



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 16, Issue 1 • December 17, 2020

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

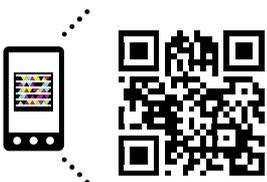


Now that's a tree... sort of...

A group of West Islanders filled with holiday spirit decided to build a nautical Christmas tree. Some places use buoys, and some use lobster traps, but this year, the members of the West Island Improvement Association got a load of oyster cages loaned to them for the cause, along with some buoys, floats and line. See page 12 for story.

LEFT: The oyster trap Christmas tree adorns the lawn of the West Island Improvement Association, 41 Causeway Road, Fairhaven.

Photo by
Margie Green Joseph.



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First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

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

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

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

From The Editor

WEST ISLAND —
A day late and many dollars short.

Well, here we are, the last issue of the year. And, next week is Christmas.

And, after that? 2020 ends.

It's been quite the year, hasn't it?

This is also issue one of our 16th year. Yup, we have completed 15 years of publication. I know, I know, it's not January. It doesn't matter, or, at least it's not supposed to. We publish 48 issues a year/volume. But, for some reason, there are a few years when we had 47 issues or 49. Go figure.

Anyway, the point is, we're still here, despite the craziness of this past year and the wild changes to the news industry over the past many years.

We can't do it without our advertisers AND our readers. The ads are just not enough. The donations from readers are not enough. But together, they get the job done. So, thank you for your past support, and please, if you like the local news we provide, please continue to donate.

This is indeed a tough year to get all warm and fuzzy about Christmas and all that goes with it, isn't it? So many of our traditions are not possible due to the pandemic.

We've been pretty creative, as a lot, using our technology to stay connected, and finding other ways to keep in touch. But it's not the same.

I for one am going to simply try to be grateful as long as I'm not totally sinking. There are so many hard stories out there now. This pandemic and the restrictions placed on businesses because of it have taken a huge toll.

So, let's all try to remember that even if people are working and seem to be doing okay, we're all just a little more stressed than usual, or even would be at this stressful time of year.

We're due some snow this week. I'm going to embrace the white wonder, and not complain about the shoveling. I'm going to walk among the trees and marvel at the snow and ice on the branches.

If it rains instead, I'm going to fire up my woodstove and stay inside and watch TV and each popcorn and drink wine.

Maybe I'll do some shopping and spend money I don't have on stuff I don't need.

I will try to enjoy the fact that I have no deadlines for two whole weeks.

Oops...did I fail to mention that our next issue isn't until 1/7/21? Good bye 2020. I see you in my rearview mirror already.

Until next year then...see ya
(from a distance)



Beth David, Publisher

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CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

We made an error in our story on the Benoit Square lighting. Ms. Parker counted down to one, but it was Ed Rose and Fred Raphael who flipped the switch to turn on the lights.

Also

Due to an editing error in our Fairhaven Selectboard story, two quotes by Town Administrator Mark Rees were actually from a 6/30 meeting and not the 12/7 meeting, included in the following section, "After an exchange with Mr. Freitas [on 6/30], Mr. Rees stated, 'For the record, I welcome this report.' He said he believed there were some 'disgruntled employees with their own agenda in their hand.'" Those quotes were not from the 12/7 meeting.

We apologize for any confusion our errors may have caused.

Support local journalism

No one does local like a local newspaper. And it does not get more local than the *Neighb News*. Any small amount will help. Just clip the coupon and send check or money order to *Fairhaven Neighborhood News*, 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719. Ask for a bumper sticker that says "I Support the *Neighb News*." And thank you for reading *the little paper with a big voice*.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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COVID-19 update: Governor warns about holiday gatherings

By Beth David

Editor

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker this week imposed new restrictions on businesses, and warned residents about holiday gatherings.

The state is experiencing a new surge in Coronavirus cases, prompting the state to open a field hospital in Worcester, and to urge residents to stay vigilant against the virus even as a vaccine has come online.

It will take months for everyone to be vaccinated, so people need to stay vigilant and continue to wear masks, practice physical distancing, and wash/sanitize hands frequently.

Gov. Baker said that the numbers showed a clear uptick in cases as a result of gatherings over the Thanksgiving holiday. He urged residents not to celebrate the holidays with anyone outside of their households.

For more information, visit www.mass.gov

The numbers

As of 12/10, Acushnet was still in the red with a total of 375 cases, 80 in the last 14 days (active), and a positive test rate of 7.02%.

Fairhaven has moved back to red, with 712 total cases, 160 in the last 14 days (active), and a positive test rate

of 47.19%.

Visit mass.gov “community-level data” to see the weekly health reports.

Testing Available

Acushnet, Fairhaven, and New Bedford all hold regular testing clinics for residents. See pages 5, 8, 9 for details. Free daily testing for all Mass. residents is available daily at the Whale’s Tooth Parking Lot in New Bedford, BY appointment. Call 401-654-4679 with questions; for other sites in NB, visit <https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/health-department/covid-19-resources-2/>

Fairhaven pursuing Complete Streets funding

By Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

Fairhaven residents will soon notice a new phrase added to the local lexicon: Complete Streets. It’s an important phrase because it will eventually come to represent an expansion of our ability to navigate our community via all modes of transportation more safely, be it driving, walking, traveling via wheelchair, or biking. What’s more, residents are encouraged to participate in the critical process of identifying which areas obstruct us in our journey getting safely from Point A to Point B and beyond.

Fairhaven Director of Planning & Economic Development Paul Foley is spearheading the effort to secure funding for the town to tackle its transportation trouble spots and make Fairhaven more accessible in various ways.

Mr. Foley has already secured a grant to employ a consultant, Green International Affiliates, Inc. (Green), to help the town draft a Complete Streets Policy and Prioritization Plan for Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) approval, which will make Fairhaven eligible for further grants of up to \$400,000 a year as part of the state’s Complete Streets Program.

What are “complete streets?” Smart Growth America, a national non-profit that advocates for making communities safe, accessible, and livable for all, says complete streets “are streets for everyone,” designed and constructed for safety, comfort, and efficiency.

A complete street is unique to the needs of individual communities but

can include sidewalks, bike lanes, accessible public transportation stops, safe crossing junctions, and sometimes speed roundabouts, pedestrian crossing signals, radar speed signs, median strips, lighting, and even benches — things that make moving about safer, more enjoyable, and more convenient for all travelers.

Since it started in 2016, the Complete Streets Funding Program has awarded \$46 million for 148 construction projects as of the beginning of 2020. This year the program awarded \$8.1 million to 24 communities in Massachusetts.

This is your opportunity to grumble and gripe on a legitimate platform about what gets your goat while traversing the public ways of Fairhaven.

Fairhaven has joined the now 249 municipalities that have registered with MassDOT to begin the Complete Streets process, which starts with a Tier 1 Training and Policy Plan, followed by a Tier 2 Prioritization Plan. These two processes are now underway for Fairhaven, and in April 2021, the town will submit these two plans for approval to enter into Tier 3, Project and Construction Funding.

“We wanted the Fairhaven residents ... and businesspeople to be aware of what’s going on and where to find additional information,”

said Bill Scully, vice-president of Green, on December 8 during a Google Teams meeting with the *Neighb News* and Green engineer Jayson Gauvin.

The two Green consultants have begun their fieldwork, research and data collection studies, taken an initial inventory, and are meeting with Mr. Foley and Fairhaven department heads to target specific areas of concern. Still, public input is essential in the process.

On the Planning Board website, Mr. Foley has created a special page for the Complete Streets Funding Program, which includes a link to a wikimap survey where residents can pin specific locations and place a comment on the problem and a possible solution.

For example, if there is a particular intersection or street that is difficult to cross due to low visibility or high-speed traffic, you can mark it down. If there is a place with a situation that makes walking, using a wheelchair, or biking difficult, you can tell them.

“We do focus on some of the major roads in town in terms of our fieldwork,” said Mr. Scully. “We really start with openness. The goal is to make other modes of travel, like walking, biking, use of public transit, more accessible and safer — other travel choices besides just hopping in your car and driving somewhere.”

Mr. Scully said the Training and Policy Plan is nearly done, so the focus is now on devising a plan of action with specific projects in mind to submit for approval so the town can go after the big bucks to enact the plan.

The team will consult with the

STREETS: cont’d next page

STREETS: cont'd from page 3

Department of Public Works, the Police and Fire Department, the School Department, and the Bikeway Committee, said Mr. Scully, "And we're trying to gather all that information now and identify the issues."

But public input is crucial, he added, because the town needs to list at least 15 potential projects to make Fairhaven streets complete streets. This process must conclude in time for the April 1 deadline to submit both plans for approval.

The best part about the money is that it is essentially "free" money. The town isn't required to match any funding for any of the grants. The only requirement is that the town completes the projects within a relatively short timeframe, which is

why some of those "low hanging fruit" projects — ones that are obvious and relatively easy to accomplish — will be included on the list.

Notice a street near a school that should have a crosswalk or pedestrian lighting but doesn't? Suggest it. Do you live in elderly or low-income housing and see a need for a public transit shelter? Suggest it. All comments and results from the online wikimap tool will be considered, Mr. Scully said.

"We really want to get the word out," said Mr. Scully. "It's a great program, I think, one of the better programs the state has come up with.... They really are trying to get the funds out and get the projects implemented. They want the projects done."

"Hopefully, the number of comments and feedback will increase as people hear about the program," said Mr. Gauvin. "We can't do it all (on our own). That feedback is definitely very useful for us to make sure we capture as many issues as we can."

Unfortunately, a tunnel beneath the harbor linking Fairhaven and New Bedford isn't an option (Believe me, I asked), but you know what they say about the proverbial squeaky wheel...

Fairhaven residents: Forget about the futile Facebook complaining and visit www.fairhaven-ma.gov/planning-board/pages/complete-streets. This is your opportunity to grumble and gripe on a legitimate platform about what gets your goat while traversing the public ways of Fairhaven. Your whining is welcome there.

BPW votes on fine for water meter tampering

By Mary Macedo

Neighb News Correspondent

At its meeting on Monday 11/30 the Fairhaven Board of Public Works discussed landscaper/contractor permit fees for the recycling center for 2021, voted on a water meter tampering policy, and briefly discussed the process for the BPW to take over the Tree Department.

The board first met with professional landscaper Matt Paulson who was concerned about the increase in fees for the recycle center. He said he heard the fee could go as high as \$500 and he and many other landscapers in town were wondering why.

Mr. Paulson said with COVID restrictions, it has been hard to get to the recycling center. He thought maybe they would get money fees discounted, not raised.

BPW Superintendent Vinnie Furtado explained that at this time of year they always discuss raising fees and the board felt like they had to raise all the permit fees, not just the landscaper fee because the recycling center did not bring in enough money to cover the costs of running it. The board felt the landscaper increase would be fair because it is a one-time fee whereas other municipalities charge by the load.

Mr. Paulson agreed that a one-time fee is cheaper and said that he understands raising the costs. His issue, he said, is that center's hours are inconvenient. He has to wait until the next day sometimes because it

closes too early.

Vice-Chairperson Robert "Hoppy" Hobson said he pushed to extend the recycling center hours on Wednesdays in the winter, and they would love to have it open every day, but the town needs a new recycling center first. He said there is not enough room and the town is not making enough money to hire an employee to work there full-time.

Mr. Furtado explained that the fees only cover the cost of operating the recycling center.

Mr. Hobson said he understood that waiting can mess up the jobs for the next day. Board member Frank Coelho agreed, stating that when they relocate the recycling center they will, hopefully, be able to expand the hours of operation.

Mr. Paulson suggested in the future possibly allowing out-of-town landscapers to purchase a permit, but at a higher price. Mr. Furtado said there is not enough capacity now, but when the town expands the center there might be.

Chairperson Brian Wotton suggested they consider keeping the center open for an extra 45 minutes for contractors only, when they discuss spring hours.

In another matter, Mr. Furtado announced that he received new information about the BPW independent study an hour before the meeting. He received a detailed plan from the engineering company explaining the different areas the

company would be evaluating to help the BPW save money.

Mr. Furtado gave each board member the information, but the did not have time to read it before the meeting. Mr. Furtado explained that there are quite a few areas in the plan that he feels are not necessary to be included in the study. The plan the company proposed would cost \$23,200. Mr. Furtado said he thought the scope of the plan should be smaller.

"Where are we going to get the money," Mr. Hobson asked, and suggested getting a grant.

Mr. Furtado said they would have to put an article in at Town Meeting.

Board member Marcus Ferro asked Mr. Furtado if he thought the study was worth it.

Mr. Furtado said he did not think it was worth it to do a \$23,000 study, but possibly do a scaled down study. He said the BPW is not wasting money because there are rules and laws about town spending, but there might be small ways they could be saving money in some areas.

The board will discuss it at another meeting.

Mr. Furtado also presented two water meter tampering policies to be voted on. Policy A would define what tampering means, and imposes a \$1,000 fine to anyone who tampers with a water meter resulting in a reduced water bill.

Policy B would state everything

BPW: cont'd on page 22

AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Santa Parade

Sat., 12/19 (rain date 12/20), beginning at 1 p.m. Sponsored by the North Fairhaven Improvement Association. Come Out to Welcome Santa and Mrs. Claus as they drive through town in an Old Fire Truck.

NORTH FAIRHAVEN START 1:00 PM

- * Oxford School
- * East on Howland Road
- * North on Alden Road
- * South on Main Street
- * East on Route 6
- * North on Adams Street
- * East on Howland Road
- * South on Alden Road to Bridge St.

EAST FAIRHAVEN

- * East on Bridge Street
- * South on New Boston Rd to Rt 6
- * South on Gillette Street
- * West on Hill Street
- * South on Brooke Drive
- * North on Brooke Drive
- * West on Hill Street
- * South on Evergreen Street
- * West on Stephen Street
- * North on Hamlet to Rt 6

SCONTICUT NECK TO WEST ISLAND

- * South on Scanticut Neck Road
- * East on Goulart Memorial Drive
- * Over the Causeway
- * North on Fir Street
- * West on Bluepoint Street
- * South on Almond Street
- * West over Causeway
- * North on Scanticut Neck to Rt 6

CENTER/FORT

- * From Route 6
- * West on Washington Street
- * South on Green Street
- * North on Fort Street
- * West on South Street
- * North on Main Street
- * East on Center Street
- * North on Pleasant Street
- * East on Washington Street
- * North on Adams Street
- * END Oxford School

Find a spot and get ready: Santa Claus is coming to Town!

Holiday Party

Join us for Faithaven TV's **Home for the Holidays virtual holiday party on Fri., 12/18, 5 p.m. FREE for all ages. Online only event.**

Featuring live interactive show: Join in on the fun via Zoom. Chat with Santa on a virtual call LIVE from the North Pole! Also featuring holiday trivia, stories, magic tricks and surprises. Hosted by "New England's Favorite Magician," Todd Migliacci. Fun for the whole family, whatever you celebrate!

For more information and to watch online, visit fairhaventv.com/homefortheholidays

Snow Park Ban

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

COVID Testing

The Fairhaven Fire/EMS department, in cooperation with the Fairhaven Board of Health, will be offering a FREE Covid Test Clinic **EVERY SATURDAY** for Fairhaven residents and town employees until further notice. Next Date: **Sat., 12/19, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Fairhaven Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Ave. WALK-IN ONLY, NO appointments.**

WCVB To Remain

Comcast and WCVB TV Channel 5 have reached an agreement that

keeps the station in the Fairhaven lineup. Marc Goodman, Comcast Cable Spokesperson, sent this statement on Tuesday, 12/15: "We have come to an agreement with the owners of WCVB that will allow Comcast to offer the station in the same manner as we have in the past. As a result, WCVB will remain on our channel lineup in Providence. We are notifying customers about this update today." (Fairhaven is in the Providence Designated Market Area.)

Plunge canceled

Usually, by this time, we would be working on plans for the Ft. Phoenix Polar Plunge. Unfortunately, we have canceled the New Year's Day plunge due to COVID-9 concerns.

As you know, the net proceeds from the plunge go to scholarships for high school students. We will still be awarding scholarships, so we need your help.

If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to DFS Polar Plunge, 100 Cedar St., Fairhaven, MA 02719.

News Survey

We've always believed that excellent coverage of local communities, government and events makes a community healthier and more connected. A new, free community-oriented online news source for New Bedford and neighboring communities called New Bedford Light is exploring early development.

New Bedford Light, led by an all-volunteer committee, would like you to share your opinion (i.e. topics of importance, preferred news sources, etc.) as they begin to shape their publication.

We encourage you to complete the brief survey at <https://s.surveypplanet.com/HktnGUavq>

Turkey Talk

their way across our streets and through our yards. I have counted three males in this group of about 22 birds.

The only reason that they are choosing to join our populated areas is FOOD. There are several of our residents that are placing food in their yards to feed this flock. I realize that they are doing this because they care about them but in the long run

they are hurting our feathery friends.

Their mating season will happen in the next several weeks and when this happens the males will become very territorial. They will turn aggressive towards each other as well on anyone that they see as a threat.

As many of you can remember a few years ago MassWildlife had to

TURKEY: cont'd on page 8

APPLICATION FORMS ARE NOW READY!



Local fresh farm produce, art, crafts, photography, foods, upcycled goods, antiques, collectibles

- The season will run from May 22 through September 18, 2021
- Minimum requirement of four dates during the season
- No fee for booth space (food vendors may need to pay for Board of Health permit)
- Full season vendors will keep same space from week to week

Download Application Form at <https://FairhavenTours.com/huttleston-marketplace>



Huttleston Marketplace

141 Main Street at Route 6 Fairhaven, MA

FairhavenTours@fairhaven-ma.gov
508-979-4084

FairhavenTours.com/huttleston-marketplace



Animal shelter giving tree showcases wish list

From the Fairhaven Animal Shelter Facebook page

"This year things look a little different. Some of you may remember our giving tree that we do every year. We usually have the Christmas Tree inside the shelter that has tags on it with items that the shelter needs. This year we have moved the giving tree outside!

"The trunk is lit with Christmas lights as part of #lightupsouthcoast with FUN 107 and hanging from the tree is tags with items that we need as donations.



"Please come by and take a tag and when you purchase that item you can leave that item by the front door.

"We are still closed to the public due to the pandemic, when you leave it by the front door one of our staff members will bring it inside when they come to take care of the animals.

"Thank you so much for everyone who has made 2020 a little brighter for our animals, with all of the donations of bleach, paper towels, and all of the monetary donations due to the medical treatments our animals have required. We could not do what we do without the support from the community."

In a follow up post, the shelter posted that in just a little more than 24 hours, 37 tags were taken and a lot of items donated.

The shelter, and the tree, are located at 200 Bridge Street, Fairhaven. Call 508-979-4028. Visit <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/animal-officer> or find them on Facebook.



ABOVE: The Fairhaven Animal Shelter's 2020 giving tree is outside this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, and has numerous pieces of paper suspended with line, each with the name of an item on the shelter's wish list. LEFT: Items from the Fairhaven Animal Shelter's wish list are dropped off after benefactors used the giving tree's individual lists to find out what the shelter needed. Photos courtesy of the Fairhaven Animal Shelter.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wishing everyone a joyous holiday!
May 2021 bring you good health and happiness.
See you in the Spring!



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS



The Board of Directors,
Management and Staff would
like to wish you and your family
a wonderful Holiday Season
and a very Happy New Year!



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
Sat: 8:00-noon & 12:30-4:30
<http://FairhavenTours.com>
facebook <http://facebook.com/FairhavenTours>
twitter <http://twitter.com/FairhavenTours>



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 NMLS # 422864

TURKEY: cont'd from page 5 respond to our town several times to deal with the two males that were attacking young children that were walking to school. One had to be relocated and unfortunately the other was euthanized.

I do not want to have a repeat of that outcome this time. The only way

to achieve this is for all of us to join together as a community and stop giving them a reason to enter our residential areas. They have or will become dependent on humans and will lose the ability to find their own food sources as well.

In closing I ask all of the people in our wonderful town to please STOP

FEEDING WILDLIFE.

As I always tell people "Keep wildlife wild."

Thank you and I want to thank all of you for your continued support of our animal shelter. We could not operate without your help.

Sincerely Animal Control Officer Terry Cripps and our staff.

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

NB COVID testing

Free daily testing for all Mass. residents is available at the Whale's Tooth Parking Lot, 532 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford, every day (appointment is required), 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; call 401-654-4679 with questions; for other sites in NB, visit <https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/health-department/covid-19-resources-2/>

SAVE THE DATE:

Moby-Dick Marathon

Join us for the 25th anniversary of the annual readathon of America's most iconic novel, *Moby-Dick*. An experience you don't want to miss, you'll relive the famous, action-packed narrative and be transported back in time on the search for the elusive white whale.

This year's marathon will be a bit different than past years with a majority of our activities being virtual. Rest assured, you'll still be drawn in by the drama and excitement of the chase, and there will be plenty of opportunities to dive a bit deeper into the context of the story and its many derived meanings.

We are currently re-imagining all aspects of the Marathon. Details and schedule of events will be posted as they are finalized. Live streaming of the Marathon begins January 9 and ends January 10. Visit <https://www.whalingmuseum.org/programs/2021-moby-dick-marathon/>

Walk of Stars

Community Nurse Home Care, Inc (CNHC) is shining a light on positive people and organizations of the Southcoast and remembering those we lost. Members of the community purchased stars for the display to honor people they were grateful for or would like to remember during this holiday season.

The display is located at Wings Court in downtown New Bedford (honor and memorial) and Commu-

nity Nurse's Fairhaven Office Memorial Garden (memorials only) through January 4, 2021. Visitors will find honor stars adhered to the walkway and memorial star ornaments hung in the trees.

Throughout the holidays, visitors can stroll at their leisure through the Walk of Stars and enjoy the stars — on the paths, in the trees and in the sky. Information about the honorees and remembrances are available on the website from now until the display is complete. Visitors are welcome to leave comments, thoughts of gratitude and remembrance on the website to share. Visit www.communitynurse.com/stars.

Winter Wonderland

Visit Wing's Court and Custom House Square in New Bedford's downtown for two installations for the holidays. Features snowmaking machine at Custom House Square with hills for children to slide on, ice curling; art installations; a fire pit at Wing's Court on Friday and Saturday nights; lights and images projected onto the Star Store building, and holiday music.

Holiday Lights

The Clasky Common Park is all lit up for the season. So are the other parks in neighborhoods throughout New Bedford. Although COVID-19 restrictions meant the city had to cancel the usual events surrounding the lightings, the lights themselves have NOT been canceled. So take a ride or a walk and enjoy the lights.

Virtual Concerts

Holiday Pops, Sun., 12/19

Our virtual concert will include our magnificent New Bedford Symphony Orchestra musicians performing your holiday favorites at festive locations around the South Coast, Music Director Yaniv Dinur and South Coast Chamber Artistic Director Janice

Weber performing a piano piece for 4 hands, a show-stopping performance by the Showstoppers, the entire orchestra in a joyful performance of Sleigh Ride, and soprano Elena Shaddow, a rising star of stage and screen, singing holiday songs with Yaniv's virtual accompaniment! We might even throw in some ugly Christmas sweaters...

Tickets are \$10 per household. All ticketed patrons will receive an email on December 19 containing instructions and a private link for access on YouTube. The concert will premiere at 4pm, then you will have access to this link for 30 days and may view as often as you wish

For tickets: <https://zeiteriontheatre.secure.force.com/ticket/#/instances/a0Ff400000JKfDIEAL>

A Christmas Carol

Now Streaming

Experience the Zeiterion holiday tradition – reimagined as a small cast version – from the comfort of home. With eight cast members, Ebenezer Scrooge takes us on a life-changing journey to discover the true meaning of Christmas. Filled with stunning Victorian costumes, festive music and crisp, wintry sets, A Christmas Carol is a beautiful reminder that love and generosity are the heart of the Christmas holiday.

Visit <https://zeiterion.org/christmas-carol-virtual/> for tickets. Be sure to use code C-NEWBEDFORD at check-out in the Coupon/Flexpass field. Your sale will support The Z and you'll receive \$1 off!

Bamboo for the Zoo

Community Bamboo Program. On June 4th, the BPZOO welcomed the first red panda cub to be born here in its 126 year history! Congratulations to first time parents - Marie and Jacob

Many of our animals, including elephants and red pandas, love eating

HAPPS: cont'd next page

STILL OVERTOWN

many species of bamboo. Our animals may consume over 200 pounds of vegetation daily. As a result, we are always seeking donations of bamboo from private landowners that we can harvest for our animals.

If you are interested in donating cut bamboo to the Buttonwood Park Zoo from your property, please fill out the form at the link below. We are more than happy to cut and transport the bamboo, just provide us a little more information!

Visit <https://www.bpzoo.org/support/ways-to-give/community-bamboo-program/> Buttonwood Park Zoo, 425 Hawthorn St New Bedford, MA 02740, Zoo Telephone: (508) 991-6178; Zoo Society Telephone: (508) 991-4556. Website: www.bpzoo.org

Pop-Up COVID Test

The City of New Bedford will offer – for a limited time – drive-up COVID-19 testing for New Bedford residents at the New Bedford Regional Airport parking lot beginning Tuesday,

December 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tests are free and no appointment is required. Testing is expected for 5-10 days, depending on test kit supplies and individuals tested per day.

Due to anticipated inclement weather, there will NOT be testing at the Airport testing site on Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

Testing will resume based on the progress of storm recovery efforts. Residents should monitor the City's website www.newbedford-ma.gov and local media for announcements

HAPPENINGS/OTHER LATITUDES

Acushnet pre-Christmas Testing

The Town of Acushnet will be offering its residents a pre-Christmas Covid testing opportunity. On Wed., 12/23, from 1–7 p.m. the Fire and EMS Department will be at the Elementary School gymnasium offering the antigen “rapid” test. Results will be made available in 10 minutes.

“This pre-Christmas testing clinic is similar to the one we held the day before Thanksgiving. Over 500 people were tested at that time with 15 positive cases identified,” said Acushnet Fire Chief Kevin Gallagher. “Those folks received their results directly from me by phone and stated that they would do the right thing. We consider that a success.”

Individuals testing negative receive a text with their result before the end of the clinic.

The town recommends that residents follow public health guidelines and limit contact with people outside of their household members during the holidays.

The Acushnet Board of Selectmen has made Covid testing a top priority for the use of federal CARES funds the town has received. The uses of those funds expires on December 31st. Acushnet officials hope Washington passes a new funding package to continue testing into the new year.

“These local testing clinics are an important part of a community's response to the pandemic. The public safety departments of Acushnet and Fairhaven are rolling up their sleeves to do the work. We need Congress to do the same,” stated Chief Gallagher.

FAYB Tree Sale

Fairhaven Acushnet Youth Baseball Christmas Tree Fund-raiser, Pope Park Champions Field, Acushnet. Mon.–Fri., 5–9 p.m.; Sat. & Sun., Noon–9 p.m., (check FAYB Facebook page for changes in schedule). Featuring trees, wreaths, hot cocoa, cookies, and more. Pictures with Santa at home plate on Saturday and Sunday (only).

Accepting cash or check only. Masks required. Practice social distancing.

WGBH Celtic Sojourn

Celebrate the holiday season with *A Christmas Celtic Sojourn* Dec. 15-20. Virtual Event. Standard event pass: \$52.50 For tickets, visit: <https://www.christmasceltic.com>

Celebrate the holiday season and entertain your family and friends virtually with

Our incredible roster of musicians, singers and dancers from around the world have been hard at work preparing for our virtual shows. Enjoy poetry, sing-alongs, recipes and our treasured Christmas Celtic ensemble.

Act now to secure your seats! GBH members receive 20% off tickets. Enter promo code: GBHCCS20 to get your discount. Don't miss this chance to score some holiday savings on your *A Christmas Celtic Sojourn* tickets. Like us on Facebook for the latest updates

Snow Park Ban/ Acushnet

By vote of Town Meeting, parking

is restricted as follows: in water district, parking allowed opposite side of hydrants, out of water district, parking allowed north side of street running east and west; and, parking allowed on west side of streets running north and south.

Violators subject to being towed away at owner's expense. (Authority, Article 17, March 11, 1970 Annual Town Meeting, which adopted Chapter 40, Section 22D of the General Laws.) Parking restriction is from November 25, 2020 to April 15, 2021. *Acushnet Selectboard: Kevin Gaspar, Sr., David Desroches, David E. Wojnar*

Festival of Lights Drive-Thru Only

The Middleborough Tourism Committee will be hosting its 7th Annual Festival of Lights on Dec. 19 and 20 from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Boston/Cape Cod KOA, 438 Plymouth St, Middleborough, MA. Unlike previous years, 2020 will be a drive-thru only event.

Choose your date and buy a ticket at <https://www.eventbrite.com> (search for Festival of Lights Drive-Thru). **\$5 per vehicle when purchased online, \$10 per vehicle when purchased at the gate.** Attendees only need to purchase 1 ticket per carload. Tickets are only good for the date purchased. Please bring a copy of your ticket or have it available on the Eventbrite app.**

Drive through acres decorated with over 500,000 lights including the all new Candy Cane Forest and Reindeer Row. Bring your own drinks and snacks, and tune into your favorite radio station with holiday music from the warmth of your car.

Recipe of the Week

White Chocolate Truffles

1/2 c. plus 9 tablespoons heavy cream, divided
 1 (11-ounce) bag, plus 3 cups, white chocolate chips, divided
 2 oz. cream cheese, at room temp
 32 Speculoos cookies.shortcrust biscuits (such as Biscoff), finely crushed (2 1/2 cups crumbs)
 Holly sprinkles, for decorating
 Heat 1/2 cup cream in a med. saucepan over low heat until bubbles form around edges, 1 to 2 mins; remove from heat. Add 11-oz bag of chips and let sit 2 minutes; whisk until smooth. Whisk in cream cheese. Fold in cookie crumbs until combined. Transfer to a bowl and chill until firm, 2 hours+.

Line rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Roll mixture into tablespoon-sized balls; transfer to baking sheet. Freeze until firm, 35 to 40 minutes.

Microwave remaining 9 tablespoons cream and 3 cups chips in a microwave-safe bowl on high 1 min. Whisk until smooth. Dip truffles in melted chocolate, tapping off excess, and place on a prepared baking sheet. Immediately place a holly sprinkle on top; let set.

From countryliving.com

Fairhaven's Community Electricity Aggregation to change suppliers

Press Release

The Fairhaven Community Electricity Aggregation (CEA) is the town's program to provide competitive choice for electricity to our residents and businesses. The Fairhaven CEA program is part of a 25-community electricity buying group, active since January 2016.

In January 2021, Fairhaven CEA will change electricity suppliers from Public Power to Constellation NewEnergy. You will see a notice in your January 2021 Eversource electricity bill, which will arrive in February.

The new default program rate is \$0.10865 per kilowatt hour (kWh) fixed for 36 months (January 2021 through December 2023) and now includes 10% more renewable electricity than required by state law. This is a slight increase over the current rate.

Fairhaven CEA will also offer two optional electricity rates with more renewable electricity than required by state law and one option that only

meets the state requirements, which is the same level as what customers are enrolled in now.

No action is needed to remain in the program on the new default option (Local Green 10%). If you prefer a higher or lower percentage of clean electricity, visit the program website masscea.com/Fairhaven or call Constellation NewEnergy at 833-461-0813. More information about the program can be found on the website as well.

If you have questions about the program, you can contact Town Hall at 508-979-4023 or you can contact Good Energy directly and leave a message with your name and phone number at 844-627-7232. A representative will call you within 24 hours, Monday to Friday.

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DaCunha's Dispatches



News from high school in the age of COVID

By Elizabeth DaCunha

Special to the Neigh News

Hello to all of my readers! For the past couple of weeks I've been giving you the inside look at hybrid learning from a student's perspective. This week, I decided to switch things up a bit, and interviewed staff at Fairhaven High School to uncover their thoughts on hybrid learning, and how COVID has affected their jobs.

The first question I asked was for their opinion on the effectiveness of hybrid learning.

I spoke to Tara Kohler, the district's assistant superintendent, who told me, "We were given certain parameters from the state and worked within that. In hindsight, we could always do better, and will work to improve as we proceed."

"I personally like it," said a science teacher. "Students have been wanting change for as long as I have been teaching, and I think that a hybrid model is a way that many students can access their education, while having flexibility in their schedule."

Another valuable point made by several teachers is that both educators and students are now forced to use technology and learn new computer skills that will help them in their future.

Mr. McNeil shared his thoughts as well: "The hybrid model of education does afford us the chance to meet

with students, to follow up with work assigned during the remote learning week, but it still remains a challenge for course loads have doubled. And health and safety remain a concern during this, a time of rising rates of infection."

"From an educator's perspective, I do think students' education is suffering," said Mr. Foster. "That being said, I know for a fact that all teachers are working extremely hard to provide the best education we can for our students under these circumstances."

Another teacher felt that kids' learning is suffering, but added, "However, there are some silver

This has forced students to be much more independent and accountable for their own learning [FHS teacher]

linings. This has forced students to be much more independent and accountable for their own learning. This has also forced students to improve their 'time management' skills."

Mr. McNeil wanted to mention that not only are the teachers putting in a great deal of effort to make this new learning model work, but so are the students, who, he said, "work diligently to understand the work and complete the tasks assigned during remote learning."

I think it's safe to say that no matter how excellent a learning plan provides work for students, there will never be a perfect education system, especially when there's a pandemic going on around us.

Not only are students making adjustments, but so are teachers,

facing changes at work.

One teacher said she had to "revamp" some of her teaching methods.

Mr. McNeil reflected on his first few months of teaching during a pandemic, saying, "Ancillary materials, suggested by the state DESE [Department of Elementary and Secondary Education], have not helped in my area of study."

Mr. Foster, who had to start teaching health again after 15 years of instructing physical education, has also had to make adjustments that he says have, "ultimately made me a better teacher."

For example, "I have more classes that I need to keep track of for both in person and hybrid weeks," he said.

As assistant superintendent, Ms. Kohler has had to implement the safety guidelines provided to ensure safety throughout the school district.

"This includes weekly meetings with the state, reading updates to laws and regulations, and many health updates and advisories," she said. "I have to monitor and implement new protocols."

There's hope that the hybrid model will be improved upon, and I asked for teachers to share what improvements they would like to see.

Several teachers said they would like to have more contact with students, or even offer different learning options in the future that could include remote learning along with traditional in-school education.

One staff member said that he would like to see students get the total school experience, including extracurricular activities, which is what I will be discussing in my next article.

As always, stay safe, and stay tuned for the next DaCunha's Dispatches!



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Oyster cage Christmas tree adorns WIIA lawn

Submitted by Jill Souza

Having been an event planner for many years, I have decorated thousands of Christmas trees.... but none as unique as our first West Island Oyster Trap Tree! I have had a hard time getting into the spirit this year and was inspired after seeing a similar tree erected in Rockland, Maine and wanted to do the same on our island.

It would have not been possible without the generous donation from the owner of West Island Seafood. He allowed us to borrow dozens of his traps, netting and rope.

Also big thanks to Hoppy for his

donation of floats, buoys, netting and more to make the tree decorated.

I was able to secure holly bush sprigs from a neighbor on Route 6 and greenery from Kenny's Garden Center.

It was truly a Hallmark Christmas kind of day with friends and neighbors showing up to help build, string lights, decorate and pass out cookies. The tree will be illuminated every night if people would like to come and take a photo on the bench in front.

I hope everyone enjoys our little island installation.

Happy Holidays to all. And please think of volunteering when it comes time to take it down and return all our borrowed items in January!



LEFT: Volunteers arrange oyster cages in the shape of a Christmas tree last week on the lawn of the West Island Improvement Association in Fairhaven. RIGHT: The oyster cage Christmas tree on the lawn of the West Island Improvement Association in Fairhaven is adorned with colorful buoys, netting and floats. *Photos by Margie Green Joseph.*

Christmas lights are up and running all over the region

Christmas lights are up and running at homes and businesses all over the region. Taking a ride in the early evening just after sunset is a perfect COVID safe activity, and it will get you into the holiday mood. I wasn't able to get a lot of pictures this year, and I apologize to Acushnet for not getting any pictures of homes there. But please be sure to ride up Main Street and take a detour along Margaret Street (off Hathaway Road). I got a tip that it's a spectacular display. In Fairhaven, Mark Robillard has continued his tradition of using hundreds of thousands of lights at his property at 35 Gellette Road (or is that 39...don't worry, you'll see it), and the big house on Route 6 near Welcome Street is as fun as ever. Please do NOT stop on Route 6. The lights at Benoit Square in Fairhaven are on, as are the lights at the Acushnet Fire Station and at Clasky Common Park in New Bedford. Although many places had to scale back their activities (no singing or sitting on Santa's lap), the local elves were happy to continue the work of setting up the lights for all to see. So be sure to drive around and discover their work. It's fun, free, and COVID safe. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays to all our faithful readers. RIGHT ABOVE: This display on Gellette Road in Fairhaven uses hundreds of thousands of lights. RIGHT BELOW: The neighbors on Staffon Road go all out to make their little street a Christmas wonderland. *Photos by Beth David.*



Well...you don't see this every day

MORE PHOTOS
ON PAGE 18

By Beth David
Editor

Bob Davis remembers the house on Wilbur Point as a fun summer place where everyone got together when his grandmother lived there during the summer. Built in 1952 by his parents with his grandparents' money, the little house at 905 Sconticut Neck Road floated about 100 feet off its designated spot in the hurricane of 1954. They moved it back.

"And it never moved again," said Mr. Davis. "Until now."

He and his wife are planning to live full time at the address, and the little cottage was just not suitable for that.

So, they weighed their options, including addition and demolition. But their contractor also came up with a third plan: Pick it up and move it to a lot on West Island, where another person needed a house.

"Most of the family is happy that grandma's house will still be there," said Mr. Davis, even though "there" is a different place. He noted, though, you can see West Island from Wilbur Point.

In any case, it's better than tearing

down the little two-bedroom, 20'x28' house, that must indeed hold a lot of memories in its walls.

He grew up spending summers and "a whole lot of weekends" on Wilbur Point, although during some years as an adult and living far away, he did not see the little peninsula as often as he would have liked.

That's not a problem anymore.

They're full time now, well, when their new house is built. Mr. Davis said he hopes to be in by late spring.

His builder, Scott Snow, took custody of the house and hired Ralph Reed movers to pick it up and carry it to the corner of Fir Street and Misty Bay Road.

Tuesday, 12/8/20, was the big day. A parade of trucks, police, electric, and emergency vehicles slowly escorted the house along Sconticut Neck Road, to Goulart Memorial Drive, over the causeway to Fir Street, to Misty Bay.

A few minor glitches slowed things down here and there, but nothing major, and the house was delivered safely to its new home.

For those worried about the causeway, it can handle 40 tons and

the house, with truck and steel and trailer weighed in at 35 tons. The causeway handled the weight just fine, but at the little turn, the load was just a tad too wide.

No problem, they rode it up on the sidewalk for a bit, using hydraulic jacks to level out the house, and then gently rode it down at the curb cut.

The turn onto Fir Street was also a little tricky, but they got it done.

The route along Fir, though, had to be cleared by Fairhaven Tree Warden G. Bourne Knowles. He said he did not want to cut clear-cut the trees ahead of time. He wanted to be sure to cut only as much as was necessary.

Fire Engine 3 was also on the island in case there was a fire while the house blocked the road.

So, it was a bit of excitement for the neighbors, who got a call via the town's emergency network the night before. Many took up a spot at Hoppy's Landing or along the 2.5+ route, to witness the rare event, which took all day. Top speed: 10 miles per hour.

See page 18 for more photos.



A house that used to live at 905 Sconticut Road in Fairhaven is carefully pulled across the causeway on 12/8/20 onto West Island where it will live on the corner of Fir Street and Misty Bay instead of getting demolished. Photo by Margie Green Joseph. (See page 18 for more photos)

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- Members must sanitize equipment after use
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Fairhaven Council on Aging

The Fairhaven Council on Aging Senior Center remains closed to the public until further notice. The staff is available to take phone calls and to assist you in any way possible.

the van. The van will be thoroughly sanitized after each use. Volunteer Medical transportation has not yet been resumed.

Holiday Schedule

The Senior Center will be open for calls half a day, December 24 and 31. The Center will be closed on December 25 and January 1.

Transportation

The COA van will run Monday through Friday beginning at 8:00 a.m. for in town shopping and errands as well as daily trips to Market Basket. All passengers will have their temperature taken before entering the van and must wear a mask while on

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Acushnet implements new rules due to COVID

Pattie Pacella

Neighb News Correspondent

The Acushnet Selectboard met for a brief meeting on December 9 to discuss new COVID circumstances.

Town Administrator Julie Hebert reported that Acushnet has had 55 cases in the month of December to date, and on 12/9 alone had 34 new cases.

Ms. Hebert stated asked the Selectboard to enact the "remote access plan" as they had in March. She said the Town has laptops for all employees to tele-work from home. She said there would be no more than one person per office in the building, and others would be working from home. Ms. Hebert stated the new restrictions would start December 14, 2020 through the holidays until January 11, 2021 and they could then reevaluate at that time.

Ms. Hebert also stated that two staff had recently tested positive, resulting in six staff being quarantined. Ms. Hebert told the board her concern was having whole department being shut down because of quarantining.

"Tele-working is a temporary measure to help us get through the holidays safely for our staff and residents," she said.

Selectboard Chairperson Kevin Gaspar stated he has been following COVID since day one and really trying to navigate the town through the

process. He said he is aware that Bristol County has seen a recent jump in cases and wants to do what the board believes is best for the employees and Acushnet residents.

"I don't like it but we do have a good action plan in place," said Mr. Gaspar.

Board member David Desroches was also in favor of the tele-working as he stated it would definitely get them through the "holiday surge."

Tele-working is a temporary measure to help us get through the holidays safely for our staff and residents [Town Administrator Julie Hebert]

Selectboard member David Wojnar agreed with the plan and also asked Ms. Hebert to get a plan in place with the Department of Public Works and perhaps police personnel for a "all hands on deck" in case of snow emergency and/or other emergencies that may arise in the next few months.

"I just want to make sure if people are sick and need transportation out that we have enough snow plow removals if we have a lot of snow," said Mr. Wojnar. "I just want to be proactive with a plan."

Ms. Hebert stated she has been in discussions with DPW and it will be an "all hands on deck" plan.

The Selectboard also met with Police Chief Christopher Richmond to discuss the hiring of two full-time police officers.

Chief Richmond told the board it was the step in a process that began back in August. He said he was recommending Officer Nathaniel Turgeon, who has the part time Police Academy behind him and has been a part-time officer since March.

The Chief also recommended the appointment of Dominick Sullivan Sousa, who will be attending the police academy in January, as a full-time police officer. The Selectboard agreed to the appointment of both officers and welcomed them on board.

The board also discussed an appropriate swearing in ceremony for Mr. Turgeon, and Chief Richmond will be making those arrangements in the next week or so.

Ms. Hebert suggested working with Cable and having the ceremony recorded and put up on-line as well for the community.



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Friday, Dec. 25, 2020

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More house pictures



ABOVE LEFT: On 12/8/20, Ralph Reed directs the driver of the Mack truck pulling the house that used to live at 905 Scoticut Road in Fairhaven while a worker pushes up the electrical lines for it to fit under on its way to West Island where it will live on the corner of Fir Street and Misty Bay Road instead of getting demolished. ABOVE RIGHT: It's a tight squeeze with tires scraping on Goulart Memorial Drive. BELOW LEFT: The house makes it way past the boats at West Island Marina after making it over the causeway. BELOW RIGHT: Fairhaven Tree Warden G. Bourne Knowles stands on his truck clearing branches on Scoticut Neck Road. *Photos by Glenn C. Silva.*



Veterans remembered with wreaths on graves



Members of the Fairhaven Improvement Association joined forces with Fairhaven's Veterans Services Officer Brad Fish and other volunteers to put holiday wreaths on the graves of U.S. Veterans at Riverside Cemetery in Fairhaven on Friday, 12/3/20. Each wreath has a red, white & blue ribbon, and a veterans medal with all the services represented. Mr. Fish said his wife has been involved with Wreaths Across America, and then he teamed up with Frank Fostin from the FIA and they started the tradition last year. The organization coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and more than 2,100 locations in all 50 states. To learn more about Wreaths Across America, visit <https://www.wreathsassamerica.org>. ABOVE LEFT: Wreaths are carefully arranged in the pickup truck to be placed at the graves of veterans at Riverside Cemetery in Fairhaven on 12/3/20. *Photo courtesy of the Fairhaven Improvement Association.* RIGHT: Volunteers get ready to place wreaths on the graves of veterans at Riverside Cemetery in Fairhaven on 12/30/20. *Photo courtesy of Fairhaven Community Media.*

From our readers

Officials' job is to serve the people

My name is Leon Correy and I am a member of the Fairhaven Sustainability Committee. I also happen to be a black man, the husband of a Portuguese woman and the father of two biracial children, one of each gender. My house alone is a reflection of diversity.

When the world was exposed to the inequities that go on, those of us who know what it's like were glad that people finally understood what we've been screaming about. Nobody is looking for sympathy, we simply want to be acknowledged and treated like we also matter. With that people jump on one side or another and leave no room for conversation.

Fairhaven citizens began reaching out, requesting some sort of town diversity council. So as a committee we explored the idea and began to put this together. It was originally going to be a subcommittee but we quickly realized more was needed.

This is not a committee just to solve arguments amongst people. This is a committee that will provide a vessel for communication, education, understanding, and unity. We will help to make sure the rest of the town is as diverse as the school department.

We did our due diligence and put together a plan to present to the Selectboard (BOS). We submitted a letter, which sat in their inbox for weeks before it was discussed. When it was finally addressed the matter was quickly shot down. I followed up to get clarity and he apologized for the mistake. I assumed this meant we would be on the agenda, but he immediately corrected me, stating that we need to have a Town Administrator in place first.

We have a TA in place and he is very well suited to play whatever role he needs to. What a statement it would make to a new TA that we as a town stand together? That the town of Fairhaven is insulated from the goings on in the world and we recognize and appreciate the differences we all have. We all love our town and no matter gender, race, orientation or religion we are able to stand together and make Fairhaven the best place it can be.

However all we've proven is that the bickering of the BOS is getting in

the way of the job they're supposed to do. That job is to serve the PEOPLE.

Guess what! Those people aren't as similar as you think we are and we appreciate each other. We want to learn about those differences. We want to teach our children about those differences. We want to embrace those differences.

Your job is to be a public servant, not to be a dictator.

Leon Correy, Fairhaven

Hike of a lifetime raises 9K+

As I write this during the holiday season, I have so much to be thankful for.

The last few months have had its peaks and valleys, but October 3 will long live in the hearts of the Hathaway family. That is the day I finally completed my 32-year, 24,901-mile hike around the world.

The Mattapoisett Land Trust organized a fundraising celebration of that final mile and I thank all of those members who made it a day to remember.

I thank the more than 100 donors, some of them anonymous, who contributed \$9,254 to the Trust to help protect land in the Old Aucoot District where I walked most of those miles.

Thank you, to the selectmen for their framed citation of appreciation; those who walked with me or greeted me along the way; the sign makers, many of them children; those who sent cards or made telephone calls; the local, regional, national and worldwide press (including TV in the United Kingdom, Spain, Australia and India); and the First Citizens Federal Credit Union for its support; and the bagpiper who joined the line of march at Harbor Beach.

Thank you all. My family and I will be forever grateful.

Brad Hathaway and family, Mattapoisett

Mattapoisett COA says "Thank You"

To our community of seniors, the Friends of Mattapoisett COA hope you are safe and well. We want to thank you for continued support throughout the years and hope things improve sooner rather than later. Although things are quiet at the COA for now, we do still hope to keep up the membership tally.

Your membership can be mailed to

PO Box 1116 Mattapoisett, MA 02739.

We miss all of you at our luncheons and look forward to this never-ending year becoming history with hope on the horizon. Also thank you to Jackie and her staff for keeping the home fires burning for all of us. Please be careful out there and again stay safe and stay strong.

Friends of Mattapoisett COA

Board of Health is not protecting public health

WHOOH — The boys on the Board Of Health have been very busy over the past few months. They've been toiling not to protect the public health mind you, but to cover their own asses. OOPS, sorry Geoff I know that's NOT a "professional" way to describe your efforts...but it IS true. Dear reader, if you've not time to read the dozens of issues of the *Neighb News* going back to April at least read the October 1st one which contains the two stories I'll be referring to. <http://www.fairhavenneighborhoodnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/10-01-20-Pirates.pdf>

On August 29th: Peter DeTerra, the Chairman of what is supposed to be OUR BOH, hosted a gathering of 150+ people at his farm during the time when Governor Charlie Baker ordered that a maximum of 25 people could be gathered in an indoor space, and no more than 50 in an outdoor space. The Chairman defied the Governor's order so he could give his daughter the wedding of her dreams. Sweet.

Then on September 28th DeTerra's BOH, as Editor Beth David wrote, "fired the health agent on claims and charges that seemed not only petty, but unfounded." Not so sweet.

Having read all of that and then tuning into the Shit-Show (again, sorry Geoff) to witness the BOH in action, I decided that for me enough was enough. I could no longer be a good little girl, sit on my hands and allow the boys to go unchallenged after they'd dismantled our Town's dedicated, educated, experienced and (yes Geoff) professional three-person Health Department and replaced them with a new college graduate who had zero experience in public health to act as Interim Health Agent, IN THE MIDDLE OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC!!!

LETTERS: cont'd next page

LETTERS: cont'd from previous page

By October of this year, I had gone 18 months without visiting my 80-year-old parents who live in Florida. Here in Fairhaven, grandparents had not been able to hold their new grand-babies, dozens of couples had to postpone or change their wedding plans, residents in nursing homes could visit with their loved ones only through windows or Zoom, new fathers could not attend ultra-sounds to hear their baby's heartbeats, young adults had no traditional proms or graduations, businesses were closed causing widespread financial hardships, students have lost time in the classroom and are suffering academically despite the best efforts of our school department...I could go on but we all know the burdens we've all suffered during this COVID Pandemic. But hey, good news, there was one lucky couple who experienced a magical day.

I organized a protest at Town Hall that took place during the November 16th BOH meeting. You can read about it in the 11/9 issue of the Neighb News. <http://www.fairhavenneighborhoodnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/11-19-20->

MannySylviaTribute.pdf and the Standard Times article of the same date <https://www.southcoasttoday.com/story/news/2020/11/19/protesters-call-recall-fairhaven-board-health-members/6333142002/>

While the peaceful, COVID compliant assembly of a dozen protesters chanted and marched outside of Town Hall I entered the meeting room to hand deliver a demand for a Public Hearing where the BOH would have to answer to their constituents.

I entered saying, "Excuse me, I've got a mask on and am socially distanced, I just want to deliver...."

At that point Mr. Haworth rushed up to me and stood just three inches from my face repeatedly demanding that I leave the room, while attempting to physically block me from putting the documents on the table. He failed because I was able to pivot around him and put the documents on the table. I did not storm into the room as was stated in the ST article.

The following from that article is false: "By storming in 'Ms. Hahn failed to act civilized when she pushed past me in that manner' Haworth said

and added that the protestors themselves were violating COVID-19 rules and regulations."

AND, if that weren't enough there's also this statement in that article: "Through attorney John Markey Jr., DeTerra stated: 'The fact that five or 10 people, at least one of whom was visibly intoxicated...'"

The Chairman's thinly veiled innuendo accusing me of being visibly intoxicated was not backed up by any of the half dozen police officers who had been summoned to the protest. But you see, men who are threatened by the opinions and actions of a strong woman usually respond with character assassination. In the minds of the boys on the BOH a woman who is actively expressing her opinion of their bad behavior OBVIOUSLY MUST BE DRUNK! RIGHT?

Myself and a few other protesters were at the Town Hall during the most recent BOH meeting. Prior to the start of the meeting, I entered the building where I was met by a police officer who informed me that I could deliver to the BOH office the letters I carried demanding time on the next meet-

LETTERS/HAHN: cont'd on page 21



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RESIDENT SERVICE COORDINATOR The Fairhaven Housing Authority is seeking a highly motivated, professional, responsible individual to fill the 25+ hour per week position of Resident Service Coordinator. The Authority is responsible for 278 units of housing for the elderly, handicapped or disabled. The candidate must have experience working with the referenced population and familiarity with the services and resources that enable said population to live and function independently and age in place. The coordinator will provide leadership and structure for social, educational, and recreational programs. Minimum qualifications include: two years of progressive experience in a social service field, excellent organizational, time management and problem solving skills. Experience working successfully with a diverse population in both individual and group settings required. Any professional licenses or designations would be a plus. Position involves a high level of contact with the tenants and community. Ability to work flexible hours preferred. Computer and Internet skills required. Excellent written and verbal skills required as well as a Massachusetts driver's license. Candidates will be subject to a criminal background check. Salary is negotiable depending upon experience. Position shall remain open until filled. Resumes accepted until December 28, 2020. No phone calls please. Submit letter of interest, resume and references by mail or email to: Resident Service Coordinator Position, Executive Director, Fairhaven Housing Authority, 275 Main St., Fairhaven, MA 02719, fhvnhousing@comcast.net. The Fairhaven Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Employer

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LETTERS: cont'd from previous page
ing's agenda to discuss having a Public Hearing, but I could not be in the building after 4:30.

I had anticipated this because I had spoken with Fairhaven Police Chief Mike Myers both the day before and the day of the meeting. The Chairman was notably absent from the meeting to interview candidates and hire the replacement for the Health Inspector who HIS Board had ousted last summer.

After much excruciating hemming and hawing, the two boys who were in attendance hired a man who had held the position in the past. At the point of the meeting agenda when the boys would set the date and time for their next Shit-Show I raised my virtual, Zoom hand so I could confirm that they had read my letter prior to the meeting.

[Chairperson Mike] Ristuccia, sitting in for the Chair, ignored it and proceeded with member [Goeff] Haworth's motion for the next date. I interrupted and asked to be heard but of course he had me cut off. Then during the very last second of the meeting Ristuccia was heard calling me a JERK so I assume they read the letter. C'mon boys, even a girl knows that if your gonna pick a fight you'd better have the balls to show up for it. By the time you read this your next opportunity will have been Wednesday December 16th at 5pm. Let's see if I'm on the agenda.

 **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:** 
www.Facebook.com/NeighbNews

Upcoming Meetings

In-person attendance is restricted during the COVID-19 crisis. The information on how to join remotely is listed on the agendas. Most meetings also run live on the government access channels, and Fairhaven meetings are livestreamed at FairhavenTV.com

Visit <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov> for remote access information

Fairhaven

Board of Appeals

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

Community Preservation

Thurs., 12/17, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 12/21, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Mon., 1/4, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

School Committee

Wed., 1/13, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon., 12/21, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet

Planning Commission

Thurs., 12/17, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Appeals

Tues., 1/12/21, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Assessors

Wed., 12/30, Zoom, 11:30 a.m.

Library Trustees

Tues., 12/22, Remote, Noon

TIDE TABLE

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

	Dec. 2020	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	17	0938	2208	0253*	1541*
Friday	18	1028	2300	0335*	1614*
Saturday	19	1120	2355	0415	1651
Sunday	20	----	1215	0500	1740
Monday	21	0050	1308	0609	1855
Tuesday	22	0141	1358	0906	1956
Wednesday	23	0231	1451	1016	2036
Thursday	24	0326	1551	1109	2118
Friday	25	0423	1648	1152	2203
Saturday	26	0512	1734	----	1229
		----	----	----	2242
Sunday	27	0553	1814	----	1231
		----	----	----	2319
Monday	28	0631	1852	----	1218
		----	----	----	2355
Tuesday	29	0709	1932	----	1249
Wednesday	30	0750	2016	0035	1329*
Thursday	31	0833	2100	0121*	1412*

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

Public Hearings/Legal Notices

NOTE: All legal notices are available on the *Neighb News* website, www.NeighbNews.com, under the "Legal Notices" tab on the top of the main page. Legal ads are also available at <http://masspublicnotices.org>, search under "Fairhaven Neighborhood News"

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Fairhaven Conservation Commission

Monday, January 4, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
Town Hall, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

To Access Meeting Remotely:
<https://zoom.us/j/94167169002?pwd=UWxINE5FcVFVOHZmT3RkaEE5akx0QT09>
or CALL 1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 941 6716 9002
Passcode: 200484

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

1. CON 023-195: **1 Bella Vista Island** Notice of Intent filed by Heiam Alsawalh for the construction of a pier, ramp, and float, as well as planting trees, shrubs, lawn, and installing underground electric and water at the property located at 1 Bella Vista Island, Assessors Map 43B, Lots 326, 359, and 360. Work to take place in Land Under Ocean, Land Containing Shellfish, Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage and the 100-foot buffer zones to Salt Marsh, Coastal Dune, Coastal Bank, and Coastal Beach.

Public participation will be via virtual means only: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Fairhaven Conservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. The public may participate in this meeting via remote participation. Information regarding remote meeting access, listed above, will also be provided on the Conservation Agenda posted on the Town's website at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

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

Geoff Haworth, Chair, Fairhaven
Conservation Commission
FNN: 12/17/20

Acushnet Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals is hereby giving notice that a meeting will be held by the Board on Tuesday, January 12th, 2021 at 6:30 P.M. via Zoom Meetings:

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83297986217?pwd=dK4rUk5pY0loQXUveXBCSjJOMzB3UT09>
Meeting ID: 832 9798 6217
Passcode: 480063
One tap mobile
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+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 832 9798 6217
Passcode: 480063

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. **Case #2020.07.28A** A continuation of the case of New England Retail Development, LLC c/o Tom Pratt, who is petitioning the Board for a Special Permit to be able to open and operate a gas station and convenience store with drive-thru, within the Village Business District. The proposed location is 158, 166 Main Street, and 17 Wing Road (Assessor's Map 13, Lots 36, 38, and 38A), which are currently owned by Delta Realty, LLC (c/o Mickey Higgins) and Tony's Service Center (c/o Tony Faria). This request is being made under the provisions of Section 3.3.2 (B) and 3.4 (A).
2. **Case#2020.10.20A** A continuation of the case of New England Retail Development, LLC c/o Tom Pratt, who is petitioning the Board for a Variance to

be able to allow wall signs in excess of 50 square feet and pole sign in excess of 15 feet tall. The proposed location is 158, 166 Main Street, and 17 Wing Road (Assessor's Map 13, Lots 36, 38, and 38A), owned by Delta Realty, LLC (c/o

3. **Case #2021.01.12A** A case of Kevin Murray, of 75 Lambert Street, Acushnet who is petitioning for a Variance to be able to change the lot lines of his properties located at 7 and 9 Kendrick Street, Acushnet. This request is being made under the provisions of Section 3.3.1 E: Development Standards.
4. **Case #2021.01.12B** A case of David Calheta, of 19 Darling Street, Acushnet who is petitioning the Board for a Special Permit to be able to construct an accessory apartment at his Darling Street address. This request is being made under the provisions of Section 3.3.1 B (1).

Please note that the October 20th, 2020 meeting went as follows: Case #2020.07.28A was continued, Case #2020.10.20A was continued, and Case #2020.10.20B was granted a Special Permit.

Plans are available for Public view in the Town Clerk's office during their normal business hours.

FNN, 12/10/20, 12/17/20, 1/7/21

Fairhaven Zoning Board of Appeals Public Hearings

Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall Banquet Room, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/95108313775?pwd=bHBScDE1N2QzTjYU2pxTnRTLzV2UT09>
or call 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 951 0831 3775
Passcode: 085731

1. **Administrative Appeal by Fairhaven Shipyard – re: 7 Union Street.** Seeking reversal of zoning determination by the Town of Fairhaven Building Commissioner dated February 20, 2020. (Application attached) – **Continued** from April 7, 2020, May 5, 2020, June 2, 2020, and July 7, 2020, and August 11, 2020, and September 2, 2020.) Asking for a continuance to December 1, 2020 per applicant's request. **Asking for a continuance to January 5, 2021**
2. **Administrative Appeal by A1 Crane – re: 86-88 Middle Street.** Administrative Appeal from a letter dated April 7, 2020 from the Building Commissioner stating that the operation on the site is in violation of the Mixed Use zoning regulations. (see attached-Exhibit 3) (continued per applicant's request to September 2, 2020 Meeting, see attached.) Previously approved to **Continue to November 3, 2020. Continue to March 2021, at applicant's request.**
3. **6 Lawton Street, Owner: Roger Caron.** 198-21(c): Variance request to extend a conforming structure on a non-conforming lot. 198-18: Variance request for 6' variance on the rear addition, whereas 30' is required. 198-16: Special Permit request for an in-law apartment in a RA District.
4. **14 Wigwam Beach Road, Applicant: Luis Pacheco.** 198-32.2(a): Special Permit request for 50' over 75' maximum; total length of pier, gangway, and float 125' to achieve 2.5' of water at mean low water per Zoning By-law
5. **7 Pine Avenue, Filipe Garcia.** 198-18: Variance request for 2.6' on side setback for addition in a RA District.

Peter DeTerra, Chairman
FNN: 12/10/20, 12/17/20

I once wanted to
become an atheist,
but I gave up —
they have no holidays.

Henny Youngman

BPW: cont'd from page 4

from policy A, but the fine would be \$500–\$1000 and the board would be able to choose the fine based on the evidence of tampering that is presented in each individual's case.

Mr. Hobson said he thought the fine should be \$1,000 no matter what.

"I don't care if it's my daughter or my friend," Mr. Hobson said. "You turn the meter around and get caught, you pay."

Mr. Ferro said he did not want to take the board's discretion away, adding in most cases the fine should be \$1,000, but it would be good to have the discretion if there is a case that is not malicious.

Mr. Coelho said the fee should be the same no matter what. For example, he said, if the town administrator was caught tampering, maybe the board would only fine him \$500 to stay on his good side, but if a known troublemaker was caught the board would charge the full \$1,000 fine.

Board member Cameron Durant said he agreed with Mr. Ferro that the board's discretion was important, but if they leave the fine up to the board's discretion, the board takes the responsibility of being fair and equitable.

Mr. Hobson made a motion to accept policy A, which is a set fine of \$1,000. Mr. Coelho seconded the motion with Mr. Wotton, Mr. Durant, and Mr. Ferro against.

Mr. Ferro made a motion to accept policy B. The motion passed with Mr. Wotton and Mr. Durant also in favor and Mr. Hobson and Mr. Coelho against.

In another matter the board briefly discussed a conversation they had in a previous executive session about the possibility of the BPW taking over the Tree Department.

Mr. Furtado said he spoke with town counsel and he said the board would have to submit an article to town meeting.

Mr. Hobson said if the board wants to take the department over then they should include the town manager and the Selectboard in the decision/discussion.

Mr. Furtado said they also need to include the tree warden.

Mr. Ferro said that the board has discussed taking over the Tree Department in response to residents asking the BPW about tree issues so frequently. He said many residents want the BPW to be in charge of trees.



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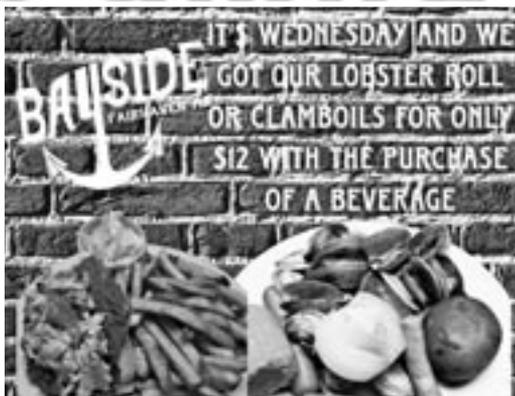
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