



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 12, Issue 1 • January 5, 2017

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

BRRR! Balmy weather brings out the Balmy



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Nearly 200 people registered for the annual Polar Plunge at Fort Phoenix in Fairhaven. It seemed that more than that actually took the plunge though, with hundreds more joining in to watch the show. Approximately 500 people crowded the beach for the event. *Photo by Beth David.*

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.

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.



Beth David, Publisher

Happy New Year!

For us, this means the beginning of year 12. Wow. It's hard to believe we've completed 11 full years of publishing.

One of these days I'll get my act together enough to look back at some of the stories we've done.

Meanwhile, I'm on deadline so...

Honk for Diego is back in the news (or Stand with Diego, if you prefer). We wrote about Diego in our last issue. He likes waving to cars on Route 6 in front of his house, and drivers like to honk as they drive by. A neighbor complained, and then...well, it was kind of cool. See Jean's update on page 13. And check out our last issue on our website, in the archives section.

We have a new feature in this week's issue. Fairhaven Office of Tourism Director Christopher Richard is going to send us updates every month on the good stuff going on in town. See page 22 for his first one.

We have some meeting coverage for you this week. The Selectboard's meeting from a week or so ago is on page 4, when they talked about the CPC request by the Stratford Group to, essentially, get the Oxford School building for free. I'm still laughing, but I might be the only one.

It will be up to Town Meeting, of course, so...stay tuned.

Speaking of the Oxford project, it was in front of the ZBA this week (see page 3). The process will take awhile, so if you want to weigh in, you still have time.

Our cover story is always a fun event (see page 12). It was my very first cover 12 years ago, and I've made it a point to put the Polar Plunge on every cover of the first issue of the year since.

This year absolutely lived up to its rep. There were hundreds of people out there because we had such mild weather on New Year's day. Not all of them went in to be sure, but plenty of hardy souls had the fortitude to jump into the Big Blue Beast in January.

BRRR...I'll stick to taking pictures.

And, one last thing. I'd like to thank all the readers who donated to the paper last year. It really helped, but I do need you to help out again this year. Without reader support, we won't be able to keep publishing.

And, be sure to tell our advertisers you saw their ads here. We need both advertiser and reader support to keep this venture alive.

Until next week then...

Here's to 2017!

Support the Food Pantry

The Shepherd's Food Pantry at the Long Plain United Methodist Church in Acushnet spends more than \$5,500 each month to keep the shelves stocked. It serves more than 120 families each week and has seen a sharp increase in families seeking food.

Tax deductible donations may be sent to Shepherd's Pantry, PO Box 760, Fairhaven, MA 02719. Visit www.shepherdsparntry.org

Fairhaven Neighborhood News

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Thursday, January 5, 2017

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Editor: Beth David

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

ZBA hears Oxford 40B proposal, asks for studies

By Beth David
Editor

The Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals met on Tuesday, 1/3, for the opening of the hearing on the 40B project proposed for the former Oxford School site on Main Street at Benoit Square in North Fairhaven.

The Stratford Group has entered into a purchase and sale agreement with the town to put 63 units of housing for seniors 62+. Town Meeting approved the measure and the company is pursuing grants.

Ten units will be in the old school building, which will retain its historical nature. The 1950s addition will be demolished and the other units will be in a new building on the site.

Calling it a "friendly 40B," representatives of the company told the ZBA that they are willing to work with the town on details of the project.

Chapter 40B is a law designed to encourage affordable housing in Massachusetts. It allows ZBAs to be more flexible in granting waivers for projects that include a certain percentage of affordable units. If a municipality has less than 10% of its housing stock as affordable or subsidized, developers have more avenues to appeal a rejected permit in court. According to the state, 6.8% of Fairhaven's housing is subsidized.

"We're trying to work with the town to design, construct, and manage these particular units," said Keith McDonald, Vice President of the Stratford Capital Group.

Discussion mostly centered around the additional parking lot in on the east side of the property, abutting Livesey Park. The company

has agreed to create 30 parking spaces for public use, not resident use.

Some changes to the plan shown at Town Meeting were necessary, said officials, after a survey was done, and after input from the Fire Department.

Town Planner and Economic Development Director Bill Roth said the changes were minor, and still included a separation of the two lots so people would know which lot would be for public parking and which one would be for residents.

Waivers for the project include a multi-family facility in a single family district, exceeding maximum lot size coverage and building coverage, and side setbacks of five feet instead of 10 feet.

Mr. McDonald said that the plan they were showing this week had not been "vetted fully" by the town.

He said the changes included a reconfigured lane for the fire truck and other on-site traffic flow considerations as requested by the Fire Department.

The board and members of the public asked about the size and layout of the new building, which will be built into the hill, showing three stories from Main Street and four

stories from the park.

Only two members of the public attended the public hearing.

Alfred Fonteneau of Ryle Street said he was concerned about such a high building blocking the sun.

Mr. McDonald said the new building would have a smaller footprint than the old one.

Mr. Fonteneau said he was worried about height more than the footprint.

"We can live with what we have now," said Mr. Fonteneau, who also asked if the project would hurt property values of surrounding homes.

Mr. Fonteneau also said he worried about parking, because during sporting events at the park, the neighborhood is overrun.

"We can't even get to our houses," he said, adding if it's "pandemonium now," what will it be like after the new building is up.

Mr. McDonald and Mr. Roth said the 30 new spaces were meant to help alleviate some of those parking problems and said the spaces they have set aside for residents will be sufficient for the new units.

"It don't think we're [going to] fully solve it," said Mr. Roth about the parking issue, adding that there will be no overnight parking in the public lot, so residents cannot park there without getting ticketed. "It will help."

Mr. Roth also asked the company to look at the traffic flow in Benoit Square, specifically where Adams and Main Street merge.

"It's a free-for-all," he said of the merger point.

There is one entrance now, and will

ZBA: cont'd on page 18

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Selectboard members express dismay at Stratford CPC request

By Beth David
Editor

At its meeting on 12/19, The Fairhaven Selectboard discussed the move by the Stratford Capital Group to ask for \$325,000 in Community Preservation Act funds for the restoration of the Oxford School building. SCG has signed a purchase and sale agreement to buy the building for \$325,000 to construct 63 housing units for seniors 62+.

All three Selectboard members said they were not aware of the SCG's intent to ask for the purchase price back from the town's Community Preservation Committee. CPC funds are collected from a surcharge on property taxes and can be used for open space and recreation, historic preservation and affordable housing.

The state matches a percentage of the funds, but the match has been going down since the program began, a point Selectboard member Daniel Freitas pointed out right away.

"It doesn't mean we have to give it to them," said Mr. Freitas.

Town Planner and Economic Development Director Bill Roth told the board that SCG needed to show community support in order to get the grant money it is counting on for the project. Mr. Roth also said that company representatives said they had planned on applying for grants from the HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), a federal grant program for affordable housing, but then realized the town was not

part of the HOME program.

Mr. Freitas expressed doubt that a company that touted itself as experienced in these kinds of projects would not know the town was not part of the HOME program.

Mr. Roth also said he was looking at possibly applying for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that could be used to knock down the 1950s addition on the site.

The reality is, said Mr. Roth, that

Absolutely never.
This never came up.
[Bob Espindola]

there are \$1.2 million CPC requests and about \$500,000 available.

Selectboard member Bob Espindola, who negotiated the purchase and sale deal with the company and has been in ongoing negotiations with them on the project, emphasized that the town was blindsided by the request.

"Absolutely never. This never came up," said Mr. Espindola. "I was very upset at the way this unfolded."

To add insult to injury, some of the materials submitted by SCG said "Eastham" instead of Fairhaven, while making the same argument for the funds.

"These guys do this for a living," said Mr. Freitas, and commented on the Eastham mistake. "They've obviously done this before."

According to the provision of the P&S, if the company does not get the grants from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), they will not go forward with the project.

Resident Doug Brady did not seem so upset with that prospect.

"We're giving away the building," he said, if they give the CPC funds.

Mr. Roth, however, noted that the town will have a million dollar liability and a rotting building if they let the deal sink.

"I think we, as a community, need to look at these buildings," he said.

He noted that he is the one who is required to check the building monthly and is called out when the alarm goes off, at all hours.

He said it would be in the "million dollar range" to demolish the Oxford School building and the 1950s addition.

"This one really bothers me," said Ann Richard, noting that she had been to a lot of meetings and has followed the process closely. "We're basically giving the building away because it's a liability to the town."

She said if the town can get CDBG funds to demolish the building for SCG, then "why not for us?"

The board will ask SCG representatives attend a Selectboard meeting to discuss their request.

Selectboard chooses Keith Silvia to fill BPW slot

At a special meeting on Tuesday, 1/3, the Fairhaven Selectboard chose Keith Silvia to fill a slot on the Board of Public Works vacated by Kathy Sturtevant.

Mr. Silvia will have to resign from his appointed position on the Board of Appeals. Selectboard members will ask Town Counsel for clarification on whether or not BPW members can sit on advisory boards.

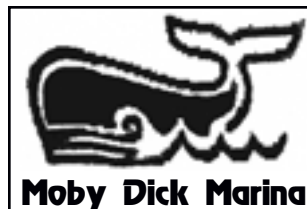
Four other people asked to be

named to the BPW: Former BPW members Geoffrey Haworth and Steve Riley; Nicholas Carrigg, and Louis Dutton. Selectboard member Bob

Espindola said he preferred Mr. Dutton, but his motion was not seconded. The vote for Mr. Silvia was unanimous.

Mr. Silvia will

fill out Ms. Sturtevant's term, which ends in April. He will have to run in the 4/3 election to keep his seat.



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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Rogers School Mtg

The Town of Fairhaven will hold a **Public Meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thurs., 1/5, at Town Hall, 40 Center St., Fairhaven.** The purpose of the meeting will be for the Town's consultant, Kirk & Company to present an initial draft report with their preliminary findings about the potential future reuses of the Rogers School.

TM Deadlines

Deadline for articles for the Fairhaven Town Meeting in May is **Jan. 12 at 4 p.m. at the Selectboard office.** Contact the town clerk or the Selectboard's office for details on how to get an article on the warrant.

Christmas Tree PU

The town of Fairhaven will pick up Christmas trees from **Jan. 10-13.**

Christmas Tree Collection will be one day after your regular rubbish day. Place trees curbside by 7 a.m. on the day of pickup. Remove all ornaments and tinsel. Do not put in plastic bag.

Hazard Mitigation

The Town of Fairhaven is officially launching the process to develop a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. This new plan is considered essential to the Town's efforts to improve emergency preparedness and identify ways to become less vulnerable to disasters caused by natural hazards. The Town's first Public Meeting will be on **Thurs., 1/12, at 6:30 at Town Hall, 40 Center St., Fairhaven, MA.**

Nomination papers

Nomination papers are available for candidates interested in running for office in Fairhaven. The annual town election will be held on Monday, April 3, 2017. The last day for requesting nomination papers is **Thurs., 2/9, at 5 p.m.** The last day for Town Meeting incumbents to file written requests for re-election is **Mon., 2/6, at 5 p.m.** The last day to file all nomination papers with the Town Clerk's Office is **Mon., 2/13, at 5 p.m.**

The last day for residents to register to vote in the town election is **Tues., 3/14.**

Papers for town-wide office require 50 certified signatures. Papers for Town Meeting Members require 10

certified signatures.

You may register to vote any day from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM – Monday through Friday Mail-in Voter Registration Forms are available at the Town Clerk's Office, 40 Center St., Fairhaven, 508-979-4023, Ext. 3.

Cultural Council Awardees

The Fairhaven Cultural Council is pleased to announce the Fairhaven Local Cultural Council Grant award winners for 2017!

In addition to demonstrating compliance with Mass. Cultural Council and local grant project guidelines, winning projects demonstrated the most benefit to our community and specifically for residents of Fairhaven, providing opportunities for all ages to participate in a variety of arts and humanities areas.

Projects funded this year include NBAM/ArtWorks! Teen Internship Program, New Bedford Symphony's Learning in Concert program for East and Wood Elementary Schools, the Millicent Library's Summer Reading Kick-Off Concert with Jackson Gillman, Zeiterion Theater field trips for St. Joseph and East Fairhaven Schools, New Bedford Ballet in-school programs for East and Wood Elementary Schools, New Bedford Festival Theater's production of "My Fair Lady", transportation funding for Whaling Museum field trips for Fairhaven schools, Seaglass Opera's "Amoré" Gala Concert, and the Greater New Bedford Choral Society's 2017 concert season.

Support for the Local Cultural Council (LCC) grant program is provided annually by the Mass. Cultural Council as well as from the town of Fairhaven. Funding allotted by the town of Fairhaven is earmarked to support events that promote tourism and attract visitors to our local businesses

In 2017, town funds will be supporting the Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society's Manjiro Festival, North Fairhaven Improvement Association's Community Concert, Roger Tinknell's "From Ireland to America" at the Council on Aging, the Fairhaven Lions Club's "Family Ties/Honoring Our Elderly" Community Event, and the Fishing Heritage Center's "Work & Culture in the Fishing Industry: Three

Photography Exhibits".

Events and programs are offered at affordable or free ticket prices; many offer senior citizen discounts as well. Visit the Fairhaven council's blog at <http://fairhavenculturalcouncil.blogspot.com/> or Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/FairhavenCulturalCouncil> throughout the year for updates on when these projects will be taking place and links to more information.

The council is always interested in new members. If you are a resident of Fairhaven and would like more information about joining the council, contact chairperson Abigail Hevey at abigail.hevey@gmail.com.

Free presentation

Keeping the American Promise: Challenging Corporate Power and Money in Politics

SouthCoast Progressive Voices, along with co-sponsor Citizens for Economic Justice (both sub-committees of the Fairhaven UU church's Social Justice Committee), invites all to attend this free educational presentation at 7:00 PM Wednesday, January 11, 2017 in the Church Auditorium, 102 Green Street in Fairhaven.

The speaker will be Jeffrey D. Clements, Founder and President of American Promise; Former Massachusetts Assistant Attorney General; and author of the book "Corporations Are Not People: Reclaiming Democracy from Big Money and Global Corporations". This book has been deemed the definitive guide to overturning the Citizens United vs FEC Supreme Court decision and gaining control of the influence of money in our elections. Mr. Clements was CEJ's invited speaker last year to address students and the general public on this topic at The UMass Dartmouth School of Law.

This program ties in directly with the pressing social issue of our time: "escalating inequality". Please plan to come and hear this dynamic presentation by one of the more active advocates for us gaining back control of our democracy.

Don't forget to tell our advertisers you saw their ads in the *Neighb News!*

FHS Looming Club helps those in need to stay warm

By Beth David
Editor

Students at Fairhaven High School do more than hit the books. Sometimes, they hit the knitting looms. Born out of the Interact Club and dubbed the “Looming Experience,” this group of students creates hats, scarves and gloves to be donated to the Shepherd’s Pantry for people who need them.

But don’t expect your grandmother’s knitting needles here. The knitting loom is a series of pegs, either in a round shape or long shape, depending on what you want to create.

And be sure to call it “looming,” not “knitting” say the club’s founders Lexi Souza, Jessica Rinker and Mira Yin.

“It’s pretty interesting, I hope it

continues to grow,” said member Kathryn Bordon, a sophomore, who got interested because Ms. Yin told her about it. “It’s good to help people around the holidays.”

Giorgio Elkhoury and his friend Ahmad Quraishi, both sophomores, echoed that sentiment.

“[It’s] for people who don’t have a lot of stuff,” said Mr. Elkhoury. “To help out the poor, y’know.”

“To help people get through the winter,” said Mr. Quraishi. “To help people who are less fortunate.”

And then there is the loom itself.

Mackenzie McCree, a freshman, said it was, simply put, “cool looking.”

“I always wanted to knit, but this looked like it would be easier,” she said.



ABOVE: The “Looming Experience,” at Fairhaven High School uses knitting looms to make winter clothing for distribution by the Shepherd’s Pantry. RIGHT: Jessica Rinker and Sofia Harvey demonstrate how to use a knitting loom. Photos by Beth David.



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Our residents are looking forward to an exciting, eventful January here at Atria Fairhaven. We’d love for you to join us.
(RSVP: 508-994-9238)

Join us for:

Carol & Jean’s Craft Corner Thurs., 1/12, 2:30 p.m. Residents really enjoy the craft corner, where they bring out their creative side. Gather with use in the community room.

Tap ‘n Time with Bell Fri., 1/20, 2 p.m. Come tap your feet and dance during this musical seated exercise performance.

Entertainment with Chris Waters Thurs., 1/26, 11:30 a.m. Enjoy many of Chris Waters’ classics and a delightful afternoon with our fabulous residents. We look forward to seeing you.

391 Alden Road • Fairhaven, Massachusetts
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While we were gone

OLH spreads Christmas Cheer

Residents of Our Lady's Nursing Home in Fairhaven spread some holiday cheer to their local Firefighters by providing a platter of breakfast Danish, sandwiches for lunch and pizza for supper on 12/7

"It was their way of showing their appreciation for all that the local firefighters do for the community,"

said Wayne Oliveira, Public Information Officer for the Fairhaven Fire Department.

On duty Firefighters, Chief Tim Francis and Deputy Chief Todd Correia, as well as the administrative Assistant Kristine Austin welcomed staff and a few residents to the station as they stopped by to give out their

goodies and share Christmas Greeting.

Our Lady's Haven and the Fairhaven Fire Department have shared a long lasting relationship in keeping residents of the facility happy, healthy and safe. Our Lady's Haven is a 117 bed facility on Center Street established in 1944.



Our Lady's Haven residents and staff were so happy to spread the Christmas spirit with our Fire and Police Departments by providing the stations with breakfast, lunch and supper to offer our sincere thanks for their service to our Fairhaven Community. Toys were also happily donated to Toys for Tots. Merry Christmas from Our Lady's Haven!!! Submitted photos.

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HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

LYTC Get-Together

The Fort Rodman Marine Educational Assoc. d/b/a Low Tide Yacht Club invites you to join us for our "End of the Season" Get-Together. This is a time to relax with friends and relatives, to pass on good cheer, good ideas, good news and good will. We welcome prospective members.

Join us on **Wed., 1/11, at the Edge Restaurant, 1480 E. Rodney French Blvd., New Bedford. Cocktails at 5, dinner at 6, tickets: \$32.** Call Nancy Fontaine at 508-997-3077 for your choice of one of four meals. Reserve early due to seating capacity.

Moby Dick Marathon

It is time for the yearly migration to the New Bedford Whaling Museum. **January 6-8 will mark the 21st annual Moby-Dick Marathon at the Museum, 18 Johnny Cake Hill, New Bedford.** The event summons readers and enthusiasts around the globe, from the world's most obsessive literary aficionados, to local school children and everyone in between. Participants will travel back in time to accompany narrator Ishmael on the epic whaling journey and hunt for the elusive white whale.

Activities begin on Friday, January 6 at 5:30 p.m. with a ticketed event including the opening of the Melville Society Exhibit, a dinner well-suited for hungry sailors, and an engaging lecture and discussion on Melville and Religion. Friday tickets are \$40 for Whaling Museum members, \$50 for non-members. To purchase tickets visit www.whalingmuseum.org, or call 508-997-0046.

The entire marathon will be broadcast via livestream in a couple of venues throughout the Museum, as well as online, so enthusiasts around the globe can follow along. Visit www.whalingmuseum.org.

Fitness Challenge

Looking to get a strong start on your new year health goals? Join in the 3rd Annual New Bedford Fitness Challenge, a fun and incredibly low-cost way to get fit, lose weight, develop better eating habits, improve overall wellness, and compete for some great prizes!

The NB Fitness Challenge kicks off **Sun., 1/8, 11:00am - 4:00pm at the**

Boys & Girls Club, 166 Jenney St. The Kickoff will be a full day packed with fitness classes, yoga, massage, exhibitors, food, door prizes, and more. The event will run for three full months concluding on April 8th. A wrap-up celebration will recognize persons in various award categories.

Participation is open to anyone in Greater New Bedford for a one-time registration fee of just \$5. This fee grants access to all offers and classes during the 3-month challenge. Persons of all ages will participate, but must be at least 16 years old. Participants can register individually or with a team.

Registration will take place at the Kickoff event on January 8th. Online registration is also available at www.newbedfordfitnesschallenge.com. Individuals may also register at the first class they attend at any time during the 3-month challenge.

The New Bedford Fitness Challenge is a collaborative effort organized by various individuals to include Ashley Bendiksen Health, City of New Bedford Parks Recreation & Beaches, Fairhaven Rec Center, Hawthorn Medical, Mass in Motion New Bedford, New Bedford Boys & Girls Club, New Bedford Wellness Initiative, Southcoast Health, and the YMCA SouthCoast.

For more information visit www.newbedfordfitnesschallenge.com or find Facebook at www.facebook.com/nbfitnesschallenge, or email newbedfordfitnesschallenge@gmail.com.

Never the Sinner

On January 12 Your Theatre, Inc. will open the 3rd show of their 70th consecutive season with an eight show run of *Never The Sinner* by John Logan. With a cast of eight experienced South Coast actors, the play is directed by Edward J. Maguire of Fairhaven.

Set in 1924 Chicago and dubbed "The Crime of The Century," the play tells of two handsome and wealthy college students, Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb, accused of murdering 14 year old Bobby Franks. The country demands to know if these two young men could be capable of committing such an act. This thrilling 95 minute courtroom drama by John Logan ("The Last Ship" and Tony Award for "Red" on Broadway)

explores a complex and twisted relationship between two young men in search of passion, intellect, and the perfect crime.

Your Theatre, Inc. is grateful to our 70th Season Sponsor, Bank 5, for their fifth year of strong support for the arts and to Hawthorne Medical for sponsorship of this production.

Never the Sinner runs Thurs. through Sat. Jan. 12, 13, 14 and 19, 20, 21 at 8 p.m. with 2:30 p.m. matinees on Sun., 1/15 & 22 Performances are held at the wheelchair accessible Your Theatre, Inc. Playhouse, 136 Rivet St. (corner of County St.), New Bedford, at St. Martin's Episcopal Church complex. Free off-street parking entrance is on County Street.

Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$12 for season subscribers, and \$13 for senior citizens, students, and military personnel. For further information call Your Theatre, Inc. at 508-993-0772, or send an email to info@yourtheatre.org. The theatre's web site is www.yourtheatre.org

New Species at Zoo

"Tropical Forests To Oceans: An in-depth look at the new species coming to Buttonwood Park Zoo" presented by Zoo Director, Keith Lovett, will be held on Thurs., 1/12, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Buttonwood Park Zoo, 425 Hawthorn St., New Bedford.

Buttonwood Park Zoo Director, Keith Lovett will provide an overview of the **new Aquatics center scheduled to open summer 2017**. Lovett will highlight its innovative design and provide in-depth natural history profiles of the dozens of new tropical forest mammals, birds, and reptiles as well as dozens of marine species from oceans around the world. The talk will also include information on how the Buttonwood Park Zoo will be working to save many of the endangered species soon to make their home at the Zoo.

All attendees will receive a 15% off certificate to dine at Not Your Average Joe's in Dartmouth the evening of the lecture. Pre-registration is encouraged; Joe's certificates will be emailed to all pre-registered guests so they can enjoy dinner before the event.

\$8 Members; \$10 Non-Members; \$5 Students Visit <https://www.bpzoo.org/wildlife-education-series/>

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

At Mattapoissett Lib.

The following events are being held at the Mattapoissett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow St., 508-758-4171. Accessible.

LEGOs Abound!

Each Saturday at 1 pm the LEGO table and thousands of LEGOs are available for play and design. Stop in and meet the weekly challenge! Photos will be taken of everyone's creation. For youth of all ages.

Books for Everyone!

Dozens of new fiction, non-fiction, and audiobooks are available in the reading room. Stop by and browse the many well-reviewed titles that represent all genres. Ask the library staff for a reading suggestion or log onto the library's website www.mattapoissettlibrary.org and use Novelist to search for your next great read. The library staff is happy to demonstrate this great readers advisory tool.

Scrapbooking Group

Bring your photos, papers, tools, and ideas to a new group Scrapbook Crop! The group will meet the first Friday of every month **beginning on Jan. 6 at 10:30 am** in the library meeting room. Ideas for designs will be shared over coffee and tea. All skill levels are welcome.

Film and Book Discussion

Join other film enthusiasts for a screening of *The English Patient* on **Sun., 1/15 at 1:30 p.m.** The group will be discussing the film and the book, with suggested questions and free refreshments. Sign up to attend and pick up the discussion questions by emailing spizzolo@sailsinc.org, or by calling the library.

Tech Help

Got a new tablet, smart phone or ereader as a gift? Work with librarian Elizabeth Sherry to learn how to use it efficiently. Download free books from the library to enjoy any time, any place. For an appointment, call 508-758-4171.

Bird Club

The Paskamansett Bird Club's next meeting will be at **7:30 pm on Wed., 1/11, at the Community Hall of Friends Meeting, 739 Horseneck Rd., So. Dartmouth.** John Galluzzo will speak about the birds of

Stellwagen Bank.

The Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary is most widely known for its whales. Each year Northern Humpbacks make the long journey from the Caribbean to Massachusetts' coastal waters to feed on the rich resources pushed to the surface in the vicinity of the bank. But whales are not the only wildlife seeking out this food: seabirds of many species also come to the area to feed, making the sanctuary a vibrant, active location in both the air and the water.

The Stellwagen Sanctuary Seabirds Stewards team, birders trained to census the avian life from NOAA's research vessel Auk, have been gathering organized data on the birds of Stellwagen for a decade, and have the trends to show for it. John Galluzzo, author, historian and naturalist, is a member of the "S4" team and the maritime heritage chair for the Stellwagen Bank National Advisory Committee. On January 11, he'll reveal the latest results from the seabird census efforts, detailing the expected — and unexpected — sights out on the high seas.

John is a grant writer for the South Shore YMCA and the author of more than 35 books about the history and nature of the northeast. He writes several weekly and monthly newspaper and magazine columns, serves on several boards and committees, and recently received the Thomas and Phyllis Tag Fellowship from the United States Lighthouse Society to research the crossroads of ornithology and lighthouse history.

The meeting is free, open to the public, and accessible.

Benefit Concert

Ocean State Theatre Company (OSTC), currently celebrating its fifth season in its comfortable stadium-style theatre in Warwick is pleased to announce a very special fundraising concert, starring OSTC "kid" alumni, entitled *Villains v. Heroes: Broadway Style!* on **Saturday, January 7.**

Reuniting "kid" alumni, who have appeared in previous OSTC productions both at Theatre By The Sea from 2007-2012 and Ocean State Theatre from 2012-2016, *Villains v. Heroes: Broadway Style!* will be directed and

choreographed by OSTC's Director of Educational Programming and Community Outreach, Jason Loete with special choreography contributed by OSTC staff members Amiee Turner, Robert Miller Jr. and Karen Gail Kessler and music direction by concert pianist Tamra Stephenson, who is currently on staff at the French American School of New York.

The special benefit concert will feature selections from many Broadway productions.

Villains v. Heroes: Broadway Style! will be presented on **Sat., 1/7 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$25.** A cast party will be held following the performance and may be added for \$5 to any ticket. A portion of the ticket price is tax deductible. (Ask the box office for more details.)

The theatre is located at 1245 Jefferson Boulevard, Warwick, RI. Tickets are on sale at the box office Monday through Friday from 12 noon – 6:00 pm, Saturdays from 12 noon – 4:00 pm, and from 12 noon until curtain on performance days. Tickets are also available online 24 hours a day at www.OceanStateTheatre.org and via telephone during normal box office hours by calling (401) 921-6800.

Ski Train

The MBTA is pleased to announce that again this year a weekend ski train will operate from **North Station in Boston to take skiers to Wachusett Mountain Ski Area.** The special train began running on 12/10, and customers may board at North Station, disembark at the new Wachusett Station on the Fitchburg Line, and travel on a free shuttle to Wachusett Mountain.

The fully accessible Wachusett Station opened in September 2016. **Ski trains are specially equipped with ski and snowboard racks,** making the commute to the slopes easy and comfortable. **Roundtrip fare for the service is \$23;** children under the age of twelve ride for free. Schedules for the Ski Train are:

The train departs North Station at 8:35 a.m. and arrives at Wachusett at 10:11 a.m. It leaves Wachusett at 6:10 p.m. and arrives at North Station at 7:40 p.m. Sat. and Sundays only.

For more information on the Ski Train, visit http://www.mbta.com/riding_the_t/whats_new/?id=14107

Recipe of the Week

Simple Stromboli

1/2 lb. bulk pork sausage (optional)
1 (1 lb.) loaf frozen bread dough,
thawed
4 slices hard salami
4 slices thinly sliced ham
4 slices American cheese
1 cup shredded mozzarella
cheese
Salt & ground black pepper to taste
1 egg white, lightly beaten

Preheat oven to 425 degrees

Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat; cook and stir sausage until crumbly, evenly browned, and no longer pink, about 10 minutes. Drain and discard any excess grease.

Pat out bread dough on an ungreased baking sheet, to 3/4-inch thickness.

Lay salami, ham, and American cheese slices in center of dough. Sprinkle with mozzarella cheese, salt, pepper, and cooked sausage. Wrap dough to cover ingredients, pinching and sealing edges to prevent leakage; brush top with egg white.

Bake in preheated oven until dough is baked and lightly browned, 17 to 20 minutes.

From allrecipes.com

To share a recipe with your neighbors

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From our readers

Art on Center Closing

Art on Center's journey started in August of 2011. Throughout the journey we were fortunate to meet many talented artists, instructors and supporters. One of our greatest joys has been watching our members grow and come into their own with their artistic endeavors. So it is with deep regret that we must inform you that Art on Center has closed permanently, as of last month.

It is always sad when something great comes to an end, but with one ending comes the chance for other great beginnings. With the people you've met and the experiences you've had with us, we hope that more great things will arise in your future. Most importantly, we hope that in our absence you will continue to create and support the arts.

Art on Center will be selling art supplies and furniture on January 18, 19 and 20 from 2 p.m.-6:30 p.m. We currently have a good selection of new art supplies for sale at cost.

Thank you for being a part of Art on Center.

Best Regards,

*Stacey and Nura, Art on Center,
15 Center St., Fairhaven*

Pantry says "Thank you"

This letter of thanks goes out to all the generous people who contributed money and/or non-perishable food to the 13th annual Shepherd's Pantry holiday fundraiser. With a monthly expenditure of around \$6,000.00 used to purchase food that is either running low or out completely, monetary donations are necessary to keep the pantry running smoothly. According to Blanche Pepin, the pantry's administrator, dedicated volunteers handed out thousands of

food items to over 5,950 families during this past year. Broken down, that's 18,000 individuals helped; with 33% of this total going to

children and an average of over 96 families that come looking for help each Saturday between the hours of 9 and 11 AM.

A BIG thank you for this year's success goes to the much needed and appreciated newspaper articles from The Standard-Times, The Fairhaven/Acushnet Advocate and the Fairhaven Neighborhood News. Also, a BIG thank you to some of the area's businesses, churches, schools and non-profit groups and organizations that have donated their time and money towards our yearly venture; including the annual Turkey Trot annual road race coordinators, as well as its participants, who made this year's event a huge success for the Shepherd's Pantry. I'd also like to acknowledge the donors who have visited our web site, shepherdspantry.org, and felt inspired to help our cause.

Also, this year's success was initiated with the help of Fairhaven Stop & Shop manager Rick Fraielli and assistant manager Norine Albert by asking their compassionate customers to purchase \$10.00 boxes of non-perishable food items for the pantry during this holiday season. And the response was phenomenal whereby 289 boxes of food were eventually delivered to the pantry to help fill their shelves. Also, another big thank you to the Stop & Shop Bakery Department workers, located in Fairhaven, who hand me outdated bread and pastries on Friday afternoons to be given out the next morning to the needy who frequent the pantry.

And finally, the food bins located at the Millicent Library, and Stop & Shop Supermarket, both located in Fairhaven, where generous people have dropped off thousands of pounds of non-perishable food this past year, will continue. If you have any questions about the pantry located at the Long Plain United Methodist Church at 1215 Main St. in Acushnet, please call 508-763-9289.

*Sincerely, Gerry Payette
Holiday fund-raiser coordinator*



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- Thursdays: Triva @ 7:30 p.m.**
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Polar Plunge brings out hundreds...to watch at least

By Beth David
Editor

Hundreds of people showed up at Fort Phoenix Beach on New Year's Day, most to watch, but many to plunge into the icy Atlantic for a New Year's tradition that gets the heart pumping.

Organizers said close to 200 registered, but clearly more than that jumped in, and about 300 more were on hand to watch and take pictures of their more adventurous friends and relatives.

Although it was warm for the

season, and most definitely warmer than in many past years, it was still a shock to some.

"I don't like it," said Nola, 10, of New Bedford, as she cuddled under a thick blanket on the beach. "Because I couldn't feel my body."

Her mother, cousin and aunt, however, did not have that attitude.

"It was awesome," Nola's mother Marlo Grace, who said she did it for the cause.

The plunge has traditionally been held in honor of domestic violence victims. This is the sixth year that the

plunge proceeds, raised from t-shirt sales, will go to Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars.

"I always wanted to do it," said Marlo, and her cousin Leshia Souto talked her into it this year.

Mary Anne Walker, 64, said she lost count of how many times she has plunged.

"A whole bunch of times," she said. "I love it."

She does it for the "thrill of it."

"It's a great way to start the new year."



ABOVE LEFT: Nola Grace warms up under a thick blanket after plunging into the Atlantic on New Year's Day at Fort Phoenix in Fairhaven. ABOVE MIDDLE: Nola's adults, L-R: Aunt Kathy Grace, Cousin Leshia Souto, and Mom Marlo Grace. ABOVE RIGHT: Mary Anne Walker looks bright and chipper after the plunge. BELOW LEFT: New Bedford City Councilors take a selfie before the plunge. BELOW RIGHT: Workout buddies from Crossfit in New Bedford: L-R: Peter Medeiros, Park Durpel [background], Gillian Sampson, Nicole Noia, Stephanie Retz, John Smith, Lisa Almeida. Photos by Beth David. Visit us on Facebook to see more photos of this and other events: www.Facebook.com/NeighbNews.



“Honk for Diego” warms hearts of mom, son, community

By Jean Perry

Special to the Neighb News

I have to admit it. The afternoon when about 25 people appeared on my front lawn on December 18 wielding hand-written signs, pin-wheels, and party horns, I felt a little tense. I didn't know what to do. I didn't know what to feel.

But Diane Hahn, the orchestrator of the event, the ring leader of this circus of cacophony, stepped up and, through the power of social media, got one honking group of people together to stand up and make some noise for Diego — and not just any noise; it was a special noise that echoed into the streets, the noise of a community.

A noise that reached the ears of so many through Facebook sending beeps of support back to Fairhaven to Diego, and right to the house where the people who called the police on Diego just days before were hearing us.

Sure, they did call the police when everyone first converged on the sidewalk, Christmas music coming from the portable speaker, a cup of cocoa in every other hand, and a sign in the other asking drivers to “honk for Diego” as well as messages such as “Honks Trump Hate.”

The officer winked and told Diane that we were “okay” as long as we didn't obstruct anyone using the sidewalk. With a collective “hooray,” the crowd continued making that old “air horn pull” gesture with their arm, led by Diego and the inerasable smile on his face, as I just stood there taking it all in wondering, how did this happen? On our autism journey of nearly 13 years now, how did we find ourselves here?

I can't say I participated much. I watched everyone converge, people I am acquainted with and people Diego and I had never met before. I heard the steady stream of honks and beeps of the drivers passing by, some of them who made a special trip out just for the occasion and made several passes by just to honk for Diego and be a part of this thing, this beautiful thing that was happening on my front yard.

And when the biker gang made a special pass by the house, pausing for a moment to toss Diego a T-shirt and show support for a boy who just likes

waving to cars, I almost lost it.

“The motorcycles were coming to me and they gave me a ‘vroom,’” said Diego. “All the people came and they had signs. One just said ‘I stand with Diego.’”

Ask him why he likes to get beeps and he will tell you in his own simple way, “I just feel happy. It feels loved.”

And that's what that day was about; It wasn't about a bitter, disgruntled neighbor looking down from the window at us all enjoying ourselves and getting lost in the beeping. It was about so much more.

Honestly, I was relieved when the event was finally over and the beeping subsided, the Christmas music turned off, and the crown dispersed,

saying much, we reached a level of mutual understanding. We hugged and wished each other a Merry Christmas and when I closed the door behind him, the meaning of all it all finally hit me.

The takeaways for me were lessons in understanding, support, and of communication.

Just look at how the power of social media can be a catalyst for bringing out the goodness in people, bringing them together off of Facebook and face to face to support each other during a time when one or two of us felt vulnerable. The community came out and turned a hurtful experience into an outpouring of love and support.

With all the negativity that is portrayed by the media, the negative image of society we are forced to reckon with every day just taking a peek at a screen, just think — all of this started as a phone call to the police and a Facebook post from a distraught mother that was shared and shared, eventually branching out into a Facebook event and subsequent Facebook posts of photos showing smiling faces and strangers across town, the state, and the country sending virtual “beeps” on Facebook for Diego.

There is no need to be fearful, I said to myself. We can talk to each other. We can communicate with our neighbors.

At the end of the day, we all moved forward into the New Year by coming together and speaking to each other, face to face, and there is no better way to communicate than face to face, even with the advances of technology. It definitely beats Facebook, for all that it's worth, and it's definitely better than police intervention.

Diego and I wish to thank everyone for their support, whether they came out and held signs, drove by and beeped, or sent a Facebook beep our way. Fairhaven is a special town to live in, inhabited by some extraordinary, passionate people, and their infectious caring and love managed to turn this entire situation around into something positive for all involved. You all put the “face” in Facebook and for that I dedicate this to you, Fairhaven.

Editor's note: See our 12/15/16 issue, page 17 and from the editor.



Diego (holding the “Merry Christmas” sign) is surrounded by friends and acquaintances to show support for his pastime of waving to cars and soliciting honks from them after a neighbor called police. *Photo courtesy of Jean Perry.*

for I truly felt torn between the message of love and support that resounded from that afternoon and the annoying effects the beeping might have and probably did have on the neighbors who complained. But the next day when my doorbell rang, what resulted was the near perfect ending to a less-than-perfect situation.

The husband of the police-calling neighbor came over with a Christmas card in his hand. I was the first to speak.

“First, I'd just like to say...” He interrupted me, “You don't have to say anything.” He admitted that when he saw what transpired the day before he had to laugh.

It was kind of funny, he said, and watching from his window made him wish he could put on his Santa suit and come outside and join us. Alas, although he could not, here he was, and we both apologized and, without

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Kool Kids February Vacation

This 4 day program is a great opportunity to make new friends while participating in fun group activities, like basketball, dodge ball, tag and hockey. Kids need to bring lunch and a snack for the first 3 days of the program, Friday a pizza lunch will be served. Sneakers and active clothing must be worn each day of the program. Session starts: Tuesday February 21st -24th. Time: 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Cost \$100.00 for members / \$125.00 for non-members

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: 9-12 Date: January 31st
Instructor: Beth Oleson Time:
5:30-8PM

Cost \$45 members/\$50 non-
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Foxwoods Saturday, Jan 28th

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Mall Trips

1/11: Lunch @ Blount Soup Market and shopping at Burlington Coat Outlet (only 14 seats)
1/18: Providence Place Mall and Whole Foods
1/25: Hyannis Mall, Xmas Shop and Trader Joe's

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

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Special Activities

Healthy Cooking Class

Mondays at 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Starting February 27th and ending on April 3th At the Fairhaven Senior Center. These classes are sponsored by Coastline through the Harvard Pilgrim Health Care grant "Healthy Food for Every Age." Please call the Fairhaven COA to sign up to participate in this fun and informative program at 508-979-4029.

Weather Cancellations

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

PACE Assistance & Recertification Form/Fuel

The fuel assistance program starts in November for the 2016-2017 season. If you received fuel assistance last year you should have already received a renewal in the mail to be filled out. If you need help filling out the recertification form or a new

application for fuel assistance, call the Senior Center 508-979-4029 for an

Sewing Group

Come join the sewing Group. The group meets Monday afternoons: Jan. 9th and 23rd from 1-3:00 p.m. and Jan. 12th 19th 26th from 5:45 to 7:45p.m. at The Fairhaven Senior Center.

Project Bread

Get the food you need to stay healthy. Apply for SNAP/Food Stamps, Project Bread's Food Source Hotline offers free confidential screenings for SNAP/Food Stamps eligibility as well as assistance completing the application over the phone. Counselors are also available to help current recipients ensure you are receiving the maximum benefits. Call Today! 1-800-645-8333. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. & Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Special Hours for Seniors: Monday& Wednesdays 2 p.m.- 7 p.m.

Senior Single Supper Club

Will start up in January 2017 The first supper club will meet Jan. 3th at 4:00 p.m. Going forward the club will meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. Hope to see you all back.

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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Acushnet approves contracts for two top spots

By Beth David
Editor

The Acushnet Selectboard finalized the contract for new Town Administrator Brian Noble, and also hired Julie Hebert as town accountant. Ms. Hebert's appointment was announced at the 12/16 meeting.

Mr. Noble, 58, will receive \$120,000 including stipends. Ms. Hebert will receive \$86,000 per year.

The board also decided to hire an independent firm to audit the books.

Selectboard chairperson Garry Rawcliffe said he wanted to use a different firm to "close out the books" for the new accountant coming in.

Mr. Noble, however, questioned the move, saying that the current firm has experience with the town.

The board gave him the task of researching firms and costs and he will report back at a future meeting.

In another matter, the board did not issue a license change for South Main Street Enterprises, 14 So. Main Street, which is seeking an increase in the number of cars they are allowed to have on the lot. The company wants to put 10 cars across the street.

Selectboard member Kevin Gaspar said he was not comfortable increasing the number of cars on the license or with the addition of the lot across the street without more information.

He said the second location is at a three family tenement. He questioned where the tenants will park and

The board also held a moment of silence for all those lost in town in 2016

where snow would go.

He said the regular license was okay to pass, but not the extra 10 cars.

The board set a public hearing date of January 9, and abutters will be notified.

Allen Decker from the Buzzards Bay Coalition was on hand to get the paperwork signed for the land deal

that Town Meeting approved.

The town will use Community Preservation Act funds to help the BBC buy 11 acres on Hamlin Street. The town will own the Conservation Restriction on the property and it will be open to the public.

The BBC plans to make the property a public park, similar to The Sawmill property it also owns.

In other business, the board invited residents to send letters of interest to fill more than one vacancy on the Conservation Commission. The board will accept letters until the end of January. Mail letters to the Selectboard at Town Hall, 122 Main Street, Acushnet, MA 02743

The board also held a moment of silence for all those lost in town in 2016, just days after Joseph "JP" Lopes, 41, and his son Collin, 9, were killed by carbon monoxide poisoning in their home on 12/7. Acushnet also lost three-year-old Victoria "Tori" Varieur in a tragic accident when her father's car rolled down the driveway on October 31.

"We had great tragedies in Acushnet," said Mr. Rawcliffe.



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Our Lady's Haven joins in holiday fun



ABOVE: Christmas Carols filled the air in Our Lady's Haven's lobby during Fairhaven's Old-Time Holiday on the weekend of 12/10/16. Santa visited and took lots of pictures with children of all ages. Visitors enjoyed Christmas cookies and hot chocolate on a chilly afternoon...What a wonderful day! ALL OTHER PHOTOS: Our Lady's Haven enjoyed its annual Children's Christmas Party with our employees. Santa arrived on a Fairhaven Fire Engine and delighted over 50 children with wonderful surprises assisted by his elves. It is always a very special night at Our Lady's Haven while residents, employees and their children share the Christmas spirit with each other...Merry Christmas!!! *Submitted photos.*



Kmart in Fairhaven is closing

Sears Holdings has announced it will close 108 Kmart stores and 42 Sears stores this year. The Fairhaven Kmart is among those slated to be closed. The Kmart in So. Attleboro and the Sears Auto Center at on Swansea Mall Drive in Swansea will also be closed. All the Massachusetts announcements were made on 12/27.

In a statement, the company wrote: "Sears Holdings will continue to strategically and aggressively evaluate our store space and productivity, and accelerate the closing of some unprofitable stores as the company has previously announced. As such:

- On Wednesday, January 4, 2017, the company informed associates at 78

Kmart stores and 26 Sears stores that their stores would be closing this spring.

- On Tuesday, December 27, 2016, the company informed associates at 30 Kmart stores and 16 Sears stores that their stores would be closing this spring.

"The decision to close stores is a difficult but necessary step as we take actions to strengthen the Company's operations and fund its transformation. Many of these stores have struggled with their financial performance for years and we have kept them open to maintain local jobs and in the hopes that they would turn around. But in order to meet our objective of returning to profitability,

we have to make tough decisions and will continue to do so, which will give our better performing stores a chance at success. Eligible associates impacted by these store closures will receive severance and will have the opportunity to apply for open positions at area Kmart or Sears stores.

"Liquidation sales will begin as early as January 6 at all closing stores."

The Massachusetts stores will close at the end of March.

For a complete list of closing stores, visit http://searsholdings.com/docs/010417_store_closing_list.pdf

Academy gets painted

By Beth David
Editor

After Fairhaven Town Meeting rejected plans to use Community Preservation Act funds to shingle the Academy building, the Historical Commission got donations from two residents and had the building

painted.

The Selectboard officially accepted a donation of \$6,550 from Al Benac, and \$4,850 from Gail Isaksen for the project at its meeting on December 5.

"The Academy building has been a mainstay in this town for a number of years," said Mr. Benac.

He held a book signing there in 2007, he said.

"So it had a little personal touch for me," he said.

For some reason the west and south sides keep peeling, which is why the HC wanted to replace the painted wood with natural singles.

"I saw it deteriorating," said Mr. Benac. "I just could not stand it any longer."

Mr. Benac said he paid for the south side, and Ms. Isaksen paid for the west side, the two sides that keep peeling.



L-R: Before and after pictures of the Academy building, which houses the Fairhaven Visitors Center and Historical Society Museum. Photos courtesy of Al Benac.

ZBA: cont'd from page 3

be two according to the plans.

In the end, the board asked for the company to come back with studies on traffic flow, stormwater and some engineering aspects of the project.

Mr. Roth will work with the town's consultant on the project, attorney Paul Haverty, to draft guidelines for Stratford.

Mr. Haverty said the ZBA has 180 days to act on the proposal.

Waivers for the project include a multi-family facility in a single family district, exceeding maximum lot size coverage and building coverage, and side setbacks of five feet instead of 10 feet. The company is also looking for

a waiver on the stormwater regulations, requesting to use the Department of Environmental Protection standards because the town's local standards are more stringent.

Mr. Roth said in a follow-up interview that there has been a "lot of new technology" for stormwater control since the town bylaws were passed years ago.

The public hearing was continued to the next meeting on 2/7 at 6 p.m.

In other business, the ZBA approved a petition by Wayne and Linda Gallant, 357 Bridge Street, to build a home in the Nasketucket River Basin. A special permit is required to build in the NRB.

The board also approved a vari-

ance for Paul and Elaina Lentendre enabling them to divide their property at 80 Fir Street and build another house. The property, at about 72,000 square feet, is large enough to divide and create two conforming lots, which requires 30,000 sf minimum each. The existing house, however, is too close to the property line, at 11.9 feet, requiring a variance. The property owners plan to leave the existing house where it is and build a new house on another part of the property.

No one spoke for or against the proposal, but one neighbor did get clarification on where the new house would go. The owners said it will stay within the setback requirements.

Fairhaven Visitors Center & Historical Society Museum
Academy Building, 141 Main St. next door to Fairhaven High School
508-979-4085
M, T, Th, F: 8:00-noon & 12:30-4:30
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Iron Order of the Silent Few holds toy drive

From press release materials

The Fairhaven Chapter of the Iron Order of the Silent Few was founded in June, 2013. Since then the chapter has conducted a toy drive each December, and an annual June fundraiser for the Veterans Transition House in New Bedford.

Combined they have raised and donated almost \$50,000 in cash, toys, and food to these organizations in addition to our support of the Smiling Warrior, Matthew Rodriguez foundation.

The organization has never taken any money for operational expense.

"If you donate to our fundraiser you can rest assured EVERY cent, no matter the amount, will go to that organization," wrote member Norman Sargent in an email.

Roughly half the chapter was out in the cold and rain Saturday, 12/17, at the corner of Main Street and Howland Road (Coggeshall Street), in Fairhaven (thank you Fairhaven PD) "panhandling" so they could do one more shopping trip for toys.

The club donated a flatbed truck of toys and food on 12/18 to the Salvation Army.

"We all understand the 'visual' of 20 bikes riding by loaded with scraggly men in jeans and leather," wrote Mr. Sargent. "We merely want everyone to know



ABOVE AND TOP: Toys collected by the Iron Order of the Silent Few motorcycle club fill a flat-bed truck to transport to the Salvation Army on December 18. *Submitted photos.*

we are plumbers, truck driver, electricians, masons, laborers and Law enforcement. We want everyone to feel comfortable when we walk into your establishment with our 'colors' on, to feel free to come ask us about our club. We love and are very proud of our club and would love to speak to people about what we do."

For more information, visit the chapter's Facebook Page: "Iron Order Silent Few."

While we were gone

WI collects Toys for Tots



West Island Toys for Tots, spearheaded by Cathi and Bob Konicki, reached its goal of 250 toys this year. The toy drive is made in honor of Lance Cpl. Matthew Rodriguez, a Fairhaven Marine who was killed in Afghanistan on 12/11/13. "West Islanders and our fellow Fairhavenites once again showed their generosity. It is very much appreciated by Cathi and me," wrote Mr. Konicki in an email. ABOVE, L-R: Josh Benoit, Cathi Konicki, Eddie Freitas, and Bob Konicki pose for a shot at the Fairhaven Fire Department surrounded by toys collected for Toys for Tots. Mr. Freitas said the Fire Department will start collecting in honor of Lcpl. Rodriguez starting next year. The Toys for Tots program is run by the US Marines, visit www.toysfortots.org; to learn more about Lcpl. Rodriguez, visit www.thesmilingwarrior.org. *Submitted photo.*

HMS collects Toys for Tots



The National Junior Honor Society at Elizabeth Hastings Middle School conducted a toy drive for the Toys for Tots program run by the US Marine Corps. ABOVE, L-R: Lisa Cadima (NJHS Advisor), Allan Days (USMC), Jake Ozcan (NJHS VP), Caleb St. Pierre (NJHS Pres.), Don Leblanc (USMC), Margaret McSweeney (NJHS Advisor), with the toys collected at the school. *Submitted photo.*

Surprenant & Beneski names Sara Cunha Executive Director

Sara Cunha has joined the law office of Surprenant and Beneski, PC, as Executive Director.

"We are all very excited about her joining our team," the firm stated in an email.

"Although I am coming from a Human Resources background outside of the legal field, I am very excited and confident that the skills, experience and education I have will allow me to assist the firm in their growth and development," Ms. Cunha wrote in her bio.

She lives in New Bedford with her husband, Shawn, and her two-year-old son.

"Professionally, I have been a Human Resources Manager for the past six years and am excited to broaden my experience with the excellent staff here at the firm," wrote Ms. Cunha.

According to her bio, she has a Bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in HR Management from UMassDartmouth, and a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership



and a Graduate Certificate in Human Resource Management from Southern New Hampshire University.

"I look forward to understanding and analyzing the firm's practices and policies from a fresh perspective and assisting the team with growth and development as we make strides toward the firm's vision," wrote Ms. Cunha. "The team's legal expertise along with their desire to assist their clients is truly inspiring and I'm proud to be a member of the team."

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Sat., 1/7, NFL Wildcard, Detroit vs. Seattle, 8:15
Sun., 1/8, NFL Wildcard, Miami vs. Pittsburgh, 1 p.
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Legal ads are also available at
<http://masspublicnotices.org>, search for "Fairhaven Neighborhood News"

Town of Fairhaven Notice of Public Meeting Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Town will hold a Public Meeting on January 12, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall. The purpose of the meeting will be to take public input on the development of a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. This new plan is essential to the Town's efforts to improve emergency preparedness and identify ways to reduce or eliminate the impacts of natural hazards such as hurricanes, floods, and severe winter storms. This is the first meeting of an 8 month planning process. This meeting will be an overview of the entire planning process, followed by time for questions and general discussion. All members of the community are encouraged to attend and bring their local knowledge, concerns, and ideas to help Fairhaven become safer from natural hazards. For more information please contact Bill Roth, Director of Planning and Economic Development, at (508) 979-4082 Ext. 122 or billr@fairhaven-ma.gov.

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Fairhaven Meetings

Board of Appeals

Tues., 2/7, Town Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Board of Public Works

Mon., 1/9, Arsene St., 6 p.m.

Community Preserv. Com.

Thurs., 1/19, Town Hall, 6:30p.m.

Conservation Commission

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

Council on Aging

Mon., 1/9, Senior Center, 9 a.m.

Hazard Mitigation Planning

Thurs., 1/12, Town Hall, 1:30 p.m.

Hazard Mitigation Meeting

Thurs., 1/12, Town Hall, 3 p.m.

Planning Board

Tues., 1/10, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Rogers School Meeting

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

School Committee

Wed., 1/11, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 1/9, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Town Meeting D/L

Deadline for Town Meeting articles is January 12 at 4 p.m.

Acushnet Meetings

Selectboard

Mon., 1/9, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

Planning Board

Thurs., 1/26, Parting Ways, 6:30 p.m.

TIDE TABLE

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

	Jan. 2017	HIGH		LOW			
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.		
Thursday	5	0056	1317	0609	1835*	0142	1400
Friday	6	0151	1413	0722	1939*	0237	1458
Saturday	7	0248	1515	0829	2039*	0341	1608
Sunday	8	0352	1622	0942*	2144*	0455	1721
Monday	9	0454	1721	1100*	2249*	0558	1820
Tuesday	10	0547	1812	----	2346*	0651	1913
		----	----	----	1257*		
Wednesday	11	0636	1901	----	1358*	0743	2005
Thursday	12	0724	1951	0040*	1444*	0835	2058
Friday	13	0814	2042	0138*	1515*	0927	2149
Saturday	14	0903	2131	0232*	1543*	1016	2238
Sunday	15	0950	2219	0313*	1612*	1104	2327
Monday	16	1037	2308	0349*	1646*	1153	----
Tuesday	17	1128	----	0426	1646	0019	1244
Wednesday	18	0001	1220	0509	1728	0112	1336

*= 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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Notes from the Fairhaven Visitors Center

by Chris Richard
Director of Tourism

Greetings.

To make it easier for the public to find out what's going on at the Office of Tourism throughout the year, I am reviving an old idea by bringing back "Notes from the Visitors Center."

For a few years in the 1990s this was a weekly column I wrote for one of the local newspapers. This new version will be put out monthly. It will be posted at FairhavenTours.com, on the Facebook page of the Visitors Center, and — if I can keep it to 1,000 words — in the *Fairhaven Neighborhood News*. (Thanks, Beth David.) I'll use "Notes" to let you know what I've been doing in the past month, what's coming up, and how you might be able to take part one way or another. (128 words so far.)

The most recent event connected with the Office of Tourism was the 19th Old-Time Holiday, held on the second weekend in December. At the Town Hall Shops, 24 Fairhaven non-profit groups were set up, while elsewhere in the center there were holiday activities at the Millicent Library, the First Congregational Church, the Unitarian Memorial Church, Our Lady's Haven and Art on Center. There was a great turnout and everyone was in a festive mood.

Outdoors, there was a new booth where NFIA members braved the cold to serve up hot chowder and kale soup — a great addition to the event. Another new part was a nice book fair sponsored by Friends of the Millicent Library featuring 20 local authors selling, signing, and reading from their works.

Once that weekend was done, it was time to look ahead to 2017.

On the Office of Tourism website, FairhavenTours.com, the list of annual events for the new year was updated. Now, if you want to find out the date of the West Island Road Race or the Homecoming Day Fair or Manjiro Festival, it's all right there for you.

I should mention there's no charge for Fairhaven groups to list their upcoming events on the Tourism website. Email the information to FairhavenTours@fairhaven-ma.gov as early as possible. I try to have two months' worth of events posted at

any given time. But I can't list them if you don't send them in. The listings also get submitted to the press, included in some advertising, and shared on Facebook and Twitter. Did I mention it's FREE publicity?

The email address in the previous paragraph is a new one. The Office of Tourism first set up its own email address at AOL years before the Town Hall's fairhaven-ma.gov email existed.

In December, my office was provided with a new computer, Windows 10, and some software upgrades that give me a more direct connection to the Accounting and Treasurer's offices, among other things. As part of that upgrade I was assigned a couple of new email addresses. The old one at AOL will still work, too, and the messages will be forwarded, but if you email the Office of Tourism regularly, FairhavenTours@fairhaven-ma.gov is the one to use from now on.

...the Office of Tourism also sponsors several special events each year. These include the Old-Time Holiday, Harvest Fun Day, the July 4th ceremony at Fort Phoenix, the summertime Monday Morning Fun programs, and the new Haunted Academy at Halloween. Tourism also co-sponsors spring and fall historical encampments at the fort with the Fairhaven Village Militia.

Part of that computer upgrade allowed me to enter my FY18 Budget request directly into the system. The budget I'm asking for, which has yet to be reviewed by the Town Administrator's Budget Team and the Board of Selectmen, is just about the same as the current one as far as dollars, but I'm asking to be able to use some of those dollars in a different way. After salary/wages, the next largest budget item for me has been advertising/printing. Following that are a few much smaller amounts for phone service, internet, postage, and supplies. There's always been something missing from that budget, though.

As you probably know, the Office of Tourism also sponsors several special events each year. These include the Old-Time Holiday, Harvest Fun Day, the July 4th ceremony at Fort Phoenix, the summertime Monday Morning Fun programs at the Visitors

Center, and the new Haunted Academy at Halloween. Tourism also co-sponsors spring and fall historical encampments at the fort with the Fairhaven Village Militia. There has never been any money in the Tourism budget to cover expenses related to those events — equipment rental, porta-johns, fees to presenters and/or performers, etc. Those costs have always been paid using donations deposited in the Tourism Gift Account. That's not really a reliable way of funding regular operations. These are Town-sponsored public events. The Town should allocate money for them.

So instead of juggling funds from donations — which may or may not come in — I'm asking that \$1,500 be taken from the printing/advertising part of my budget and put instead into a "contracted services" line, which can be used to pay for some of the things needed to run special events and activities. If the Office of Tourism is fortunate enough to receive donations from businesses, non-profit groups, or the public, that money can be used to add new or extra things, but a "contracted services" line item in the regular budget would help the Office of Tourism keep sponsoring these popular annual events that are enjoyed by visitors and residents alike. I hope the administration and Town Meeting agree with me.

Last but not least, if you have any comments or suggestions for the Office of Tourism you can email me, call 508-979-4085, or stop by the Visitors Center, 141 Main Street. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with a half-hour break around noon. And if you'd like to volunteer to guide tours (free training provided), to act like a pirate or privateer at Fort Phoenix (again with the free training, but you'll need your own historically accurate costume), or help out with other Visitors Center activities, please raise your hand and step forward. (I had about 25 volunteers lend a hand or two with the Haunted Academy in October.)

Help our town put its best foot forward and have some fun while doing it.

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*Jevon, Lisa, Brittany, Brianne, Taylor, Jill,
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FRIDAY
FEB 3
8PM

THE ULTIMATE ELVIS TRIBUTE ARTIST EVENT

Dance BARE
At The Z

MAGICAL BODIES:

ART, TECHNOLOGY & TECHNIQUE

FREE! JANUARY 25

From NPR

THE MOTH

RADIO HOUR

CLOSE TO SELL OUT!

FEBRUARY 2

STAGE DOOR *Live!*

CARRIE RODRIGUEZ
JANUARY 26

Walnut Street Theatre presents

NEIL SIMON'S

LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS

FRIDAY
FEB 10
8PM

SHAWN MULLINS
MARCH 16