed, so I just had to use some of his pics. They are a hoot, to say the least. See page 13 for that.

Please take your time, thumb through each page, notice who our advertisers are so you can tell them that you saw their ads in the *Neighb News*.

You can also help by kicking a few dollars our way, too. I love it when people see me on the street and recognize me. It really is fun, but, sometimes I want to say...don't clap, just throw money. I know, I know, I sound ungrateful. But, we need our advertisers AND our readers to support us financially if we are going to stay afloat.

Until next week then...see ya,



Beth David, Publisher

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Buried in Treasures program helps hoarders in Fairhaven & NB

Press Release

The Fairhaven Health Department, along with the New Bedford Fresh Start program, are co-sponsoring a hoarding remediation program known as Buried in Treasures.

This program is roughly 20 weeks and is designed for individuals who struggle with hoarding disorder and/or individuals who are interested in learning how to support someone they know who struggles with

hoarding disorder, such as spouses, children, family members, care givers, etc.

Please keep in mind that those who join must commit to the entire length of the program. While we understand twenty weeks sounds like a long time, the program does fly by and members of the group form a bond which helps to support each other during the program.

There are two groups being offered

that will hopefully fit everyone's schedule:

- Ann O'Donnell, Tuesdays from 3-5 p.m. Starts 3/26, Domino's Pizza Conference Room, 821 Rockdale Avenue, New Bedford, MA. Contact: Ann.odonnell@newbedford-ma.gov
- Amanda Blais, Saturdays from 10 a.m.-noon. Starts 3/30, Millicent Library Community Room, 45 Center St., Fairhaven, MA. Contact: amandablais@comcast.net.

Work on sewer main will close streets in North Fairhaven

Press Release

The Fairhaven Sewer Department began replacing the sewer main on Pilgrim Avenue this week. We will begin work at the pumping station and proceed to Main Street over the course of the project. We expect the work to be completed by March 27th, weather permitting. The street will be closed to traffic from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. each day of construction and there will be no parking on the street itself between those hours. Access to your home will be limited during the day, but the sewer department personnel

will make every effort to accommodate its neighbors.

Water and sewer usage will not be interrupted during this construction, but there will be a green bypass line running through 5 and 15 Pilgrim Avenue, as well as the Royal and Northeast Maritime properties. We will make sure that rubbish collection is not interrupted as well.

If you have any questions or experience any issues while we are working please do not hesitate to call the BPW office at 508-979-4030. Linda Schick will be coordinating the work

on this project and will be available for any questions at either the phone number listed above, or via email at: lschick@fairhaven-ma.gov.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

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BPW has testy exchanges over raises

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Board of Public Works had an evening full of testy exchanges at its meeting on Monday, 3/11. BPW member Robert "Hoppy" Hobson, started right at the beginning, before the meeting even got started, when he said he would not vote to approve minutes from executive sessions going back to October.

All the minutes in question pertained to the raises that were given to the sewer and water superintendents. At issue is that the sewer superintendent got an 8% raise in June when she signed a new contract. However, it turned out that both positions should have been covered by the new wage and classification study, making her contract invalid.

Because of the mixup and some conflicting language in bylaws and state laws that created the Fairhaven BPW and switched Fairhaven to the Town Administrator form of government, the Selectboard had to vote to bring the two positions into the W&C plan. The BPW members and the Selectboard were both split on it, but it did pass and the raises were granted.

Mr. Hobson and DPW superintendent Vinnie Furtado went back and forth, with Mr. Hobson saying the sewer superintendent got an 8% raise, then an 11% raise, making it a 19% raise total, and board members saying that it was not 19%.

Mr. Furtado explained that the 11% was based on the original salary, it was not on top of the 8% granted in June. In total, he said, the raise was about \$14,000, bringing that job to just under \$99,000.

Mr. Hobson, however, would not relent. He kept hammering home his point that the contract should be valid, but if it was not, then they should not have been paying the extra 8% for the past few months.

When they negotiate contracts, said Mr. Hobson, the employees generally get 2-3% raises. He said the two superintendents should also get that, even though 3% of 100K is a lot more than 3% of 35K.

BPW chairperson Brian Wotton stopped discussion on the minutes, and the discussion was tabled to the end of the meeting.

The board kept its appointment, and approved a grease trap waiver for an edible cookie dough business at 48 Main Street. The cooking will be done next door at the American Legion, so a grease trap is not necessary.

The next order of business was the employment agreement for Mr. Furtado. The board approved a change to the contract, adding a year, so it now ends in 2026. Mr. Hobson said the contract was too long.

"Vinnie does a good job and all that," said Mr. Hobson, but no one should get a seven-year contract.

It does not even matter, he said, because at the beginning of the

contract, it says the board can fire him anyway.

"He can quit," said Mr. Hobson, adding that Mr. Furtado should have to pay a penalty if he quits before the contract is up.

Other board members said that the point was to "lock" Mr. Furtado in because the upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Plant were going to take years and they wanted to have someone who would be there throughout the process.

"It's the longest contract I've seen," said Frank Coelho, who is running for BPW, adding that even the President of the US only gets four years.

Mr. Wotton said that the board was an elected board, so members come and go, but Mr. Furtado will be there.

Mr. Coelho disagreed with that, saying that no matter what, the projects would continue.

"It's outrageous to offer him a contract like that," said Mr. Coelho. "I like Vinnie too, but...no one in Fairhaven has a contract that long."

In the end, the vote to approve was unanimous.

The board went back to discussing the release of the minutes. They were all approved, with Mr. Hobson voting "no" on all of them: 10/29/18, 11/19/18, 12/3/18, 12/17/18, 1/7/19, 1/28/19, 2/11/19, 2/25/19; and open session minutes from 2/25/19 that Mr. Hobson voted for.

Mr. Furtado started the new

BPW: cont'd on page 17



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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

WI Candidates Night

The West Island Improvement Association will hold its annual candidates' night on **Wed., 3/27, at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30) at the WIIA Community House, 41 Causeway Rd., Fairhaven.** Refreshments will be served. Come share your views and listen to the issues. Be sure to VOTE on Monday, 4/1!!

Limerick Workshop

On 3/23, see ad on page 3.

Little Mermaid

The Fairhaven High School Drama Club will present Disney's "**The Little Mermaid**" from **Thurs., 3/28-Sat., 3/30, at 7 p.m.; and Sun., 3/31, at 2 p.m.** Don't miss your chance to party "Under The Sea" with Ariel and friends! Relive this classic tale with this fantastic on stage adaptation! This family-friendly classic features all of the songs you know and love as well as some new music you have never heard before! Relive your favorite classic or experience it for the first time. This production features complex special effects, phenomenal acting, and singing!

Tickets will go fast so pick up yours today!

Tickets are \$12 for students/seniors and \$15 for adults and are on sale Mondays and Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. at the Fairhaven High School Box office (Larch St. entrance). Contact Jeremy Young at jyoung@fairhavenps.net for more info.

Join us for a **special meet-and-greet on 3/24 from 12-2** at the high school. We will be giving tech demos, will have cast members in costume and will be offering pictures with the cast. **It is \$5 to enter and \$10 for a professional photo** with the cast that will be signed by the cast members.

Limerick Contest

Limericks Are Back!

The Second Annual Millicent's Limerick Contest is open! Entry forms are available at the library, on the library's homepage (<http://www.millicentlibrary.org>), or by emailing friendsofmillicentlibrary@gmail.com. **The deadline for entries is 5 p.m. April 12.** winners will be announced at a party on Saturday, 4/27, at 1 p.m.

New this year is a **limerick-writing**

workshop, at 11 a.m., Sat., 3/23, in the library auditorium, 45 Center St., Fairhaven, Walnut St. entrance. Whether you're new to limerick writing or your poetic genius needs some fine-tuning, the workshop will be a big help.

The contest is open to people of all ages, with separate prizes for contestants 9 or younger, 10 to 18, and 19+. The judges this year are Cheryl Day (one of last year's winners), Tim Evans, and Mark Badwey.

A special bonus prize in the sports category will go to the person who writes the best limerick whose first line ends in Gronkowski. Prizes have been generously donated by Cleary's Pub, Emma Jean's, the Euro Store, Kenny's Garden Center, Mac's Soda Bar, Oxford Creamery, Pasta House, and Wah May.

Open House

Early Childhood Education open house, **St. Joseph School, 100 Spring St., Fairhaven; Wed., 3/27, 5:30-6:30 p.m.** Come meet and talk with teachers to learn more about our programs. We offer, FT, PT and year round preschool; full time, year round pre-K; full day kindergarten; morning and aftercare; clubs and activities; physical ed., art, music, Spanish.

Edible Plants

As part of our WILD! About Fairhaven series, The Millicent Library is having an encore presentation of "Edible Wild Plants of the Northeast" with Naturalist and Landscaper John Root on **Sat., 3/30, at 1 p.m.** at the Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven, Walnut Street entrance.

Admission is free and perennials for edible landscaping and attracting songbirds, hummingbirds, and butterflies will be offered for sale.

This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Fairhaven Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Classmates, 1969

With the 50th Reunion of Fairhaven High Class of 1969 coming up this summer, the committee is looking for several "lost" classmates.

Most women's names include only their maiden name: They include: Patti Bray, Leslie Garlington Gilliland,

Christine Hayward Donnelly, Anne Macomber, Alan Mendes, Judy Moniz, John Morgan, Carol Reinertz, Maureen Rollins and Maria Santos.

If you have any information on the above, please email 1969classoffhs@gmail.com. The reunion will take place on June 29, 2019.

Scholarships

Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars has more than 25 scholarship opportunities available for high school seniors.

The application period closes on April 20, 2019.

Create a profile/apply online at <https://fairhaven.dollarsforscholars.org>. NEW scholarships are being added constantly. Check your profile weekly to see what NEW scholarships you qualify for both at the local and national level.

Livesey Scholarships

The Thomas Livesey Club in Fairhaven is rebuilding after the fire last year that totally destroyed the building. But members want the public to know that the scholarship program is up and running. The club awards three scholarships, which vary in amount year to year depending on available funds, to area high school students who plan to further their education at a technical school, college, or university. The club's focus was initially, and still is, athletics and how important that is to young people. But club members also quickly realized that young people furthering their education was also important, according to an email by board member David Darmofal. Despite the fire, the club does not want to miss a year of the scholarship program. Applications are available at high school guidance counselor offices. All students who plan on furthering their education are encouraged to apply. The committee will award scholarships in May.

Seeking yearbooks

The Millicent Library is digitizing all the yearbooks from Fairhaven High School. Unfortunately, we are missing 1998, 1999, 2005. Please contact archivist Debbie Charpentier at dcharpentier@sailsinc.org if you have any of them we can use.

Before and after the NB Half Marathon



Fairhaven School Committee member Brian Monroe and his son Adin tackled the hills and turns of the 42nd New Bedford Half Marathon on Sunday, 3/17/19. Adin finished in 2:03, Brian finished in 2:30. LEFT: before. RIGHT: after. *Photos courtesy of Brian Monroe.* The race draws runners from around the world. Money raised from the event goes to a variety of local organizations. It is run by a 100% volunteer staff led by the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. Top prize is \$1,000 for fastest man and \$1,000 for fastest woman. This year's winner for the men/overall was Brad Mish, 31, of Dorchester, MA, in 1:07:02. First woman was Marci Klimek, 31, of Arlington, MA, in 1:14:45. Visit www.newbedfordhalfmarathon.com

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They had fun, but it's time to move on: Emma Jean's to close

By Beth David
Editor

Cathy Melanson has had a good run of it, lots of fun, and lots of memories, but now, she says, it's time to pack up the spatula and move onto the next thing.

Well, maybe let's not pack up that spatula quite yet.

Emma Jean's Cupcake Factory and Ice Cream Shoppe, which opened in the fall of 2011, is closing as a bakery as of 3/31/19. A 50% off sale will start on 3/21, except for bakery items and meat pies, which will still be made daily and by order.

Ms. Melanson said her health issues, that she has been battling for the last three years, have finally slowed her down to the point that she just can't keep up the pace anymore. Her fibromyalgia is no secret, she said, and now she has a few other things that will need medical attention very soon.

"I have to deal with my health issues," said Ms. Melanson. "So it's best if we just shut it down."

She will miss the customers, she said, very much, and hopes they all come in to grab their meat pies in the next ten days before they close.

"I've got some loyal, good customers," said Ms. Melanson. "And they crack me up. We've got some really good people."

But something had to give, she said.

"At this point, I just have to take it easy," she said, but the business still requires an enormous amount of energy and time from her.

She won't be stopping completely, of course. She still has her cable access cooking show, "The Family Table," which she plans to continue.

And...and...big news here, she will be writing a cookbook. And, yes, it

will include all her best recipes, secrets and all. It seems like a good retirement job.

She might even run cooking workshops from time to time to show people how to make all her customers' favorites. Those include her German stollen bread, that includes a secret.

Hmmm...maybe the cookbook won't have ALL her recipes in it.

She said she will keep the phone number active so customers can call for special orders.

What she will not miss, she said, is dealing with the scheduling issues, personnel issues, and all the costs associated with running a business. She said times have changed. Her husband runs a fish processing business, and the two of them also ran EJ's bar and grill next door.

Things have changed just enough to make it even tougher, she said, with taxes, insurance, and additional employee costs required by the state.

"The mom and pop stores are all going belly up," she said.

They just can't compete with the Market Baskets, the big box stores, and online ordering.

She said it does make her sad when she thinks about not seeing her customers on a daily basis anymore.

"They are the ones who make you walk through that door every day," she said.



Cathy Melanson, owner-operator of Emma Jean's Cupcake Factory and Ice Cream Shoppe in Fairhaven, stands behind the counter a few days before announcing that the business will close on 3/31/19, so she can concentrate on her health issues. Photo by Beth David.

She'll miss just "hanging out" and joking around with them. And she'll miss the building, too, which she renovated completely.

"It's so light and colorful in here," she said. "And, of course, I named it after my granddaughter."

Her granddaughter Emma Jean was stillborn in 2010.

"This is something that I truly enjoyed doing," said Ms. Melanson.

Then her eyes light up again as she talks about the cookbook and the cooking show.

"I've got all these yummy recipes, she said: pies, blueberry pie ice cream, bourbon apple crisp, and on and on. "I don't want my customers to be disappointed."

So, she'll just have to show us all how to make them ourselves.

Emma Jean's is located at 115 Huttleston Avenue in Fairhaven; 774-206-1132; or you can find them on Facebook.



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HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Greek Indep. Day

Please join us Mon., 3/25, at 4:30 p.m. on the steps of City Hall in New Bedford on Williams Street to celebrate the 197th year of Greek Independence. Taking its inspiration from our American struggle for liberty and independence, the Greek people raised the Blue and White banner of revolt against the Ottoman Empire at the Lavra monastery on March 25, 1821. After a long struggle and with the help of many other friends of Greece, in 1829 they were successful. We will raise the Greek flag in that same spirit of freedom that they did so many years ago.

The event is free to the public.

March for Life F-R

Masquerade Gala To benefit the American Cancer Society, Sat., 3/23, at 6 p.m., Whaler Inn & Suites, 500 Hathaway Road, New Bedford

Tickets: \$40, includes Dinner, Dancing, Raffles, entertainment by DJ Jordan Paiva. Survivor Fashion Show sponsored by Party Dress Express and Main Street Formals

For more information, contact American Cancer Society, Inc., Northeast Region, 1324 Belmont Street Suite 204 -101, Brockton, MA 02301, cancer.org, 1.800.227.2345

Fish Fry FR

The officers and board of directors of the Club Madeirense S.S. Sacramento of New Bedford are pleased to announce the formation of a Vocational Award Committee. This Committee will grant, each year, financial awards to those deserving high school students entering a trade.

Join us at our **Fish Fry**, all proceeds will go for Vocational Awards. Fish Fry, Fri., 3/22, 5-8 p.m., Club Sport Madeirense, 626 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford, MA. 02746; \$15 per person

For Fish Fry tickets contact: Steve Duarte, duartes1953@aol.com or 508.728.2708; Brandon Travers, Btt72@comcast.net or 508.951.3809; Tim Rodrigues, timothy.rodrigues@gnbvt.edu; or Club S.S. Sacramento, Inc. 508.992.6911

Whale Talk

Alessandro (Alex) Bocconcelli, Research Specialist at Woods Hole

Oceanographic Institution (WHOI), will dive deep into the science of beaked whales during a presentation at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, 17 Johnny Cake Hill, on Wed., 3/27. "Discoveries on Beaked Whales with Digital Recording Tags," begins at 6:30 p.m., preceded by a reception at 6 . **Tickets: \$10 for Whaling Museum members, \$15 non-members.** Visit www.whalingmuseum.org or 508-997-0046. Very little is known about these elusive whales because they spend most of their lives underwater at great depths. Bocconcelli will share new discoveries, made possible thanks to non-intrusive acoustic recording technology developed at WHOI.

State of City Lunch

Jon the mayor for the State of the City address on Thurs., 3/28, from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. (registration begins at 11, at New Bedford High School, 230 Hathaway Blvd., New Bedford

(Two lots will be available for parking with additional street parking in case of over flow. A shuttle will also be available.)

Chamber of Commerce members: \$50, \$500 per table of 10. \$1,500 supporting sponsorship (includes a signed table of 10)

Reservations must be paid in advance, and are non-refundable. Visit <https://southcoastchamber.com>

YTI Play

The gripping drama of survival *Kindertransport* by Diane Samuels will open on March 14, 2019, at YTI's accessible space at 136 Rivet St., New Bedford. Directed by Your Theatre's Edward J. Maguire of Fairhaven the play runs for two Thursdays through Sundays: March 14, 15, 16, 17 and 21, 22, 23, 24. Curtain time is 7:30 PM for all performances except the 2:30 p.m. Sunday matinees. Tickets are \$18 general admission, \$13 for season subscribers (three show minimum), and \$15 for senior citizens, students, and military personnel. For further information call Your Theatre, Inc. at 508-993-0772, or send an email to info@yourtheatre.org, or visit www.yourtheatre.org.

Just before the outbreak of the Second World War, Britain took in over 10,000 mostly Jewish refugee children from Europe. The rescue effort was known as *Kindertransport*.

Separated from their families and fostered out to British homes, most of the children never saw their parents again. Diane Samuels' extraordinary play is about this emergency immigration and its effect over time on generations. Based on real accounts, centering on the experience of one child, Eva, *Kindertransport* tells a powerful story of survival.

It begins in 1939 when 9-year-old Eva is helped to pack her case by her mother Helga in Hamburg. Nearly fifty years later, Faith discovers a box of papers and photos in her mother Evelyn's attic and wants to know the truth about who this Eva actually is.

Diane Samuels' play traces the way memory, remembered and forgotten, deeply affects the present. As such, *Kindertransport* is a story that transcends time and remains particularly relevant today. Aside from its political and historical context, at its core, the play is centered on a universal human experience, the inevitable separation between a child and parent.

SAVE THE DATE:

LGBTQ Winter Film Series

Transgender Teens & Family Dynamics Highlighted in Latest Film. The Series continues on 3/31 at 1 p.m. at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, 18 Johnny Cake Hill, NB. The third film, *3 Generations*, showcases the life of a young trans boy named Ray (Elle Fanning) who has a family struggling with the transition and family secrets.

Lift In Love Convention

Lift-in-Love March Convention and Luncheon to be held at the Salvation Army, located at 619 Purchase Street in New Bedford on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 11:00 am - 12:30 pm. There will be an introduction to the Ministries, a tour of the Salvation Army facility, and a Lift-in-Love presentation of this year's Serve-A-Thon plans and opportunities.

April Vacation Art Programs

Art is important for growing and creative minds! Let your kids express themselves in our workshops and classes. Many of our classes are on a rolling admission and some are drop-in to offer a bit of flexibility for busy lives. Call New Bedford Art Museum, Deb Smook, Education Director at (508) 961-3072

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

Acush Cand night

ACTION will hold its annual candidates night on Thurs., 3/21, at 6 p.m., at the Acushnet Senior Centr, 59 1/2 So. Main St., Acushnet. All candidates have been invited to participate. Candidates will face questions from a moderator and the public. All Acushnet residents are encouraged to attend

Rummage Sale

Clothes, accessories, toys, household, domestics, knick-knacks, books, DVDs, etc. New & special items (in the Boutique). **Fri., 3/29, 1-7 p.m. & Sat., 3/30, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.**, St. Julie Billiard Church Hall, 494 Slocum Rd., Dartmouth, MA. Sat. noon-1 p.m., 50% off (excludes items in Boutique)

Weird New England

The Acushnet Public Library welcomes New England Legends with Jeff Belanger. This multi-media program will take place on **Mon., 3/25 at 6:30 pm.** This free event will be held in the Library Community Room at 232 Middle Rd, Acushnet, MA 02743. Take a multimedia journey through the history, oddities, paranormal, and just plain weird side of New England. This program is constantly changing and is tailored to include stories from the region where the performance is taking place.

Jeff Belanger is one of the most visible and prolific researchers of folklore and legends today. He's the award-winning, Emmy-nominated host, writer, and producer of the New England Legends series on PBS and Amazon Prime, and is the author of over a dozen books on the paranormal (published in six languages). He also hosts the New England Legends weekly podcast.

Books will be available for sale and signing. This program is sponsored by the Friends of the Acushnet Public Library.

Bird Club Mtg

The Nasketucket Bird Club will be meeting on **Thurs., 3/28 at 7 PM at the Mattapoissett Public Library, 7 Barstow St.** Member Carolyn Longworth will present "From Bad Hotspot to Good Hotspot: Birding at Egypt Lane." She will give a brief history of Atlas Tack, the Fairhaven

superfund site which went from a dumping ground for industrial cyanide and PCBs to a prime bird habitat through cooperative funding by state, local and federal governments.

Carolyn will show photos of some of the birds, common, endangered and just plain surprising, that have visited. Some are glimpsed on the way to somewhere else and others stay and raise families. If a rare bird is going to show up in Fairhaven, it will probably be at Egypt Lane.

Open to the public, accessible, Use the south door entrance.

Visit us at: <http://massbird.org/Nasketucket/> or email our President Justin Barrett at jmbarrett426@gmail.com

Rabies Clinic

Acushnet will hold its 2019 Rabies Clinic on Sun., 3/24, at the Acushnet Town Barn, 700 Middle Road, from 9 a.m.-noon. Fee \$10.00/per animal*. Rabies vaccine 1 & 3 year (three year rabies vaccine available WITH PROOF OF CURRENT VACCINATION).

Hosted by Acushnet Animal Hospital

*All dogs must be on a leash and cats in carriers.

Barn Sale

St. John Neumann Parish is Sponsoring their "ONE DAY ONLY Barn Sale" Taking place RAIN or SHINE at the St. John Neumann Parish Barn, next to Cathedral Camp On Rt. 18 - Middleboro Road, E. Freetown, on Sat., 3/30, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Take Exit 8 (Chace Road Exit) off Route 140. Free Admission. A bargain hunter's paradise!

Wing Eating Contest

The Children's Advocacy Center of Bristol County 2019 Wing Eating Contest Help kick off National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Thurs., 3/28, 6 p.m., at White's of Westport, 66 State Rd, Westport,

Bracket Style competition to find out what local police, fire, EMS or other child safety service agency will advance. Free Family Event Raffles Pub Style Food for Purchase Live Music by Wicked Undertow. Fun107 Live Broadcast by Michael Rock Gazelle

Event donations will benefit children and families and child abuse prevention programs. For more information, contact Donna Charon (508) 674-6111 dcharron@cacofbc.org www.cacofbc.org

Photog Exhibit

The Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture is a proud sponsor of the Photographic Exhibit Opening "Through Our Eyes," on Sat., 3/23, 1-3 p.m. at Narrows Center for the Arts, 16 Anawan St., Fall River. FREE and open to the public through April 27. Hours: Wed.-Sat., 12-5. Families are especially welcome!

The over thirty contributing photographers are all adult English-language learners at SER-Jobs for Progress, Inc. who have made their home in Fall River. Over the past year, the students have been exploring the world around them through the lens of a camera and taking photographs of whatever struck them as important, interesting, or beautiful.

For more information contact the Narrows at 508-324-1926, Andrea Klimt at aklimt@umassd.edu, or SER-Jobs for Progress at 508-676-1916.

Concert

The Tri-County Symphonic Band, in collaboration with the Buzzards Bay Coalition, the Marion Art Center and the Community Boating Center, will present the premiere of "Postcards from Buzzards Bay" on **Sun., 3/24 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Fireman Performing Arts Center at Tabor Academy's Hoyt Hall (235 Front St., Marion). Tickets: \$15 pp, \$5 students, free for 12 and under.**

Get tickets: www.savebuzzardsbay.org/events/postcards-from-buzzards-bay-concert-mar-24-2019/

"Postcards from Buzzards Bay" is a celebration of the great body of water that shapes the lives of all who live and work in and around this wonder of nature. The seven-movement work brings to life the many ways that we encounter, embrace and endure this wonderful Bay. Musical metaphors depict scenes and happenings near Cuttyhunk, the dangerous shoals of the Elizabeth Islands, a Marion Regatta, a squall off the coast of Dartmouth, the departure of the fishing fleet from New Bedford and sunset at Woods Hole.

Recipe of the Week

Ultimate Cheesy Southern Squash Casserole

1 lb ground pork sausage
2 1/2 lbs. yellow squash, sliced into 1/4-inch rounds
1 small sweet onion, diced
1 1/2 tsp salt, divided
2 large eggs, lightly beaten
8 oz. sour cream
1/2 cup mayonnaise
1/4 tsp pepper
1/2 tsp garlic powder
8 oz. thick cut mild cheddar cheese
2 sleeves buttery crackers, crushed
4 tbsps butter, melted

Preheat oven to 350°. Spray 13x9" baking dish with non-stick spray. In a large skillet, crumble and cook sausage. Add squash, onion and 1 tsp salt. Cook, stirring constantly until squash is tender. Drain mixture to remove excess grease. Stir together eggs, sour cream, mayo, pepper, garlic powder and 1/2 tsp salt. Add cheese, mix to combine. Lightly fold in squash and sausage mixture. Pour into prepared dish. Combine crushed crackers and butter, then spread evenly over mixture in casserole dish.

Bake in 350° oven for 25-35 mins or until golden brown.

By Melandia & Marcio

Join Team SouthCoast eco-challenge

Press Release

The Fairhaven Sustainability Committee invites friends and neighbors to join Team SouthCoast April 3-24 for the Drawdown EcoChallenge, a 21-day online engagement program aimed at reducing carbon and reversing global warming.

"The EcoChallenge is a fun way to reduce our carbon footprint and learn about how we can be more sustainable in the future," says Fairhaven Sustainability Committee Chair Deirdre Healy. The Drawdown EcoChallenge is free, open to the public, and focused on simple, daily actions organized into seven categories ranging from food to transportation. The various actions offered are supported by carbon reduction solutions spotlighted in *Drawdown*, an all-ages book founded in meticulous research. You can find copies of *Drawdown* at the Millicent Library.

Participants will earn points for taking actions, which can be something as simple as spending some time walking outside daily, and can track and share their progress

online. The combination of collective action, camaraderie, and friendly competition makes change a little bit easier and a lot more fun.

Join Team SouthCoast in its effort to finish in the top 20 this year. Last year, Team SouthCoast finished 27th out of 768 teams internationally! The teams that score the most points during the EcoChallenge will win up to \$2,500 in prizes.

For more information and to participate, please visit <http://bit.ly/SouthCoastEcoChallenge>, or follow the Fairhaven Sustainability Committee Facebook page.

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100 years & going strong, Ellen Martin still simply enjoying life

By Beth David
Editor

Ellen Martin insists there is no secret to her long life.

"I'm a happy person," she said on the occasion of her 100th birthday this week. "I had a good marriage, happy home life, two good children and grandson, and I live in a nice place."

She was talking about Fairhaven Village, where she has lived for about seven years. She grew up in Dartmouth, lived for a time in New Bedford, but mostly lived her married life in Freetown. Then she moved a bit down south to be with her daughter. But eventually came back "home" to the New Bedford area.

"I've had a very good life," she said.

Her husband was a "New Bedford guy," she said. She knew his sister, and that's how they met.

She likes living in Fairhaven Village, she said, because people are so nice and help each other out. She singled out Rita Mayer, the culprit in the surprise party and especially the surprise press presence. Ms. Martin said Rita lives close to her, checks on her all the time, and helps out.

"She helps everyone," said Ms. Martin.

The first day she moved in, Rita was there to lend a helping hand.

"It's a nice place to live.

She had friends and acquaintances around her. Her daughter Rhonda Lee Whitehair with her husband CW, her niece Charlotte Stone, and her grandson Eric Martin to celebrate the big day. Her son Forrest lives in California, said Ms. Martin, and is not well enough to travel, but his son Eric was there.

Ms. Martin's husband, Lawrence, aka Larry, drove a Union Street Railway bus for 36 years. They were married for 58. She worked in mills, and made clothes for years. She even

made wedding gowns, worked as a bridal consultant, and managed a bridal store in Taunton

"You name it, I did it," said Ms. Martin.

She sang in a quartet called the "Whalerettes" and, according to her daughter, often made all their outfits. She liked square dancing, too.

She won't sing anymore, said her niece, because she thinks her voice is gone. And, dancing is a bit tough now, too. But she still drives herself to the grocery store.

"I play a lot of games on the computer," said Ms. Martin. "I do everything and anything. I'm not as good as I was, though."

She plays a couple of different kinds of solitaire, and a few other games, but she's not online.

"I taught myself," she said.

She had two brothers and two sisters, who are gone now. She noted that her brother was Leonard Bettencourt who worked at New Bedford Voc-Tech.

"He was well known," she said.

Her daughter said that Ellen was always very active, and still is. She crochets, still drives, and takes care of herself.

When Rhonda Lee was young, her mother made her clothes. She said she would show her the newest style and her mother would make it.

"She was very frugal," said Rhonda Lee, and a strict mother, too.

When Rhonda Lee got out of hand, her mother would threaten to send her to Sacred Hearts Academy, a home for girls, and the same building that now houses Fairhaven Village.

"Now, she's living in Sacred Hearts Academy," said Rhonda Lee with a laugh.

Grandson Eric said that he remembers lots of healthy food at his grandmother's, and just being able to hang out, play games, and play in the open spaces of Freetown.

And strudel, definitely Ellen's



ABOVE: Ellen Martin stands next to a banner announcing her 100th birthday on 3/18/19 at Fairhaven Village in Fairhaven. BELOW: Ms. Martin gives a photographer what-for for taking her picture, while her niece, Charlotte Stone, chuckles. Photo by Beth David.

"famous strudel," and listening to the Carpenters on the record player.

"She's the best grandmother in the world," said Eric.

Ellen's niece Charlotte remembers making quilts with her aunt. She still spends time with her when she can; Ellen likes to go out to eat.

A few others showed up for the party, too, people from the building, invited personally by Rita Mayer, who threw the big bash; and Nercy Martins, 33, who said Ms. Martin hemmed up a dress for her just a few years ago.

"I had to be here," said Ms. Martins.

Jean Reis lives at Fairhaven Village, and said she did not know Ms. Martin that well, but that she was always friendly.

"I told her I wanted to be like her when I grow up," said Ms. Reis. "She said 'you can't be like me, you don't dye your hair. My husband told me never go gray.'"

"She's a very nice lady, friendly," said Ms. Mayer, adding that Ms. Martin did not want a party, so, they just did not tell her about it. "You don't turn 100 that often."

So, even though she swears she has no secrets, does Ellen Martin at least have some advice?

"Be happy. Life is so short," she said.

She would not talk about the changes in the world since she was a young woman, except to say that people are not the same. She doesn't much like the tattoos and earrings and how people are so quick to "shack up" and not get married.

"I'm old fashioned."

•••



Everybody's Irish on St. Patrick's Day, especially in So. Boston



Boston held its 118th St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, 3/17/19 in South Boston. People from all over the country and the world traveled to Boston to see the parade. More than once, people said that even though they weren't Irish, everyone in South Boston was Irish for the day. BELOW LEFT, L-R: Hein Keesom and Yvonne Maneschijn visited Boston all the way from The Netherlands to see the parade. BELOW MIDDLE: Dorothy Brady and Anthony Coulson from Warrington in the UK timed their vacation in Boston specifically to see the St. Patrick's Day Parade. BELOW RIGHT: This little poser is definitely ready for her close-up. *Photos by Glenn C. Silva.*



MMA Fighter Conor McGregor.



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Kool Kids April Vacation

This four-day program is a great opportunity to make new friends while participating in fun group activities such as pillo polo, floor hockey, dodge ball, cooperative games, flag football, arts & Crafts, etc. Kids will need to bring their own lunch for the first three days of the program. The last day is a pizza lunch. Come ready to have Fun! Sneakers and active clothes must be worn each day. Kids will be grouped according to their current grade in school. Grades: K-5 Dates: 4/16/19-4/19/19 Time: Drop off between 8-8:15, pick up by 3 p.m. Instructors: Staff Cost: Member \$100 Non Member \$125

16th Annual Flashlight Easter Egg Hunt

(pre registration required)

Join us for the eleventh annual flashlight egg hunt. Children will search for their eggs on the Recreation center grounds and return them to the Easter Bunny for a special treat. Don't forget to bring your flashlight & camera for pictures with the Easter Bunny. In event of Rain, event will be held indoors at the Center. Date: April 12th Time: 7:30 PM Place: Recreation Center Ages: 10 and under. \$5 due at registration. **Deadline to register is Tuesday April 9th. No late registrations** will be accepted. No walk-ins will be allowed on the night of the event.

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Mall Trips

3/20 Providence Place, Whole Foods 4/3 Plainridge Park Casino
3/27 Hyannis Mall, Xmas Shop & Trader J 4/10 Burlington & SC Market Place

Entertainment: 12:30-2:30 p.m.

3/21 Ray J • 3/27 D&D • 4/3 D&D • 4/4 Ray J

Special Activities

Weather Cancellations

If we have any amount of snow accumulation, there will be no shopping that day and activities may be cancelled. Call the Senior Center (508-979-4029) to confirm. So please stock up on non-perishable food items. If the Town Hall is closed because of bad weather, the Fairhaven Senior Center will also be closed.

Southcoast VNA & Hospice

Grief Support Group, 1st Tuesday of the month Widows and Widowers Grief Support Group 5:00-6:30 p.m. 3rd Tuesday of the month General Loss Grief Support Group 5:00-6:30 p.m. Join Nancy Arnold as she provides the support you need to get through these difficult times. Call the Fairhaven Senior Center to sign up at 508-979-4029.

Sewing Circle

Mondays 1-3 p.m., Mar. 18; and Thursdays 5:45-8 p.m., Mar. 14, 21, 28. Call 508-979-4029 for additional dates.

Computer Technology for Seniors

9-10:00 a.m. Participants must sign up at the main desk at the Senior Center. Bring your own laptops. The

first 10 to sign up will be accepted. March 4, 6, 8, March 11, 13, 15. Unlimited number for 18, 20, 23. all classes are from 9-10:00 a.m.. Please call the Fairhaven COA to sign up.

Got Talent?

The Fairhaven Rotary Club will be sponsoring the fourth Annual Senior Talent Showcase, Sunday, May 5 (NOTE DATE CHANGE) from 1-4:00 p.m. at the Fairhaven Town Hall. If you are a senior with a special talent that you would like to perform at the show, please contact Melissa Kurcharski at 508-330-4837 or Melissa@fsuinc.com

Pathways through Grief

Every Monday until April 22, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at The Fairhaven Senior Center, This educational program will help gain skills to cope with grieving. If interested call John Rider at 508-324-1900 ext. 104 or Christine Soares at ext.128. Program offered at no cost and limited to 12 participants.

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Acushnet Selectboard hears more budgets, gives thumbs up to TA

By Pattie Pacella

Neighb News Correspondent

The Acushnet Selectboard continued to review FY20 department budgets at its meeting on 3/19. Board member Kevin Gaspar was absent.

Technology Director Chris Olive r explained what his department had accomplished in 2018, including Wi-Fi in Town Hall and the Parting Ways building, and access control. He said they were in the final stages of a computer network audit.

Mr. Oliver said he was presenting a level service budget which included a software maintenance agreement, and more hours for a network technician. He also included \$10,000 to train staff about passwords, and sharing documents protocols. He explained he never wanted to be in a position of a “ransom hacker.”

“To keep our name out of the paper so to speak,” said Selectboard member Roger Cabral said, eliciting a chuckle.

The Selectboard also heard from Department of Public Works Director Dan Menard on his budget for vehicles.

He discussed a liftgate for a truck, he said was mostly for safety for his employees; and a water department pickup truck, that is four wheel drive, and one ton with a plow on it.

Mr. Menard stated that his department does all the maintenance on Town vehicles and that he was asking for a lift for inside the garage to help with the work on vehicles.

Carol Harris of Woodard & Curran was also presented a review of Phase III of the Infiltration and Inflow Investigation taking place in the Town. Ms. Harris explained that phase one was done in 2016, phase two in 2018, which means that 47% of



The town of Acushnet and the Council on Aging receive a certificate acknowledging Acushnet as age-friendly community by the AARP. L-R: Acushnet Selectboard member Roger Cabral; State Representative Chris Hendricks; Selectboard chairperson Mike Cioper; COA Director Heather Sylvia; AARP State Director Michael Festa, AARP Executive Council member Gerald Flaherty. Photo by Pattie Pacella.

sewer collection has been investigated as well as 37% of manholes. She said this was a continuation of the program that included another fifty manholes and 9,700 feet of linear piping. Ms. Harris said they would be working with Mr. Menard to complete phase three.

Mr. Noble expressed his concern about the price tag of \$1.2 million they were asking to develop a plan for a needs area. He said he was very concerned with that dollar price and asked them to contact him to discuss it.

The Selectboard also gave Mr. Noble his Performance Review at the meeting, with Chairperson Michael Cioper stating the Board was generally very pleased with his performance, his communication and his leadership skills.

“You have brought a team attitude in the Town, which is admirable,” Mr. Cioper said as he thanked him for his efforts.

Mr. Cabral echoed Mr. Cioper by saying he to was very happy with the work Mr. Noble was doing.

In the Town Administrator’s report, Mr. Noble stated he had given the Board his first rough draft of Town Meeting Warrant Articles, and stated there were 39. He told the board they would still need to vote on accepting each article for the warrant at a future meeting.

In other business, the Selectboard and the Council on Aging were presented with an award from AARP State Director Michael Festa commending the Town of Acushnet on becoming “an age friendly community.”

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BPW: cont'd from page 4

discussion by reviewing the history of the town administrator act, and the abolition of the Personnel Board, with those duties going to the new TA, and the conflict with the language. The TA and Personnel Board changes assumed that the BPW would also be eliminated and that public works would be under the authority of the TA. But voters rejected that.

Mr. Furtado explained that non union personnel used to be under the Personnel Board, but that board was eliminated. He said when the water superintendent contract was about to expire in December, he checked with Town Counsel on how to proceed and that is when he learned that the contracts were invalid.

"Did one of those employees get lucky? Yes," said Mr. Furtado.

The two went back and forth a bit.

"I'm just trying to bring it all out on TV," said Mr. Hobson, so maybe people will think that "Hoppy's not that dumb."

He said the BPW is giving away too much power. Why not just give it all to the TA, he said.

"When Osuch [former Executive

Secretary] was here, none of this shit happened," said Mr. Hobson.

Mr. Furtado countered that the town was lucky they found people to work at the lower wages for all those years.

Mr. Wotton tried to rein in the discussion. He said the topic was in Mr. Furtado's report, so he would let board members continue, but he would no longer open it to the floor, meaning the public. Mr. Coelho, however, kept raising his hand to speak.

Mr. Wotton said it would be a violation of Roberts Rules of Order, because the two superintendents were not there to represent themselves.

"I don't think it's right. I'm gonna put a stop to it right now," said Mr. Wotton. "And if anybody has a problem with it, you can leave this room immediately. Understand? I will not take discussion from the floor."

His voice slowly raised louder and louder.

"This will be the last time, Mr. Coelho, that I will state that," said Mr. Wotton. "And if you raise your hand

again, I'm gonna politely ask you to leave the room."

Mr. Coelho stood up and the two spoke over each other for a bit.

"I'll tell you what," said Mr. Coelho. "You don't have to ask me to leave the room. I'll leave the room."

He said that Roberts Rules of Order would allow him to speak if the board voted on it and he was going to ask for that vote.

"But you denied me that," said Mr. Coelho.

"I'm not allowing discussion on this matter," said Mr. Wotton.

And Mr. Coelho left the meeting.

Later in the meeting as they discussed committee assignments, Mr. Hobson got a few more shots in about salaries. He said the waterways fund was being used for salaries and that is not what it is supposed to be for.

"The people in this town ain't paying attention," said Mr. Hobson. "And my parting shot would be: If Mr. Roderiques [former Finance Committee chair] and Mr. Osuch were still here, we wouldn't be going through all this." •••

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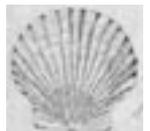
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Fairhaven candidate statements



FAIRHAVEN PLANNING BOARD: John Malaspino

My name is John Malaspino (I go by Jay) and I am interested in returning to the planning board as a write-in candidate.

There are three positions on the ballot and I am running a write-in campaign for the two-year term that was vacated by Nicholas Carrigg.

I have held that seat since July of 2018 upon my appointment to fill out the term until the next election.

I have been a homeowner and resident of Fairhaven for the past seven years. I have spent a majority of my life on Cape Cod before moving to the Southcoast a decade ago. This experience living in towns bordered by the ocean will enable me to understand our needs for planning in the future.

My work experience has been exclusively in the construction/residential design field. At present I am a self-employed residential home designer. I have worked a large part of my professional life as a self-employed business owner so I understand the needs of local businesses and concerns.

I feel I will bring mainstream moderate concerns in my voting for projects that come before the board. I attend most meetings, having only missed one meeting (that wasn't on the yearly schedule of meetings) in the previous nine months. I study the projects that come before the planning board and try to inform myself before the meeting.

I have recently completed an all-day schedule of classes sponsored by the Citizen Planner Training Collaborative for members of Massachusetts planning/zoning boards.

If elected I will continue training in order to better serve the position.

I respectfully ask for your vote on April 1st.

Please write in my name and address for the two-year term: John Malaspino 14 Bayview Avenue.

I hope for success so I can continue serving our town. Thank you!



FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK: Carolyn Hurley

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EHMS student Brooke Boucher in Project 351 ambassador

Press Release

Elizabeth I. Hastings Middle School eighth-grader, Brooke Boucher, has been helping those in need in our local community through her own personal efforts. Now, she has the chance to make a difference on the State level through Project 351.

Inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of the Beloved Community, Project 351 is an independent nonprofit organization that builds a movement of youth-led service by engaging an unsung hero from each of Massachusetts' 351 cities and towns.

United for a year of leadership and service, Ambassadors transform communities, elevate kindness, advance social justice, and gain the courage, compassion, and capabilities to lead change.

Boucher was nominated by her teachers and the faculty at the middle school to be a Project 351 ambassador because of her leadership qualities, her positive, humble attitude and her selflessness to step up and serve those in need in our community.

She attended the Project 351

Launch Day during MLK weekend in January. There, Boucher learned about the 12-month service learning project she would be embarking on with her group of peer ambassadors, Cradles to Crayons, a nonprofit organization aimed at providing kids from birth to age 12 with essentials they need, free of charge. Boucher was able to dive right into her work during Launch Day and spent her time packaging a week's worth of clothes for a child in need.

Ambassadors are then expected to take what they learned from Launch Day and build a service-based project in their own community in support of the project assigned.



Brooke Boucher, a Project 351 Ambassador from Elizabeth Hastings Middle School in Fairhaven, stands next to a student art exhibit at the school. She will create a community-building project to work on throughout the year. *Submitted photo.*

For her Cradles to Crayons drive in our community, Boucher told us that she would be leading a Clothing Drive at St. Mary's Church in Fairhaven. She'll be collecting new to gently used clothing items that she plans to donate to local families in need as well as Cradles to Crayons.

BOUCHER: cont'd to page 20

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Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

Tuesday, April 2, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

Banquet Room, Town Hall, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

- 1) 62 Grandview Ave. Special Permit for a Home Occupation. (cont'd from March 5, 2019 meeting)
- 2) 145 Chestnut Street – 198-18: Variance request for side lot setback less than 10' in a RA district to add 370 sq feet addition for a kitchen extension and an additional bedroom.
- 3) 149 Dogwood Street – 198-18: Variance request for side setback of 9.1' proposed in a required 20' setback in a RR district to add a 8x10 addition and possible dormer.

- 4) 142 Balsam Street – 198-18: Variance request for proposed 9.9' side setback of a required 20' side setback in a RR District. 198-18: Variance request proposed 17.78% in a maximum building coverage of 15% and variance requested for proposed 35.87% of a maximum lot coverage of 25% to build a dormer and deck.
- 5) 167 Ebony Street – 198-18: Variance request for 4' on front porch of a 22.1 setback, and average 26.5' setback where 30' is required for front porch.
- 6) 102 Fir Street – 198-18: Variance request for 47% Uplands on a minimum lot area that requires 80% in an RR District for new home. 198-18: Variance request short 7' in a 30' required front setback. 198-18: Variance request, short 16,053 of contiguous upland whereas 24,000 is required in a

RR District. 198-21 (D): Variance request for restoration within 2 years for new home.

- 7) 15 Manor Drive – 198-16: Special Permit required in a RA District for an Accessory Apartment.

Peter DeTerra, Chairman
3/21/19, 3/28/199

Fairhaven Public Schools Annual Budget Hearing on the FY'20 Budget

Fairhaven High School
Bernard F. Roderick Library
12 Huttleston Ave
Wednesday, April 3, 2019 • 6:30 p.m.
PLEASE NOTE: DATE CHANGE

BOUCHER: cont'd from page 19

On top of her work with Project 351, just this year, Boucher also organized a Teddy Bear Drive within the Fairhaven Public Schools in support of the Friends of Jack organization. To date, she has donated 17 bags of new or gently used stuffed animals to local hospitals where young children have extended stays in order to provide them with some of the comforts from home they may not have in the hospital.

Boucher's desire to help others and her will to serve comes natural to her.

"Meeting new friends, working toward a common goal and having and achieving a dream," are all things that make this eighth-grader's giving, selfless motor go.

She also mentioned that "being part of my community and taking positivity and making it into something great," is what inspires her to continue to help those in need.

In addition to her Cradles to Crayons Clothing Drive plan and her ongoing Teddy Bear Drive, Boucher has more plans this spring to collect more donated items with a personal

initiative. Next month, Boucher is planning on starting a Book Drive within the Fairhaven Community. Though her plan is not finalized, she'd like to have collection boxes around town for community members to donate new or gently used books. Boucher plans on donating these books to local daycares, community centers and families in need.

For more information on news and upcoming events, follow Fairhaven Public Schools on Facebook, Twitter (@Fairhaven_PS) and on Instagram (@FairhavenPublicSchools) ●●●

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Fairhaven Meetings ANNUAL ELECTION

Mon., 4/1, polls open 10 a.m. to 8 p.

Board of Appeals

Tues., 4/5, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Health

Thurs., 3/21, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 4/1, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Council on Aging

Mon., 4/8, Senior Ctr., 9 a.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 3/21, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

Thurs., 3/28, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

Marine Resources Comm.

Thurs., 3/21, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board

Tues., 3/26 Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 4/3, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Annual Budget Hearing

Selectboard

Mon., 3/25, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Sustainability Committee

Tues., 3/19, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet Meetings ANNUAL ELECTION

Mon., 4/1, polls open 10 a.m. to 8 p.

Agricultural Commission

Thurs., 3/21, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Candidates Night

Thurs., 3/21, Senior Ctr., 6 p.m.

Old Colony District

Wed., 3/20, ORR Caf., 6 p.m.

Planning Commission

Thurs., 3/28, Parting Ways, 6:45 p.m.

Selectboard

Tues., 4/2, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

US Army Corps of Engineers, Cape Cod Canal/Wing's Neck

Mar. 2019		HIGH a.m.	p.m.	LOW a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	21	0855	2121	0232*	1451*
Friday	22	0945	2209	0327*	1536*
Saturday	23	1033	2257	0410*	1615*
Sunday	24	1121	2346	0448*	1650*
Monday	25	----	1212	0525*	1727*
Tuesday	26	0039	1308	0607	1809
Wednesday	27	0136	1404	0713	1909
Thursday	28	0230	1458	1013	2035
Friday	29	0325	1556	1123	2336

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

From our readers

State Auditor finds financial irregularities in Sheriff Hodgson's Office

On February 13, 2019 the Office of the State Auditor (OSA) published the results of a performance audit of the Bristol County Sheriff's Office (BCSO). In four separate findings, the OSA noted financial irregularities, most with the handling of ICE-related matters. Readers can find the full Auditor's report at bit.ly/bcso-audit.

It was not the first time the OSA found fault with Hodgson's performance and management. In 2010 the OSA found Hodgson had failed to properly account for \$1.5 million of inventory, prompting a public rebuke from then-Auditor Joseph DeNucci.

The present OSA audit found the Bristol County Sheriff's Office failed to transfer nearly \$350,000 in reimbursements from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to the Office of the State Treasurer or account for them in the state's accounting system.

"BCSO officials could not explain why the funds were not remitted to

the Commonwealth in fiscal year 2016 when they were received," the report found.

The OSA also faulted the sheriff for failing to renegotiate higher daily "bed" fees with Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) since 2010. Hodgson reported a daily cost of \$88.49 compared to the statewide average of \$133.72. Hodgson's lower fees may be costing state taxpayers millions of dollars.

The next audit finding goes to the heart of accountability. The Sheriff's Office failed to prepare or submit to legislative committees an inmate total cost analysis reports for fiscal years 2016 and 2017, resulting in those entities not having all the information needed for policy and financial oversight.

Finally, the Bristol County Sheriff did not provide receipts for various credit card expenditures. Of the sample of credit card purchases examined by the Auditor, 36 percent were either undocumented or poorly documented.

"Without proper documentation, including itemized receipts, for all

expenses, there is a higher-than acceptable risk that payments for improper expenses could occur," the report said.

Considering the State Auditor's significant findings, it is fair to say that the Bristol County Sheriff's Office is operating out of compliance with the laws and regulations of the Commonwealth. This report, in conjunction with the active lawsuit regarding phone call charges and the federal criminal convictions of two former employees for money laundering, seems to cry out for state officials to appoint an independent investigator to conduct a thorough forensic audit of the Sheriff's Office.

*Eileen Marum, Marion
Sabrina Davis, Fall River*

Betty Ussach-Schwartz, Dartmouth

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