



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

A **FREE!** publication of all things Fairhaven
Including event listings from Cape Cod to RI



*The little paper
with a big voice!*

Volume 9, Issue 48 • December 18, 2014

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

Christmas in Fairhaven



Santa Claus made more than one visit to Fairhaven this weekend, including (above) on Saturday, 12/13, for the annual Town Hall Sing sponsored by the Fairhaven Improvement Association. After he left a crowd of about 10 enjoyed hot chocolate, cookies, cupcakes and popcorn in the auditorium of the town hall. See page 12 for story. *Photo by Beth David. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com*

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From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

Well, looks like we did it again. My little free sheet has just completed its ninth year of publishing. Wow.

During that time I have worked really hard, but I have had a lot of fun, too. My readers are the best!

I love that people recognize me when I'm in town. I love that I feel a part of the community.

It's easy to be anonymous in modern times, and I'm sure that has its advantages. But I love feeling connected to the wider community.

My readers make that happen.

You make it happen when you contact me for any reason. You make it happen when you call out my name in the grocery store as if we're old friends. And you make it happen when you laugh at me when I respond the same way and we both know I have no clue what your name is or who you are.

But I know you're one of my readers. And that's enough. I am, after all, at my core, a writer.

And writers want to be read. It's really all we ask of life. Sure, we want to make a ton of money at it, too, but most of us don't. As long as someone's reading this stuff, we're happy. Note the millions of free blogs out there...but that's another story.

Meanwhile, we chug along and just keep writing, hoping to be discovered. I may not be a great novelist, but I have loyal readers, and it's all because of this little paper with a big voice.

It's Christmas time, and so I guess I'm getting a little philosophical. It's the time of year to contemplate the possibility of magic, Christmas magic.

And we had Christmas magic this weekend in Fairhaven. What fun it was, being in the center of town on Saturday (see page 12) with the people walking around and the bells ringing and everyone being all Christmas-cheerful.

It was the stuff of movies, I tell you, the stuff of movies.

Then at night, about 200 people gathered at town hall to sing Christmas Carols and see the Big Guy.

Free hot chocolate and cookies and popcorn on a cold winter's night? How do you say "Merry Christmas"?

I declare, that if you were in Fairhaven center on Saturday and still do not have the Christmas Spirit, then you are positively hopeless.

So, to all my faithful readers, those who love this little sheet and those who wish I'd go away, I say Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Holidays. Whichever holiday you celebrate at this time of year, I hope it meets all your expectations (or exceeds them if you're a Scrooge).

And, if you still need to get in the Christmas spirit, then take a ride around town (see page 13) and look for houses with Christmas lights. I'm sure other towns have some decorated houses, too.

Okay, that's it for this week. Remember, we have TWO WEEKS off, so don't panic when you don't see us next week. We'll be back on 1/8. See ya,



Beth David, Publisher

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In the ad for Mac's Soda bar we made a mistake on the price of one of the specials. The Prime Rib is \$20. We apologize for any confusion our error may have caused.

Residents urged to lock vehicle doors

Fairhaven police press release

The Fairhaven Police Department is strongly encouraging people to lock the doors of their vehicles. Throughout the past month, well over a dozen motor vehicle breaks have been reported to the police. In a majority of these cases, the vehicles were left unlocked. Whenever possible, remove all merchandise and valuables from your vehicles and lock them securely. Vehicle breaks generally increase at this time of year during the holiday retail season. They have been reported throughout town and are not confined to one specific area.

Whether we want them or not, the New Year will bring new challenges; whether we seize them or not, the New Year will bring new opportunities.

Michael Josephson

Waiting for toxicology in McManus death

The Bristol County District Attorney's office is still not releasing any details on the death of David McManus, who was killed by a car on Sconticut Neck Road on November 1.

"That investigation is still ongoing. It's nearly complete," said DA spokesperson Gregg Miliote.

He said they are still awaiting toxicology reports on the victim.

Mr. Miliote said in a previous interview that after all the evidence is in, the office will issue a press release.

The name of the driver has not been released and it is unclear if she will face charges of leaving the scene.

Mr. Miliote said that charges are not customarily filed until the investigation is complete.

"We do don't piecemeal investigations, and toxicology is part of the investigation," said Mr. Miliote. "We don't make determination of charges until we have the totality of the evidence."

Toy Drive

The Fairhaven Police Union is sponsoring a toy drive for local needy families. If anyone would like to make a donation, the department is asking people to drop off a new, unwrapped toy in the front lobby of the Fairhaven Police Station, 1 Bryant Lane, (corner of Washington Street). We are asking for toys for children of all ages to brighten the Christmas holiday for less fortunate children in our community.

All contributions are welcome and will be greatly appreciated. The members of the Fairhaven Police Department would like to wish everyone a very happy and healthy holiday season and extend our best wishes for a wonderful New Year.

The toy drive will be conducted **until December 21**. However, if any donations are received after that date, we will be sure to put them to good use.

Toys for Tots

The Fairhaven Fire Department, 146 Washington Street, is accepting toys for the Toys for Tots program. Just drop off new, unwrapped toy anytime at the station before 12/19.

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Selectboard sets deadline for budgets & town meeting articles

By Beth David
Editor

In its last regular meeting before Christmas the Fairhaven Selectboard on 12/15 had a full slate and set deadlines for budgets and town meeting articles.

The board set 1/15 as the deadline for town departments to get budgets into the board for figuring the FY16 budget. The board asked for departments to submit budgets with no more than a 2% overall increase from last year.

The board set 1/22 as the deadline for articles to be submitted for consideration at the May 2 town meeting.

In its first appointment the board presented a proclamation to Randall Durrigan for receiving the Mass. Association of School Committee's All-State School Committee Award for his representation on the Greater New Bedford Regional Voc-Tech school committee.

The award recognizes school committee members who have "demonstrated a strong commitment to the education and welfare of children and who have shown a clear understanding of their role as School Committee members," according to the proclamation.

Fairhaven Harbormaster David Darmofal told the board that he had served with Mr. Durrigan, who, because he is legally blind, has to read documents with the words very large on a computer screen.

"So he reads the documents one word at a time," said Mr. Darmofal. "He's just a real asset to the town."

The board also decided not to increase fees at the lobster basin at Union Wharf after receiving a report by Mr. Darmofal on what other towns charge.

Executive Secretary Jeffrey Osuch insisted that the \$1,500 was too low, choosing to compare the rate to those higher on the list; while Selectboard member Geoffrey Haworth chose to compare the town to those with lower rates.

Boat owners also weighed in and asked that the rate not change.

The board discussed the maintenance and upgrade issues that the dock is facing, which will reach into the tens of thousands of dollars.

Mr. Osuch said those using the dock should pay more to help pay for those costs and the costs of major renovations planned for the pier.

"I just think the fees are too low," said Mr. Osuch.

Board chair Bob Espindola recused himself from the discussion because he has a relative with a boat in the basin.

In a related matter, the board agreed to let the family of Randy Moniz keep his slip in the lobster basin while they settle his estate. They authorized a three month extension of the lease.

Mr. Moniz's brother Ronald also asked if the slip could be transferred to him.

Although there is a waiting list, board members and Mr. Darmofal said they were inclined to create a policy that would allow a slip to remain with immediate family members. However, they decided to wait on this particular slip until it can be ascertained that Ronald Moniz would meet the requirements for the slips. Among them are that the person must be a Fairhaven resident and derive most of his/her income from fishing.

They went back in forth for a bit in a chicken-first or egg-first routine as Mr. Payette tried to get the board to commit to a specific piece of land and area and the board tried to explain that they could not commit to a specific area until they knew how much land the project would take.

The board also heard from Ted Silva and Kathy Lopes with details about the polar plunge scheduled for January 1 at Fort Phoenix at 10 a.m. Mr. Silva told the board that all possible precautions are taken to keep people safe.

After all, they are suggesting that people "jump into the ocean in the middle of winter in New England. It could be a hazard to their health," said Mr. Silva.

He especially urged people to wear shoes or sandals that tie on because feet get numb in the cold New Year's water.

"It can be very dangerous if you wear flip-flops or go barefoot," said Mr. Silva.

Ms. Lopes told the board that the money raised goes towards scholarships. The Plunge is still held in honor of domestic violence victims, but is no longer named after Nancy Schonheinz, who was stabbed to death by her boyfriend in 2000.

The plunge gave \$2500 in scholarships last year. Money is raised from

t-shirt sales and donations. There is no cost to plunge, but participants are asked to register.

In another matter, George Brownell, Jim Leal and Gerry Payette asked the board to give them a piece of land for a veterans memorial in Fairhaven. They have their sights on a piece of land in Cushman Park, or the newly acquired lot adjacent to it that was taken for tax title.

The trio received the support of the Selectboard, but will have to go to the Board of Public Works to use park land.

They went back in forth for a bit in a chicken-first or egg-first routine as Mr. Payette tried to get the board to commit to a specific piece of land and area and the board tried to explain that they could not commit to a specific area until they knew how much land the project would take.

The board did, however, promise not to sell the lot.

The board also met with building inspector Wayne Fostin about the Community Rating System application that could save homeowners money on their flood insurance.

Mr. Fostin has been working on the application in between his other duties, making slow progress on the long process.

The program rates communities according to various steps they can take to minimize flood water damage, resulting in significant savings for people who live in flood zones.

Resident Susan Sullivan, who has been pushing for the designation for more than a year, told the board that the town only needed 500 points for the first step. She offered again to help and do research.

Selectboard chair Bob Espindola tried to get Mr. Fostin to estimate how far along he is in the process.

"It is a slow process," said Mr. Fostin, indicating he had made some progress, but not much.

Individual homeowners could save as much as \$2,000 per year on flood insurance premiums.

The board decided to schedule a meeting with consultant MWH global, although the board would not commit any money to paying for someone to do the work.

The board also discussed the school department's request to stop using schools as polling places.

In a letter to the board, Superintendent of Schools Robert N. Baldwin

SELECT: cont'd on page 21

Fairhaven man wins \$1 million

New England Patriots Press Release

The Mass Lottery believes in second chances. Over the past four seasons, Patriots fans have been playing the Patriots' Mass. Lottery \$5 scratch ticket. The game, which launched in 2009 and was the lottery industry's first ticket to bear an NFL team logo, has helped generate over \$36 million dollars in local aid for the Commonwealth's 351 cities and towns. Many who have played have scratched and won instantly. But, for those who didn't win, they were eligible to enter their ticket into a second-chance drawing.

Late last year, Ernest Tomascik from Fairhaven, Mass. won when he was selected among the 965,000 second-chance participants and learned that he would be attending a game this season to participate in a halftime lottery drawing.

At halftime of the Patriots game vs. the Miami Dolphins, in front of approximately 68,000 fans at Gillette Stadium, he had to choose one of 24 oversized second-chance lottery tickets. He chose lottery ticket #12 ... and became the biggest winner of a halftime promotion in franchise

history, winning the \$1 million grand prize.

Since 1972, the Massachusetts Lottery has returned over \$22.6

billion to the Commonwealth. This money has been used to fund public safety, education, and other vital services.



The 12/14 Patriots game was a win-win situation for Ernest Tomascik of Fairhaven, Mass. Not only was he on hand to see the Patriots defeat the Dolphins and clinch the division title, but he also left Gillette Stadium with a huge check thanks to the Mass. State Lottery. Ernest was on the field at halftime to take part in the Lottery's Million Dollar Drive promotion. The game was simple: he had to choose from 24 giant scratch tickets, each containing a prize. In true Patriots fan fashion, Ernest went with lucky number 12. As he opened the envelope attached to the ticket, he found the seven-digit number inside. The stadium immediately erupted into cheers for the \$1 million winner. Needless to say, it was a good day at Gillette Stadium! *Photo courtesy of the New England Patriots.*

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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Polar Plunge

Fort Phoenix Polar Plunge, Thurs., **Jan. 1, 2015, 10 a.m. at Fort Phoenix State Beach** and Reservation, South end of Green St., Fairhaven.

Come start off the new year with a dash into the ocean! Challenge your family and friends to come out and plunge in remembrance of the victims of domestic violence. A donation of \$25 buys a long sleeve T-shirt. Shirts will be available on a first come, first served basis. You can choose whether or not you jump in. Registration and t-shirts can be purchased at the Plunge from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Checks can be made payable to: Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars. Please note on check: Ft. Phoenix Polar Plunge.

Costumes encouraged. Sturdy footwear is recommended.

FHS Open House

Fairhaven High School will be holding our 8th Grade Family Open House on **Thursday, January 8th, from 6-8 p.m.** All 8th grade students interested in attending Fairhaven High School and their parents are welcome to attend. We will be sharing information about the high school and the curriculum offered. Students and their families will be able to meet the Principal and the staff, take a tour of the historic building, learn about clubs and activities and attend a question and answer session with current students and staff. Please feel free to contact the Guidance Office with any questions at 508-979-4120.

POMC Vigil

A vigil for NON-Violence and to honor those who have died by violence will be held on **Sun., 12/21, at 3 p.m. at the Fairhaven Unitarian Church, 102 Green St., Fairhaven.** Accessible.

By the Southeastern Mass. Chapter, Parents of Murdered Children. For family and friends who have suffered a loss from a violent death. Visit www.pomc.org, or call Anne: 617-947-1639 or Sue: 508-993-6610

Bring a picture of your loved one that can be hung on our memorial tree. Refreshments will follow.

POMC is a non-profit national organization for families & friends who have endured the pain of losing a

loved one from violence. We offer support, advocacy and education to members and to the public. We meet ever third Thursday of the month at the Fairhaven Unitarian Church from 6:30pm-8:30pm. We welcome anyone who needs the help and support during the aftermath of a murder.

Christmas Services

At the First Congregational Church of Fairhaven, 34 Center Street. Accessible.

Sun., 12/21: Christmas Sunday Inter-generational Service, 10 a.m. Children as well as adults can play their favorite roles in the interactive telling of the Christmas Story. Bring a friend!

Sun., 12/21: Longest Night Service, 7 PM This service is designed to acknowledge mixed feelings that can surface at this time of year. With comforting music, prayer, and quiet reflection we will seek God's presence in the midst of any turmoil we might be experiencing. One may light a candle of remembrance or hope and receive anointing with oils.

Wed., 12/24: Christmas Eve Service for Families with Young Children, 4:30-5:00 p.m. This will be an interactive telling of the Christmas Story with carols, prayers, and glow sticks around the Christmas tree, perfect for smaller children, but all are welcome.

Wed., 12/24: Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, 7 p.m. Enjoy carols, choir music, reading of the sacred story, shared prayers, and candlelight as we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child.

Cards for vets

The LCpl Matthew R. Rodriguez Memorial Foundation invites you to help honor our hero by signing a Christmas card for local veterans. Christmas cards will be distributed to Mass. VA Hospitals. Cards are available at the Fairhave Fire Station, 146 Washington St.; at the Fairhaven Town Hall, Selectboard office, 40 Center St.; and at the Fairhaven Council on Aging, 229 Huttleston Ave. The Foundation will also be raffling off a pair of Celtics Tickets on Dec. 19. Raffle tickets are available at the Fairhaven Fire Station, 146 Washington St.

For more information on the foundation visit thesmilingwarrior.org

Bay Adventure

Join the Buzzards Bay Coalition for a series of two free family exploration programs on **Monday, Dec. 29 and Tuesday, Dec. 30.** Enjoy some fresh air as you discover creatures that live in our region during the colder winter months.

Mon., 12/29 from 10-11 a.m.: "Fun in the Forest" at LaPalme Farm (end of Blain Street, Acushnet)

Tues., 12/30 from 10-11 a.m.: "It Shore Is Cold!" at Fort Phoenix Beach State Reservation (end of Green Street, Fairhaven)

Both events are FREE and family friendly. Registration is required for all Bay Adventures. To RSVP, email bayadventures@savebuzzardsbay.org or call (508) 999-6363 ext. 219.

Visit www.savebuzzardsbay.org/bayadventures.

Cat Foodraiser

Gotta Have It Inc. is having a "Foodraiser" for Animal Advocates fostercare cats for the month of December. You can make a difference to a fostercare cat who is a faithful companion, giving unconditional love by dropping off wet or dry cat food at Gotta Have It Inc. specialty retail store, 324 Huttleston Ave., Rt. 6, Fairhaven.

Animal Advocates is dedicated to rescuing animals from suffering, neglect and abandonment, and achieves its mission through rescue, fostercare, adoption and providing spay/neuter services. For information call 508-991-7727, animaladvocates@comcast.net or Lisa Bindas at Gotta Have It Inc., 508 961-0000.

Girl Scout Cookies

It's Girl Scout Cookie time. From now to March 10, your local Girl Scouts will be out and about selling cookies. This year, we are introducing online ordering with direct shipping from the baker to your doorstep.

Pick up a box (or three) of the classic Thin Mint or try our new gluten free option, the Trio. Packed with gluten free oats and a mixture of peanut butter and chocolaty goodness, the Trio makes sure everybody can indulge in a sweet treat.

Contact Kristen O'Reilly at koreilly@girlscoutseasternmass.org or 857-453-5314.

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

New Year's in NB

New Year's Eve is a great opportunity to celebrate the start of 2015 with friends and family in downtown New Bedford's Seaport Cultural District. With ice sculpting, fire eating, magic, music, delicious food and many more activities at Custom House Square, you can ring in the New Year here in downtown New Bedford. All festivities are from 5-8 pm so plan your trip now to New Bedford's New Year's Eve Celebrations...And don't forget spectacular **FIREWORKS on the waterfront by State Pier at 8:30 p.m.!**

FREE programming from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Seaport Cultural District!

- The Seamen's Bethel hosts an Ecumenical Church Service from 5 to 6 p.m. followed by music from 6:30-8:00 p.m.
- Bill Harley at the Whaling Museum 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- The best Toe Jam Puppet Band concerts at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. at the YMCA!
- Take your kids for crafts and games with the 1850's Ladies at the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park Visitor Center (33 William Street) from 5 to 7 p.m.
- Family Magic Workshop with Jedlie's Magic Circus at the Art Museum/Artworks! at 5:30 and 6:30p.m.

For complete schedule, visit <http://destinationnewbedford.org/holidays/>

Showstoppers at Z

The Showstoppers singing troupe will perform with the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra on **Sat., 12/20, in the Family Holiday Pops Concerts at the Zeiterion Theatre.**

The two "Magical Moments" shows will be offered at 3:30 and 7:00 p.m.

Tickets can be ordered online at www.zeiterion.org or by calling the box office at 508-994-2900.

DockUmentary

The Dock-U-Mentaries Film Series continues on **Fri., 12/19 at 7: p.m.** at the NB Whaling Museum visitor center 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford. Accessible. FREE.

"In the Path of Storms" is a portrait of a coastal culture struggling to preserve its heritage and vanishing way of life. The 2011 film — based on a book of the same name — explores

the lives of residents in Bayou La Batre, Alabama, including former refugees, students, shrimpers and others who make their living plying local waters.

For more information, call the visitor center at 508-996-4095, go to www.nps.gov/nebe or visit the park's Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/NBWNHP>

CPR Course

The mission of the Low Tide Yacht Club/Fort Rodman Marine Association is to further causes of maritime education including public safety.

We are offering a CPR course for a 2-year certificate. Use of a defibrillator will be practiced. Thurs., 1/8, at 6:30. Snow date: 2/5. At 1000B East Rodney French Blvd. in Fort Rodman, New Bedford.

Register with Nancy Jordan by Mon., 1/5, at 508-999-9722.

Certification fee is \$45 and those who are reviewing may pay \$35. Instructor is Glenn Nunes of the Westport Fire Department

If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Jordan 508-999-9722 Thank you

Deck the Windows

The New Bedford Local Cultural Council (NBCC) has created a new local event, "Deck the Windows," for this holiday season. Local businesses, artists, non-profits, schools and municipal offices have been invited to decorate windows in storefronts, retail establishments and restaurants with holiday motifs and evoke the spirit of the holiday season.

The response to the challenge of decorating has been overwhelming – over 40 windows will be decorated and on display in downtown New Bedford, through New Year's Day.

The public is invited to participate by voting for their favorite windows. This is a friendly competition with five categories: Best Overall, Best Holiday Spirit, Best New Bedford Themed, Best Municipal Window, and the Kids Choice, voting by kids only. Ballots and voting will be available in the downtown locations starting on December 4th; voting will end on AHA! Night December 11th, when the winners will be announced.

Co-sponsors are AHA!, Destination

New Bedford, Downtown New Bedford, Domino's, New Bedford Beautiful, NBEDC with New Bedford Guide, mediumstudio, TownSquare Media and the SouthCoast Media Group for media sponsors.

For more information, please go to facebook.com/NBCulturalCouncil, ahanewbedford.org or call 508-493-4288.

Free Parking

In an effort to encourage everyone to do their holiday shopping in New Bedford, the City is offering a special Holiday Parking Program. Through Thurs., 1/1/15, the City of New Bedford will offer FREE parking at your first metered space for up to two hours in both the Downtown and on Acushnet Avenue, or up to two hours FREE parking at the Elm Street Garage, and the Zeiterion Garage!

Call the Traffic Commission Office at (508) 961-3153 with questions.

Singers Wanted

To join the acclaimed Greater New Bedford Choral Society. Requirements: Blend in with your section, pay nominal dues for music, etc. No private audition. Rehearsals Tuesdays from 7:30–9:30 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, New Bedford, corner of County and Union Streets. **Starting date: Tues., 1/6.** Contact 508-644-2419. Visit www.gnbcs.org

Food Drive

The New Bedford Council on Aging has organized a food drive to help local seniors. Donations of non-perishable food items will be collected at all New Bedford Senior Centers and will be distributed to senior center patrons. Any excess food items collected will be donated to New Bedford food pantries.

Now through Dec. 31 non-perishables may be donated at the Downtown Senior Center (725 Pleasant St.), Buttonwood Park Senior Center (1 Oneida St.), Brooklawn Senior Center (1997 Acushnet Ave.), Hazelwood Senior Center (553 Brock Ave.), Ashley Senior Center (543 Rivet St.) and Hillman St. administrative office, 181 Hillman St., Bldg. #9.

First Night Boston

First Night Boston is the largest and longest-running New Year's Eve arts festival in the country. Each year from 1:00 p.m. to midnight on December 31, nearly one-million people gather in downtown Boston for a celebration that showcases over 1,000 artists in 200 performances and events at over two-dozen indoor and outdoor venues.

First Night Boston features an afternoon Family Festival at the Hynes Convention Center, a Grand Procession parade that sweeps down Boylston Street, colossal ice sculptures that dot the city's landscape, and a dazzling fireworks display to welcome the New Year. For nearly 40 years, First Night Boston has become a cherished Boston tradition and a signature event of the city.

Visit <http://www.firstnightboston.org/> for details

NY Eve Party

At VFW Post 6643, 89 Middleboro Road, E. Freetown; 508-763-2292

On Wed., 12/31, at 6:00 p.m., New Year's Party/Dinner Dance, from 6 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Music by "The Red Band," with DJ Johnny Angel playing during their intermissions.

Tickets: \$40. Includes champagne toast and continental breakfast. PUBLIC WELCOME

For tickets, call 508-763-2292. Visit www.vfw6643.org or email vfw6643@comcast.net

A Christmas Carol

Buzzards Play Productions is presenting the Christmas Classic *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens at 3065 Cranberry Highway Wareham, MA 02538; 508-591-3065; buzzardsplayprod@aol.com; http://buzzardsplayproductions.com/bpp_theatre/christmas_carol

Traci Antil will be directing for the first time at Buzzards Play Productions and is excited to be bringing such a classic tale to the stage.

There is no better time than this season to look back on the past and look forward to the future. And there is no better story than Scrooge's to remind us just how precious time is."

The show will run through 12/21. Tickets are \$15 for adults, children

ten and under are \$10

Buzzards Play Productions is a local non-profit theatre located in Wareham, MA. The theatre has been producing family friendly theatrical productions since 2011. In addition to theatre, the venue houses 3065 LIVE, a fully functional music venue which brings acts from all over the country

Walk With A Doc

The next edition of Southcoast® Health's "Take a Walk with a Southcoast Doc" will take place on Saturday, December 20, beginning at 10 a.m., at the Copicut Woods parking lot on Indian Town Road in Fall River. The walk will be led by Southcoast Physicians Group Internal Medicine physician, Jason Diogo, MD.

The community is invited to join Dr. Diogo for this month's event, during which time he will discuss the benefits of walking and also field general health questions.

Copicut Woods serves as a gateway to the 13,600-acre SE Mass. Bioserve, one of the largest protected tracts of land in the state. Copicut Woods boasts hundreds of acres of upland forests, wetlands, waterways and remnants of a vibrant agricultural past.

Visit www.southcoast.org/walkwithadoc for more information.

Mayflower II

The historic ship Mayflower II is at Mystic Seaport to undergo a restoration in the Museum's Henry B. duPont Preservation Shipyard.

Restoration work will honor Mayflower II's original construction and using traditional methods with the goal of restoring the ship to its original state when it first arrived to Plymouth in 1957.

Throughout the restoration the public will have the opportunity to view the ship during the Museum's operating hours, and the plan is to permit people to board the ship on land beginning February 14, 2015.

If repairs go as planned, Mayflower II is expected to return to Plymouth in May, 2015. The restoration of the 57-year-old wooden ship will be carried out over several years with the ship spending winter and spring at Mystic Seaport and returning to Plymouth each summer and fall. The project is

scheduled for completion prior to 2020—the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims' arrival.

Sight Tree

The Acushnet Lions Club has installed a Sight Tree at the Fire Station in Acushnet. Put your old eyeglasses on the sight tree and the Lions Club will put them to good use. The national program takes the lenses and ships them to developing countries to be used in eyeglasses.

Just go by and drop off your old glasses.

To learn more about the program, visit <http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/our-work/sight-programs/eyeglass-recycling/index.php>

Holiday Social

Downcity Holiday Social every Sat. through Christmas at Aurora, 276 Westminster St., Providence.

Fun things for the whole family such as Santa & Mrs. Claus posing with you for a complimentary Polaroid photo, a Letter to Santa table set up courtesy of Paperworks and access to the complimentary bagel bar with the purchase of a seasonal drink from the Aurora bar.

Movies on the Block has curated a selection of holiday movie favorites that will be running during the day and there will be food vendors on hand to purchase a snack.

Visit <http://www.shopdowncity.com/news/archives/category/specials-and-offers>

Fish Council

members needed

The New England Fishery Management Council (NEFMC) is soliciting applications for seats on several of its advisory panels. Currently, the Council seeks applicants to fill vacant seats on its Habitat, Recreational Groundfish Fishing, Whiting, Enforcement, Skate and Groundfish Panels.

To apply, download the application materials at www.nefmc.org under "News" or call the Council office at 978.465.0492. For more information about member responsibilities, contact Pat Fiorelli at 978.465.0492, ext. 106 or pfiorelli@nefmc.org.

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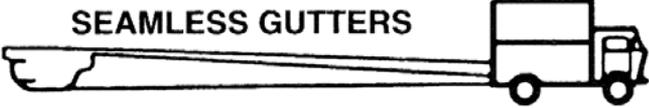
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Recipe of the Week

Milk Chocolate Fudge

1 1/2 cups sugar
 2/3 cup (5 oz. can) evaporated milk
 2 tbs butter or margarine
 1/14 tsp salt
 2 cups miniature marshmallows
 1 3/4 cups (11.5 oz. bag) milk chocolate morsels
 1 tsp vanilla
 1/2 c chopped pecans or walnuts
 Line 8-inch square baking pan with foil.

Combine sugar, evaporated milk, butter and salt in medium saucepan. Bring to a rolling boil over medium heat stirring constantly for 4 to 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in marshmallows, morsels, vanilla and nuts. Stir vigorously for one minute or until marshmallows are completely melted.

Pour into prepared pan, refrigerate two hours or until firm. Lift from pan, remove foil and cut into pieces.

HINT: For thicker fudge, use a 9x5-inch loaf pan, refrigerate 3 hours.

WI Toys for Tots collects 250 toys in memory of LCpl Matthew Rodriguez



The West Island Toys for Tots effort, spearheaded by Cathi and Bob Konicki, collected more than 250 toys this year. The toys were dropped off at the Fairhaven Fire Station which will get them to the Toys for Tots program run by the US Marines. The Konickis want to send a "thank you" to all the West Island residents and other family, friends and Fairhaven residents who helped make this year's program a resounding success. The toys were collected in memory of Marine, Lance Corporal Matthew Rodriguez, a Fairhaven resident who was killed in Afghanistan on December 11, 2013. Toys may be dropped off at the Fairhaven Fire Station until 12/19 (see page 6). Submitted photo. See it in color at www.NeighbNews.com

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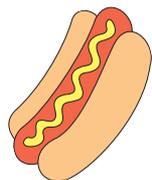
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ENTERTAINMENT

Thursday, 12/18: Shananagans Christmas Party

Friday, 12/19: Back in the Day Night with Scott Reiniche, 9 p.m.–1:30 a.m.

Saturday, 12/20: DJ Wicked Weezy's Ugly Sweater Party, 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.

Friday, 12/26: DJ Howie, 9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.

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Christmas cheer spreads through Fairhaven center



Christmas cheer spread throughout the center of Fairhaven this weekend during the Office of Tourism's Old Time Holiday Celebration. On Saturday, 12/13, the Town Hall Shops in the town hall auditorium gave shoppers lots of choices to buy from local nonprofits. The Brick Church Fair at the First Congregational Church, and the Holiday Marketplace at the Unitarian Memorial Church also showcased lots of crafts, with many gift-giving possibilities. Several places also offered lunch. The church bells chimed out Christmas carols while the streets were filled with shoppers on a dry and relatively mild day in mid-December, making for a positively "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas" kind of day. TOP LEFT & RIGHT: the Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts both had booths at the Town Hall Shops, with the Girl Scouts selling their famous cookies. FAR LEFT: A sign directs all comers to the various choices at the First Congregational Church. LEFT: Santa's chair awaits him near the decorated tree at the Unitarian Church. The wording on the chair reads: "Reserved for Ol' Saint Nick."

Photos by Beth David. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com Visit us at www.Facebook.com/NeighbNews to see more photos of this and other events. Individual photos are available for purchase.

Annual Town Hall Sing draws a crowd



You can't have an old time holiday celebration without Christmas carols, Santa Claus and hot chocolate. And this year about 200 people showed up to sing carols in front of Fairhaven Town Hall on Saturday, 12/13. After Santa left, about 150 people gathered upstairs in town hall for hot chocolate, cookies, cupcakes and popcorn. Some ambitious singers continued the caroling on stage while everyone enjoyed a hot drink and some socializing. LEFT: A group of children crowd around Santa to receive candy canes in front of Fairhaven Town Hall on 12/13 for the annual Town Hall Sing sponsored by the Fairhaven Improvement Association. RIGHT: Some girls have a great time singing Christmas carols on the steps of the town hall. *Photos by Beth David. See them in color at www.NeighbNews.com*

Fairhaven houses dress up for the holidays



These two houses are probably Fairhaven's most elaborately decorated for Christmas. ABOVE: Route 6 near Welcome Street. RIGHT: Gellette Road.

There are many other houses in Fairhaven and neighboring towns that are decorated with Christmas lights. It's one of life's little pleasures to drive around at this time of year looking for decorated houses. Please be respectful of the owners, who are so graciously spreading the Christmas spirit for all of us to enjoy.

Photos by Beth David.

See them in color at www.Neighbnews.com

Plymouth fishing community shows off unique talents



The Town of Plymouth's town pier shows the Christmas spirit with a lobster pot Christmas tree. This year's "tree" is one tier higher than last year and is made up of 190 lobster pots made available by Local lobsterman Arthur Noronha. Assistant Harbormasters Robert Bechtold, Rich Furtado and Pat Logan worked with Natural Resources Warden Nate Cristafori and Local Lobstermen Dan Holmes, Kevin Kent and Chris Windsong to assemble the 35' tree. The Harbormaster Office is working with the local Salvation Army to accept donations of un-opened toys and new/unused children's winter clothing. Some items requested are "Frozen" movie items and Legos. The tree will be left up for about a month.

Photo courtesy of Melissa Arrighi.

Snow parking ban

No vehicles shall be permitted to remain on the hydrant side of all streets in Fairhaven from December 1 to March 31 from midnight to 8:00 a.m. and also during the time of any snowfall or snow removal operations. On streets with no hydrants, NO vehicles shall be permitted to remain either on the east side of streets running north and south or on the north side of streets running east and west.

The BPW is authorized to remove, or cause to be removed, to some convenient place, including a public garage, any vehicle interfering with the work of removing or plowing snow or ice from any way, and the cost of such removal with all storage charges resulting there from shall be paid by the owner of such vehicle.

The Fairhaven Police Department will strictly enforce this Parking Ban. Violators will be towed and/or ticketed.

By Order of: FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

This is our
LAST ISSUE
of the year. Our next issue will be on 1/8/15.
Happy Holidays to you and yours!

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hall.net](http://fairhavenma.virtualltownhall.net)**

Mohegan Sun

Hurry!! December 17th

Leave Rec 8 a.m. Return to Rec 630 p.m. Cost \$20.00 casino package included (\$15. Meal credit \$10 bet coupon. Call for more info, pre-registration required

Relaxed Yoga Flow

Relaxation yoga is a great option for beginner students. This class will allow you to de-stress after a busy day and give you a chance to stretch, which will lightly raise your heart rate and increase blood flow throughout your body. This class is geared to improve posture, balance and increase range of motion. Modifications and options for all levels will be offered during class. Please bring your own props (i.e. blocks, blankets, water) for the 1 hour class.

For Adults, Wednesdays 10 a.m.-11:15 Cost: \$45 Member \$50 Non. Start Date: January 7 End Date: March 11 Instructor: Kaylee Frano

FREE CLASS December 17th open to everyone

Kool Kids

Christmas Vacation

This 4-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. Kids will need to bring their own lunch for the first 3 days of the program. The last day is a pizza lunch combined with a New Years celebration. Come ready to party! Sneakers and active clothes must be worn each day. Kids will be grouped according to their current grade in school.

Grades: K-5 Dates: 12/22, 12/23, 12/29, 12/30 Time: Drop off at 8AM Pick up by 3PM Instructors: Staff Member: \$100 Non-member: \$125

Fairhaven Senior Center

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http://fairhavenma.virtualltownhall.net/Pages/FairhavenMA_COA/index

Mall Trips

Dec. 22 (MONDAY): South Shore
Jan. 7: Newport Grand, Middletown
XMAS Tree Shop

Jan.14: Emerald Square Mall.

Entertainment

Call Fairhaven COA for entertainment schedule: 508-979-4029

Special Activities

Single Seniors

Single Seniors Supper Club first and third Tuesday of the month. If you are a single senior 60 or older and would like to attend, please call the Senior Center by Monday at 508-979-4029. Next dates will be Tuesday, January 6 and 20.

Southcoast LGBT

South Coast Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Supper Club. Next date will be January 28. Please call the Senior Center, 508-979-4029.

Senior Discount Day Trip

Next Salvation Army Trip is Jan. 5, to the Wareham store. Only 14 seats so call the Fairhaven COA at 508-979-4029 to reserve your seat, \$2.00 donation is suggested.

Sewing Circle

The sewing Circle group will meet on Jan. 12 & 26 from 1-3 p.m. Do you want to learn to sew or maybe do a little quilting? Join us at the Fairhaven Senior Center and meet Debbie as she shares her sewing expertise.

Cops 'n Donuts

At the Fairhaven Senior Center with Det. Janice Bubluski, Elder Safety Office in Fairhaven. She has some important messages to share. Come and enjoy a cup of coffee and have a donut of course. Call the Senior Center for the next date.

Holiday Closings

The Senior Center will be open half a day Dec. 24 & 31. Lunch will be served. The Center will be CLOSED on Dec. 25 & 26, and Jan. 1 & 2. If you need to go shopping or banking make sure you call ahead on Monday or Tuesday of Christmas week (December 22 or 23) and New Year's week (Dec. 30)

Learn to Play Bridge

Fun Challenging Social at The Fairhaven Senior Center Monday from Jan. 5-Feb 23, 8-week course from 1-3 p.m. \$88.00 including bound text. Call Jocelyn at 508-997-3029 or e-mail her at goranj@comcast.net to sign up or if you have any questions.

Ongoing Programs

Call 508-979-4029 for days and times

A/G Consumer Mediator; Bingo; Board Meeting/monthly; Bridge; Caregiver Support & Education Group; Chair Yoga, Computer Training; Fit Quest; Friends of Elderly/monthly meeting; Grocery Shopping; Knitting classes; LGBT Supper Club; Line Dancing; Live Band; Medical Transportation; Nutrition Program/meal served; Osteoporosis class; Outreach Coordinator; PACE Fuel Assistance; Pitch; Reassurance Program; Shopping; Singles Senior Supper Club; Supportive Senior Social Day Program; Tai Chi; Tap 'N' Time, Walking Clubs, Zumba.

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Veterans' Benefit Presentation Monday, January 5th, at 6:30 p.m. Learn about your VA Burial Benefits and the Dignity Memorial Rock Funeral Home and Waring-Sullivan Funeral Homes. RSVP

Entertainment by Dave Valeiro Tuesday, January 6th 2:15 p.m. Join us for some Rocking Entertainment By Musical Guest Dave Valeiro Pianist, Vocals and Keyboards soloists, guitar, horns and bass. Complementary root beer floats will be provided. RSVP



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Acushnet Jolly Seniors club installs new president

Submitted the Acushnet COA

On Wednesday, December 17, the Acushnet Jolly Seniors' past President of 13 years, John Carvalho, presented the Charter of Affiliation to new club President, Randy Hoffman.

Mr. Carvalho, who has been a member of the Jolly Seniors for the past 33 years, recently recalled some of his fondest memories with the club which included travel adventures to New York and Atlantic City and the

many ham and bean suppers held at St. Francis Church in Acushnet.

"We all came together to volunteer," he said. "We do everything as a team in this club."

Originally chartered in August 1970 to the National Council of Senior Citizens, the Jolly Seniors have always had an abundance of members. In the 1980s and early 90s it was not unusual to see 300 members attend a meeting at the St. Francis

School Hall.

The club later moved its meetings to the Acushnet Community Center and then in 2013 found a permanent home at the Acushnet Council on Aging, 59½ South Main Street. Membership today hovers around 40 seniors, but new faces are always welcome to attend the meetings on the third Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m.



LEFT, L-R: Outgoing president of the Acushnet Jolly Seniors John Carvalho presents the Charter of Affiliation (ABOVE) to new club president Randy Hoffman on December 17. The club meets the third Wednesday of every month at the Acushnet Senior Center, 59½ So. Main Street, Acushnet. Photos submitted.

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Planning OKs 5 lots on Bass Creek Rd.; sends letter on EJs

By Beth David

Editor

The Fairhaven Planning Board looked at plans for five new house lots on Bass Creek Road at its meeting on 12/16. Although some are oddly shaped, all the lots meet the frontage requirements of a Form A request.

Petitioner Michael Ristuccia, who is also on the Board of Public Works, told the PB that all the lots have plenty of uplands

Each lot has the required 140 feet of frontage, all on Bass Creek Road. Each lot also has the required 30,000 for building, although that did not come into play for Form A requests.

"As long as it has the frontage," they have to approve it, said PB chair Wayne Hayward.

When recorded at the registry of deeds, the plans will show an easement for a foot path that runs from Rocky Point Road to Bass Creek Road on the east side of the property.

Dogwood Street and Ebony Street were discontinued last year, creating the parcel. Fir Street was also discontinued, except for a 40-foot right of way for the path.

The Form A requests are not the same as a subdivision. Any building will have to go through the usual permitting process. Any new houses will have to have a septic system, as the moratorium on adding houses to the West Island Treatment Plant is still in place.

Mr. Ristuccia told the board there was "more than sufficient amount of uplands" on each lot.

He said the wetland line had already been verified.

"There are some interesting lot shapes," remarked PB member Kaisa Cripps.

In another matter, the board voted

to ask building inspector Wayne Fostin to issue an enforcement letter to Cathy Melanson of EJ's Deli & Restaurant.

The board has been going back and forth with Ms. Melanson since the restaurant received an occupancy permit without all items being finished on the lot.

The three remaining issues are some trees that need to be planted, a driveway for two cars that needs to be installed at an abutting house that is also owned by Ms. Melanson to keep the residents from using the parking lot of the restaurant, and the

During the permitting process, the board and Ms. Melanson struggled to get a sufficient number of parking spaces on the lot.

striping of four parking spots for employees that would bring the number of parking space up to the agreed upon number.

During the permitting process, the board and Ms. Melanson struggled to get a sufficient number of parking spaces on the lot, and compromising in the end.

Planning and Economic Development Director Bill Roth told the board that Ms. Melanson has been responding to his requests all along, but that he cannot get a definitive date from her on when the work will be completed.

She recently began referring the board to her attorney who will be copied on the correspondence to the building inspector.

The board discussed various word changes and voted to allow Mr. Roth

to make the changes and send the letter.

"I'm hoping to resolve it," before an enforcement is needed, said Mr. Roth.

The board engaged in a bit of semantics when Mr. Hayward took exception to the use of the word "striping," as the complaint.

He said that it was the loss of the four parking spots, not the paint on the pavement.

"It's lot more than striping," said Mr. Hayward.

"It's the parking lot striping that creates the spots," said Mr. Roth.

Then Mr. Hayward seemed to contradict himself, saying that if a big box store had a lot of parking and no striping, it would still have the spots, right?

Mr. Hayward then said that the two-car driveway was included as part of the project for counting parking spaces.

The board also discussed a new bylaw that would require a special permit for all auto dealers and auto service stations in town. The board discussed at length whether or not to include boat dealers and services in the bylaw. PB member Peter Nopper, who owns Nopper Marine said after the meeting that he did not believe he had a conflict or should recuse himself.

Mr. Hayward agreed, saying that the bylaw would affect the whole town so Mr. Nopper could deliberate on it.

The board also discussed the progress on the Master Plan and the budget. The board will submit a town meeting article to fund the master plan.

At the request of Mr. Hayward, Mr. Roth will add 2% to the draft budget, which is the cap that the Selectboard requested from all departments. The board will request more money for trainings.



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Appeals denies farm animals on Jenny St., OKs Point St. house

By Beth David

Editor

At its meeting on 12/2, the Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals held five hearings, approving house plans for Point Street and rejecting a bid for livestock on Jenny Street.

Jacob Fleurent was approved for two special permits. One was for home occupation as a contractor at his property at 7 Jeannette Street; the other was for livestock raising at the same property. Raising farm animals on a lot smaller than five acres requires a special permit.

Mr. Fleurent requested permission to have horses, chickens, sheep and goats. The board approved his request, limiting him to 10 chickens and two each of the other animals. No abutters spoke on the petition.

Jose Garcia, however, was not successful in his petition to raise livestock at his property at 2 Jenny St.

Abutters complained about the current conditions at the property, which apparently, already had goats on it.

Abutter Joe Guard told the board that the goats already on the property were not well cared for and that no one actually lives at the site, which is like a junkyard, and even has a portable toilet on it.

He said there was a reason for the five-acre rule and that the board should enforce it. He said the smell from the property was "unbelievable."

Mr. Garcia's son, representing his father, responded by saying they have been cleaning up the property and that the portable toilet was not being used. He said they removed more than 100 trailers of junk from the site.

"It's a work in progress," Mr. Garcia told the board, adding that the complaints from Mr. Guard stemmed from a "personal vendetta."

"We're looking at a lot of livestock in a very small area," said board member Rene Fleurent, adding that the situation was "very different than the prior applicant."

Another neighbor pointed out that there is no water on the property for the animals.

Mr. Garcia said he uses runoff water from the roof, but that the property would have town water soon.

"They just don't have enough property," said Mr. Guard, adding that he pays to be in a residential area and expects the town to protect that.

The motion to approve the petition received no votes.

In another hearing that drew a crowd of abutters, Michael and Sheryl Coppa petitioned the board to build a house at 24 Point Street. Architect Rick Charon of Charon Associates told the board that the overall size of the house had been reduced, eliminating the need for a lot coverage variance. The plans still required a variance for setbacks.

The small lot is on the water and has an existing building that is uninhabitable. The Coppas want to raze the existing 27x16 house and replace it with a 46x28 elevated house.

Josh Fleming of Fleming Associates, also representing the petitioners, explained that the lot is only 50 feet wide. He said if they adhered to the setbacks the house would only be 10 feet wide.

We're looking at a lot of livestock in a very small area [Rene Fleurent]

He also noted that a house was approved in 2000, but it did not get built. He told the board that the plans from 2000 asked for more of a variance than the current plans. He said that the Conservation Commission has already approved the plans.

The revised plans are for a smaller house that is farther away from the water. Mr. Charon reiterated that the lot was only 50-feet wide, constituting the "hardship."

Board members and Mr. Fleming also sparred a bit on whether or not the vote from 2000 could be valid now. Board member Rene Fleurent made it clear he did not believe a vote from more than 10 years ago had to be adhered to. Mr. Fleming read from the statue and board members went back and forth a bit.

Mr. Coppa also addressed the board, noting that the property has town water and sewer. He said no house in the neighborhood could be built without a variance under the new bylaws. He said the new house would fit in with the neighborhood.

Several neighbors addressed the board saying they were concerned

about drainage issues, blocking of sunlight and overbuilding in the neighborhood.

Robert Clark of 10 Point Street told the board that he supported the plan. He said every house in the neighborhood requires a variance, and the proposal was "very reasonable."

But he was in the minority.

"I can't believe we're back here again," said John Kopaczewski. "I'm amazed."

He said it was a nonconforming lot and presented a petition with 21 abutters opposed to the building.

"It's just too much for that lot," said Lucy Bairos.

In the end the board voted in favor of the variances.

In another matter, the board approved a variance required for a new house at 30 Fishermans Road. The new house will replace an existing 592-square-foot house, adding about 800 square feet of living area. The new structure will be 20 feet short of the required 30-foot front setback on Fir Street and short 13 feet of the required 30-foot front setback on Fishermans Road.

Engineer Kenneth Ferreira, representing Thomas and Debra Lambalot, told the board that the plans had already received an order of conditions from the conservation commission. He said the new house was "not much bigger" than the old house.

"It's a very modest house," he said.

- In other business, the board:
- Granted a variance to Myles and Lianne Carroll who built a fence without facing the finish-side to the neighbors. The Carrolls said they were not aware of the rule. They said the issue only came up as they had a dispute with the landlord over some tenants on the property. They installed the fence to define the property line because the tenants were using the Carrolls' yard.
 - In a hearing that had been continued, approved a parking lot expansion at 200 Mill Road.
 - Approved a postponement for Michael Ristuccia of 52 Cedar St.
 - Allowed an extension for Jurrinus and Geraldine Ten Brinke of 4 Misty Bay Road.
 - Granted two variances to Lucas Lavallee of 8 Pease Street for a shed fewer than 5 feet from the property line; and because the total coverage is 2% over the 30% maximum.

BPW approves waiver, sewer ordinance

Kylie Schuster

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Board of Public Works discussed water bills and a driveway waiver at its 12/15 meeting.

John Thompson of 18 Lafayette street appeared before the board with his wife to see if he could get the sewer charges abated from his most recent water bill.

Department of Public Works superintendent Vincent Furtado explained that the Thompsons recently installed an irrigation system and now their water bill is \$1,000 more than it usually is.

Mr. Furtado also added that since the water wasn't going into the sewer system, the board could motion to abate the sewer charges, but not the water charges.

Board member Robert "Hoppy" Hobson agreed with Mr. Furtado and suggested giving the Thompsons \$400-\$500 off the bill for the sewer charges.

The board approved the abatement.

Jami Franco, manager of the Seaport Inn and Marina appeared

before the board to discuss the water bill the Marina received.

Ms. Franco explained that she was there to see if the water meter could be billed quarterly, as that would save the Marina money.

Jamie stated she "didn't notice the tier system," and that the Marina's water bill doubled.

BPW Chairperson Michael Ristuccia looked over the bill and explained that the Marina used almost double the amount of water this billing cycle compared to last time.

Mr. Furtado explained that since the meter is considered a seasonal meter, it is only checked once a year.

Mr. Ristuccia added that the purpose of the tier system is to promote conservation, and that if the Marina wanted a smaller bill they could conserve more water.

Ms. Franco explained that conservation techniques were already in place, and that the Marina made sure there were no leaks in their system.

Mr. Riley motioned to check the Marina's meter 3 times a year. The motion was approved.

Cathleen Travassos and her husband appeared before the board to request a driveway waiver for 14 Pilgrim Avenue. Ms. Travassos explained that the driveway waiver was to make the driveway wider so it would be easier to pull in and out of.

She also stated that it would help get cars off the already busy road.

"I see no problem with this," stated Mr. Ristuccia. "This will definitely help with traffic on that street."

Mr. Riley motioned to approve the driveway waiver, as long as the driveway apron was concrete. The board voted in favor of the motion.

- In other business, the board:
- Appointed Mr. Furtado to the Mattapoisett River Valley Water Supply District Commission and the MRVSD Committee. Mr. Furtado's term is three years.
 - Approved the installation of a memorial bench at Fort Phoenix. Town resident Ron Roche requested the bench in memory of a family member.
 - Approved the Sewer Ordinance, which will, effective on January 1.



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Deadline for
Town Meeting Articles

The deadline for the Articles of the May 2, 2015
Annual Town Meeting and Street Acceptance
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Fairhaven Board of Selectmen
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SELECT: cont'd from page 4

wrote that safety was the prime concern. He said that cars drove the wrong way at one of the elementary schools and that a high school student was struck by a car.

"The Fairhaven Public Schools and the Fairhaven Police Department spend a great deal of time and resources in ensuring that our school buildings are secure," wrote Dr. Baldwin. "On the most emotional and politically charged days of the year, we open our school doors and go against all of our safety protocols."

The board will ask the town clerk to make a proposal for alternate sites.

The board also set a policy to compel those on the town's health insurance, but do not get regular paychecks, to pay their premiums on time. After discussing it for some time, Mr. Haworth and Selectboard member Charles Murphy acknowledged that

they are taking advantage of the benefit. The board invoked the Rule of Necessity and voted to give individuals two chances in a calendar year. If they are late paying the premiums, which the town must pay ahead of time, then members will lose their life insurance coverage.

The board also discussed how to handle the transition from an executive secretary form of government to a Town Administrator. Mr. Osuch promised to stay to help with the transition.

"I would love to see a smooth transition and I will do what I can to make that happen," he said.

The board convened in executive session to discuss four issues: a school department settlement, health department settlement, police department settlement, and a request by Hands Across the River. All four issues might end up in litigation, triggering the closed session meeting.

Public Hearings/Legal Notices

Conservation Commission

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold a Public Hearing on January 05, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Fairhaven Town Hall. Purpose is for the Request for Determination of the following matters as required by Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 131 Section 40 as amended.

- Notice of Intent Applicant Scott Martin (Brahmin Leather) Location 77 Alden Road Plot 30A Lots 86A & 86C Purpose construct a paved parking area, low impact storm water management system and wetland replication.

Jay Simmons Chairman,
Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Board of Appeals

The Fairhaven Board of Appeals will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 6, 2015, at 6:00 PM in the Town Hall to consider the following petitions:

CONTINUED HEARING:

1. **Petitioner: Michael J. Ristuccia**, RE: 52 Cedar Street, Plat 4, Lot 8, 77A; Book 10341 and Page 205; 198-18: Short 45' of the required 100' frontage, short 8,978 sq. ft. of the required 15,000 sq. ft. all in a RA District.

NEW HEARINGS:

1. **Petitioner Amy & Greg Caswell**, RE: 54 Williams Street, Plat 09, Lot 031; Book 9010 and Page 22, 198-18: Short 16' of required 20' front setback, 7' short of required 10' side yard; 15' short of required 30' rear yard and 5% over max building coverage of 30% all within an RA District.
2. **Petitioner: Matthew Brodo**, RE: 163 Cottonwood Street, Plat 43B, Lot 163; Certificate 22621; 198-18: Short 10' of the required 20' side yard and 2% over max building coverage of 15% all within an RR District.

Peter DeTerra, Chairman

Fairhaven Meetings

Board of Appeals

Tues., 1/6, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 12/29, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Capital Planning Com.

Tues., 12/30, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

Community Preserv. Comm.

Thurs., 12/18, Town Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 1/5, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Board

Mon., 1/13, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 1/14, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet Meetings

Board of Appeals

Mon., 1/6, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

Thurs., 12/18, Parting Ways, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 12/22, Town Hall, 3 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Dec. 2014	HIGH a.m. p.m.		LOW a.m. p.m.	
Friday	19	0531	1753	1104	2259*
Saturday	20	0613	1835	1149*	2347*
Sunday	21	0656	1920	----	1234*
Monday	22	0741	2008	0036*	1324*
Tuesday	23	0830	2059	0129*	1415*
Wednesday	24	0920	2150	0225*	1503*
Thursday	25	1011	2244	0317*	1548*
Friday	26	1105	2341	0406*	1634*
Saturday	27	----	1204	0500*	1728*
Sunday	28	0041	1303	0612	1838*
Monday	29	0138	1400	0749	1950*
Tuesday	30	0235	1501	0949	2104
Wednesday	31	0338	1607	1104	2248

	Jan. 2015	HIGH a.m. p.m.		LOW a.m. p.m.	
Thursday	1	0442	1708	----	1200*
		----	----	----	2346
Friday	2	0533	1756	----	1251*
Saturday	3	0617	1840	0029	1343*
Sunday	4	0659	1922	0055	1428*
Monday	5	0740	2005	0102	1459
Tuesday	6	0822	2048	0132	1439
Wednesday	7	0904	2129	0208	1447
Thursday	8	0944	2211	0245	1513*
Friday	9	1026	2255	0320	1544*

* = 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

Douglass Tree Sale Results

This year's tree sale at Douglass Tree Farm on 12/ 6 and 7 raised about \$17,200, and still climbing, in spite of the nasty weather. There were 314 trees that went to people's homes.

We are thankful to all of the people that put on their rain gear and wind breakers.

We are particularly thankful to the Fairhaven-ORR hockey team for their help on Sunday, for the fourth year. It certainly helped some tired arms. And thanks to the *Neighb News* for running the story.

One half of the money will go to SHARE at UMass Dartmouth, and the other half will go to Compassionate Care ALS. Both organizations provided needed support to our son Ken over the years.

Thanks, Dick Douglass, Fairhaven

Christmas is about Christ

The Christmas season stirs up a host of interesting reactions and responses from people. For some it's a grand time of celebration, presents, and family gatherings. For others, it's a time of threat, feelings of isolation, and financial hardship. Sadly, some

are too overwhelmed by situations or afflictions to even know Christmas is upon us.

To suggest that "good news" is available for all would seem like a naïve concept crafted straight from a world of fantasy. Granted, if the so called "good news" were originated by me or even you, then there's no doubt naïvete and fantasy would justifiably take their bow. If on the other hand, the "good news" came from a Supernatural God or the Creator of all, then that would be an entirely different consideration. I'd like to share a short Christmas story from the Bible that falls into that category:

Our greatest gift, Jesus Christ, was born of a virgin named Mary, impregnated by God's Holy Spirit. Jesus grew up, fully God and fully man. As fully man, he lived a sinless life and sacrificed Himself at Calvary as His willful act to take upon Himself the punishment for the sin of man, yours and mine included. He rose from the dead, as the only One ever to do that, walked the Earth, ascended into Heaven and He still lives! He

promises to return for His Church and those of us who believe will experience eternity with Him in Heaven. Those of us who don't – won't!

Friends, the greatest story or best news ever not only identifies the Ultimate Hero, it defines and satisfies the three great matters that concern mankind—life, death, and eternity. It's the heart and action of Jesus Christ (God) that upholds this wonderful holiday we call "Christmas." The beauty of the prose in Luke 2:10-11 sounds this hopeful message: Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Merry Christmas!
Steven J. Bouley, Fairhaven

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.
Bill Vaughan

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Wed., Dec. 24, Christmas Eve: Closing at 2 p.m.
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WED DEC 24	THU DEC 25	FRI DEC 26	SAT DEC 27	
CHRISTMAS EVE SKATE SPECIAL TIME 11AM-1:30PM NO EVENING SESSION	CHRISTMAS DAY CLOSED	OPEN SESSION 2-4:30PM OPEN SESSION 7-10PM	OPEN SESSION 2-4:30PM OPEN SESSION 7-10PM BOOK YOUR PRIVATE PARTY	
SUN DEC 28	MON DEC 29	TUE DEC 30	WED DEC 31	
OPEN SESSION 2-4:30PM BOOK YOUR PRIVATE PARTY	OPEN SESSION 2-4:30PM BOOK YOUR PRIVATE PARTY	OPEN SESSION 2-4:30PM BOOK YOUR PRIVATE PARTY	NEW YEARS EVE PARTY 2-4:30PM 7-10PM NO EVENING SESSION	
THU JAN 1	FRI JAN 2	SAT JAN 3	SUN JAN 4	
NEW YEARS DAY SKATE 2-4:30PM BOOK YOUR PRIVATE PARTY	OPEN SESSION 2-4:30PM OPEN SESSION 7-10PM	OPEN SESSION 2-4:30PM OPEN SESSION 7-10PM	OPEN SESSION 2-4:30PM BOOK YOUR PRIVATE PARTY	

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