



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!

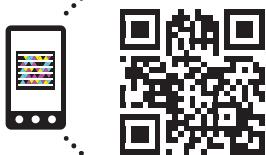
Volume 10, Issue 13 • April 2, 2015

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

Candidates face off for the last time



TOP ROW: The three candidates for two seats on the Fairhaven Board of Public Works speak at the West Island Improvement Association Candidates night on Wednesday, 3/25. L-R: Daniel Freitas, incumbent Robert "Hoppy" Hobson, Armen Migirdicyan. BOTTOM ROW, L-R: The two candidates vying for a seat on the Board of Health, incumbent Barbara Acksen, and challenger Lindsay Gordon. The election is on Monday, April 6. Fairhaven has two other contested races. See page 16 for story. *Photo by Beth David.*



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- **BPW:** Page 20
- **Acushnet:** Page 12

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- **Selectboard:** Page 17
- **Letters:** Page 20, 25, 26

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

This is it....it's down to the wire. Monday is voting time in the towns. It's time for us to choose the people who will spend our tax dollars for the next three years. So, get out there and vote,

I totally forgot to remind people that Fairhaven has a couple of new polling places, so I'm going to do that here.

- Precinct 1: Town Hall (stays the same)
- Precinct 2: Hastings Middle School (formerly High School)
- Precinct 3: Hastings Middle School (stays the same)
- Precinct 4: Fire Station Meeting Room (formerly Hastings Middle School)
- Precinct 5: Recreation Center (stays the same)
- Precinct 6: Recreation Center (formerly East Fairhaven School)

It is also Easter weekend and that means....the North Fairhaven Improvement Association's Easter Egg Hunt!!! It's an early one (see page 6), because those North Fairhaven people don't let the day slip away while they sleep. It gets going at 9 a.m. and is done in an hour or so. Every year it's kind of cold for the people hiding the eggs because they start at 6 a.m. This year, however, I fear that winter will still be with us. So bundle up, and bundle up your kids.

This event is totally free for you and yours. It's one of the few things left that you can enjoy with your whole family and not feel guilty about not paying for anything. It's my favorite thing about the NFIA. They do things for the neighborhood that are completely free, no donation cup, nothing to make you feel guilty. Just go and have fun.

We have some meeting coverage for you this week, including the first story by newbie Samantha Wunschel. She covered BPW for us (see page 20). Hopefully, she had fun and we'll be able to send her to some other meetings. So, if you see her around town, be sure to say "hey."

We also had a bunch of stuff that we just couldn't squeeze into this week's issue, including some cute pictures of a seal who has been visiting West Island for the past few days. Hopefully, we'll get a coupe of those in next week. Maybe he (or she) will still be around, too, so it won't be old news.

Ah...who cares? A seal is a seal, right? Who cares if he leaves.

Well, looks like that's it for space. Happy Easter and Happy Passover to you and yours.

And...happy spring to all of us.
Until next week then, see ya...



Beth David, Publisher

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Don't forget to
VOTE
Mon., 4/6, in Fairhaven & Acushnet

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

Fairhaven Oyster Restoration Project to be reviewed by ConCom

Press Release

At its April 6 meeting, the Fairhaven Conservation Commission will consider approval a proposed oyster restoration project for Little Bay. The meeting will take place at 6:30 p.m. at Fairhaven Town Hall, 40 Center Street. Public comments and questions on the project are welcome at the meeting.

Proposed by the Town of Fairhaven Shellfish Department, the Buzzards Bay Coalition, and The Nature Conservancy, the goal of the project is to establish a permanent, self-sustaining oyster population that will improve water quality, provide habitat and enhance the public oyster fishery.

The Town's Board of Selectmen and Fairhaven Marine Resources Committee reviewed the proposed restoration project this past fall 2014.

The project is proposed to take place during summer 2015. It involves placement of 100 cubic yards of aged sea clam shells, or "cultch," onto the bottom about 150 yards offshore in the bay. The shell will provide a hard surface that larval oysters can attach to, a step that is necessary for oysters to reach maturity.

While naturally occurring oyster larvae may colonize the project, the plan is to introduce hatchery-raised oysters onto the site, through a process known as "remote set," in order to ensure that the site is strongly colonized.

Once the project is completed, the project will be completely under-

biological productivity. The oysters, when they reach maturity, will spawn more oysters into the surrounding waters, multiplying the benefits of the project and helping support the local oyster fishery. The town may allow limited harvest from the project itself, as well, once the oysters have matured.

The Nature Conservancy has secured funding for the project, which will also rely on the expertise and resources of the town shellfish department. The Buzzards Bay Coalition, for many years a leader in research and education around Buzzards Bay, will lead outreach to keep the community informed on the progress of the project, and will assist with scientific aspects of project design and monitoring.

The Conservancy and partners recently completed a similar project in the towns of Chilmark and West Tisbury on Martha's Vineyard. The Fairhaven site was chosen for this project because of its good water quality, suitable physical conditions for cultch placement, and the presence of a large and well-managed shellfishery in the town.

The meeting will take place
at 6:30 p.m. at Fairhaven
Town Hall, 40 Center St.

water. It will be managed by the Fairhaven shellfish department.

Oysters will improve water clarity by filtering organic debris from the water. Clearer water, in turn, will allow more light to reach bottom-dwelling plants, which are an important part of the marine ecosystem.

The structurally complex oyster reef will offer shelter and habitat to a wide range of fish and invertebrates, enhancing the bay's diversity and

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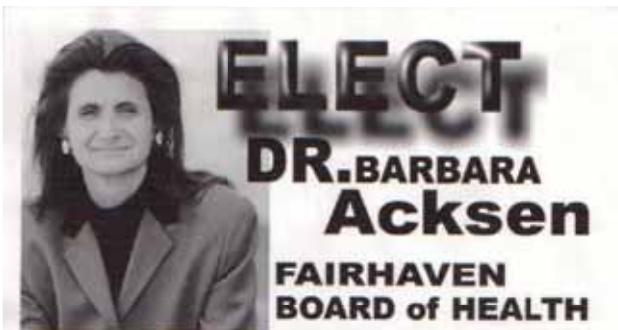
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Fairhaven Resident and
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Fairhaven Residents: **SAVE THE BPW, VOTE “NO” ON BALLOT QUESTION**

A “no” vote on the ballot question means that the Board of Public Works will remain as it is. Don’t lose your voice on public works matters. Vote to keep the BPW.

**A NO vote will keep the BPW
as your elected officials with the authority to make
decisions. VOTE ON APRIL 6.**

Paid for by Robert “Hoppy” Hobson, current BPW member up for re-election.



I will continue to:

- * Enforce regulations designed to protect the public's health
- * Educate the public about health and safety issues
- * Work to keep the Board independent, accessible & transparent
- * Advocate for the vital concerns of every neighborhood
- * Provide careful study of the health impacts of any project proposed for the town
- * Provide a respectful forum for citizens & businesses who come before the Board

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- * Health Care Professional , 37 years experience
- * Ph.D. Clinical Psychology
- * Practitioner - Administrator - Professor - Researcher

"My background in clinical, administrative, and research aspects of health care gives me the skills and experience necessary to consider the various health needs of the town and make this information available to you the voter."

**VOTE MONDAY,
APRIL 6, 2015**

AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Easter Egg Hunt

The North Fairhaven Improvement Association is holding its annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sat., 4/4, at 9:00 a.m. at Livesey Park, Glenhaven Ave. & Livesey Parkway, Fairhaven (behind Oxford School).

Find candy eggs, and specially numbered wooden eggs which can be redeemed for prizes. Children are grouped into different ages levels. Visit and take a photo with the Easter Bunny. Sponsored by the North Fairhaven Improvement Association. FREE. For more information, visit <http://northfairhavenimprovementassoc.weebly.com/>

Mr. Fairhaven

The FHS After Prom Committee is sponsoring the Mr. Fairhaven contest on Friday, April 10 at 7:00PM in the FHS Performing Arts Center, Fairhaven High School. This year twelve seniors are vying for the title of Mr. Fairhaven. They will compete in categories that include casual wear, beach wear, formal wear and talent. The winner will receive two prom tickets and a tuxedo rental courtesy of Main Street Formals, which has also generously provided tuxedos for the contestants to wear for the formal wear category.

The contestants include: Kenny Borges, Cam Charette, Andrew Dillon, Nick Doyle, Isaac Esposito, Grant Gadbois, Dereck Goff, Alec Golas, Robert Layport, Kris Moore, Ryan Roderick and Andrew Romano. Judges for the night are Michael Rock from FUN107, Donna McKenna from the Fairhaven School Committee and Karen Ramsden from the FHS Staff.

Proceeds from the contest will benefit the FHS After Prom event, which provides a fun-filled alternative for students to attend free of charge from midnight to 5:00AM following the junior/senior prom. The After Prom event relies on fundraising and donations from the community to cover the cost of the event. Last year almost 300 students attended and the committee hopes to have as many turn out this year as well. After Prom is run by parent volunteers and takes place at Fairhaven High School where the students have many fun activities to keep them busy all night.

Tickets for the Mr. Fairhaven contest are \$10.00, will be sold in

school during the week and will also be available at the door on the night of the show.

Join Team Jacy

Jacy is a seven-year-old fighting Cancer. Come meet this incredible brave little girl at her Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser, April 11, from 4-7 p.m., at the Nemasket Group building, 56 Bridge St., Fairhaven.

Enjoy Salad, Spaghetti, Desserts and a large raffle! Call 508-742-8219 for tickets or just drop by that night. Tickets are \$10.00 for Adults and Children under 5 years old eat free.

Soccer Clubs

Partner

Southeastern United, a premiere youth soccer club, is proud to announce that Southeastern United will partner with the New England Revolution Academy to bring the highest level of professional coaching, player development and Academy programming to all SUFC teams over the coming seasons & years. The new partnership will further expand Revolution Academy elite training programs in South-eastern, MA – exposing both players and coaches to the highly ranked Revolution Academy's training methodology.

The benefits of the unique partnership arrangement with the New England Revolution Academy are invaluable with regard to individual player development opportunities and a clear player development pathway throughout his/her youth development in soccer.

For information about SUFC visit www.southeasternunited.com.

Open Meeting Law Guide

As part of "Sunshine Week," Attorney General Maura Healey announced that her office is issuing an updated version of the Open Meeting Law Guide to serve as a continuing resource for public bodies and members of the public seeking to better understand the law's requirements.

The newly revised guide (available at <http://www.mass.gov/ago/docs/government/oml/oml-guide.pdf>) includes information about recently

enacted laws concerning remote participation by members of local commissions on disability and discussions by public body members about the recess and continuance of Town Meeting.

The guide also adds information from recent decisions issued by the Attorney General's Office regarding the level of detail required in meeting notices, the public's right to record open meetings, the approval of meeting minutes and the release of executive session minutes.

To provide greater transparency and access to the office's decisions, all of the AG's OML determinations are available online through an interactive database, the Open Meeting Law Determination Lookup: <http://www.oml.ago.state.ma.us/>

In 2014, the division issued 155 determinations resolving OML complaints. The most frequently occurring violations were: insufficient meeting notices; deliberation outside of a properly posted meeting, including email deliberation; failure to follow appropriate procedures for entering executive session; insufficiently specific or inaccurate meeting minutes; and failure to follow the requirements of the OML complaint process.

The division has created a host of resources intended to assist the public with understanding and complying with the OML available at <http://www.mass.gov/ago/government-resources/open-meeting-law/>

Spaghetti Supper

To benefit the Great Strides Walk for Cystic Fibrosis.

At the Town Crier, Maitland St., Fairhaven, on Sat., 4/18, at 5 p.m. Tickets: \$20 adults, \$10 children, at the door. Great raffles for trips, sports tickets and local businesses.

All proceeds will go to Cystic Fibrosis research.

New Headlight Law

As of April 7, drivers in Mass. are required to use their headlights whenever conditions warrant using their windshield wipers. The new law makes noncompliance a moving violation, and may result in insurance surcharges. Visit <http://www.dmv.org/ma-massachusetts/safety-laws.php#Headlights>

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Matt Rodriguez F-R

The LCpl. Matthew R. Rodriguez Memorial Foundation is holding its 2nd Annual Fundraiser on **Sat., 4/4, at 6 p.m., at Cotali Mar Restaurante, 1178 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford.** Featuring nationally renowned comedians. Appetizers & Light Fare. Raffle & Silent Auction. Music by DJ Eddie Freitas

Tickets: \$50 per person. Purchase on-line: www.themsilingwarrior.org/events. 6-7 p.m. Complimentary Beer and Wine Tasting 7:30pm Comedy Show (18+). Music until 12 Midnight

Or by mail: LCpl Matthew Rodriguez Memorial Foundation, Attn: Comedy Night, PO Box 358, Raynham, MA 02768. Corporate Sponsorships Available: Mike Bouvier, info@themsilingwarrior.org

Frog Watch

FrogWatch USA: Saving the World One Frog at a Time! Does your family like frogs? Do you like spending time outside? Then you can help with the amphibian crisis! Join the Buttonwood Park Zoo as a FrogWatcher and become a citizen scientist!

Upcoming Volunteer Training Sessions at BPZOO: Sat., 4/4 1-3:30 pm. Please pre-register by calling 508-991-6178 ext 31.

For more information on the national FrogWatch USA Program visit: <https://www.aza.org/frogwatch/>

To practice your frog call identification skills visit: <https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/Frogquiz/>

Dinner for Animals

The Coalition for Animals is holding its **8th Annual Lasagna Dinner on Wed., 4/8, at the The Senhora Da Pedra Club, 81 Tinkham St., New Bedford from 5-7 pm.** It's a great evening with meat and vegetarian lasagna provided by Ma Raffa's. Bread, salad, coffee and dessert are also included. There will be a cash bar, auction raffles and door prizes.

100% of all the proceeds from the event will be used to support our Seniors for Seniors Adoption Program, which allows us to help local shelters adopt senior animals to senior citizens by subsidizing the adoption fee.

Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for Seniors and children under 12 years of age if purchased in advance

or \$15 if bought at the door.

Tickets can be purchased at Mellisa's Pet Depot, 83 Faunce Corner Rd. Dartmouth or 8 Sarah's Way (CVS Plaza, Rt. 6) Fairhaven. Reserve tickets at 978-509-2203. Limited tickets will be sold at the door.

To learn more about the Coalition For Animals visit our website at www.coalitonforanimals.com.

Penny Sale

Parents and friends of Holy Family-Holy Name School will be sponsoring our 23rd annual Penny Sale on **Sat., 4/11 at Holy Name Center, 121 Mt. Pleasant St., New Bedford. Doors will open at 5:00 PM** and food will be served all evening. For more information or directions, call 508-993-3547.

Come and buy some tickets and take a chance on winning one of the 250 individual prizes being raffled off! They range from household items to children's toys to gift certificates. There's even a full kitchen to enjoy supper or some snacks while you play. At the end of the evening, the grand finale is our MEGA Raffle! Always a crowd pleaser! Please make plans to attend this exciting event with your entire family.

Free Lecture

The New Bedford Whaling Museum and Buzzards Bay Coalition have partnered to present "Where the Land Meets the Sea: Working to Restore and Maintain the Health of the Buzzards Bay Watershed." The three-part, public lecture series is intended to inform and create discussion among those who live within or near the Buzzards Bay Watershed.

The last lecture will take place on Wed., 4/8, and is titled *Restoring an Urban Harbor: New Bedford Harbor*. The evening's presenters include: Ginny Lombardo, EPA, Team Leader, New Bedford Harbor Superfund Site; Jeff Stieb, Port Director, New Bedford Harbor Development Commission; Mark Rasmussen, President, Buzzards Bay Coalition.

Registration is free for Whaling Museum and Buzzards Bay Coalition members and \$10 per lecture for Nonmembers. All lectures take place at the Whaling Museum, 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford. To register, call 508-997-0046 ext. 100 or visit www.whalingmuseum.org.

FIA Annual Dinner

The Annual Dinner and Meeting of the Fairhaven Improvement Association will be held on **Tues., 4/14, 2015 at the Wamsutta Club, 427 County St., New Bedford.** Members, guests, and the community are invited to attend. Cocktails will begin at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7 p.m. Dinner choices include Petite Filet Mignon (\$32); Chicken Kiev (\$27); Baked Scrod (\$27); or Chicken Caesar Salad (\$16).

This event allows us to conduct annual elections of new Board Members and Officers, as well as to honor individuals who have provided outstanding community service. The evening will also feature a presentation by FIA members Diane Lopes and Linda Meredith who will bring the early years of the FIA to life with a presentation entitled "Excerpts from Our Early Archives."

Please plan to attend and bring a friend. Contact Sheryl Aguiar at 508-971-9662 for reservations and questions.

AHA! Night

Woo! Spring has sprung, the weather is warmer, the days are longer, and just in time for Earth Day, AHA! celebrates our "Sustainable SouthCoast" on April 9.

AHA! (Arts, History and Architecture!) is a FREE family-friendly event held rain or shine on the second Thursday of each month from 5 to 9 p.m. in historic downtown New Bedford — but feel free to arrive early and stay late. For details visit www.ahanewbedford.org

Sailing Trip Talk

Once Around the Atlantic: 10 a.m., Sat. 4/11 at Low Tide Yacht Club Clubhouse, 1000 B So Rodney French Blvd, Ft Rodman Park, New Bedford.

Victor Pinheiro will present his voyage across the Atlantic with ports in Madeira, Azores, Canaries and Caribbean before returning to New Bedford. This exciting presentation is approximately 45 minutes. Coffee, juice, muffins and donuts provided by LuzoAuto Center. Members, guests, and public are invited to the LTYC Club House. A suggested donation of \$5.00 will be collected at the door for LTYC.

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

Kids & Social Media

Children and Social Media: A Conversation – Thurs. 4/2, 6-8:30 p.m. at The GiftsToGive Philanthropy Factory, 1 Titleist Drive, Acushnet. Tickets are FREE and available online. For link to buy tickets visit <http://www.giftstogive.org/children-and-social-media/> Seating is limited, so reservations are recommended. Call 508-717-8715; tickets at the door if we have not sold-out.

Is Social Media safe for your kids? Are your kids safe on the internet? Is social media damaging the human touch and our social fabric?

We will also be providing delicious sandwiches and other treats directly from the culinary arts department at Greater New Bedford Vocational Technical High School.

We'd be grateful to anyone attending this event for bringing new or gently-used toys, books, clothing, or anything else for a local child in need. Details at www.giftstogive.org

Showstopper Camp

Registrations are now being accepted for Showstoppers' 11th Annual Performing Arts Camp for boys and girls in grades 2-8, April 20-24, 9-3 daily, at the Knights of Columbus in Mattapoisett. A musical theater showcase will be presented to the public at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 25 at the Music Hall in Marion. \$175 per child includes performance CD, tee shirt, gift pack and certificate of completion. Don't delay! Reserve your spot today! For more information or to register, call 508-758-4525 or email at info@showstoppers.us.

Easter Dessert Sale

Annual Easter Pie and Dessert Sale sponsored by the Friends of the Mattapoisett Council on Aging, on Sat., 4/4, at BowlMor Lanes, 22 County St. (Route 6), Mattapoisett Village. Use the door on the side, marked with balloons, to access the sale area. Sale hours: 8:30am-1:00pm

Please donate your favorite, home-baked Easter Pie and/or Dessert to the sale. Bring it to the BowlMor by 8:30am on April 4. Questions? Call Mary Scott at 508-758-6311. Let her know what you are bringing and she'll reserve a space to display it for the sale. Mary would like to make this

fundraiser the best ever Saturday before Easter Sale!

To register, call 617-500-5998.

Camp Angel Wings

Southcoast® Visiting Nurse Association, will host its 12th annual bereavement camp, Camp Angel Wings, in July. This is a meaningful, fun-filled, two-day camp experience for children and teens, ages 6 through 15, who are grieving the loss of a loved one. The camp will be held on July 11 and 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Camp Welch in Assonet.

Camp Angel Wings is free for all campers and registration is now open.

Visit www.southcoast.org/campangelwings to register. For questions, call 508-973-3227 or email campangelwings@southcoast.org. To volunteer, visit <http://www.southcoast.org/vna/camp.html#volunteers>.

Joint Replacement

Southcoast Orthopedic Surgery, a part of Southcoast® Health, will be holding monthly seminars open to anyone in the South Coast community who is interested in learning more about total joint replacement. The seminars, entitled "Don't Let Joint Pain Slow You Down", will be hosted by Southcoast Health Orthopedic Surgeons Michael Langworthy, MD, and Gary Ferguson, MD.

The free, one-hour seminars, held in Fall River and North Dartmouth, will cover arthritis, hip and knee pain and other orthopedic conditions. The doctors will also use the opportunity to talk about non-surgical and surgical treatments, nutrition, medications and exercise. Light refreshments will be served.

Registration is required, and you can do so by calling 508-973-1101. The next one is on Tues., 4/7, at Charlton Memorial Hospital, 363 Highland Ave, Fall River, Multipurpose Conference Room, from 6 to 7 p.m.

Jobs Fair

The New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce and UMass Dartmouth will host a SouthCoast Jobs Fair on Wed., 4/8, from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., at the Tripp Athletic Center on the main campus of UMass Dartmouth, 285 Old Westport Road, Dartmouth.

Admission is free for attendees with a resume!

In December 2013, the Town of Acushnet voted to eliminate the Board of Public Works. Just 8 months later, the water rates skyrocketed up 60%. The citizens lost their voice. Don't lose your voice in Fairhaven. Keep the BPW. Vote NO on April 6.

Paid for by Citizens for a Voice

MCKENNA VEITCH



KEEP MOVING FORWARD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

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- 100 GAME TOKENS •
- USE OF ROLLER RACERS & SKATE-MATES •
- GUEST APPEARANCE BY ONE OF OUR MASCOTS •
- BABBS OR BUTTONS •

EXTRA ADD-ONS AVAILABLE

A Letter From Hundreds of Fairhaven Voters

Mike Ristuccia, chairman of the Board of Public Works, has been approached, at various times, during the last month or so, in reference to the overwhelming concern of the elimination of the Board of Public Works. Whether Mr. Ristuccia was approached by someone representing the Town's Bikeway Committee, North Fairhaven Improvement Association, the Dog Park Committee, or one of the numerous residents who have thanked the Board for assistance with an invoice, water, sewer, road, or sidewalk issue, the same worry echoed by the above mentioned and others is about the citizens losing their voice should the Board of Public Works be eliminated.

Although this ballot question is being touted as streamlining government, those in the know, know that eliminating the Board of Public Works will only streamline Government for Government and **NOT** streamline Government for the citizens, which is wrong on many levels. The only reason to change government is to make it **BETTER** for its citizens. Eliminating the Board of Public Works does not accomplish this premise. In fact, the Board as currently constituted, works fine.

Referencing a study conducted elsewhere, these same citizens relayed to Mr. Ristuccia how important it is to have a forum to resolve issue(s) where they won't feel intimidated so that their voice may be heard.

Eliminating the Board of Public Works will force these residents, whose concerns will still be there, to be part of lengthy Selectmen agendas. When the above occurs, studies reveal that nearly 50% of these residents, with these same concerns, don't pursue their matters, due to this process, and in effect, lose their voice in government.

Don't lose your voice. Vote No on April 6.

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Ann Watkinson Friday, April 17, 2:30 p.m. Listen to the soothing sounds of Ann Watkinson's songs in this hour-long performance. RSVP by April 14.



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Recipe of the Week

Braised Pork Medallions

1 lb. pork tenderloin
1/4 tsp black pepper
1 tsp crushed sage
1 tsp dried thyme
1 tsp ground ginger
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tbsp oil
1 large onion, minced
1 large apple, cored, coarsely chopped
1/2 cup apple cider or apple juice
1 tsp cornstarch
2 tbsps water

Slice pork crosswise into 8 medallions. Mix all seasonings together and coat pork. Heat oil in skillet, saute pork on both sides to brown. Remove from pan and reserve, cover to keep warm. Add onions and apples to skillet. Saute until golden; add apple cider to skillet, heat to simmer.

Mix cornstarch and water, add to skillet, heat to simmer. Put pork slices to simmering liquid, cover and simmer for 5 minutes.

By Wendy Coutinho

To share a recipe with your neighbors

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Man dies after going overboard from local fishing boat

US Coast Guard Press Release

The Coast Guard located the body of a missing fisherman about 37 miles southeast of Nantucket at approximately 1 a.m., Monday, 3/30.

The crew of the fishing vessel *Hear No Evil*, homeported in New Bedford, recovered the body and positively identified the missing crewman.

Initially, at about 8:30 p.m., Sunday, the crew of the *Hear No Evil* notified watchstanders at Coast Guard Sector Southeastern New England via VHF radio channel 16 that the 54-year-old man fell overboard.

It was reported he was not wearing a life jacket.

Crews from Coast Guard Air Station Cape Cod, Coast Guard Cutter *Hammerhead*, and Coast Guard Station Brant Point searched by air and sea into the night along with crews from the *Hear No Evil* and other nearby vessels until the

body was discovered by the Air Station Cape Cod helicopter crew.

Once recovered, the body was transferred to the *Hammerhead* and taken ashore to Sector Southeastern New England in Woods Hole, Mass.

"Our thoughts are with the family at this difficult time," said Cmdr. Richard Schultz, deputy commander of Sector Southeastern New England. "The sea is an unforgiving work environment, and when we lose a fellow mariner, it ripples through the entire maritime community."

The Coast Guard identified the man as 54-year-old Michael Willett, but did not release a hometown. According to other sources he was from Acushnet.

The *Hear No Evil* is registered at 2 Middle Street, Fairhaven.

Write-In Planning Board Candidate

Ann Richard

Vote April 6

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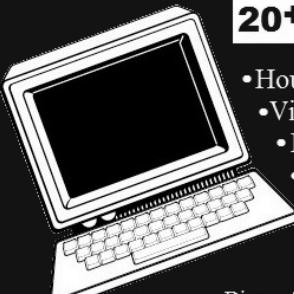
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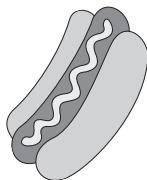
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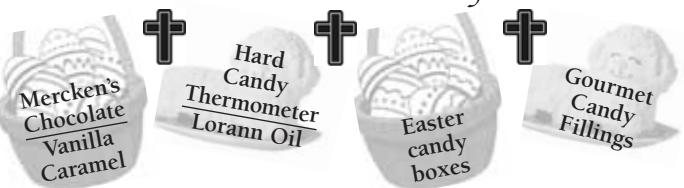
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Acushnet Senior Center is “Safe Zone” for Online Transactions

Press Release

In the past six years, at least 50 people across the country have been killed in Craigslist-related crimes, countless others have become victims of beatings, robberies, etc.

In an effort to keep Acushnet residents safe, the Acushnet Council on Aging and Senior Center has created a “safe zone” for individuals

to safely complete their online transactions. Town employees/volunteers are not available to participate, act as official witnesses, give legal advice or settle disputes but good lighting, constant foot traffic in and out of the building and access to a landline phone make the Senior Center the perfect place to complete an in person transaction

that originated on Craigslist or other website.

The Acushnet Council on Aging and Senior Center is open Monday-Friday 8:00-4:00 p.m. and Wednesday/Thursday evenings until 8:00 p.m. If someone isn't willing to meet you in a safe online transaction zone, it's probably not a legitimate transaction.

Acushnet election season has been pretty ho-hum

By Beth David
Editor

Acushnet has two contested races in Monday's election, but neither one seems to be generating a lot of activity in town.

The ballot will also have several blank spots, including Commissioner of Trust Funds, Planning Commissioner and Library Trustee.

The only contested races are both for School Committee seats.

Incumbent John Howcroft will face off against challenger Christopher Green for the three-year term.

Mary Louise Francis and Sarah Ann Gomes will challenge each other for the unexpired term ending on 4/4/16

that became vacant when Doug Coray resigned in August.

Incumbent Kevin Gaspar, Sr., will be the lone candidate for his seat on the Selectboard.

Other uncontested races are: Incumbent Matthew Lopes for his slot on the board of assessors; incumbent David Davignon for his seat on the board of health; incumbent Paul Fortin for his seat on the cemetery board.

Chad Leclair will run for park commission, unopposed; and Arthur Bergeron will be on the ballot, unopposed, for housing authority.

Voters head to the polls this Monday, April 6, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Acushnet's polling places are: Precincts 1 and 3 at the Council on Aging, 59 1/2 So. Main Street; Precinct 2 at the Fire Station, 24 Russel Street.

Voting is the expression of our commitment to ourselves, one another, this country and this world.

Sharon Salzberg



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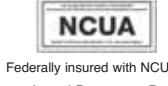
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Sat., 4/4:
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Every Wed: Free Juke Box
& Pool, 7-10

Sat., 4/18:
One Last Shot,
9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Sat., 4/25:
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April 28th, leave rec at 8 a.m. return 7 p.m. Receive a \$25 bonus package that includes \$15. Bonus slot play and \$10 food voucher or buffet coupon **\$20 pp** You may call and register by phone. Must be 21 Must be Pre-registered

Kool Kids April Vacation

This 4 day program is a great opportunity to make new friends while participating in group activities such as soccer, floor hockey, cooperative games, and more. Kids need to bring lunch the first 3 days, pizza lunch be served on Friday. Sneakers and active clothing must be worn. For more information, call Fairhaven Recreation at 508-993-9269. Monday, April 21st–24th Grades K-5 Cost **\$100.00 member/ \$125.00 non-member** Time 8:00am-3:00pm

Yoga

Relaxed Flow yoga program at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays, until 11:15 Drop in and join the gang!! **\$7.00 for members and \$10 for non-members**, you don't have to be from Fairhaven to join in

Babysitting Class

A comprehensive 2 1/2 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: May 28th
Instructor: Beth Oleson
Time: 5:30PM- 8PM Cost: **\$50**
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Mall Trips

April 1: Twin Rivers

April 8: Warwick Mall

April 15: South Shore Plaza

Entertainment

4/2: Ray J • 4/9: J Rodd Trio • 4/16: Two For The Road

4/23: Karaoke with Rick Ferreira • 4/30: Ray Jay

Special Activities

South Coastal Counties Legal Services., Inc.

Thursday, 4/9, at 11 a.m., Rosa Farizo will be at the Fairhaven Senior Center to answer your questions concerning: *Social Security Benefits (SSI and/or Social Security applications, denials, terminations or overpayments); *Subsidized housing matters (evictions, hearings, transfers, etc.); *Public Benefits Cases (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs, SNAP) Community and long Term Care Medicaid and Medicare.

This is by appointment only. Please call 508-979-4029. Funded in part by Coastline Elderly Services to provide free legal assistance to seniors age 60 and over.

Volunteer Drivers

Needed to transport Senior Citizen to and from medical appointments. If you are interested in helping out please come into the Fairhaven Senior Center and fill out a application or call for more information at 508-979-4029.

Single Seniors

The Single Senior Supper Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month for a nice meal and

conversation. If you are a single senior 60 and over and would like to attend please call the Senior Center to sign up by the Friday before the event. A \$3.00 donation is suggested.

Southcoast LGBT

The South Coast LGBT Seniors (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month for a nice meal and friendship for seniors 60 and older. Please call the senior center to sign up by the Friday before the event. A \$3.00 donation is suggested.

Sewing Circle

The sewing Circle group will meet will meet the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month from 1:00-3:00 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. please call the Fairhaven Senior Center at 508-979-4029 for the next date.

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; 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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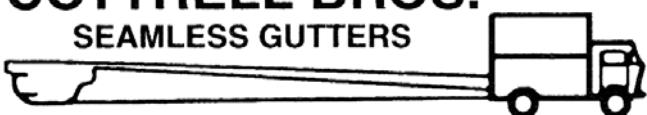
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Candidates get one last chance before the election

By Beth David
Editor

The West Island Improvement Association's candidates night chugged along smoothly on Wednesday, 3/25, without any of the sparks and fire that have often characterized the night in the past.

At the end, though, a fiery speech by Board of Public Works chairperson Michael Ristuccia got things heated up. Mr. Ristuccia railed against the question on the April 6 ballot that would gut his board of its authority.

If passed, the measure will make the BPW an advisory board, with authority transferred to the new Town Administrator. After the question had been mentioned in various ways throughout the night, Mr. Ristuccia took to the podium to purposefully show how adamantly he opposed the change.

"I do not advise. I operate, I manage, and I run a business," said Mr. Ristuccia with ever-increasing volume. "I'm a member of the BPW."

He also talked about the challenges facing the Department of Public Works, including the retrofitting of the wastewater treatment plant. He said board members spent a lot of time getting a new study done to counter the numbers from the Environmental Protection Agency.

"Who believes a Town Administrator is [going to] have the time to do those types of things," asked Mr. Ristuccia. "That's one tidbit."

He said the other departments, such as highway and water, also have issues that need that kind of attention.

"I would not be an advisor. That's not what I want to do," he said.

He also said that all five board members have said they will resign if the board changes.

"I can't work with all of my heart for something when I know it's not the best thing for [everybody]," he said and questioned who the change would be better for, town officials or taxpayers.

"I work for you," he said.

Phil Washko, the chairperson of the Town Government Study Committee, which spearheaded the change based on recommendations by the Mass. Department of Revenue, also attended the candidates night and spoke to the measure.

He said it was not true that the select-board would be responsible for the DPW employees, that the individual superintendents would still run their departments.

He said the new way would streamline decision making.

Mr. Washko also said that the original idea was to abolish the BPW completely, but

his committee found that people liked having the board to go to for problems. He said the new configuration would be the "best of both worlds."

For a time, both men stood at the podium together for people to ask questions.

Fairhaven has four contested races. Three people are running for two seats on the School Committee; three people are running for two seats on the BPW; two people are running for one seat on the Board of Health; two people are running for one seat on the Fairhaven Housing Authority.

Diane Hahn is the challenger for a School Committee seat. She reiterated that she is not a one-issue candidate simply because she is an advocate for special needs students. She said SpEd permeates every aspect of the schools and is a large



Although neither one of them is running for office, Michael Ristuccia (L) and Phil Washko, both appeared at the West Island Improvement Association's candidates night on Wednesday, 3/25, to give their opinions on the ballot question, which would transfer the authority of the Board of Public Works to the new Town Administrator and make the BPW an advisory board. Photo by Beth David.

percentage of the costs.

She said the system is broken because too many SpEd students are not passing and thriving. She also promised to be available to speak to any parent.

Incumbent Colin Veitch, who was appointed to his position to fill a vacancy, but has also served on the committee for 7 years in the past, called children a "precious trust." He ran down a list of accomplishments of the school system in recent years, complete with graphs.

He said the days of the "haves and have-nots" in Fairhaven's school system were gone and that special needs students were being well educated.

SC incumbent Donna McKenna did not attend the event. Mr. Veitch said she was sick.

Dan Freitas is trying to win a seat on the BPW, a post he has held in the past. Mr. Freitas emphasized his experience as a wastewater treatment operator at Mass.

Maritime Academy.

He said his knowledge will be helpful during the upgrades to the treatment plant, because he has all the same certifications as the current sewer superintendent.

"I could step into the superintendent job there now," said Mr. Freitas.

He also spoke against the change to the board, saying that taxpayers would lose their voice.

Newcomer to politics Armen Migirdicyan is also vying for a seat on the BPW. He said his experience building and running a successful, multi-million business will help the town find the money to rebuild crumbling infrastructure.

"We can only Band-aid the issue for so long," said Mr. Migirdicyan.

He called himself a "fiscal conservative," and said his business is successful because he only spends money "where it's worth it."

He said he would treat taxpayer money with the same responsibility that he has treated his own money.

Robert "Hoppy" Hobson is running for re-election to the BPW. He said he has lived in Fairhaven for more than 70 years, since he was a small child.

He spoke against the change to the board, saying that being on the board is time consuming. Any resident with a problem is free to call any member of the board.

"Every board member follows it through," said Mr. Hobson. "Some town manager from out of town is not [going to] do that."

Mr. Hobson entertained a bit talking about changes the town has seen over the years, some good, some he said are not so good.

He recalled Bulky Item Pick-up Day and called it a "town yard sale," and a "community thing."

He said in his next term, he would like to get a state-of-the art recycling center.

"We have our little mudhole," he said of the current center.

Incumbent on the Board of Health Barbara Acksen emphasized her 37 years as a health care professional and a working psychologist.

She said the board deals with complex regulatory and mitigation issues, such as those with the wind turbines and the shipyard, and her professional experience is well-suited to the task.

She said the town is also facing regulatory issues with medical marijuana and has revamped tobacco regulations.

She said they are all ongoing issues and that continuity on the board will be important.

Dr. Acksen also talked about the board's efforts to curb mosquitoes and ticks to

WIIA CAND: cont'd on page 21

Selectboard to revive cable access station

By Beth David
Editor

At its meeting on Monday, 3/30, the Fairhaven Selectboard discussed reviving the cable access station with members of the Cable Access Committee and consultants who advised creating a separate non-profit entity to run the station.

Creating the non-profit, however, is something that requires time and money. Meanwhile, the CAC is hoping to make the channel live again, using pre-recorded content that is available from websites, or content that residents would create.

All content would be vetted by the Cable Access Committee, however, that would only be necessary until a new studio is created. Then residents will be free to create their own content and would have First Amendment freedoms to have it cablecast.

Chuck Sherwood, of Community Media Visioning, helps communities get their cable access stations up and running, including helping them create a non-profit entity.

He told the board that cable access is a "community information resource," and that he had 35+ years of experienced helping communities get their stations started.

"It informs everybody of what's going on in town," said Mr. Sherwood. "There is a tremendous need to know."

He said outreach to the community, especially the business community would be important to launching a successful station.

He said it would be easy to activate the station right now using available content. CAC member Ronnie Medina has volunteered to post the content.

Selectboard chairperson Bob Espindola said that Mr. Medina also had a lot of old content that he could post. Mr. Espindola also said he was concerned about what kind of content would be posted and wanted it to be "appropriate."

William Solomon, an attorney who advises public access stations, said that they would try to steer the way the message goes. He said, however, that there are First Amendment issues to consider, too, if it is public access, using public access funds.

Mr. Espindola called it a "baby step" to simply "liven up" the channel, and that the other issues could be addressed later.

The Comcast contract will be renegotiated in the next two years, and Mr. Solomon said that if the town has too much money in the account not being used that it gives Comcast an argument for lowering payments.

The money comes from a percentage of cable bills paid to Comcast. There is approximately \$800,000 in the account now, according to officials.

The money will be needed to buy new equipment and pay for a studio.

Mr. Espindola said that the committee had done a lot of research to find a suitable location. He said the EMA building on Sconticut Neck Road is "under-utilized," and is a serious contender to house the studio.

It would still take time to locate a studio if the town decides to hand-off the operations to a yet-unformed non-profit. Meanwhile, the station can be

Mr. Espindola called it a "baby step" to simply "liven up" the channel, and that the other issues could be addressed later.

activated to get something running.

Mr. Solomon said that the policies and procedures of the non-profit would provide protection for the town against claims of first amendment violations and other liability.

Costs would be paid for from the Cable Access account.

The board also heard from Amy Palmerino of Stoneham, which set up a non-profit. A two-minute video highlighting some of the types of programming that city has is available through a link on the town of Fairhaven's website at http://fairhaven-ma.gov/pages/fairhaven_ma_news/0206BA8F-000F8513

In the end, the board asked Mr. Sherwood to come back with a proposal that included the outreach and help the town would need to activate the station, and not consulting to create a non-profit.

The board will vote on expending those funds at a future meeting.

In another matter, the board discussed the role of the Rogers/Oxford Proposal Review Committee. It was set up to review responses to the Request for Proposals to dispose of the Rogers and Oxford School Buildings. Only one response for each building was submitted, making the committee's role seem unnecessary.

Neither proposal completely adhered to the requirements of the RFP. Committee member Flavio Biscaia resigned, citing in his letter the lack of need for reviewing the proposals.

The Selectboard did ask both developers to answer questions in writing. In a letter, Northeast Maritime Institute, which proposed \$1 for the Rogers building, declined, asking instead to attend a meeting to verbally answer questions.

After some discussion that rehashed old arguments, the board decided to ask both developers to attend the 4/8 meeting, allowing one hour each for discussion.

As in the past, Selectboard member Charles Murphy said he felt that neither proposal met the requirements and both should be rejected.

Board member Geoffrey Haworth said that if the board is willing to accept \$1 for the Rogers School building, it should have said so in the RFP.

Mr. Espindola reiterated his argument that the town can work with the developers to reach an agreement that would satisfy the town.

Shellfish Warden/Assistant Harbormaster Timothy Cox received permission from the board to buy parts for two dinghy racks, one for Seaview Boat ramp and one for Hoppy's Landing.

He said that he and his deputies will construct the racks.

In other business the board:

- Heard from Mr. Osuch that the town has received \$604,000 to date in revenue from the wind turbines on Arsene Street for a 28% return on investment. The figure includes \$100,000/year in lease money.
- Transferred an all-alcohol license from the Fish House to new owner and manager Helia Vasconcellos. She has managed the restaurant since 2008 when it was Mermaids. She bought the business recently and has not made any personnel changes.
- Met in executive session for a police grievance hearing.

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BPW strategizes on paving roads; Riley attends last meeting

Samantha Wunschel

Neighb News Correspondent

The Fairhaven Board of Public Works held a meeting on Monday, March 23 to talk about their plans to pave dirt roads, repair curbs and roads that were damaged by the long winter, and to discuss the high number of unpaid water bills being waived.

Department of Public Works Superintendent Vincent Furtado brought to the board's attention a list of possible construction projects to take place over the next few years. The board had already voted on projects for the year 2016, but not any years after that. The plans for construction projects in the years after 2016 are flexible and can be altered depending on the budget and other resources available at that time.

Board member Robert "Hoppy" Hobson also addressed the mess that the winter weather has made of the town's unpaved roads. The majority of those roads are in the area of West

Island, and are so muddy that board member Brian Wotton said that even his truck "actually got stuck."

Mr. Hobson suggested that the board try to make sure at least one road gets paved every year.

Another question Mr. Hobson asked the board was about the recycling center. In the past the recycling center has been open every day from 8:15 a.m.-12 p.m. in April. Mr. Hobson asked if the schedule would be delayed due to the poor weather this year. The board agreed that, weather permitting, the recycling center would be open as usual starting in April.

Board member Steven Riley commented on the long stretch of weather saying, "this is the worst I've seen it in the last nine or ten years."

The board briefly discussed the issue of unpaid water bills from this winter. 1,500 notices went out this past week about the bills, after some initial confusion. Mr. Furtado stated "we have conflicting lists," in

response to the high number of bill waivers mentioned. Many waivers were sent out, and at first the board did not have a full list of residents whose bills were being waived.

Mr. Riley addressed the board in farewell since it was his last meeting as a member of the board.

He thanked the other board members, as well as the residents of Fairhaven, for his time spent working with them.

"It's been the highlight of my life," said Mr. Riley.

He recalled a few of the hurdles the board has tackled during his nine years and named one of his greatest regrets as his failure to get the town to use straight salt instead of a salt-sand mixture for treating roads in storms. He encouraged the board to continue fighting on that front.

Briefly addressing the voters of Fairhaven, he said that "the concern of the board is always what's best for this town."

Letters from our readers

McKenna "extremely valuable"

I am writing today to show my support for Donna L. McKenna, a candidate for Fairhaven School Committee.

Donna is an extremely valuable member of our local School Committee, bringing with her a wide range of skills and knowledge to a multifaceted and complex role in our community. While each candidate will bring different strengths and perspectives, I feel that Donna not being a single issue candidate seeking office to advance a specific cause sets her apart from others. She has always worked to improve every aspect of the school system and serve every student within it.

As a father of two girls that are growing up faster than a father would like (please chuckle), I have educated myself on the issues that plague our schools. We have all seen on the news that bullying has become more prevalent in today's schools and starting at younger ages.

As a child or teen today, you are generally bullied everywhere but the playground. Children are bullied inside the classroom, at lunch, at

home in their bedroom, but more recently in cyberspace. There is no limit to where or how often someone can be bullied because they no longer have to be standing in front of you in order to harm you.

Donna is on the task force bullying committee which puts in place local policies and procedures to adhere to the Massachusetts mandated anti-bullying policies. I have personally seen Donna leave our office in the middle of the daytime to deal with such issues and I can see just how important this is to her.

During her three years Donna has also been Fairhaven's representative board member to the SEMEC Committee which plays a key role working with the Department of Education on compliance issues, budget issues and changes in curriculum for special needs students.

Three years ago Donna pledged during her campaign to improve the level of communication and the openness of our school system and handle the tough task of a school budget facing cuts during an economic crisis. Donna has worked tirelessly to inform, educate and explain what's happening in Fairhaven and has devoted her

personal time to the issues that affect us all as parents.

With her 26 year career in finance she is uniquely qualified to deal with further budget challenges and recognizes there are no easy solutions. Today I am happy to say we have a wonderful team of administrators running our schools and I am proud to send my two daughters there. Please vote for Donna L. McKenna on April 6th, 2015.

Grant Menard, Fairhaven

Vote "yes" to change BPW

Although I serve as chairman of the Fairhaven Town Government Study Committee, I am writing this letter as a private citizen.

I encourage you to vote YES on the upcoming Board of Public Works ballot vote.

Voting YES allows the Board of Public Works to continue to serve you as citizen advocates.

Voting YES allows the board to continue to serve as advisors to the department of public works as they do now.

Voting YES allows the operations and policies of our Public Works to be overseen and managed by those who are specifically trained, qualified and

LETTERS: cont'd on page 25

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LETTERS: cont'd from page 26

jealous that my younger son has access to the amazing design classes that are offered at Fairhaven High. I'm excited for my daughter, who will attend Hastings Middle School next year, where I know she will continue to receive the support she has always received for her hand disability.

But most of all, I am grateful that people like Colin Veitch dedicate their time and energy to the children of this town. In 2015, I don't see a need for change. I want more of the same, so I will be voting for Colin on Monday.

Andrea Andre, Fairhaven

Murphy supports McKenna

I am writing in support of Donna McKenna and Colin Veitch for School Committee.

In my years of service to the town of Fairhaven, I have always had great confidence in their ability to always strive for what is best for our children and the overall interests of our town.

WIA CAND: cont'd from page 16

prevent insect-borne illnesses, especially Lyme Disease, which she called the "great imitator."

Challenger Lindsay Gordon challenged the notion that continuity would be lost if she gets elected. She said there are two other members with "institutional memory," and there are minutes and "excellent records" that she can access.

She said her experience as senior executive director of an assistant living facility makes her uniquely qualified for the position. She said the most important thing

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Both have children in the system and are fully invested in improving the education for all students.

Mrs. McKenna has served three years as our representative on the board of SMEC, which is a special needs collaborative. Her concern for students of all abilities is apparent.

Mr. Veitch has years of experience being involved on the committee and on other town committees. Both are strong members of the School Committee and have always supported working together with other departments to make the best decisions for all of us.

They both have worked to assist students with disabilities in achieving their highest potential, which is my strong personal mission.

Please join me in voting for McKenna and Veitch on Monday, April 6th.

*Charles Murphy, Sr., Fairhaven
Editor's Note: Mr. Murphy is on the Selectboard in Fairhaven, but writes as a resident only. His opinion is his own and not necessarily that of the board.*

the board will be doing in the next three years is hire a new health agent.

Ms. Gordon said her skills mirror those of the health agent's and she can be a resource to the new person.

"Service and education seem to be the theme in everything I do," said Ms. Gordon, adding that the regulations the board oversees are "part of my everyday life."

The two candidates for the Housing Authority seat did not attend.

The event will run on Cable channel 18 until the election and is available on demand at www.fairhaven-ma.gov

Fairhaven Meetings

Board of Appeals

Tues., 4/7, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 4/6, 5 Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 4/6, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Dog Park Committee

Mon., 4/6, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 4/2, 5 Arsene St., 7 p.m.

Thurs., 4/9, Arsene St., 7 p.m.

Government Study Comm.

Thurs., 4/2, 5 Arsene St., 7 p.m.

Historical Commission

Tues., 4/7, Fire Station, 7 p.m.

Planning Board

Tues., 4/28, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 4/8, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Wed., 4/8, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Tues., 4/14, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet Meetings

Board of Appeals

Mon., 4/6, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Wed., 4/8, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 4/6, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Apr. 2015	HIGH a.m.	HIGH p.m.	LOW a.m.	LOW p.m.
Thursday	2	0728	1946	0221	1321
Friday	3	0805	2023	0135	1329
Saturday	4	0843	2101	0155	1358
Sunday	5	0922	2140	0229	1435
Monday	6	1002	2220	0308	1514*
Tuesday	7	1043	2302	0347*	1554*
Wednesday	8	1126	2348	0426*	1634*
Thursday	9	---	1216	0506*	1717*
Friday	10	0041	1313	0553	1807
Saturday	11	0139	1410	0652	1913
Sunday	12	0236	1507	0802	2027

* = Predicted minus tides from -0.1 ft. to -1.0 ft

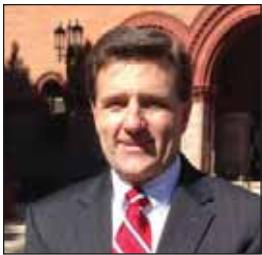
**Predicted minus tides from -1.1 ft to -2.0 ft or more

Don't forget to

VOTE

Mon., 4/6, in Fairhaven & Acushnet

Candidate statements: Selectboard



Robert Espindola

I would like to thank everyone that supported me back in 2012 when I first decided to run for office. Your support back then gave me the opportunity to enjoy my role as Selectmen for the past three (3) years. I feel that I have learned so much about this Town and have met so many wonderful people and attended many special events and ceremonies along the way.

I am not afraid to challenge the way things have always been done if I think there is an opportunity for improvement, and I feel good about the long term planning the Town is

now doing, the Capital Planning process we have set in place, and some of the new policies we have implemented since I have been on the Board, and I feel that we are heading in the right direction in all those areas.

I am running for another term because there are many more things I would like to accomplish. We need to find ways to curb our expenses and raise additional revenues as much as possible so we can maintain the top notch services we have grown accustomed to in our Town and even find ways to improve services wherever possible.

We are about to enter a critical stage where Mr. Osuch will be retiring as our Executive Secretary and we will be hiring a new Town Administrator. This is such an important step for the Town and I am looking to

provide stable leadership and continuity on the Board of Selectmen as we move through this incredibly important transition.

I have kept monthly office hours since I came aboard in 2012 and will continue to do so as long as I am in office. I hope that, if you have any concerns or recommendations for me, that you will stop in to see me, send me an e-mail (selectman.bobespindola@gmail.com) or call me on my cell phone 774-263-1046. I really would like to know what is on your mind so that, if I am elected to a second term, I can take that into consideration.

Please remember to vote on Monday, April 6th.

Editor's Note: Mr. Espindola is unopposed in his re-election bid.

BPW continues to ask for “no” vote on ballot question

From the Fairhaven Board of Public Works

Ratepayers and taxpayers, plain and simple, regardless of how current Government Study Committee members and former Selectmen want to spin it, if you want to be financially prudent you need to vote NO on the ballot question and retain the Board of Public Works.

Town meeting on December 9, 2014, gave the Selectmen the authority to hire a Town Administrator, as all the required legislation was in place. Here we are nearly 5 months later and the Town Administrator position is still not filled. Want to know why? Because depending on how the BPW ballot question is voted dictates how much we are going to have to pay the new Town Administrator.

If the current Board of Public Works stays in existence, the five unpaid, elected members will continue on as usual with their deserved function. If the Town votes to eliminate the Board, then the Board's duties will be transferred to the Town Administrator and his/her salary will be substantially increased.

As a result, anyone who tries to tell you that eliminating the Board won't cost you more is not stating the facts. If you question this statement, then simply ask any of your Selectmen or review their applicable meeting minutes and you will learn that eliminating the Board of Public Works will

cost the taxpayers significantly more.

Please remember, this ballot question is not a result of any failure of the Board of Public Works. Our water, sewer and roadway systems continue to be well above average and we consistently present Town meeting with a balanced, fiscally responsible budget.

This question stems from a suggestion contained in a report penned by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue which was invited into Town by the Selectmen and, again, is not a result of or a reaction to, any failure of the Board.

There are many Cities and Towns where Town Administrators and Boards of Public Works, of some fashion, coexist. Our neighboring Town of Mattapoisett is one such example.

Why do Mattapoisett and so many other Towns choose to have Town Managers and Boards of Public Works? Simply put, statistics reveal that many citizens want to pursue matters via an avenue where they can feel comfortable, less intimidated and address “their peers” versus the alternative of being bogged down in Selectmen agendas which are already long and burdensome. Too often, in situations such as the one described, apathy sets in.

The Government Study Committee has suggested that the current Board of Public Works be converted into an advisory panel. Based on the statistics

noted above, this will serve no purpose to the Town whatsoever. Why would anyone who is seeking a resolution to a water, sewer (commodities that are used daily) or roadway issue want to appear before a board who cannot help them? This notion, in our opinion, serves no purpose, and only fosters the apathy noted above.

Keeping the Board of Public Works as currently constituted will continue to allow citizens yearlong opportunity to provide input into the Town's decision making process. The Board of Public Works, comprised of and elected by your neighbors, was created 50 years ago to oversee water, sewer, roadway, beaches and parks in addition to providing an avenue to receive input from its citizens while also providing the opportunity for the Town to benefit from the considerable “private industry” expertise that Board members bring.

Keep your voice and keep more money in your pocket, please vote No on the BPW ballot question and retain your Board of Public Works.

Look back,
and smile on
perils past.

Walter Scott



We are pleased to announce that we will be supporting Lindsay Gordon* as our next representative on the Board of Health. Lindsay has been a tireless advocate for the elderly and people with disabilities. We feel that she will bring her working knowledge of issues that pertain to the public health and well being of our citizens. At her current position with The Residence at Cedar Dell as Executive Healthcare Director she oversees the food service inspections, flu clinics, medical issues or any other services that her elderly patients require. Please join us in voting for Lindsay Gordon* on Monday April 6th

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*Fixes error from previous versions" Gordon not Gordan



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EPA New Bedford Harbor Site Public Meeting Notice

**When: Thursday, April 23rd from 6:00-7:45 p.m. at
Library's Howland-Green Branch, 3 Rodney French Blvd., New Bedford**

Representatives from the EPA, the Army Corp of Engineers, and their contractors will update the public on site activities and answer questions relative to presentations. A formal agenda will be sent out two weeks prior to the meeting and will be posted on EPA's website at <http://www2.epa.gov/new-bedford-harbor>.

Site News: EPA is planning to issue a draft ESD (Explanation of Significant Differences) for a 30-day public comment period following the public meeting. The draft ESD will address proposed changes to the methods of disposal of contaminated sediment at the site. EPA plans to provide an overview of the ESD, an update on air monitoring, and a Community Involvement Plan at the April 23rd meeting. The Army Corp of Engineers is taking corrective action on the contract that had been awarded for the remainder of the harbor cleanup work. This will lead to a new decision for the harbor cleanup contract, expected in October 2015. The Army Corp of Engineers is doing everything possible to ensure that dredging will occur during the 2015 season. In the meantime, work continues on the construction of the Lower Harbor CAD Cell and planning for the completion of EPA's cleanup work on the harbor.



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entrusted to do so: its superintendent and Town Administrator.

Voting YES allows the town to institute the modern and proven central management structure that Town Meeting approved last year.

Efforts were made in the recent past to completely eliminate this board. Voting YES allows it to continue to serve you in conjunction with a government structure best suited to meet the needs of Fairhaven today and into the future.

Please join me in voting YES on the BPW ballot vote.

Phil Washko, Fairhaven

Vote “yes” on BPW change

I am writing this solely as a private citizen and not as a member of any committee.

One of the recommendations by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue in its Financial Management Review of Fairhaven was to eliminate the Board of Public Works in favor of a vertically integrated organizational structure, whereby department heads report directly to the Town Administrator.

As a result of this recommendation, I have researched this structural change and have concluded that positive results will be achieved. This structure will create better efficiency, effectiveness and more responsiveness to its residents.

This structure (which was approved by Town Meeting in May 2014) along with converting the Board of Public Works into an advisory board, similar to that of our Finance Committee, would allow well intended board members to make recommendations on DPW matters as well as serve as citizen advocates.

This vertical organizational structure, which again was recommended by the Department of Revenue and approved by Fairhaven Town Meeting, has been proven time over time to be one of the best management structures ever developed.

Wherever this organizational structure has been instituted, whether in the private sector or the public sector, it has proven to be one of the best management models for efficiency, effectiveness, accountability and cost controls.

Please join me in voting “YES” on the BPW ballot question on April 6.

Mark Badwey, Fairhaven

Editor's Note: Mr. Badwey is a member

of the Town Government Study Committee, but is writing as a private citizen.

Vote “no” on changing BPW

Vote “NO” to any changes to the Board of Public Works.

My name is Dan Freitas and I am running for a position on the BPW. I write this first so you know my position on this issue. I have read in the *Fairhaven Neighborhood News* and the *Standard-Times* how some want you to believe that the people who are saying to vote “no” to this issue are only in it for the “power” or the power they would lose.

I served on the BPW from 2010-2013 and I can tell you that this myth of “power” is just that, a myth. The people I served with were your neighbors and fellow tax/rate payers. I may not have always agreed with them but I never doubted their motives. I was NEVER asked at any time to do any special favors for my fellow commissioners!

I am all for having a Town Administrator. I am all for streamlining government. Some will tell you that if the BPW is still in place that it will be hard to attract a qualified TA. Our town has done quite well through rough economic times with the government structure we currently have. The Selectman haven’t even started to do interviews for a new Town Administrator. So making all these changes for an un-named TA is like putting the cart before the horse!

Now let’s look at what the Government Study Committee is asking of you, the voters of Fairhaven. Eliminating your voice in the BPW.

You ask how? They decided to make the BPW an ELECTED ADVISORY board. An elected advisory board will be a first in this town. The 5 commissioners who currently serve you and the candidates for this board have already stated they will resign if it is an advisory board only. That means any commissioner will be appointed by the selectman.

The GSC is seeking to reduce the number of Finance Committee members and the way they are appointed. Guess what? That will be done by the selectmen also. They want to reduce the number of Town Meeting members and according to their last questionnaire, who is allowed to serve. Now they will tell you that this is all from the recommendations of

the Department of Revenue.

Who asked for this audit? A Selectman. Sounds to me like the “power” they speak about is heading in one direction.

I urge you to vote NO to any changes to the Board of Public Works on Monday April 6th.

Daniel Freitas, Fairhaven

Vote “yes” on BPW change

I am writing as a personal citizen of Fairhaven. I have heard from BPW members that they do not get paid as board members, and want to note that there are many boards and committees in Town that do not receive a stipend. As volunteers of Town committees and boards, most people volunteer either for the experience, and/or for the love of our Town.

Two years ago, I saw an advertisement for an opportunity to be on the Town Government Study Committee. Everyone in Town had the same opportunity as I. I submitted a letter, had an interview with the moderator and was then appointed as a member of this committee.

I had not been much involved in local Town government, but was very interested. I had no town government experience, but applied for the opportunity because I was interested in our Town Government and knew it would be, if nothing else, a learning experience. From the first meeting, I knew it was going to be very involved, time consuming, sometimes meeting more than once a week or even weekly in the first year, and there was no financial gain to me by being a member of this committee. Again, I repeat, EVERYONE in Town had this same opportunity.

I have gained quite a bit of knowledge about Town Government, our own Town Government, and have had the opportunity to meet and talk to people who I wouldn’t otherwise get to speak to. I have made new friends and met residents that I wouldn’t have ever met.

As a private citizen, if you asked me two years ago what the BPW members do or what they’re role is within the BPW, I wouldn’t be able to answer. After many discussions, forums and interviews with the BPW Board members, as well as the Superintendent of the DPW, Vinnie Furtado, I have a better under-

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standing of what their role is.

I believe what is missing in all the conversations as of late about the change of the BPW Board to an "advisory" board is the following: The BPW Board members hired a smart, hard working, efficient Superintendent, Vinnie Furtado. The other Superintendents in the DPW are equally smart, hard working, and efficient.

The BPW Board members trust in these men and women to run the DPW on a daily basis and under a Town Administrator the same would apply. These superintendents that run their department now would do the same when a TA has his/her role within the Town of Fairhaven; just like every other department in Town.

It would be a more efficient process, from the top-down.

There is no doubt that Change is hard; however if the "right" people are in these positions, they are still going to run their departments. And if the right Town Administrator, with previous TA experience and qualifications, is hired then this change wouldn't be so difficult to swallow.

As people say, if you don't like someone in an elected position, you don't have to vote for them again in the future. A Town Administrator is going to take some of the weight off the Selectman and he/she is going to come in and if it's the right person for the job, they are going to work with department heads who currently care for our Town; helping to make the best decisions for our Town.

This is how we need to look at this opportunity as a Town.

The DPW has "great." "excellent" department heads: Superintendents. We need to respect and entrust the people that were put in those positions that they will continue to be efficient and continue to run the department as they always have, with or without a BPW, or with an "advisory" board.

Vote YES on the ballot question.

Pattie Pacella, Fairhaven

Support BPW change

Voters of Fairhaven, I urge you to vote "Yes" on the ballot question on Election Day.

I do acknowledge the time and sincere effort that each and every member of the current and past Boards of Public Works has put in on your behalf.

Having said that, we all need to recognize that the Department of Revenue recommended changes to the Board of Public Works for Financial reasons. Their 2012 report was a "Financial Management Review." The DOR does not take any of its recommendations lightly. They have access to all the data from public records in every municipality to support their recommendations. The DOR compares and contrasts all communities across the Commonwealth and recommended that we emulate the most cost efficient municipalities — those communities that have demonstrated the ability to provide the same services, overall, for less tax payer dollars.

The DOR stated in its Financial Management Review that "Over time, a single management presence has emerged as the best way to promote clear lines of authority and accountability in government. Forward-looking communities have turned to this structure, in some meaningful form, as making the most sense in this era of complex government and turbulent economics."

The DOR went on to say that "A clear trend that has emerged among communities in favor of a vertically integrated organizational structure whereby department heads report directly to a chief administrative officer rather than a multitude of separately appointed or elected boards and committees."

The Advisory Board adds a slightly different twist to the DOR recommendation but, the bottom line is that the Town Administrator will still have the authority and, more importantly, the responsibility to ensure a unified management structure is in place and decisions are made considering all departments needs collectively and in a manner that best serves the Town.

In a short time, the Town will be looking to hire the new Town Administrator and, to attract the best and brightest candidates, the Town will need to advertise the role to include having responsibility for Public Works functions.

Your Public Works Superintendent and all of his hard working department heads and staff will all continue to serve you the way they do today.

Your voices will still be heard, just as voices are heard in many other communities where a Town

Administrator is given authority over public works functions.

I remind you that the DOR makes recommendations based on the financial benefit to communities and I urge you to vote "Yes" on Question # 2 on Monday, April 6th.

Bob Espindola, Fairhaven

Editor's Note: Mr. Espindola is on the Selectboard in Fairhaven, but writes as a resident only. His opinion is his own and not necessarily that of the board.

Support Veitch for SC

I am writing in support of Colin Veitch for Fairhaven School Committee.

Ten years ago there was a lot of grumbling in Fairhaven about the schools. The school system was in the midst of a financial crisis. The search was on for a new superintendent. The school committee frequently could not get anything done. Athletic programs, teachers' jobs, and even an entire school were on the chopping block.

Fast forward to today: Two brand-new elementary schools house our children. Our high school is rated at Level One, and it is in the top 5% of all U.S. high schools. In a Massachusetts education system rated one of the best in the world, our students are above-average. And all of this is accomplished with a budget that is 10% smaller than the budgets of "average" school districts our size.

In 2005, Fairhaven voters took the matter of a damaged school system into their own hands and voted for change. Colin Veitch was elected to be part of that change, and he has worked tirelessly since then for our children. Colin has four children of his own in Fairhaven's schools, but his dedication goes beyond that of a parent. He has helped foster a spirit of cooperation between the school committee and the town. He has promoted a budget conscious school district that accomplishes more with less money. And he advocates for the good of all students in the district with an eye towards fairness and equality.

I am proud to be raising my children in Fairhaven, proud to say my oldest son graduated from Fairhaven High School. I am thrilled that my younger children got to attend the beautiful East Fairhaven School. As a graphic designer, I am

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