



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 16, Issue 30 • August 5, 2021

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



Stasia Powers is officially the 2nd woman SB member, ever

Newly elected Fairhaven Select Board member Stasia Powers signs the book after being sworn in by Acting Town Clerk Linda Fredette (RIGHT) on Wednesday, 7/28/21, making Ms. Powers only the second woman to serve on that board in the town's 209-year history. Photo courtesy of Kyle Bueno. Ms. Powers won her seat after a recall of Daniel Freitas succeeded in a special election on 7/26/21. In a weird twist of history, the first woman to serve on the Select Board was Ruth Galary, who beat Sam Freitas, Dan's father, in 1991.

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."



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From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.



Beth David, Publisher

Oh geez.

Here we go again. At the Select Board meeting Mr. Silvia did not leave the room for the Town Administrator discussion. Instead, he mumbled something about a different conflict of interest.

Bob Espindola is the target of the new COI charge.

So get this...wait for it...honestly, if we didn't have actual documents it would be hard to believe...Mr. Espindola's sister took a job with the Council on Aging, where Anne Silvia, Keith's wife, is the director. Her job as COA director is the reason for Keith's conflict of interest. See page 3.

So, the fun part is (okay, two fun parts), the job is new, it was just created. Kind of interesting in this year of budget cuts and refusing part time administrative assistants and police dispatchers, we can create a new job that must be very enticing.

Ms. Silvia (surprise, surprise) did not respond to our requests asking about how the job was created, if it was posted for other town employees, etc., if the COA board was advised of it.

The second fun part is...the COA reached out to Bob's sister; she did not apply for the job that she...say, saw on a website somewhere.

Offering Bob's sister a job that was just created and not posted anywhere, and then your husband alleges a conflict of interest? Yeah...not suspicious at all. I'm sure it's all just a coincidence.

These people don't just need a babysitter, they need a timeout.

Doesn't anyone get embarrassed anymore?

Speaking of embarrassment...read all about Gary Lavalette's latest shenanigans at the town beach (page 16).

The School Committee promoted from within for the superintendent position (see page 6).

The bill to make the Select Board five people (oh...praytellsitreallygoingto happen?) is advancing through the legislative process (see page 13),

And the BPW is studying the causeway to hopefully replace it someday... someday soon? (See page 4.)

Please be sure to notice who our advertisers are so you can tell them you saw their ads in the *Neighb News*. Really, folks, we need an army to keep up with these bozos. Please keep those donations coming.

Until next week then...see ya

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Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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Thursday, August 5, 2021

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Editor: Beth David

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Mary Macedo, Jean Perry, Glenn C. Silva

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Contents

Acushnet news.....	19
Alltrust presents scholarships	7
BPW studying causeway.....	4
Classifieds.....	21
Dear Frankie	10
Fairhaven BPW.....	16
Fairhaven Select Board.....	12
Happenings	5, 8, 9
Legal Notices/Public Hearings.....	20
Letter from the editor	2
School Committee names superintendent.....	6
Select Board bill advances in legislature	13
Senior Center/Rec. Ctr.	14
Silvia ignores his conflict, alleges new for Espindola.....	3
Tides.....	21
Upcoming meetings/Fairhaven & Acushnet.....	21

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Nothing this week? Really?
Cool.

Silvia ignores his conflict, alleges new conflict for Espindola

Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

The search for a permanent town administrator was further delayed on July 28 when Fairhaven Select Board member Keith Silvia interrupted the discussion during the meeting to request that the board table the matter due to what he perceived as another potential conflict of interest.

Mr. Silvia himself is prohibited from any discussion about the town administrator search because of his own conflict of interest, which, according to the State Ethics Code, should prevent him from participating in the matter. Mr. Silvia has been recusing himself and exiting those discussions since February because his wife, Anne Silvia, is the director of the Council on Aging and directly supervised by the TA.

State Ethics defines participation as "approval, disapproval, decision, recommendation, the rendering of advice, investigation or otherwise," under Section 1 of the Conflict of Interest Law (G.L. c. 268A). The State Ethics Commission's published guidance on the law further clarifies:

"Often, discussing, providing advice or making recommendations about a particular matter may have more of an effect than the employee's single vote."

On 7/28, Mr. Silvia interrupted Mr. Espindola and said, "I would like to see if we can table this ... because I think there might be another conflict of interest that came up. I spoke with [Town Counsel Tom Crotty]. "He's on vacation, he'll be back on [August 2]. He said he'd look into it and let me know.

"I know that this is pressing and it's important," Mr. Silvia continued, "but I didn't want to get us into anymore problems..."

Mr. Silvia would not provide details about the supposed conflict of interest.

"I really didn't want to get into it; I wanted Attorney Crotty to address it," said Mr. Silvia. He then said that by the next regular meeting, "If everything is clear, then we can go (forward)."

Mr. Silvia disregarded his own conflict of interest by participating in the discussion on 7/28 and obstructed

the TA search process from progressing that night. Mr. Espindola tabled the discussion until the next regular meeting on August 9, with the stipulation that a special meeting could be scheduled before then.

After the meeting, when the *Neighb News* pointed out to Mr. Silvia that he had essentially violated the Conflict of Interest Law out of concern for someone else's potential State Ethics violation, his reply was, "Whatever."

When asked to clarify what he meant, he stated, "I thought it was the right thing to do."

In a phone interview on August 1, Mr. Espindola disclosed that the alleged conflict of interest Mr. Silvia was referring to involves Mr. Silvia's wife who, as COA director, recently made Mr. Espindola's sister, Donna Dwelly, an unsolicited offer of employment to fill a brand-new position at the COA as lead activity aide.

According to Mr. Espindola in a July 30 email to Atty. Crotty and subsequently filed with the Town Clerk's Office, Ms. Dwelly was not actively seeking employment with the

CONFLICT: cont'd on page 17



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BPW studying possible rebuild of causeway

By Beth David
Editor

If you drove on Causeway Road in Fairhaven almost any day last week, you may have noticed that surveyors with various kinds of equipment were milling about the place, taking measurements and checking out every little thing.

The Fairhaven Board of Public Works hired Tighe and Bond to go the next step from a study they did back in October of 2020. The company is looking at ways and costs to replace or repair the causeway/bridge. Six alternatives, four short term and two long term, range in cost from \$3,630,000 to \$22,710,000.

Sea level rise due to climate change is a major concern, with access to the island in jeopardy.

“Long term alternatives include solutions for the bridge and causeway to accommodate coastal resiliency, potential impacts from climate change, and potential sea level rise,” reads the 10/29/20 report. “Short term alternatives include solutions that upgrade the existing

bridge to meet current codes and to modify the causeway for improved safety and overall functional performance.”

Short Term alternatives include: Rehabilitate bridge, replace bridge, approach rails for short term alternatives (two options), options to maintain traffic while working on short term alternatives.

Long term alternatives, which include elevating the road by five feet, include: Replace bridge and upgrade causeway with 28-foot span on concrete beams; replace bridge and causeway with a 600-foot bridge in piles.

Public works superintendent Vinnie Furtado said the causeway bridge is inspected by the state every two years. He emphasized, that although it has some deterioration, it is sound and not in danger of collapsing. Sea level rise is an issue, he said, with the water splashing over the road more often.

Any new construction, should widen the road and elevate it.

Mr. Furtado said the options range

from just repairing what it there, to a complete rebuild.

He said the board wanted to at least assess the situation to get options in line.

“Before there’s a problem and everybody needs to swim who lives on West Island, I want to tackle this.”

He said the work going on this month is an assessment, first to verify the state’s work.

“And we’ll take it from there as to, aer we going to fix what’s there or fix it with an upgrade, or are we going to build a whole new bridge,” said Mr. Furtado.

He said the company will also help the town find grant money from the state.

“The idea is to fix the bridge and then do guard rails beyond the bridge on both sides, because we can get money for that, too,” said Mr. Furtado. “We want to incorporate sea level rise so it would be higher than what is there now. It has to be higher.”

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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Purple heart town ceremony

The town of Fairhaven will hold a dedication ceremony for the town becoming a Purple Heart Town. The public is invited to attend at **10 a.m. on Sun., 8/8, at Veterans Park, Route 6 and Middle Street.** In case of inclement weather, the ceremony will be moved to the VFW, 109 Middle St.

Blood Press. Clinic

Free Blood Pressure Clinic, Fairhaven Town Hall Banquet Room, 40 Center St., Fairhaven, August 11 & 25, 2021 11:30am-1:30pm

Lobster Trap Transfer

The Lobster Trap Transfer Program allows permit holders the annual flexibility to buy and sell trap allocations for Lobster Conservation Management Areas 2, 3, and the Outer Cape. The application period for fishing year 2022 is now open.

Applications must be submitted between August 1 and September 30. Approved transfers will take effect May 1, 2022. A detailed guide about the program, transfer applications, and individual trap allocations is available on our website: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/american-lobster> and click on "trap transfer program." Regulatory Questions: Contact the Sustainable Fisheries Division, 978-281-9315. Application and Process Questions: Contact the Analysis and Program Support Division, 978-282-8483

SAVE THE DATES

Paper Shred Day

Paper Shredding Day, Sat., 8/14, from 9 a.m. to noon (or until the shred truck fills up) in Fairhaven at the Hastings Middle School, 30 School Street, Fairhaven. It will be a contactless event to keep both participants and staff safe. All are welcome; there is no residency requirement.

Shredding confidential documents helps to prevent identify theft, protect personal information, and prevent valuable resources from being sent to the landfill. The shredded paper will be recycled into

new products such as paper towels.

Sponsored by NBCU and held in partnership with the Town of Fairhaven, the City of New Bedford, the Town of Dartmouth, and the Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District.

For more information, please visit gnbrrmdistrict.org, call the Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District at (508) 979-1493, or email Marissa@gnbrrmdistrict.org.

Car Show

The North Fairhaven Improvement Association and the Legendary Street Rods Car Club present a Car-Truck-Bike Show on Sun., 8/15, from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. at Livesey Park, Fairhaven. Featuring raffles, awards, food, music and more. Vehicle registration, \$15 fee plus one canned good for the food pantry. Interested non-food vendors should email northfairhavenimprovement267@gmail.com

Proceeds will benefit local veterans organizations, food proceeds to benefit the NFIA.

NFIA Music Night

Sun., 8/22, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m., Benoit Square, opposite 267 Adams St., Fairhaven. Come to Benoit Square in North Fairhaven to enjoy a performance by Eddie and the Exciters, a classic car cruise, food, and dancing in the streets! Sponsored by the North Fairhaven Improvement Association. Free. For more information visit the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NfiaNorthFairhavenImprovementAssociation/>

West Island History Project

Wed., 8/25, 6:30 p.m., West Island Improvement Association Community Center, 41 Causeway Road, Fairhaven. Free Event

This is a new project to begin collecting the really important history of West Island – OUR OWN HISTORIES! To start us off, we are focusing on the 1988 "Save West Island" effort that resulted in the east side of our island being protected from ever being developed into condos and a tourist hot spot.

Come and share your memories, information and memorabilia of this significant event that all of us benefit from today. Our goal is to share this important story and make it available for everyone's future enjoyment. And if you don't know how our Conservation Woodland came to be,

come and learn! Please contact Lisa Esten (508) 989-3237.

Riverside Evening Tour

274 Main Street, Fairhaven, MA, Wednesday, 8/25, 6:00 p.m. Limit 15 people. Wearing face coverings for public safety is optional.

Reservations Required. Email TourRiverside@gmail.com to reserve your place on the tour.

Created in 1850 by Warren Delano II, the grandfather of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, this is one of the most beautiful rural-style cemeteries in Massachusetts. The tour visits the final resting places of some of the town's most prominent people. You'll also see lovely examples of early tombstone art as you walk along the beautifully landscaped paths. Tour includes walking on uneven ground. Wear comfortable shoes. Sponsored by the Office of Tourism. Free. Note: Parking is allowed on the roads inside the cemetery, however two or three car lengths must be left open directly inside the gate. There are no public restrooms in the cemetery.

For more information about the walking tours, call the Office of Tourism at 508-979-4085. This is not the cemetery phone number. To reach the cemetery, call 508-999-7551.

Millicent Events

The following events will be held at the Millicent Library, 45 Center St., Fairhaven. Accessible. To register, or learn more call the library at 508-992-5342, email athiel@sailsinc.org, or visit <http://www.millicentlibrary.org/events>

- **Animal Trivia:** Thursday, Aug. 12 at 2:00 PM Join us for trivia on the library lawn. This event is for families and kids, recommended ages 8+ (younger siblings are welcome!). Play as a team to answer questions about the most biodiverse region of our world, and its many wonderful and colorful creatures! We will be using the Kahoot app.
- Millicent Library's Annual Teddy Bear Parade - Saturday, Aug. 14 at 10:00 PM Bring your favorite teddy bear (or any stuffed animal), and enjoy the fun! This year's Teddy Bear Parade will feature snacks, bubbles, and a show from Daisy D. Dotts.

Tara Kohler named superintendent in Fairhaven

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven School Committee voted unanimously to appoint Assistant Superintendent of Schools Tara Kohler to the superintendent position at its 7/28/21 meeting.

Superintendent Robert Baldwin notified the district that he would not finish out his contract to take a position as Executive Director of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) and the Massachusetts School Administrators Association (MSAA).

SC chairperson Brian Monroe said that typically, for major leadership positions, a committee would hire a consultant and go through a full search process to cast a wide net and bring in resumes from far and wide. Then the committee would review and have meetings and interviews to select the best candidate.

"However, in this case, we have the best candidate," said Mr. Monroe.

He said the committee has had the opportunity to get to know Ms. Kohler starting with her appointment as principal of Fairhaven High School in 2008. He said she did "wonderful things" at the high school, making it one of the best in the South Coast.

Then she took on the broader role of assistant superintendent and "has grown tremendously as a leader," said Mr. Monroe.

He added that COVID-19 put her to the test and was going to either make or break them.

"It just made her all the much better," he said.

"I couldn't be happier for you and our school district," said Mr. Monroe. "And I'm just very excited to see where we're going to go, and how

we're going to grow and the new direction, and it's going to be awesome."

SC member Kyle Bueno reflected on his time at the high school when Ms. Kohler was his principal. Mr. Bueno said she saw in him the passion for public service and the passion for giving back to community and invited him to intern for the School Committee.

He said her passion shows she was born for the education roles she has had.

"This role is so deserving for you," said Mr. Bueno. "I can only imagine what you're going to build upon from Dr. Baldwin's leadership, and I'm just excited to see your leadership potential in this new endeavor."

SC member Colin Veitch said he "obviously touted Dr. Baldwin's ability to hire and coach great talent," adding he did a great job with Ms. Kohler.

"I can't wait to see how you paint the canvas of the Fairhaven Public School district in the future," said Mr. Veitch. "We've all come to know you and love you, and I have confidence in you. You'll be great."

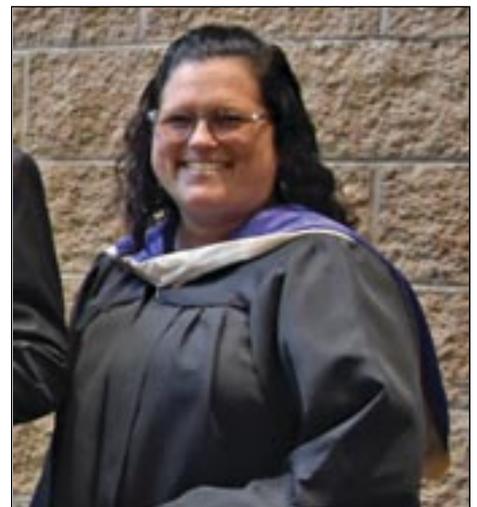
"I'm thrilled," said SC member Donna McKenna.

She said Ms. Kohler did a great job as principal and as assistant superintendent, and could only go further to create a better district.

"The opportunity to have another great superintendent in charge is awesome," said Ms. McKenna.

SC Vice Chair Pam Kuechler said it has been "exciting" getting to know and watch Ms. Kohler, and noted they started on the same day. She added it's exciting to transition.

"Transitions are tough," said Ms.



Tara Kohler just moments before walking out to the graduation ceremony on 6/6/21. Ms. Kohler was named superintendent of Fairhaven Public Schools on 7/28/21. *Neighb News file photo by Beth David.*

Kuechler. "But they're not tough. Because this provides us with a level of continuity."

She said because Ms. Kohler has been there, she knows them, she has ideas and they will "reap the benefits of that."

She said now the district will benefit of Ms. Kohler's own set of talents.

"And when we ask that question, 'what's next,' you've already heard it and though about it," said Ms. Kuechler. "I'm thrilled. I'm so happy for you...for everything you've done for the district."

Mr. Monroe made his first point rather forcefully.

"The thing to remember is that this is yours now, right," said Mr. Monroe. "You are in charge of this and as Mrs. Kuechler said I'm sure you have a lot

KOHLER: cont'd on page 21

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Alltrust Credit Union awards scholarships

Press Release

Alltrust Credit Union is pleased to announce this year's scholarship recipients. Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each were awarded to five graduating high school credit union members entering college as freshmen this fall.

The 2021 Scholarship recipients are: Kylie Medeiros, Fairhaven High School; Gabriel Monroe, Fairhaven High School; Faith Oliver, Old Rochester Regional High School; Maya Pinto, Dartmouth High School; Samantha Winters, Old Rochester Regional High School.

"We are excited to be able to contribute to the continued education of these well-deserving graduating seniors" stated Carmen Sylvester, President and Chief Executive Officer. "Alltrust is proud to be the financial partner to all our student members and will always be there to help them grow and continue to strive towards financial success."

Alltrust Credit Union congratulates our scholarship recipients and wishes all our student members the best in their future endeavors.

Established in 1922, Alltrust Credit Union (formerly known as Southern Mass Credit Union) is celebrating 99 years of service excellence and financially sound operations. The credit union has assets of over \$300 million and provides banking services to more than 14,000 members. The main office is in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, with branch offices in Fall River and New Bedford, Massachusetts. Follow Alltrust on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn. For more information,

call 508.994.9971 or visit alltrustcu.org.



Carmen Sylvester, Alltrust President and CEO (MIDDLE) stands with this year's scholarship winners, L-R: Gabriel Monroe; Faith Oliver; Ms. Sylvester; Kylie Medeiros; and Samantha Winters. RIGHT: Maya Pinto. Photos submitted.



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MASS. INSPECTION

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Walk-in Vax

To expand access and raise awareness of availability of vaccinations, walk-in appointments are now accepted to receive an immunization at more than than 250 of Stop & Shop's pharmacy locations across the Northeast, however customers can still schedule appointments on Stop & Shop's website. Customers can simply walk-in to their nearest pharmacy to receive either the Moderna and Pfizer series, or single-dose Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine.

The Feast Lands

The Feast has landed at the Airport Grille, 1569 Airport Road, NB. Come join us for four days/nights of food, fun, music and in-person human interaction. Thurs.-Sun., 8/5-8, Thurs. & Fri., 4-10 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., 2-10 p.m.

Event is rain or shine; No refunds; \$20 is entrance fee only with tickets purchased once inside for food and drink

Summer Saturdays

Event by Downtown New Bedford Inc., Wings Court. Join us for a FREE live jazz show in Wing's Court! Plus, live art created of the band-while they perform!

JULY 24: Southcoast Jazz Orchestra; AUG 14: Keegan Marshall-House Trio, Art by Jessica Lawrence, NBHS Jazz Ensemble opens at 2pm

Go to downtownnb.org to learn more about dNB Inc and browse our community for awesome places to eat, shop, and explore when you visit dNB! See Less

Free Concerts

Summer Sound Series presents free concerts, Thursdays, 2-7 p.m., at the beer garden in Custom House Square in downtown New Bedford. Bring food, meet friends, grab drinks, enjoy music. Bring a lawn chair and lounge in the park, or sit under the tent and have a drink from the on-site bar.

- **Aug. 5** Djim Job Cabo Verdean
- **Aug. 12** Kim Trusty, R&B/Soul/Jazz
- **Aug. 19** The Jethros, Bluegrass
- **Aug. 26** Rebecca Correia, Indie Pop

Presented by the City of New Bedford in partnership with the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center.

Farmers Market

From June through October: Mondays at Brooklawn Park, Thursdays at Buttonwood Park, and Fridays at Clasky Common. All markets will operate from 2pm - 6pm and accept cash, credit cards, SNAP, HIP, WIC, and Senior Farmers Market Coupons.

Learn more about Coastal Foodshed at coastalfoodshed.org, or find them on social media at @coastalfoodshed.

“Jaws” for free

The Zeiterion Performing Arts Center, 684 Purchase St., New Bedford, welcomes you back with a FREE screening of “Jaws” on Aug. 13. Tickets required. Get tickets starting on 7/27 at <https://www.zeiterion.org> or boxofficeinfo@zeiterion.org, 508.994.2900

Music in the Streets

The New Bedford Symphony Orchestra presents Music in the Streets, a program designed to bring classical music to the streets and outdoor locales across the city. The objective is to bring cultural vitality to areas in New Bedford, often by performing musical concerts in collaboration with our nonprofit, government, or business partners. This project is funded in part by Wicked Cool Places, financed by the city of New Bedford's Arts, Culture, and Tourism Fund.

Events are weather permitting, free of charge, and will take place around the city of New Bedford. As many of our concerts take place in a New Bedford Public Park, please look for musicians to be performing in the playground area under a tent marked “New Bedford Symphony Orchestra.”

- August 5, 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm, Buttonwood Park with Michael Mechanic's Wind Trio
- August 18, 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm Brooklawn Park with Bonnie Harlow (cello) and Jenny Memoli (violin)
- August 21, time TBD, Clasky Park with the NBSO Brass Quartet
- August 29, 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park with Michael Mechanic's Wind Trio

In the Parks, play along

The Southeastern Massachusetts Youth Orchestra (SEMAYO) is

partnering with the New Bedford Recreation Department to present “Music in the Parks” this summer!

Join them on Saturday mornings as they meet at a different park each week to play music and have fun! If you already play a stringed instrument, bring it along. They will have music and tunes and tons of fun. If you don't, percussion instruments will be available for you to play! No one is too young or too old to play music!

Saturday Mornings, 10-11 a.m.
weather permitting.

- August 7 Hazelwood Park playground area
- August 14 Riverside Park playground area

Call For Plays

Culture*Park CALLS for Short Plays for the 18th Short Plays Marathon, scheduled for Saturday, November 20, 2021 in the New Bedford Whaling Museum Theatre, downtown New Bedford, MA. The Short Plays Marathon will feature staged readings of up to 25 new and current plays.

We are seeking plays reflective of the social and political times we live in!

We welcome plays by seasoned playwrights, new writers, and students. “Journal Plays” reflecting COVID, quarantine, and current times, are, of course, welcome. This year's Marathon will also feature plays by playwrights from Climate Change Action Theatre, an international initiative.

Deadline for play submissions to reach Culture*Park is, Saturday, September 04, 2021. Plays will be read by a committee of theater artists and writers.

For details, please email culturepark.ed@earthlink.net

For more info Visit www.culturepark.org or on culture park on facebook...

AHA! Night

AHA! (Art History Architecture) night is a free arts & Culture event which takes place the second Thursday of the month, in Downtown New Bedford.

Learn more at <https://ahanewbedford.org>

HAPPENINGS OTHER LATITUDES

Local Art Drive

The Art Drive 2021, August 6, 7, 8, 10am-5pm, Fri-Sun, Dartmouth & Westport, www.the-art-drive.com

The Art Drive is back for its 13th year! After a sabbatical year, the annual August tour returns with thirty two artists, including several new members in 2021. **The Art drive is a free open studio event, organized by Dartmouth and Westport artists.** This juried studio tour is intended to be a unique opportunity to visit working artists in their unusual and dramatic studio settings, spotted among the area's villages, lovely farm land and sea coast. The Art drive showcases professional works created by some of the area's premier painters, ceramic artists, photographers, jewelers, fiber artists, woodworkers, and metal artists.

With only fifteen miles separating the studios, visitors will enjoy a scenic drive through this picturesque area with ample time for a picnic lunch at the beach or dinner at one of the many area restaurants.

Visit us online at www.the-art-drive.com for a list of this year's participating artists.

Email theartdrivema@gmail.com with questions.

VFW BBQ

CHICKEN BBQ BY TAZZ.Sat., 8/14, Dinner 4-6 p.m. At VFW POST 6643, 89 Middleboro Road, East Freetown, MA

Sponsored by VFW POST 6643 AUXILIARY to Benefit Our Various Programs such as Veteran Services, Scholarship programs, VFW National Home for Children

Tickets \$15, available at Freetown VFW or call Susan LeBlanc 508-763-9245

Food Truck Fest

25+ food trucks will be rolling into the Cape Cod Fairgrounds, 1220 Nathan Ellis Hwy East Falmouth, MA 02536 on Saturday, 8/7. From 12-5pm (VIP hour 11am - 12pm) there will be eating, drinking, fun....and more eating! Along with the trucks, attendees will find 50+ craft beers, activities for the family, and lawn games.

General admission tickets are available for purchase in advance for \$5 or at the gate for \$10. For those who want a little bit more out of the

festival experience, there are also special VIP HOUR tickets available online only for \$25 and the Beer Lover's Packages for \$43 online only. To purchase tickets, please visit www.foodtruckfestivalsofamerica.com.

The Cape Cod Fairgrounds is located at 1220 Nathan Ellis Hwy East Falmouth, MA 02536

And to stay on top of all festival updates, please follow @FTFofAmerica on twitter and "like" us at facebook.com/FTFofAmerica.

Motorcycle Run

In memory of William Coulter and Joseph Ensko, 15th annual "Flight of the Angels" motorcycle run to benefit Cops For Kids With Cancer. Sun, 8/8, 9 a.m. kickstands up at 11 SHARP. \$20 per rider, \$10 passenger. First 100 participants receive a t-shirt.

Meet at Florian Hall, Dorchester, and enjoy a scenic ride through the South Shore. Finish at Black Raspberry Pub in Plymouth. Post ride food, music, great raffle prizes, 50/50 and fun. Rain date 8/15.

Vax Clinics NB

COVID-19 vaccination clinics are planned for this week and weekend in New Bedford.

No appointment is needed at the walk-up clinics. All New Bedford residents receiving their first dose will receive a \$20 Dunkin' gift card.

This week is Family Vaccine Week, with vaccination clinics at family events throughout the city,

Friday, August 6

- Normandin Middle School, 81 Felton Street – 2-8:00 p.m.
- Keith Middle School, 225 Hathaway Boulevard – 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- NRoosevelt Middle School, 119 Frederick Street – 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Wonder Bowl, 66 Hathaway Road – 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 7:

- Niglesia Rebaño Casa de Adoracion, 205 Middle Street – 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
- NNormandin Middle School, 81 Felton Street – 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- NKeith Middle School, 225 Hathaway Boulevard – 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- NRoosevelt Middle School, 119 Frederick Street – 11:00 a.m. to 8:00

p.m.

Sunday, August 8:

- Normandin Middle School, 81 Felton Street – 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Keith Middle School, 225 Hathaway Boulevard – 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Roosevelt Middle School, 119 Frederick Street – 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE:

Free Vax Clinic

COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic, quick and easy vaccination at no cost to you, Sat., 8/21, 9 a.m.–noon, Acushnet Council on Aging, 59 S. Main St., Acushnet. Pfizer vaccine; individuals 12+ are eligible. Walk-ups welcome or register at <https://curative.com/30583> to register.

Apple Peach Canceled

There will be no 2021 Apple/Peach Festival due to COVID-19 restrictions. The festival usually takes place the weekend after Labor Day in Acushnet.

Cedar Beach

The MAC Theater presents its second play of the 2021 season, Cedar Beach, written by local playwright Mark Howland and directed by John Heavey.

Cedar Beach is about family and a family-owned property. Spanning several generations that covers fifty years, the play attempts to chronicle the history of a vacation home and the vicissitudes of the people who inhabit it.

This is the MAC's third outdoor live theater event that will take place in Bicentennial Park, Marion, across the street from the MAC. **Six show dates are scheduled August 21-22, 26-29.** Thursday, Friday and Saturday productions will begin at 5:00pm, while Sunday matinees will begin at 2:00pm. (Times are subject to change before opening week of the show.) Guests should bring their own chairs. Tickets go on sale to MAC members (\$18) in person or by phone starting Thursday, July 22. Tickets on sale online and to nonmembers (\$20) starting Thursday, July 29 at marionartcenter.org/events.

Recipe of the Week

Angry Shrimp

- 2 tablespoons pumpkin seeds
- 1/2 cup golden raisins
- 2 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 3/4 cup diced white onion
- 1/4 cup dried cherries, chopped
- 2 teaspoons chipotle powder
- 4 tsps chopped garlic, divided
- 1/2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1/2 cup Grand Marnier orange liqueur
- 20 oz low-sodium vegetable broth
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 2 lbs medium-large shrimp, peeled and deveined, thawed if frozen
- 1 tablespoon orange zest
- 6 cups kale, stems removed, chopped
- 3 cups cooked brown rice

In a small pan over high heat, toast pumpkin seeds, stirring constantly, until lightly brown, 1 to 2 minutes. In a food processor, puree raisins and 1/4 cup water 1 minute.

In a large pan over medium heat, heat 1 tablespoon oil. Add onion; cook until translucent, 5 mins. Stir in raisin puree, cherries, chipotle, 1 tsp garlic and cumin; cook 1 minute. Add Grand Marnier and cook, stirring, until alcohol is cooked out, 1 to 2 minutes.

Add broth and bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer. In a bowl, dissolve cornstarch in 1 tablespoons cold water. Gradually add cornstarch mixture to broth mixture to thicken; reduce heat and simmer 7 to 10 minutes. Add shrimp; cook until pale white, 5 minutes. Stir in zest; season with salt and pepper.

Transfer to a bowl and set aside.

In pan, heat remaining 1 tablespoon oil. Cook kale and 3 teaspoons garlic, stirring, until kale starts to wilt, 3 to 5 minutes. Strain juices and combine with rice. Divide rice mixture, shrimp and seeds among 6 plates. www.epicurious.com

Dear Frankie



Social Balancing Act

Dear Frankie,
My best friend at the park is Sassy. Every summer, she goes away for a month with her family to their lake house. I'm always sad and lonely when she leaves.

Right after she left, I met Rags, and he and I hit it off right away. At first, we were just pals, but then I noticed how much I thought about him after leaving the park and how anxious I was to see him the next day.

One day he asked me if I ever thought about him, and I worked up all my courage and said, "Yes, I think about you all the time."

He then told me it was the same for him. It was then we decided to become an item. When Sassy came back to the park, she didn't understand why I wasn't spending all my time with her. When I told her Rags and I had become sweethearts, she became distraught and stopped talking to me.

When I told Rags what happened, he said, "Forget about her. She's a jerk."

I feel they are forcing me to take sides.

Stuck, Angel

Dear Angel,

No one likes changes, especially when the person feels they are losing something of value. You might tell Sassy you understand that she wants to spend time alone, and you plan to do that as well as spend time alone

with Rags. You should also have a conversation with Rags and tell him you are a loyal person and will not drop a girlfriend because he is your boyfriend. He also needs to hear that you won't tolerate him calling your good friend a jerk.

You might ask Sassy and Rags how they suggest the three of you socialize in the future. Don't count on getting a realistic solution; it seems you're the only adult in the room.

One solution you might offer is one day a week you will spend most of your time at the park with Sassy and another day with Rags. The other three days, you will spend equal time alone with each of them and then time together.

You should mention that they can't depend on you as their only companion and encourage them to seek other activities and pals in the park. In sum, you need to set clear boundaries on what you are willing to do as a friend and a sweetheart.

Best, Frankie

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

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From our readers

Correy Says "Thank You"

I would like to thank the voters of Fairhaven for your support. What we did together was something special and I would like you to know I appreciate every one of you. You gave me the opportunity to present myself to you in a transparent way and 785 of you made it known that you are not satisfied with the status quo. Yes we didn't accomplish our goal. However, based on the overwhelming number of people who have reached out to check on me and inform me of the impact my campaign has had on them, I feel as though in some way the campaign was a success.

This was a campaign with no staff and just me hitting the streets. I would like to thank my wife Jennifer for her support and all that she did in this campaign as well. This has been

an amazing experience.

Many of you have asked what's next. I will be in front of the select board to make sure this town is aware of the importance of Diversity Equity and Inclusion. There are many people in the town who feel as though they don't have a voice and they deserve to be heard.

I would like to congratulate Stasia on winning the election and wish her well on her journey. I would also like to thank Cameron Durant for his campaign and his friendship. I have enjoyed getting to know him and through which we have found we have much in common.

I promise the people that I will not go away. There is much to be fixed and one by one I am here to fix them. We have a beautiful town that needs to come together more than ever. I

ask everyone to put aside the past year and work together to bring unity to the town.

Lastly I would like to thank many of those behind the scenes who worked with me by holding signs, writing letters and spreading the word. We need new energy and new voices. We need to embrace a movement of new ideas, not shy away or be afraid. We are leaving this town to our children and grandchildren, the fact is we don't always know what's best for them. They too have a voice and need to be heard.

I've said all along that I am here for the people. That's all people. If there is an issue or matter you ever want to discuss, I am here and you can reach me at leoncorrey@leon4fairhaven.us.

Sincerely yours,

Leon Correy, Fairhaven



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Fairhaven Selectboard: Espindola is chair, Powers is vice chair

Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

Select Board member Bob Espindola was voted chairperson during the July 28 meeting, followed by the nomination of board newbie Stasia Powers as vice-chair.

When Select Board member Keith Silvia nominated Ms. Powers as vice-chair, she was visibly surprised.

“Are you sure you’re not interested?” Mr. Espindola asked Mr. Silvia, suggesting that he was going to nominate Mr. Silvia as vice-chair.

Mr. Silvia replied that Ms. Powers’s 14 years on the School Committee was enough to merit the nomination. Later during the meeting, when the board would grant the special event permit for the South Coast Bikeway Alliance’s September 12 Pedal for the Path fundraiser, Ms. Powers would act as chair during her first meeting as on the board when Mr. Espindola, a member of the alliance, recused himself.

Tree Warden Don Collasius was listed on the agenda to talk about tree warden issues and began by asking, “Who do I report to?”

“Elected officials report to the voters,” replied Mr. Espindola.

“So, the voters are my boss,” said Mr. Collasius.

He followed with questions concerning insurance and liability on behalf of his part-time workers should they get injured during the job. He then asked Interim Town Administrator and Finance Director/Treasurer/Collector and apparent Director of Human Resources Wendy Graves about said coverage looking for specific information and amounts. She could not provide him with the answers.

Mr. Espindola suggested that Mr. Collasius could have submitted those questions ahead of the July 28 meeting, and Mr. Collasius said that he did in a July 9 email but did not get any response from Ms. Graves, who shook her head ‘no.’

Mr. Collasius wanted to know if one of his workers dies on the job what compensation would their family receive and what is the level of exposure to the Town?

Mr. Collasius gave his interpretation of Mass General Law Chapter 87, stating that he is responsible for shade trees on town property, but when “A shade tree lying on the

ground provides no shade.”

Given the discrepancy between how Mr. Collasius interprets the law and what the Town believes are his responsibilities, Mr. Espindola suggested that town counsel should be consulted to resolve the matter immediately; however, Mr. Collasius said that he asked for access to town counsel and was “stymied.”

Ms. Graves said that she had “gone above and beyond to help” Mr. Collasius.

When he complained that she did not respond fast enough, Ms. Graves said she gets too many emails every day, and when she seeks advice through a listserv, it can take days for other municipal employees on the listserv to answer her question.

She added that she was on vacation the week Mr. Collasius contacted her, “And I deserve to have a vacation.”

Public works Superintendent Vincent Furtado spoke via Zoom and said the Board of Public Works realizes that Mr. Collasius has concerns; however, during a storm or emergency, the public works department only moves a tree limb to the side of the road until the tree warden can tend to it.

“That’s the way we have always done it,” Mr. Furtado said. He agreed that there should be a tree department, more than a tree warden and a “random two people” that may or may not be available at the time to come into work.

Ms. Powers said she hoped to resolve the issue through collaboration. The police and fire chiefs both confirmed that tree limbs blocking the roadway would generally be pushed aside until the tree warden was available to remove it.

The board agreed to review the liability insurance and workers’



Zachary Vieira holds up his right hand as he is sworn in by Acting Town Clerk Linda Fredette at the Fairhaven Selectboard meeting on 7/28/21. Photo by Jean Perry.

compensation to ascertain whether there is any risk to the Town and revisit the matter at a later time.

Earlier in the meeting, BPW member Marcus Ferro approached the lectern and spoke as a Precinct 4 member expressing his main concern about the tree warden. Mr. Ferro cited M.G.L. Chapter 87, which he said “makes clear” that the tree warden is responsible for the care and removal of public shade trees and that he supports creating a tree department under the Department of Public Works.

He said he supported Mr. Collasius’s prior recommendation of a tree department under the oversight of the BPW.

“But now all I’ve seen are [social media posts] and soliloquies” on what Mr. Collasius thinks the tree warden’s responsibilities are, said Mr. Ferro.

Mr. Ferro said in his opinion, that Mr. Collasius is an “elected official looking at ways to not do their job” and then further added, “A resignation might be a more palatable option.”

Mr. Ferro left before Mr. Collasius’s agenda item was brought up.

The board also heard from Precinct 4 Chairperson Paul Foster, during the board’s precinct meet and greet and said that while he did not

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have a chance to contact a significant number of Precinct 4 residents ahead of the meeting, the feedback and concerns he has heard related to the "craziness over the appointment of the town administrator."

Mr. Foster said many residents believe the new permanent TA should be qualified and possess adequate experience. He mentioned concerns over adequately funding town departments and keeping an eye on the tax rate.

In other matters, the board briefly discussed changes to the Rogers Re-Use Committee mission statement and the composition of the committee, increasing it from a five-member committee to a seven-member, to include a member from the Economic Development Committee, the Planning Board, and the Finance Committee.

Ms. Powers noticed that the website specifies that Director of Planning & Economic Development Paul Foley is the staff representative and contact person for Rogers Re-Use matters, which Mr. Espindola emphasized should be followed when developers, engineers, or consultants attempt to communicate with the Town.

Committee member Susan Loo clarified that committee members have never served as the point person for contact with interested parties, and responses to requests for proposal (RFPs) have always gone directly through the Town, not the committee.

"They always went to the Select Board, and the Select Board would pass them onto us.... That really needs to be clarified," said Ms. Loo. "No RFP ever came directly to us. None. None."

She added that there is ample "misinformation out there" saying otherwise.

Earlier in the meeting, Mr. Foley discussed the possibility of receiving funding for the future of Rogers School from a MassDevelopment grant to fund a new feasibility study to update the projected costs involved in developing the old school and bringing it up to code for future use.

He added that funding could also go toward the RFP process. His preference would be to apply for up to \$50,000 to accomplish a combination of both objectives. Any request for over \$50,000, he said, would require a community match of funds. He also specified that if the Town accepted the grant money and then later sold the school property, the Town would have to return the money to the state. He will submit the application by the August 6 deadline with the support of the Select Board.

Mr. Foley also mentioned that the Economic Development Committee is looking for new members and people send letters of interest to the Select Board by August 9.

Also during the meeting, Acting Town Clerk Linda Fredette swore in the Police Department's newest full-time officer, Zachary Vieira. Mr. Vieira has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, is a certified 911 dispatcher, and has served as a part-time officer in Fairhaven for some time. He graduated from the Plymouth Police Academy on July 23.

Police Chief Michael Meyers said Mr. Vieira did an "outstanding job" at the academy, even smashing the academy's 20-years long speed record for the 1.5-mile physical standards requirement, winning himself a

special award. The standard is to complete the distance in under 13.5 minutes, but Mr. Vieira finished in 7 minutes and 42 seconds, beating the record of 7 minutes and 58 seconds.

"He made us proud, and he made Fairhaven proud, that's for sure," said Chief Meyers.

"I'm just very excited to support the community where I grew up, and I'm looking forward to the journey," said Mr. Vieira.

In another matter, Ms. Graves reported that there would be some changes for the upcoming tax possession auction scheduled for Tuesday, September 28. The list has changed due to the Conservation Commission's interest in retaining some of the properties, and some additional properties were added to the list.

During the board's reorganization, the board reassigned the appointments of former SB member Dan Freitas, who was recalled in the 7/26 election. Board members approved all except the role of contract compliance officer. When asked what the duties are of that role, Ms. Graves was unable to inform the board. That appointment will be taken up at the board's next meeting to get a clarification of the duties.

The board granted a special event permit for the Turkey Trot 5k on November 25, Thanksgiving morning. The event collects canned goods and non-perishables for the Shepherd's Pantry in Acushnet.

In light of Zoning Board of Appeals member Joe Borelli's resignation, the Town will advertise for a new associate member. Those interested in serving may send a letter of interest to the Select Board by August 5.

Bill to make Selectboard five members is in legislature

By Beth David
Editor

Town Meeting voted on 6/12/21 to increase the number of Select Board members to five, from three. But that was not the end of it. The change needs to be approved by the legislature.

Mass. State Representative William Straus, who represents Fairhaven, introduced House No. 3948 on 6/22.

The bill calls for three members to be elected the first year. The highest

vote-getter will serve three years, the second highest will serve two years, and the third will serve one year. After that, each will serve three years.

"This act shall take effect upon its passage," reads the bill.

Rep. Straus's office said in an email that the bill was referred to the Municipalities and Regional Government Committee on July 14 and concurred by the Senate on July 15. The bill is currently pending a committee hearing. After a public hearing

date is set, the office said it will have a better idea of the timeline.

Nomination papers in Fairhaven are generally available by December 1 for the following April's election. It is unclear how much time the town needs to be able to include the changes for the next election.

Acting town clerk Linda Fredette said in an email that she was not sure of the answer. She said she sent a message to the Secretary of State, but did not hear back by press time.

Fairhaven Recreation Center

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

CPR Class

We are offering a CPR class to any adult who would like to learn this great skill. Perfect for a new parent or just want to sharpen your skills. Sign up today! Ages: 18 and older. Date: October 25 Time: 6PM-8:30 P. Instructor: Beth Oleson. Cost: \$55 Member, \$65 Non Member

Home Alone Safety Class

This course is designed to encourage children to be more independent. Topics covered will be basic first aid, door and telephone protocol, accident prevention, first aid for choking and safety measures. Pizza will also be provided. Space is limited... sign up soon.

Ages: 9-11 Date: September 13th Instructor: Beth Oleson Time: 6 PM-7:45PM. Cost \$55 members, \$65 non-members

Babysitting Class

This is a comprehensive 3 hour course for 11-14 year olds. Topics will include first aid, choke saving techniques, mealtime, bedtime, diapering, discipline, contracts and ethics. Pizza will be provided. Ages: 11-14 Date: October 4th Instructor: Beth Oleson Time: 6 PM-8:15PM

Cost: \$55 members/\$65 non-members

Please register early as we will make a decision on whether the class will run 7 days before the scheduled date.

Fairhaven Senior Center

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Visit our website at:

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

Fairhaven Council on Aging

Senior Center is Open

Osteo Mon., Wed., 8:30-9:45 a.m. Chair Yoga Mon. and Thurs. 10:15-11:15 a.m. Mah Jongg Tues. 10-2 p.m. Pitch on Thurs. only 12:30-3:00 p.m. Bingo on Fri. 1-3:00 p.m. Community Nurse Caregivers Support Group 1st Wed. of the month 1-2:00 p.m. LGBT Supper Club 4th Wed. of the month 5-7:00 p.m. Fit Quest on Thurs. 9-10:00 a.m. Legal with Attorney Suzanne Sequin on Wed. please call the Senior Center 508-979-4029 for appointment. Wednesday Mall Trips have begun, please call Fairhaven Senior Center to sign up. Zumba will start on Fri., 9/3 from 11:30-12:30.

Financial Help

Financial Help might be available if: you are a woman over 70 years old. You live in Fairhaven, You live alone.

you have unpaid bills due to low income. Call the Fairhaven Council on Aging at 506-979-4029 if you meet these criteria and ask for Lucille. All information obtained will remain confidential.

Music Series

1:00-2:00 p.m.
Outdoors at the Fairhaven Senior Center.

Wednesday August 18th TBA and Thursday, September 16, 2021 Under Fairhaven Council Music Series will be Torch Songis a duo featuring Brenna Joyce, vocalist and Robert Chandler, guitarist performing those beautiful, romantic songs from the 30s, 40s and 50s The enduring, iconic music of Frank Sinatra, Julie London, Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, Tony Bennett, Lena Horne, Dean Martin, Peggy Lee, Dinah Washington and so many others are what you will experience with Torch Song.

Chairs will be provided but feel free to bring your own. Light refreshments will be provided by the Atria of Fairhaven, Please call the Fairhaven Senior Center at 508-979-4029 to sign up.

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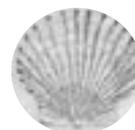
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BPW discusses Lavalette's behavior as beach parking attendant

By Mary Macedo

Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Monday 7/26 the Fairhaven Board of Public Works met with Brown and Caldwell about new recycling center plans, discussed Cooke Park signage and met with a resident about issues at Town Beach.

The board first met with Brown and Caldwell to discuss updates on the recycling center plans.

BPW Superintendent Vinnie Furtado informed the board that he will be taking the employees of B&C visit the current recycling center and then to the proposed new location on Bridge Street.

Brown and Caldwell representative Sam Chapin explained to the board that they spoke with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and they have plans to meet with them via Zoom and invited board members to join.

Board member Cameron Durant asked what will be discussed at the meeting.

Mr. Chapin said they will explain a summary of the current and new location, as well as why the recycling

center needs to be moved and what the time frame of the project will be.

Mr. Chapin said they will also be asking the DEP if more permits and assessments are required for the new property. He said they need to ask the DEP what actions need to be taken to be able to use the property on Bridge Street as a new recycling center.

Vice Chairperson Robert "Hoppy" Hobson said that the recycling center does not require any digging into the ground. He said it is just a place to store recyclables, such TVs, mattresses, couches, metal, and brush, like yard waste.

Chairperson Brian Wotton said that after the meeting with the DEP the board can meet with Brown and Caldwell again for an update on what the next steps will be.

In another matter board member Marcus Ferro and Mr. Wotton brought up issues with the new Tree Warden.

Mr. Wotton said the Tree Warden is refusing to trim trees or go out in storms to remove fallen trees. Mr. Wotton said it is ridiculous, but the BPW will go get any tree that has fallen and is blocking a roadway even

though it is the Tree Warden's job.

Mr. Wotton said he calls for the Tree Warden to resign and go to town meeting and officially make Mr. Furtado the town Tree Warden.

Mr. Wotton said the tree situation in town is "disgusting, embarrassing, and unacceptable."

Mr. Ferro said it is ridiculous that the Tree Warden has publicly stated that he will not go out in a storm to remove trees and has left the BPW to pick up his slack.

Mr. Ferro said the Tree Warden needs to stop complaining on Facebook and resign.

Mr. Wotton said if the Tree Warden wants to do justice for the town he needs to step down from his position.

Mr. Furtado said it will need to be brought in front of town meeting.

The board also unanimously approved the revised water and sewer abatement policy that states a licensed plumber and town Water Department employee must check the property for leaks; and allows residents to get a second water meter.

The second water meter allows

BPW: cont'd on page 22

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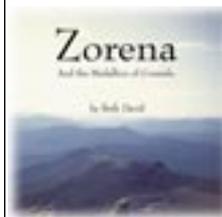
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CONFLICT: cont'd from page 3

COA when Ms. Silvia contacted her to offer her the position. However, Ms. Dwelly was once associated with the COA before the 2020 pandemic during a time when, through Coastline Elderly Services, she provided services to the COA as part of a grant-funded program.

Mr. Espindola wrote in his email to Mr. Crotty, "To be honest, this whole scenario and the timing of it seemed odd to me from when I first heard about it."

He said Ms. Dwelly informed him of Ms. Silvia's job offer and also that, "Anne Silvia was pressuring her to make a decision in a certain time frame.... Quite honestly, I felt the timing and circumstances were suspicious at the time."

Something else Ms. Dwelly told him also concerned him, Mr. Espindola wrote in the email: "Anne Silvia said to her (during the process of offering my sister the position), 'Well, I don't know how this will work with my husband unable to participate in the TA search and your brother unable as well'"

Mr. Espindola said that, before his sister accepted the position, he contacted the State Ethics Commission and received a written response from Amy Nee. In that response, which Mr. Espindola also filed with the Town Clerk, Ms. Nee stated that under Section 19 of the Conflict of Interest Law, a municipal employee may not participate in a particular matter if he or an immediate family member has a financial interest in the matter.

Ms. Nee then concluded, "Your sister's immediate supervisor would be the [COA] Director [and] not the [TA]. Unless the new [TA], once appointed, would be making

decisions imminently about your sister's wages, hours, or working conditions, your sister's financial interests would not be affected by who the [TA] will be."

Nonetheless, Ms. Nee offered Mr. Espindola two options: to recuse himself if he felt he could not be impartial, or file a 23(b)(3) disclosure form "explaining the task you are expected to perform as a Selectman and the relationship ... that could cause a reasonable person to suspect undue favoritism or improper influence..."

The disclosure was filed with the Town Clerk on July 28 before the Select Board meeting.

Mr. Espindola also attached to his disclosure a July 14 email Ms. Silvia sent to him informing him that she had offered the position to Ms. Dwelly. She said Ms. Dwelly had wanted to wait until any concerns Mr. Espindola had about the matter were resolved before committing to the position, and wrote, "I am asking that you please get back to me today or tomorrow with an answer. I have to know what I am doing staffing wise asap to ensure the program is staffed appropriately," Ms. Silvia wrote.

The *Neighb News* sent Ms. Silvia an email on August 2 asking her how she came to create the new position, whether she knew Ms. Dwelly was Mr. Espindola's sister, and whether she made any comment to Ms. Dwelly similar to the one Mr. Espindola stated in his email about Mr. Silvia and Mr. Espindola not being able to participate in the TA search process.

The *Neighb News* also asked Ms. Silvia about a number of payments, including one for \$338.69 from 12/13/13 made out to Keith Silvia

Custom Builders for work performed at the Senior Center.

In a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request the *Neighb News* submitted on February 22 this year, records show that Mr. Silvia has received multiple payments for work performed for the town, including one payment dated 7/15/20 totaling \$698.82 for work performed at the Academy Building. Mr. Silvia had already been elected to the Select Board and serves as the board's representative to the Historical Commission, which oversees the Academy Building.

In addition to his conflict of interest violations related to the appointment of Interim Town Administrator and his interference, which resulted in Ms. Graves's reconsideration as a fourth TA candidate apart from the three selected by the TA Search Committee, Mr. Silvia has also potentially violated the Conflict of Interest Law by accepting at least one payment for work to the Town post-election.

Ms. Silvia, as director of the COA, is also potentially in violation of the COI Law by using her husband's business to perform work at the COA. The *Neighb News* also asked Ms. Silvia if she had filed any State Ethics disclosures with the Town Clerk's office pertaining to her husband's company.

The *Neighb News* has filed an additional FOIA request for further information into Mr. Silvia's payments, and we will report further on them at a later date.

Ms. Silvia did not respond by press time to two emails on two separate days seeking comment for this story.



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Acushnet shows off the fire fleet

"We have nine vehicles in our fleet," wrote the Acushnet Fire & EMS Department on its Facebook page. "They all came together at Station 1 today [8/3/21] for

state inspections. This gave us a rare opportunity to take a family photo."



The Acushnet Fire & EMS Department's entire fleet of nine vehicles is lined up for state inspection on 8/3/21. Photo from the Acushnet Fire & EMS Department Facebook page.

Acushnet to host free vax clinic with DPH

Based on the success of Saturday's Pfizer vaccine (ages 12 and up) clinic, we are pleased to announce that the state will be back for another local clinic on Saturday, August 21, 9 a.m.–noon, Acushnet Council on Aging, 59 S. Main St., Acushnet. The Vax Van will provide the second dose for those 44 people who received their

first dose last Saturday. IN ADDITION, folks can receive their first dose that day with the second dose scheduled for 9/11

We will get the vaccine here. All you need to do is roll up your sleeve! Individuals 12+ are eligible. Walk-ups welcome or register at <https://curative.com/30583> to register.

Intergenerational Book Club

Join students from the Ford Middle School as they read *Peak* by Roland Smith and *The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis. Read one book or both! Books available at the Acushnet Public Library and in New Bedford. Please call the Acushnet COA, 508-998-0280 for details.

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Monday, August 16, 2021 at 6:30pm
Remote

Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, these public hearings will be conducted via remote means.

Members of the public who wish to access the meeting may do so in the following manner:

<https://zoom.us/j/93867516139?pwd=Q3I2VzIUNHJYY3I0dGVMcVlXMOVUQT09>

or CALL 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 938 6751 6139

Passcode: 326289

No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, and public participation in any public hearing conducted during this meeting shall be by remote means only.

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold the following Public Hearings pursuant to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (M.G.L. c. 131, s. 40) and the Code of the Town of Fairhaven Chapter 192, Wetlands:

- CON 023-239: 29 Winsegansett Avenue** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Nora and Henry Bradford for the installation of a new Title 5-compliant septic system at the property located at 29 Winsegansett Avenue, Assessors Map 42A, Lots 148-149 & 174-175. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage.
- SE 023-1361, CON 023-240: 11 Balsam Street** Notice of Intent filed by Nora and Henry Bradford for the demolition of the existing house, construction of a new flood-zone compliant single-family dwelling, and the replanting of vegetation removed without a permit at the property located at 11 Balsam Street, Assessors Map 43C, Lots 128-130. Work to take

place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage and the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

Information regarding remote meeting access, listed above, will also be provided on the Conservation Agenda posted on the Town's website at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Copies of the applications listed in this hearing notice may be viewed electronically at: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/conservation-commission/pages/current-filings>

Geoff Haworth, Chair, Fairhaven
Conservation Commission
FNN: 8/5/21



Town of Fairhaven Fairhaven Public Schools

The Town of Fairhaven is seeking one Fairhaven Resident to serve on the School Committee for the Fairhaven Public Schools to fill a vacant seat.

The interested party must be registered to vote in the Town of Fairhaven. This elected position will be appointed jointly by the School Committee for the Fairhaven Public Schools and the Board of Selectman to fill the vacancy until the term expires.

Letters of interest may be mailed to the attention of Melissa Bouchard, Fairhaven Public Schools Administrative Center, 128 Washington Street, Fairhaven, MA 02719 by August 19, 2021 at 3:30pm or emailed to mbouchard@fairhavenps.net.

FNN: 8/5/21

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- Third: Although we are not a non profit (well, we're not supposed to be anyway), we gladly accept donations. If you think the paper is worth paying for, even \$10 twice a year will go a long way towards our operating expenses. It is no secret that independent newspapers are disappearing. Most newspapers are owned by conglomerates that cater to investors, not the local community. We provide independent, local news coverage while offering inexpensive ad rates for businesses that can't afford the big papers.

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KOHLER: cont'd from page 6
of great ideas you want to implement.”

He said she has seen how they operate as a committee and she should “run with it, do what you think is best. And we’re here to support you.”

Ms. Kohler told the committee that she realized they had a “lot of options” on what to do after Dr. Baldwin announced that he was leaving.

“I couldn’t be more thankful to you for having the trust in me to do that,” said Ms. Kohler, adding that she remembered the intimidating committee interviews.

“To hear the words you said tonight means a lot,” said Ms. Kohler. “I just can’t thank you enough. I am humbled by it. And I promise to bring a lot of great new ideas.”

She also said she loved Fairhaven, her family moved to town and, “I’m truly dedicated to it.”

“I feel like I’ve put blood, sweat and tears into this place,” said Ms. Kohler, adding that COVID-19 definitely helped her grow. “I appreciate your support and I look forward to doing this.”

She said following someone like Dr. Baldwin will be tough shoes to fill, “But I hope to do it well,” she said.

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Ms. Kohler began her time in Fairhaven as the High School Principal in 2008. After proving herself as a leader and establishing a new culture at the high school for nine years, she was promoted to Assistant Superintendent of Schools in 2017.

Prior to becoming a Blue Devil in 2008, Kohler began her career in education with New Bedford Public Schools. She served as the Blue Housemaster at New Bedford High School. Prior to becoming an administrator, Kohler was a teacher at St. Mary’s School, Normandin Jr. High School, and New Bedford High School as a middle and high school teacher.

Kohler earned degrees from Bristol Community College with an Associate of Science in Criminal Justice, UMass Dartmouth with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and certified history/social studies teacher, her Masters degree in Educational Leadership from Cambridge College, and a Certificate of Advanced Educational Leadership from Harvard University.

The appointment will take effect on August 23, 2021, pending successful contract negotiations.

The committee also waived the requirement for Dr. Baldwin to give 120 days notice and notification by certified mail.

Upcoming Meetings

Fairhaven

Board of Health

Wed., 8/18, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 8/9, Arsene St., 6:15 p.m.

Broadband Study Comm

Thurs., 8/5, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 8/16, Remote, 6:30 p.m.

Council on Aging

Mon., 8/9, Sr. Ctr., 9 a.m.

School Committee

Wed., 8/18, Media Ctr., 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 8/9, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

CDBG Hearing, 7 p.m.

Sustainability Comm

Tues., 8/17, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet

Selectboard

Mon., 8/16, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

US Army Corps of Engineers, Cape Cod Canal/Piney Point/Wing’s Neck

	Aug 2021	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	5	0633	1852	0130	----
				1137	----
Friday	6	0714	1932	0111	1221
Saturday	7	0753	2011	0118	1303
Sunday	8	0834	2052	0151	1347
Monday	9	0917	2136	0230	1436
Tuesday	10	1001	2219	0312*	1525
Wednesday	11	1046	2304	0353*	1611*
Thursday	12	1132	2353	0432*	1656*
Friday	13	----	1224	0513*	1744
Saturday	14	0047	1321	0559*	1843
Sunday	15	0146	1418	0657	1957
Monday	16	0243	1516	0805	2112
Tuesday	17	0344	1620	0912	2244
Wednesday	18	0453	1729	1023	----
Thursday	19	0559	1827	0025	----

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

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BPW: cont'd from page 19

residents to have one meter for the house and one for yard watering, which would only charge for water, not sewer. Mr. Wotton said he would like a copy of the policy to be sent to every resident when the next water and sewer bills go out.

In another matter the board reopened the discussion about placing a memorial anchor at Cooke Park, as well as signage stating what it memorializes.

Mr. Wotton said at the last meeting the board decided to table the topic to see if other residents wanted to speak on it, but no resident showed up to discuss the matter.

Mr. Wotton recommended that the board add the anchor to Cooke Park in the drainage garden area and then ask the Historical Commission to come up with signage or a plaque.

Mr. Ferro agreed and also said that the Historical Commission should acknowledge the undocumented/unmarked graves.

Mr. Durant agreed and said the Historical Commission should come up with the verbiage for the sign and the board can approve it.

The board voted unanimously to place the anchor in the drainage garden and send a letter to the Chairperson of the Historical Commission to request the verbiage for a sign/plaque.

In another matter the board met with resident Mary Anne Walker about a confrontation she had with Town Beach parking attendant Gary Lavalette.

Ms. Walker explained that she took her grandchildren to the beach one day and parked her car in the lot by the tower. Ms. Walker said Mr. Lavalette came running at her and yelling at her that she could not park

there.

Ms. Walker said she told Mr. Lavalette that she parks near the tower all the time and she can park there, but that Mr. Lavalette just did not want her to.

Ms. Walker said that Mr. Lavalette told her that she needs to park where he tells her to park and that he raised his voice at her and spoke in a derogatory tone.

Ms. Walker explained that she then moved her car to where Mr. Lavalette suggested and started unpacking her

Ms. Walker said she is now very uncomfortable going to the beach when Mr. Lavalette is there because she does not know what might happen next time. She said he was very unwelcoming and he scared her grandchildren.

car with her grandchildren and their boogie boards.

Ms. Walker told the board that Mr. Lavalette continued to argue with her and said she could not bring the boogie boards down to the beach.

Ms. Walker explained that she knows the rules and the kids can use their boogie boards on the other side of the lifeguard signage and rules. Ms. Walker said she explained that to Mr. Lavalette and told him that she would be monitoring the children.

Ms. Walker said as Mr. Lavalette was arguing with her about the boogie boards another car pulled in and Mr. Lavalette started yelling at them as well that they needed to park where he told them to park.

Ms. Walker said that she and Mr. Lavalette argued back and forth for awhile and she said she did yell and get quite loud with him as well.

Ms. Walker explained that Mr. Lavalette also threatened to call the police on her. Ms. Walker said she is now very uncomfortable going to the beach when Mr. Lavalette is there because she does not know what might happen next time. She said he was very unwelcoming and he scared her grandchildren.

Ms. Walker said she is worried for other residents or visitors that come to Town Beach and have to deal with Mr. Lavalette's demanding and unwelcoming attitude.

Ms. Walker said Mr. Lavalette needs to find a better way of speaking to people.

Mr. Hobson apologized that Ms. Walker had that happen to her. He said he was not trying to stick up for Mr. Lavalette but he said that they really needed him at Town Beach and he does great things down there.

Mr. Furtado said they need Mr. Lavalette's skills with parking to help fit the most amount of cars in the lot safely. Mr. Furtado said the way Mr. Lavalette spoke to Ms. Walker was very wrong and he apologized for that.

Ms. Walker suggested putting tar in the parking lot and adding lines so they do not need a parking attendant.

Mr. Wotton said it is a costly project, but it is something the board is working on.

Mr. Ferro suggested that the board ask Mr. Lavalette to attend the next BPW meeting during an executive session to discuss the situation and how he can speak better to residents.

Mr. Wotton said they will add it to next meeting's agenda.

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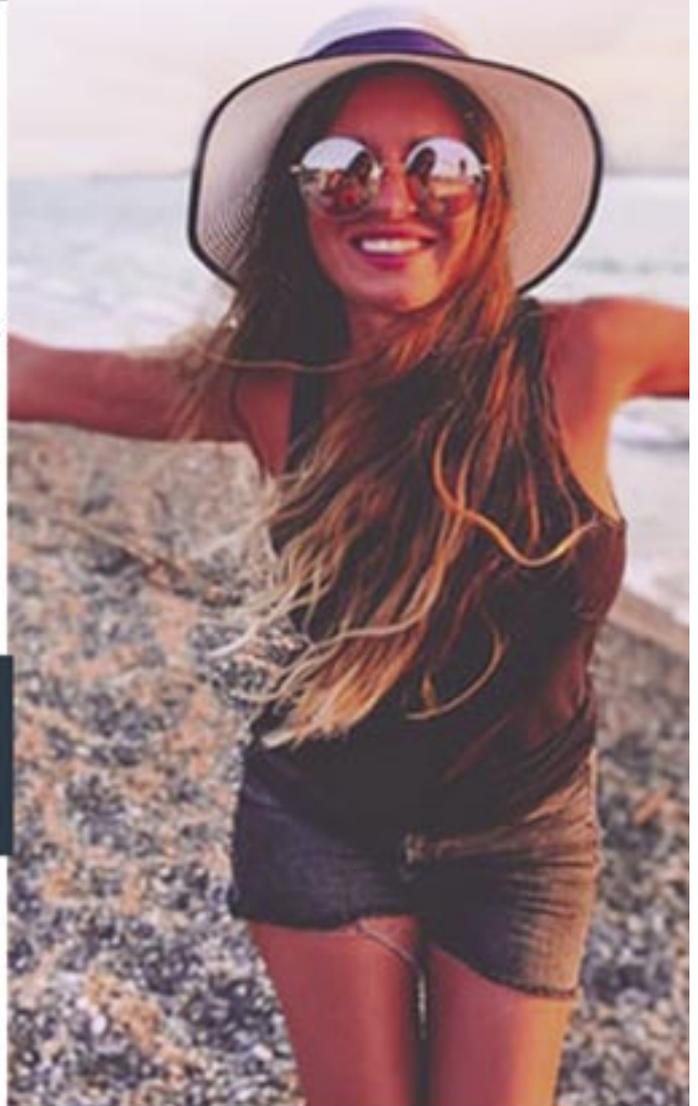
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