



Fairhaven

Neighborhood News

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



The little paper
with a big voice!

Volume 16, Issue 14 • April 1, 2021

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

Bijou: What happens next?



A cease and desist order is attached to windows of the front door and storefronts of the former Bijou Theater, 350 Main Street, Fairhaven, preventing the new owner from renovating 15 studio apartments and three retail spaces. See story on page 16. *Photo by Beth David.*



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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.

Oh, no, it was all a mixup. Well, no, that's a good thing. It was just such a good laugh...

Anyway, last week I told you about a rumor that we are shutting down...we are NOT. Turns out it's one of the other weeklies, one of the real estate books that is no longer publishing because the person is retiring.

Congratulations to you on your retirement. I hope I get to do that some day.

We have a couple of corrections and a clarification in this week's issue. Mr. Collasius insists he never asked for his tree to be taken down, he always just asked for it to be evaluated, and I interjected that little tidbit into last week's candidates night story. I guess I remembered it wrong. Did I go back and look to parse out all the words he ever said on it? Nah...See his letter on page 18 and decide for yourself.

This is the las issue before we vote on Monday. Even though we added pages for the last few weeks, we still had trouble getting it all in here. Lots of activity this election season. I hope we were able to get you the information you needed to make an informed decision. This week we have the School Committee candidates. I don't like to run contested election info on the last week before the election, but this year, I just had no choice. See page 13 for that.

We also have an interesting cover story this week. People have been wondering what's going on at the old project and why it has been halted.

There's plenty of other stuff in here, of course, including three pages of letters to the editor...and we still had to refuse a couple that came in too far past deadline. See page 18 for the start of those.

Please take your time and look at the ads of the various candidates, too, this week. They have taken the time to craft a message, so be sure to read them.

There's also a link to the candidates night at the end of the story that starts on page 13. You can view that night, in part or in full at your leisure if you have a smart phone or a computer.

Things are starting to open up, too, so stay tuned for more outdoor activities to pick up. Meanwhile, check out pages 5, 6, 7 for events still happening and those canceled.

Until next week then, see ya



Beth David, Publisher

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Support local journalism

No one does local like a local newspaper. We cover events right here in your back yard. Any small amount will help. Just 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*.

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS

In our Selectboard meeting in last week's issue, we put the wrong date of the election. It is on Monday, 4/5.

In our story on the candidates night for Tree Warden we made a reference to Mr. Collasius's history with the town about a tree near his house. He said he never asked for it to be taken down, he asked for a level 3 risk assessment. See letter, page 18.

In our story on the candidates night for Board of Health Ms.

Acksen noted that she never asked to be put on the screening committee for health agent; she offered names, but was chosen by the Board of Health instead.

Ms. Acksen clarified that her comment about Cable Access TV was not against using the medium, but that the messages should originate with the Board of Health.

We apologize for any confusion our errors may have caused.

COVID update

Governor Charlie Baker announced on Tuesday that Massachusetts is about to start getting more vaccinations from the federal government.

Starting on Monday, 4/5, people 55 and older will be eligible to get the vaccine in Mass.

Gov. Baker said pharmacies saw the biggest increase in vaccine doses, with CVS and Walgreen's now administering the vaccine.

Gov. Baker was joined on Tuesday by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Sen. Ed Markey, and US Rep. Steven Lynch, at the Hynes Center in Boston, which is a mass vaccination site. The Hynes is set to receive additional doses, increasing its capacity to 7,000 shots per day.

Gov. Baker and other officials cautioned residents not to let their guard down.

Dr. Walensky echoed her national comments this week, saying that there is hope on the horizon, but people have to continue to be vigilant.

Visit <https://www.mass.gov/covid> to learn more

Fairhaven votes on Monday

Fairhaven's annual town elections will be held this Monday, 4/5/21. Polls are open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. There are four contested races in Fairhaven.

Selectboard incumbent Bob Espindola faces challenger Lisa Plante; Tree Warden incumbent G. Bourne Knowles faces challenger Don Carlos Collasius. School Committee has three candidates running for two seats, with incumbents Donna McKenna and Colin Veitch facing a challenge from newcomer Cathleen Marchessault. Board of Health also has a contested race for an open seat, with Barbara Acksen and Kevin Gallagher both on the ballot.

Other offices are: Board of Public Works with both incumbents, Marcus Ferro and Robert "Hoppy" Hobson running unopposed; Town Moderator, with incumbent Mark Sylvia running unopposed; and Housing Authority with one term up for re-election and Ronnie Manzone, who was appointed, running unopposed, and Marc Scanlon running to fill the unexpired term that he was also appointed to.

Planning Board has a rare four



seats on the ballot. For the seats up for re-election, both incumbents, David Braga and Cathy Melanson are unopposed. Two seats for unexpired terms are also on the ballot, with one held by Jessica Fidalgo, who was appointed; and one vacant, with Wayne Hayward running a write-in campaign.

All precincts will also choose Town Meeting members.

Precinct one votes at Town Hall, 40 Center Street; precincts two and three vote at Elizabeth Hastings Middle School, 30 School Street; precinct four votes at the Fire Station/Meeting Room, 146 Washington Street, precincts five and six vote at the Recreation Center, 227 Huttleston Avenue.

If you are unsure of your precinct, call the Town Clerk's office at 508-979-4023, Ext. 3.

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Don Collasius

Tree Warden

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Lisa Plante

For Selectboard

I WILL BE YOUR VOICE

- I'm running for the Selectboard because I love this Town. I want to preserve this town for our children and future generations.
- I have an excellent working knowledge of the town finances and the budget process.
- I am fiscally conservative and have only the best interests of the townspeople
- I respectfully ask for your vote on April 5th.

—  —

Paid for by Lisa Plante

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AROUND TOWN HAPPENINGS

Easter Bunny Drive Through

Sat., 4/3 (raindate 4/4), 1 p.m.

Due to Covid, the North Fairhaven Improvement Association will not be hosting the Easter Egg Hunt this year. However, NFIA will host the Easter Bunny. Come Out to Welcome the Easter Bunny & friends as they drive through town! Beginning and ending at Benoit Square/Oxford School.

NORTH FAIRHAVEN

START 1:00 pm

Oxford School, East on Howland Road, North on Alden Road, South on Main Street

STOP AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH

South on Main to east on Route 6, North on Adams Street, East on Howland Road, South on Alden Road to Bridge Street

EAST FAIRHAVEN

1:30 pm East on Bridge Street, South on New Boston Rd to Rt 6

STOP AT EAST FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL

East (left) on Rt 6, South on Gillette Road, West on Hill Street, South on Brook Drive, North on Brook Drive, West on Hill Street, South on Evergreen Street, West on Stephen Street to end, North on Hamlet to Rt 6

SCONTICUT NECK TO WEST ISLAND

2:00 pm from Rt 6, South on Sconticut Neck Road

STOP AT WOOD SCHOOL

Continue south on Sconticut Neck Road to east on Goulart Memorial Drive, Over the Causeway, North on Ebony Street, West on Cherrystone Street, South on Balsam Street, West over Causeway, North on Sconticut Neck to Rt 6

CENTER/FORT

From Route 6, 2:40 pm West on Washington Street, South on Green Street

STOP AT FORT PHOENIX

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 3:10 pm

Find your spot and get ready. The Easter Bunny is hopping into town!

Eco Challenge

The Fairhaven Sustainability Committee invites all Southcoast residents to participate in the Earth Month EcoChallenge! Join Team SouthCoast

and select from a list of measurable actions you will take during the month to reduce your environmental impact and educate yourself on a variety of topics.

There is a wide range of challenges including reducing plastic use, eating a vegetarian meal, spending time outdoors, planting a tree, watching educational videos, and more. You can choose as many or as few actions as you like, track your completed actions, earn points, and see the collective impact the team has as a whole. Hopefully some of the challenges will become habits to help us all towards creating a better, more sustainable world.

Hastings Middle School will be challenging their students on their own team this April and we look forward to seeing the positive impact our Fairhaven youth will have!

Registration runs until the end of March, with the challenge taking place from April 1-30. Follow <http://bit.ly/EarthMonthEcoChallenge> to join Team SouthCoast, or to learn more go to <https://ecochallenge.org/ecochallenge-platform/how-it-works/>

Dollars for Scholars

Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars announces nearly 20 scholarships now available for 2021. **Application period is open until April 20, 2021.**

Create profile/apply online at <https://fairhaven.dollarsforscholars.org>

NEW scholarships are being added constantly. Check your profile weekly to see what NEW scholarships you qualify for both at the local and national level. Scholarships are awarded for a variety of reasons, including academics, sports, community service, chosen major, and more.

Fairhaven Dollars for Scholars chapter is a nonprofit foundation that supports academic success in our community. As part of Scholarship America's national network of locally based, volunteer-driven Dollars for Scholars chapters, our mission is to mobilize our community on behalf of postsecondary education success for our students.

SAVE THE DATES:

Pump Track Cleanup

Fairhaven BMX Pump Track spring cleanup, Bernese St., Fairhaven, on Sat., 4/10, 10 a.m. Bring a shovel, no

experience necessary. PLEASE wear a mask. 2020 was a bust but looking to bring the good times back to our track. After a year of very little maintenance we could use your help to bring it back to life. No track building experience necessary. Just positive attitudes and a willingness to offer a little good old fashioned manual labor. Please spread the word and hope to see you there.

Find them on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/fairhavenBMXpumptrack/>

Beach Cleanup

Fort Phoenix, Sat., 4/10, 1:30 p.m. Sponsored by Be The Solution to Pollution. Find them on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pollution-solution/> Coming up: West Beach and Palmer's Island, New Bedford, 4/24, 11:30 a.m.

Cancellations

NFIA Easter Hunt (see Easter Bunny Drive Through, this page)

Easter Sunrise Service at Fort Phoenix, CANCELED

At the Millicent

FREE Virtual Events

Join us on Sat., 4/3 at 1 p.m. for **Book Chat**, a virtual event to talk about books! Chat with librarians and other patrons for a fun, casual conversation about recent books you've read. You can also offer up some recommendations, or just listen in! All are welcome for this casual conversation.

On Mon., 4/12 at 7 p.m. the Millicent Library will be hosting a live **Trivia Night**. You can test your superfan knowledge of superheroes!

This event will be held live on Zoom and will require the use of the Kahoot game app to answer the trivia questions. For information on downloading the app onto your mobile device visit <https://kahoot.com/home/mobile-app/>

Join as an individual, or play as a family team for this FREE event. Winners will receive a prize, available for pick-up from the library!

For more information and to register for these free events please visit: <https://millicentlibrary.org/Events>

For questions or assistance using Zoom or Kahoot please contact the library at Millicent@SailsInc.Org or 508-992-5342.

HAPPENINGS OVERTOWN

Free Food Boxes

By the New Bedford Police Department and Mass. Military Support Foundation (MMSF) and New Life Church, for New Bedford residents. The Farmers to Families Food Boxes contain 32 pounds of perishable and nonperishable food items including fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products and meat products.

Distribution is on Saturdays: April 3, 10, 17, from 10 a.m.–Noon, at New Life Church (behind the church), 1331 Cove Rd. his program will be held once a week for the foreseeable future.

COVID-19 health guidelines will be followed.

Families must register by visiting <https://mmsfi.org/farmers-to-families/> (and scroll down to find New Bedford). For information, please contact Sargent Samuel Ortega of the New Bedford Police Department at Samuel.ortega@newbedfordpd.com or 774-510-0649.

Farmers Market

Fans of farmers markets can continue purchasing local food throughout the winter at Coastal Foodshed's New Bedford Winter Farmers' Market. The Market is open every **Saturday from 10am - 2pm at the Buttonwood Park Warming House (1 Oneida St, New Bedford, MA 02740) from now until April 24**

The Winter Market has several vendors offering a variety of local products. Coastal Foodshed also sells a great variety of locally grown products sourced from nearby farms and local food makers, including local veggies, eggs, salsa, jam, maple syrup, coffee and more!

There is plenty of parking at the Warming House, and all forms of payment are accepted: cash, Mastercard, Visa, SNAP benefits, and pEBT. All SNAP customers can also earn HIP benefits at the Winter Market when they purchase locally grown produce.

Coastal Foodshed's mission is to strengthen the local food economy by making it easier for growers to sell, and consumers to buy, healthy, affordable, local foods. Coastal Foodshed works to increase public awareness and knowledge of health, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture, and to improve access.

To learn more about Coastal Foodshed visit coastalfoodshed.org,

or find them on social media at [@coastalfoodshed](https://www.facebook.com/coastalfoodshed).

NB Science Café

Tues., 4/6 at 7:00 pm –Please join us for a VIRTUAL event

Our guest Brad Chase, a senior marine fisheries biologist with the Mass Division of Marine Fisheries, will discuss "The Herring are Running: Migratory Fish Restoration in Massachusetts." For decades, Brad has closely monitored river herring, American eels and rainbow smelt in our rivers & streams. A consummate data collector and river watcher, he'll recount how populations of these sea-run fish are responding to a number of management and restoration techniques.

"The age-old cry 'the herring are running!' is all about how, as early as late March, millions of silvery alewives and bluebacks, collectively known as river herring, begin migrating from ocean depths to their coastal river, instinct pushing them upstream to the very pond they were born in, to spawn and raise young, before they return to sea late summer. 'It is an unending source of pleasure to watch them on their upward course,' a Cape Codder wrote in 1918. 'But even by then, the upriver migration was badly blocked — by dams. Massachusetts today has over 3,000 dams, one of the earliest erected on Plymouth's Town Brook in 1636 and most of the rest built in the 1800s and 1900s for powering riverside mills. Relief for the fish came in 2006, when the state prohibited the harvest of river herring, and since then dam removals, new and repaired fish ladders, and other restoration efforts are further helping migratory fish to bounce back — in some rivers, from a trickle to a torrent." –The Boston Globe 4/27/2020

Register in advance: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NQKvqxGTTsOpQ9rlhMKVng

This Zoom presentation is made possible through a partnership with New Bedford Whaling Museum.

Buried in Treasure

The New Bedford Fresh Start Program continues to sponsor hoarding remediation support groups known as Buried in Treasures. The support groups are designed for individuals

who struggle with hoarding disorder and/or individuals who are interested in learning how to support someone they know who struggles with hoarding disorder, such as spouses, children, family members, care givers, etc. Please keep in mind that those who join must commit to the entire length of the support group (roughly twenty weeks). While we understand the duration of the support group sounds like a long time, the program does fly by and members of the group form a bond in which helps to support each other during the process.

- Acushnet Senior Center 59 ½ South Main Street Acushnet, MA 02743
Facilitator: Amanda Blais (amandablais@comcast.net)
Saturdays beginning April 10th from 10am to Noon
- Buttonwood Warming House 1 Oneida St., New Bedford, MA 02740
Facilitator: Sandra Cambra (sandracambrahd@gmail.com)
Mondays beginning April 26th from 1-3pm

To join, please e-mail the group facilitator listed above or simply visit the location on the meeting date. The support group is FREE and we welcome all of Greater New Bedford!

A maintenance group is also available for those who have previously attended at least one full round of the Buried in Treasures support group. The maintenance group continues to meet biweekly on Mondays from 5pm to 7pm at the Acushnet Senior Center. For questions, please contact Mary Freire-Kellogg at kellogg63@gmail.com!

Arts Grants

Announcing the 2021 Art is Everywhere grant, awards range from \$1,000 - \$25,000, **deadline April 30**

The Art is Everywhere grant program intends to help advance New Bedford as one of the most culturally unique and creative cities in America.

For 2021, this grant aims to support inspiring creative ideas that will directly impact a current challenge facing residents, visitors and/or businesses in New Bedford.

Individuals, organizations, and project teams of nonprofit and/or for-profit status proposing projects in or for the City of New Bedford are eligible to apply. Learn more and apply at <http://newbedfordcreative.org/grant-programs/>

Gifts to Give Needs YOU

Gifts to Give of Acushnet is in need of donated items and volunteers. The organization has continued its mission throughout the pandemic, but with fewer volunteers. They need volunteers to sort and inspect donations, fill backpacks with school supplies, fulfill requests for gift packages, help with small maintenance tasks in the building, and lots of other tasks. We have useful work for everyone and try to make use of the unique gifts that everyone has to give.

Donations are also needed. We can always use gently used children's clothes, shoes and sneakers; new socks and underwear (in package); toys, games, puzzles, books and dictionaries, bedding and towels. Visit <https://www.giftstogive.org/donate/items/> to see what we accept, what we take used, and what must be new.

Visit <https://www.giftstogive.org>, call 508-717-8715, or email contactus@giftstogive.org to learn more. Drop items off at 1 Titleist Drive, Acushnet, MA 02743, around the back at the freight ramp on Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. from 9-5; Wed. & Sat., from 9-noon. Thrift store hours: Saturday, 9-2.

Gifts to Give is a 100% volunteer organization. No one gets paid.

Acushnet testing

Covid testing in Acushnet:

- Saturdays from 9 a.m.-noon in the parking lot behind the Council on Aging (59 South Main Street) using our trailer We have witnessed a decline in the Saturday attendance and this change allows us to adjust our staffing level.

Watershed Ride Reg

The Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride provides one of the most scenic coastal cycling courses in all of New England, and it returns for its 15th year on Sunday, Oct. 3. Cyclists of all ages and abilities can **sign up now** to bike 35, 75 or 100 miles at the Buzzards Bay Watershed Ride by visiting www.savebuzzardsbay.org/ride.

Participants who sign up before Monday, April 5 will save 50 percent

on the registration, too.

Participants who sign up before Monday, April 5 will save 50 percent on the registration, too.

The Watershed Ride is a fun community event that supports a great cause: clean water in Buzzards Bay. More than 300 cyclists participate in the Watershed Ride each year, pedaling through 11 coastal communities and passing more than 3,300 acres of conservation land protected by the Buzzards Bay Coalition and other conservation organizations.

Westport Women

A TRIBUTE TO COMMEMORATE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Westport Women Taking Care of History, Written by Jenny O'Neill and Betty Slade

"It is striking how many women have been leaders in the effort to preserve Westport's history. This series of profiles celebrates the contribution made by Westport women towards historic preservation, education, building restoration, artistic expression, writings, and activism."

Read more about Anne "Pete" Watson Lewis Baker, Glenda Taber Broadbent, Helen E. Ellis, Mary Albright Giles, Norma K. Judson, Gladys (Gifford) Kirby, Geraldine Buckley Millham, Agnes Oliveira Potter, Eleanor Swanteson Tripp at <https://wpthistory.org/2021/03/westport-women-taking-care-of-history/>

Black History/ Women's History

Meet Helen Williams

Helen Williams was the first African American fashion model to cross over into the mainstream, rising to fame in Paris and New York in late 1950s and early 1960s. Learn more at <https://www.aogundade.com/helen-williams-the-first-black-female-fashion-model.html>

Meet Janet Collins

Janet Collins, American ballet dancer and choreographer, was acclaimed for the beauty of her dancing on the Broadway stage. At age 15 she auditioned for the Ballet

Russe de Monte Carlo but declined an offer when told she would have to disguise the fact that she was Black. In 1952 she became the first African American prima ballerina with the Metropolitan Opera and danced lead roles in such operas as Aida and Carmen. To learn more visit <http://amsterdamnews.com/news/2016/mar/11/pioneering-prima-ballerina-janet-collins/?page=2>

Meet Lena Richard

Lena Richard was "Martha Stewart" long before there was a Martha Stewart. She was a chef, caterer, restaurateur, frozen-food entrepreneur, cooking teacher, cookbook author, wife, mother and grandmother. And to cap the whole, in 1949, she became the first Black woman the host of her own TV show, a cooking show in New Orleans. Visit <https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/learn/deep-dives/story-lena-richard/>

Meet Mary Beatrice Kenner

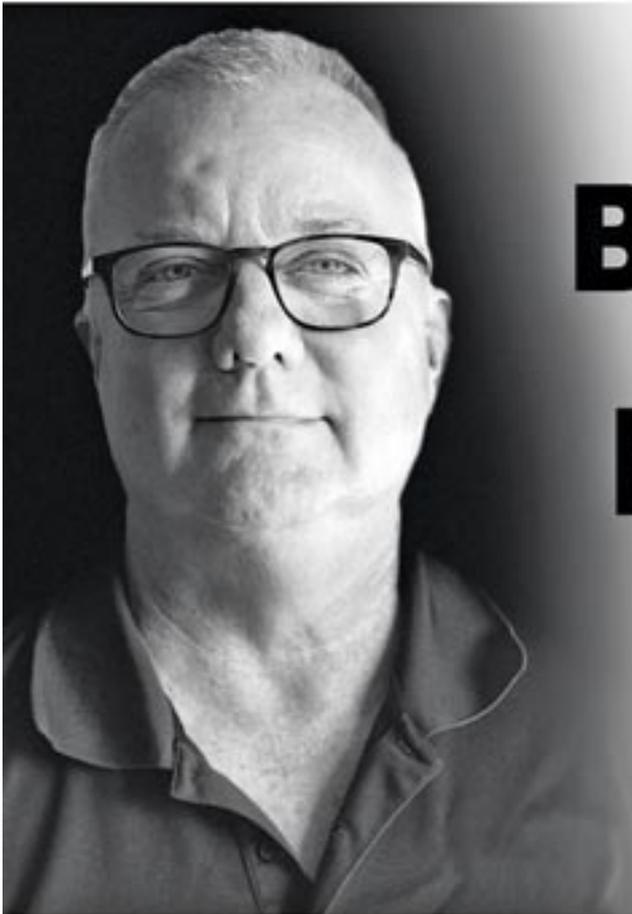
Mary Beatrice Kenner and her sister Mildred patented many practical inventions. They didn't have technical education, but they were both exceptional at spotting ways to make peoples' lives better. Together, they invented the sanitary belt. Later, Mary invented the moisture-resistant pocket for the belt. While disabled from multiple sclerosis, Mary went on to invent the walker and the toilet-tissue holder. Visit <https://www.vice.com/en/article/mb5yap/mary-beatrice-davidson-kenner-sanitary-belt>

Meet Hidden Figures

Neil Armstrong's "one small step for man" may not have happened without this woman. Just weeks after Katherine Johnson began a position as one of Langley Research Center's human computers in 1952, supervisors transferred the summa cum laude West Virginia State College graduate (with degrees in both mathematics and French) from the African American computing pool to the flight research division. There, Johnson performed the NASA calculations that made possible the manned space missions of the early 1960s as well as the 1969 moon landing."

#Kevin2021

f KEVIN GALLAGHER FOR FAIRHAVEN BOARD OF HEALTH



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PRIDE**

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Recipe of the Week

Portuguese Sweet Rice

- 3 cups whole milk
- 1 cup water
- 1 cup medium grain rice
- pinch salt
- 1-2 strips lemon rind
- 2 egg yolks
- Cinnamon

Mix milk and water in heavy pot. Add salt and lemon rinds. Heat on medium high until it just starts to boil

Add 1 cup medium grain rice Cook medium low for 20 minutes stirring periodically

Add 1 cup sugar, continue to cook 5-10 minutes stirring occasionally

Once liquid is mostly absorbed stir very very quickly 2 egg yolks mixing very fast

Pour into desired dish. Design cinnamon rings on top let cool and enjoy

By Linda Desroches

To share a recipe with your neighbors

Mail to 166 Dogwood St., Fairhaven, MA 02719; fax to 508-991-5580; email to neighbnews@comcast.net (Email preferred)



Dear Frankie

Ready For a New Look

Dear Frankie

I was at the groomers last week. Greta, a schnauzer, had a hairdo that a b s o l u t e l y knocked me out. The groomer had spiked the hair on the top of her head with

hair gel and shaved the hair on her body close to her skin. That girl was rocking.

When my Mom came to pick me up, I immediately ran over to Greta to make sure she saw Greta's haircut.

My Mom said to the groomer, "What's with the haircut?"

She responded, "Her Mom's a biker."

What does your Mom's vehicle have to do a haircut? Do I have a mini cooper haircut?

Anyway, do you think I can convince my Mom, who is very Girly-Girly, to let me get my hair spiked?

Impatiently,
Rosalyn

Dear Rosalyn,

How can you convince her? You can't.

If You say your Mom is Girly-Girly, your chances of getting a hard rock

crop are nil to none.

You do realize the life you live, and the way you look, is your Mom's idea of how life should be. Girly Moms like nice, pretty, and fluffy. That's why you have bows in your hair, sleep on a pillow upholstered to match her bed skirt, get carpeted stairs to climb onto her canopied bed, and fly first class. Need I go on?

Do you have any idea how many dogs would kill for a life like yours? How many dogs do you know that travel in a padded designer carrier? You've got to admit it beats riding on the back of a motorcycle, particularly in the rain.

Best,
Frankie

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

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Dispatches

News from high school in the age of COVID

By Elizabeth DaCunha



Special to the Neighb News

It's not unusual to feel like the pandemic has gotten to you. Most of us are sick of all these restrictions and doing everything virtually, but how are our FHS seniors feeling as all of the traditional senior events are either not happening or will have to be modified.

It's important to note that not only has this year been difficult for our Class of 2021 seniors, but also the remainder of their junior year was affected when COVID first hit.

Ian Stackpole brought back the memories of last year's abrupt stop to the school year and how it took away much of his junior year experiences.

"This pandemic started at the worst possible time for our class. It cut off junior day, junior prom, and the spring sports season," he said.

This really puts it into perspective for those who are not aware of how much this pandemic has taken away from students.

Not only was the end of last year ruined, but COVID has continued to take a toll on the present school year as well.

Stackpole continued to share how upset he was, stating, "This year wasn't really a 'senior year' for us. It

was just a chopped up final year to get us out of here."

It truly is unfair how much our seniors are missing out on, especially during their last year at the high school.

Will Benoit listed just some of the many events that have been canceled or modified that he and the rest of the senior class were looking forward to.

"There's definitely the obvious things like prom, homecoming, sports, regular graduation, but also I really hoped that by the time this year started I could have one more normal year with all of my friends before we all go off to college next year," said Mr. Benoit.

Students aren't just sad about the fact that they're missing out on

Students aren't just sad about the fact that they're missing out on dances and pep rallies. They're most upset that they are missing out on a normal school year where the classroom has a more upbeat energy where they can work together, and getting hyped for sports games with big crowds.

dances and pep rallies. They're most upset that they are missing out on a normal school year where the classroom has a more upbeat energy where they can work together, and getting hyped for sports games with big crowds.

Twelfth-grader Matt Cadieux shared what this pandemic has taught him as it has made this year feel like a pill that's hard to swallow: "The pandemic has laid a toll on me

and my peers by casting a blanket of isolation and a lack of inspiration for the future. COVID has made me realize that in a blink of an eye all the little things I take for granted could be taken away from me."

Similarly, Meghan Oliver made a statement on the effects of COVID on her senior year: "The pandemic has made the idea of senioritis so much more extreme because at this point we're already committed to colleges and have absolutely nothing to look forward to at the end of this year."

With that being said, Sophia Medeiros is hopeful despite all that has been happening.

"I'm hoping things can all go back to normal before the school year is over!" she said.

I know I speak for all of the Fairhaven High School community when I say that I truly do hope our seniors get everything they deserve.

It's unfair, and it's upsetting that they are not able to experience those memories that fulfill your high school years.

It has been a pleasure to share my short time at the high school with our seniors who have served as impeccable role models during such difficult times. We can only hope that things will improve from here, and

hopefully a somewhat normal graduation is within reach for our seniors.

The high school is trying to improvise, and make this year as enjoyable as possible for our 12th graders. They are currently holding an "Adopt-A-Senior" event that involves the community rewarding the seniors with personalized gift baskets. Please feel free to be a part of this and call Fairhaven High School to learn more, 508-979-4052.



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Selectboard holds off on signing TM Warrant

Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

During the Selectboard's 3/22/21 meeting, Interim Town Administrator Wendy Graves told the board to hold off on closing and signing the Annual Town Meeting Warrant after the meeting was postponed to June 12. This has also led to a revision to the FY22 budget and Town Meeting calendar, making the new deadline for citizens' petitions April 16.

Also during the meeting, Selectboard member Bob Espindola said he has been participating in negotiating a host community agreement with Elevation Retail, a potential new recreational adult-use cannabis dispensary slated for the corner of Alden Road and Bridge Street. He said a draft agreement would be reviewed with town counsel the following day.

Mr. Espindola also mentioned a recent webinar on the town's plan for its own fiber-optic system was well attended, and a second webinar would be scheduled some time closer to the Annual Town Meeting. He said there would also be some lawn signs available that read "Own your

internet" for anyone interested.

In another matter, Matt Shortsleeve from Solect Energy gave a brief overview of two new solar array and energy storage projects planned for Hastings Middle School and the Council on Aging/Recreation Center parking lot.

At HMS, areas on the roof that were inspected and deemed appropriate will feature solar panels accompanied by a battery storage system on the ground. Areas of the COA/Rec Center parking lot will feature a solar canopy above parking rows and connect directly to the grid to provide the town with utility bill credits.

Mr. Shortsleeve said the town's financial incentive would be around \$1 million. The board approved signing a letter of intent and letter of consent for both projects. Town Meeting voters will have to authorize the lease before the project can break ground.

In other news, the board voted to follow Veterans Agent Bradford Fish's informed recommendation to cancel the Memorial Day and Fourth of July parades and hold online virtual observations as the COVID-19

pandemic continues. Mr. Fish and the board remain hopeful that the Veteran's Day parade in November will be held as a traditional parade once again.

Mr. Fish said the annual flagging of veterans' graves will still take place in the weeks leading to Memorial Day.

If the parade can be held in person in November, Mr. Espindola commented, it will likely be "one heck of a parade."

Mr. Espindola suggested the town needs a strategic plan for its town and school cable enterprise budgets and retained earnings accounts as deposits to those retained earnings accounts decreased in size.

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School Committee candidates face the questions

By Beth David
Editor

Three candidates vying for two seats on the Fairhaven School Committee answered questions at the candidates night on 3/15 sponsored by the North Fairhaven Improvement Association and Fairhaven Government Access TV-Channel 18. The questions were posed by Fairhaven High School student Elizabeth Edminster, and the evening was moderated by NFIA president Pauline Parker. Fairhaven votes on Monday, 4/5 (see page 3).

Incumbents Donna McKenna and Colin Veitch, and newcomer Cathleen Marchessault all participated and will be on the ballot for the two seats.

In her opening statement, Donna McKenna told voters she is a lifelong Fairhaven resident, an alumni and parent of two children who attended Fairhaven Public Schools.

"I am so proud of the progress that we have made for our students," said Ms. McKenna, who has been on the committee for nine years. "It is because of these reasons and more that I continue to serve and represent our blue and white colors proudly."

She said she "fully supports" the leadership team and educators, staff and students supporting initiatives on social, emotional and mental well being.

She noted some of the boards and committees she has been on since 2012, including the Mr. Fairhaven and After Prom events, saying they connect with the community.

"If you know me, you know I'm the individual that fights hard every day to make sure we see every student reach their highest potential no matter what it takes," said Ms. McKenna.

She said she was proud of the work the school has done during the pandemic to make life as normal as possible for students through a hybrid learning model, which allows for some in person interaction.

Mr. Veitch noted that he has been on the committee for 16 years, and helped to craft the district's mission statement: "The Fairhaven Public Schools, in partnership with families and the community will ensure high level learning for all children in a safe environment so each can become independent, productive and successful."

He said each word was carefully chosen and they live by that to this day.

He also read part of the "customer service statement," called "You are

Fairhaven."

It states in part that if you are unprofessional, so are we, if you're rude, so are we, if you're wonderful so are we.

He said everyone has a stake in the attitude of everyone who works in the school department.

He noted that the committee is a diverse group of mothers, fathers, and a young, single person.

"We are involved, we know our system," said Mr. Veitch, adding that he had four children go through the system.

He said he knows it is not always easy to navigate that system, and offered for people to call him if they disagree with decisions.

"I believe we have caring and helpful staff and teachers," said Mr. Veitch.

Ms. Marchessault, a newcomer to Fairhaven politics, introduced herself by saying she is not new to Fairhaven. She said her family has "very deep roots" in Fairhaven and she has lived here for 20 years.

She is a public school teacher but has "varied experience" before that including as a computer programmer, bank teller, and the "many various jobs we do to get ourselves through college."

Ms. Marchessault also noted that she has volunteered at both the parent and teacher level for different organizations and school events, including After Prom.

"It takes a village for any of those events," said Ms. Marchessault, adding she has also helped with financial literacy programs in schools.

Because of COVID, the district and students have been through a lot, she said, and much has changed drastically.

She said the school committee needs to be quickly responsive to changes and the unexpected. She would prioritize that the district is responsive, ready for students to return, and responsive to new things that will be happening when they return.

For her first question, Ms. Edminster's asked the candidates what their thoughts were on communication among the school committee, administration, and teachers and what they would do to improve it.

Ms. McKenna said the committee has an open meeting and anyone can join in every two weeks. She said they ask all staff, teachers, and the public to join.

"We basically have a very free open book," said Ms. McKenna.

She said they have a good policy now and she would not change anything.

"I've never heard any negatives," she said, adding she has great pleasure in

saying "we have a great staff in Fairhaven," and she has only heard positive things.

Mr. Veitch said it was important to remember that the SC is a "governing body" of the district, they are "hired" in the election and "we serve at the pleasure of the public."

He said the superintendent, Robert Baldwin, is like the CEO and the SC is the board of directors. They give direction on policy and budget, but the superintendent follows through. He said he commended Dr. Baldwin on hiring the best people.

Ms. Marchessault said because she is not on the committee, her answer is a bit different.

She said she would like to see subcommittees on some things, like COVID, and other issues. That would help with communications, she said and make sure all facets are addressed.

She said each person on the SC has something "valuable to share."

She found that COVID committees have been very helpful, and people with different backgrounds offered solutions that some people never saw.

Ms. Edminster asked the candidates how remote learning has affected students.

Ms. McKenna said some students have done really well and some have probably not.

"Being remote, I think has brought families more together than maybe they were prior to the pandemic," said Ms. McKenna, adding it has been good for some families.

She repeated that she hoped they would never see a pandemic and the need to educate remotely again, but they have learned from it and will know how to deal with it if it does happen again.

She said she commends "highly" the teachers who also have children at home as they teach remotely, and noted that the kids who are at home "can't wait" to get back to school.

Mr. Veitch said there was "nothing the same" about remote learning and in class learning.

He said the district is doing its best, but it "accentuates gaps" in learning and accentuates everything that can go wrong.

He did note, though, that Fairhaven is doing better than "a bunch of other districts in the state."

He said remote learning does not work as well as being in the classroom.

"Being a teacher is an avocation," said

SC CAND: cont'd on page 17

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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.

Eco Challenge

*Fairhaven Sustainability Committee
2021 ECO Challenge JOIN Team
Southcoast April 1-30.*

The Fairhaven Sustainability Committee is sponsoring Team Southcoast in the ECO Challenge outdoor time, in April. Teams are created and each team member is responsible for tracking their own ECO Challenge activities which include reducing plastic use, saving water, eating vegetarian, planting, increasing time, contacting officials regarding environmental issues, among many other actions.

The following link will explain how the challenge works. <https://ecochallenge.org/ecochallenge-platform/hoe-it-works/> Registration runs through the month of March and the challenge begins in April.

If you are interested in participating in this fun challenge, go to <http://bit.ly/EarthMonthEcochallenge> or call the Fairhaven Senior Center at 508-979-4029

Tax Assistance

The Senior Center will be offering tax assistance every Tuesday and Thursday to low income seniors. Please call the Center at 508-979-4029 to set up an appointment. You will be given a list of items to bring to your appointment and a form to fill out. It is mandatory that you bring the forms and your 2019 tax return.

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Bijou's new owner looking to give it new life

By Beth David
Editor

Julio Barbosa likes big, old buildings. So it's no surprise he was seriously attracted to the old Bijou Theater building on Main Street in North Fairhaven.

He started working on the building, then he had to stop.

And that's about where the story starts to veer off into two directions.

Mr. Barbosa said he got permits to do the work he was doing, then the building commissioner left and the

interim commissioner revoked his permits. He said the new commissioner, Christopher Carmichael, has been intractable in helping him get back on track.

Mr. Carmichael said that Mr. Barbosa's work went beyond the scope of the initial permit, but that he never should have been given any permits to work on the building in the first place.

The building has 15 small apartments, not exactly studio apartments, and not exactly standard one-bed-

rooms either. Twelve of them have a kitchen area on one floor, then some steps up to a bedroom and a 3/4 bathroom.

There is no window in any of the kitchens in these apartments, and some only have small windows on the stairway or in the bathroom.

Mr. Barbosa says he believes they will be affordable housing, and he wants to market them to veterans.

Mr. Carmichael says they are

BIJOU: cont'd on page 26



LEFT: The kitchen area in one of the apartments on the back side of the building has a stairway to the left that leads to a room with a closet and bath, in the old Bijou Theater Building, 350 Main Street, Fairhaven. The apartments on that side of the building have very little natural light, but they do have windows on the stairway and/or the upper level. RIGHT: The front window of an apartment on the Main Street side looks out to the Oxford School building and Livesey Park behind it. Photos by Beth David.



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Cand night/SC from page 13

Mr. Veitch, requiring “a lot of quiet skills that you have to be in person to do.”

Ms. Marchessault said it was a “challenging question” to ask a teacher, with only a two-minute limit.

She noted she has two children at home and has “concerns about remote learning overall.”

The bigger concern is to address the communication gap, she said, asking what does success mean for students, how are they planning to assess what has gone well and what has not.

She said she could speak to her own family’s personal experience, but as a committee they have to identify what happened in the entire system. She said she had a metric in mind and would like to use it to improve next year.

Ms. Edminster also asked if the district was ready for the pandemic and how to prepare for the future.

Ms. McKenna said they were as ready as anyone else and staff stepped up to the plate and worked together. She said they had meetings more often but no one could be ready for what happened.

“But we did the best we could,” said Ms. McKenna, and they could not ask for a better leadership team than Fairhaven.

“They did awesome,” she said, and stressed the increased level of communication.

Mr. Veitch said it was a “loaded question,” because no one is ready for a pandemic.

He also said staff members were amazing and they were running on all cylinders and made smoke come out of the cylinders because they were running so fast.

He said their ability to change day to day and keep the students in mind was “amazing,” and their “change management” was “incredible.”

He noted that the state made constant demands.

Mr. Veitch said they have not always “been excellent” but they need to recognize when they are not excellent and make it better, which will set them up for the next crisis.

Ms. Marchessault also said it was a “loaded question,” noting she was not privy to any of the planning.

She said they can never be ready for that kind of crisis. As a teacher, she is not sure she would answer “yes,” even though she is ready.

She said what happened behind the scenes was unclear and it would be nice to tell the parents. She said, to parents, it did not look like the district was ready.

“No, they were not, but how possibly could they be?” said Ms. Marchessault.

In her closing statement, Ms. McKenna said the committee was like her family, with days they get along and days they do not agree. At the end of the night, though, they have done a great job.

Mr. Veitch said it has been an “exciting” 16 years, and his children saw many changes as they attended Fairhaven Public Schools.

“They had quite the ride,” said Mr. Veitch.

He said when he started it was all about budgets and fighting for money and they have managed to go beyond that to “the good stuff.”

Ms. Marchessault said the most important thing was for the community to get through this together. She said she would like to be on the committee and use metrics and data to assess and move forward, and make sure they are engaging with all students.

See the last two issues for stories on the other candidates at <https://www.fairhavenneighborhoodnews.com/newspaper-archives/>

To watch the video, visit <https://livestream.com/fairhavenlive/events/8101110>



Three candidates for two seats on the Fairhaven School Committee participate remotely in a candidates night on 3/15/21. TOP: Incumbent Donna McKenna. MIDDLE: Incumbent Colin Veitch. ABOVE: Challenger Cathleen Marchessault. Screen shots from Fairhaven Government Cable TV by Beth David.

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From our readers

Collasius does not want tree taken down

My name is Don Collasius and I am running for Tree Warden. First off, thanks to Beth David for providing such a good forum for community information.

I appreciate the opportunity to correct information given regarding my interactions with the town. It was written in the last *Fairhaven Neighborhood News*, "It is no secret Mr. Collasius has been trying to get a tree near his house removed."

This is not true. Since 2017 I have been trying to get the current Tree Warden to do a level 3 tree risk assessment, per the International Society of Arboriculture, on two large and potentially hazardous town-owned trees on my street. I have never asked the town or anyone to remove a tree.

I have asked for this comprehensive survey, something that a qualified arborist does regularly, to assess the danger that the trees present in definitive numerical metrics. A level 3 assessment takes into account nearby targets the tree could damage, the density of the people that live, work and travel by it, as well as the age, health and structural issues of the tree. This survey entails a written report in a format dictated by International Society of Arboriculture.

I have offered to pay for this survey out of my own pocket which was refused by the current Tree Warden. Note, this survey does no harm to a tree. The Tree Warden committed to me and to the former Town Administrator to do this survey numerous times and a deadline was set for Labor Day 2019. Nothing has been done.

I am seeking this job because I know we can do better. Please vote for change, please vote for me.

Thank you, Don C. Collasius

Fiber Optic System may not save you money

Update on fiber optic system that the Town of Fairhaven wants to put in residents' homes. This is a personal post of information I have researched. There are just under 31,000 towns and cities in the United States. To date 521 have their own cable system. The first cost to residents would be anywhere from \$800.00 to \$1000.00 to put a WiFi node to the outside of your house. Another \$800.00 to wire your house for faster speeds and direct connection.

Now the advantage of owning your own cable system is you can pick any internet provider. Calling 6 communities in 5 States the average cost for internet ONLY was \$45 a month with blazing speeds.

Next you might want a home phone

number like I do. The cell service in Fairhaven is terrible. The cheapest plan I found was \$52.00 with taxes for unlimited calling. The next thing you need is cable channels. The cheapest plan I found was for \$79.95 for 60 channels 2 DVR recorders. Add the three together it's over \$170.00 per month. I now pay \$164.50 per month and have blast internet, home phone and 120 channels and three DVR recorders.

This Fiber optic system would save me no money and lose 60 plus channels. I don't need faster internet in my house. Maybe a business would profit from this but not a town resident.

Also because we don't own the telephone poles, the fiber optic system would have to pay \$50.00 per pole each month on poles we run wires to!!

I, as a town meeting member, would not want to spend anymore money on this concept. I will be speaking against this at our next Town meeting!

Gary Lavalette, Fairhaven

Easter and Passover message

Greetings all. I want to send a heartfelt message to you for our upcoming Easter and Passover celebrations. With the unprecedented COVID dilemma that we all went through for over a year now, it would seem to me that the beginning of its end is just around the corner. And all during this trying time that we experienced together, the Shepherd's Pantry has remained open. Although, our weekly clients' numbers are not where they were before this pandemic, needy people each week came and were given a helping hand.

And thanks to all of you volunteers who despite the challenges of contracting this horrendous illness, you came and helped with the food distribution. It's truly a testament of your kindness to help the less fortunate in our area. I am very appreciative to all of you and can't thank you enough for your love and fortitude.

God bless and have a blessed celebration.

Gerry Payette, Director

Response to "My Republican Friends"

This letter is in response to the letter to the editor titled "To My Republican Friends" (3/11/21)

It's troubling to see people being attacked for holding a political opinion or asking questions. The latest Covid relief comes in the form of the "For the People Act of 2021." It comes with a price tag of about 1.9 trillion dollars. A number that large is hard to wrap your head around. Suffice it to say, that it is roughly \$5,700 for every person in the country.

That's obviously a lot more than the \$1,400 that many people will receive in the form a Covid relief check. If you do the math, that's more than four times as much as the Covid relief checks. So maybe we should ask some questions.

Maybe we should ask why a political wish list that accounts for three quarters of the cost of the bill is being tied to Covid relief? Maybe we should also ask why fundamental changes to our election laws are included in the bill? Maybe other concerns should stand on their own and not be tied to Covid relief.

I also think it's reasonable to ask who is getting the relief checks and why. My mother is retired and on Social Security. She hasn't suffered any financial loss from the pandemic but she's getting relief checks. Why? My girlfriend has been working throughout the pandemic. No financial loss there either but she's getting checks.

Any idea why we're doing that? Shouldn't we be giving Covid relief dollars to those who need it?

But that's nothing compared to who else is getting taxpayer money. According to the fact checking website Snopes, the Boston Marathon bomber "and others convicted of a range of crimes are, in principle, eligible for such checks." Wow.

I don't qualify for a relief check so Mr. Abelha doesn't have to worry about me cashing one. If he qualifies for a relief check and has suffered a financial hardship during the pandemic then I'm glad he's getting one. If he's getting a check and hasn't experienced a financial hardship maybe he should contact his elected officials and ask them why we are wasting so much taxpayer money?

Frank Crowell, Fairhaven

Vote Collasius to keep beauty

The town of Fairhaven is one of the loveliest towns on Buzzard's Bay, due in part to the tree-lined streets and beautiful parks. We have a long history of citizen contributions to the raising and care of trees in the town. This election year we have the opportunity to elect a person of integrity and professional, hands-on knowledge of trees.

I know the other candidate comes from a family with a tree business. My dad was an architect, but you probably wouldn't have me design your house because of that. Vote for Don Collasius!

Betsy Allen, Fairhaven

Re-elect Colin & Vetich

Over the last number of years there have been some remarkable improvements to the Fairhaven public schools

LETTERS: cont'd on page 24

Acushnet police nab suspect after search

Press Release

At approximately 3:10 p.m. on Monday, 3/29/21, Acushnet Police were called to a Clem's Way address for a reported past assault. On arrival, officers found that the suspect, a 37-year-old male, had assaulted his girlfriend and fled into the nearby woods prior to officers arriving on scene.

While speaking with the victim, officers observed that the interior of house showed signs of a struggle. Several loose shotgun shells were also observed in plain sight. Out of an abundance of

caution, K-9 assistance was requested from the Bristol County Sheriff's Office and Massachusetts State Police to track the suspect. Assistance was also provided by the Rochester Police Department, Plymouth County Sheriff's Office and the Massachusetts State Police Air Wing. By about 5:35 p.m., the suspect still had not been located and the search was called off.

At about 6:30 p.m., a good Samaritan called the Acushnet Police Department to report a suspicious male running south in the 600 block of Main Street. Officers were

still in the area and responded quickly. They found it to be the male that was the target of the earlier search. He was placed under arrest without further incident. He was booked at the Acushnet Police Department before being transferred to the Bristol County Sheriff's Office Ash Street regional holding facility.

The male is being charged with several domestic violence related charges including strangulation/suffocation (MGL 265 ch 15D). No further information will be released to protect the identity of the victim.

Acushnet Selectboard approves department budgets

Jean Perry

Neighb News Correspondent

The Acushnet Selectboard approved some Fiscal Year 2022 budgets, including Fire and Police, after brief presentations during a 3/30 morning meeting, and pending some Cost of Living increases that might change totals.

Fire Chief Kevin Gallagher presented his \$1,073,774 FY22 budget, which he said was just about as level-funded as possible, aside from standard salary increases and a modest increase of \$4,000 to activate an assessment center. FY21 was \$1,073,774.

The objective of the center is to

provide a means of choosing officer ranks and, in this case, specifically a new fire captain, who will prepare to take over the role of fire chief as Chief Gallagher prepares for his retirement in the next few years. Chief Gallagher said this would be a proactive approach, offering him the chance to mentor a potential candidate.

Selectboard Chairperson Kevin Gaspar noted a significant drop in the Fire Department's overtime salary line item for FY22, which the chief said is mainly due to having established another full-time position.

However, as for the FY21 overtime

budget, he said: "We blew it apart this year."

He pointed out a significant deficit in that line item because the department went several months with one full-time vacancy.

Any further strain on the overtime budget should be minimal now that the department is fully staffed.

"Overtime, as you know, is always 'nailing Jell-O to the wall,'" said Chief Gallagher, but added he is confident that, come the close of FY21, he should have a solid understanding of what the depart-

ACUSH: cont'd on page 21

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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, April 12, 2021 at 6:30pm
Town Hall, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

To Access Meeting Remotely:
<https://zoom.us/j/96039571994?pwd=djBJSgHpSWF1VHVZTEVUFmZkIldzO9>
or CALL 1-929-205-6099
Meeting ID: 960 3957 1994
Passcode: 926622

The Fairhaven Conservation Commission will hold the following Public Hearing 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 023-208: **198 Balsam Street** Notice of Intent filed by Steven Cohen for the construction of a 194-foot-long fixed dock with associated gangway and float system at the property located at 198 Balsam Street, Assessors Map 43B, Lots 47-52 & 361. Work to take place on Land Under the Ocean and Coastal Beach and within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, Estimated Habitats of Rare Wildlife, and the 100-foot buffer zone to Salt Marsh.
2. CON 023-209: **17 Abbey Street** Request for Determination of Applicability filed by Kendra Strangis for the construction of a 15-foot by 15-foot extension of an existing pool deck on sonotubes at the property located at 17 Abbey Street, Assessors Map 6, Lot 96. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage and the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland.
3. CON 023-210: **1 Boulder Court** Notice of Intent filed by Arthur and Helena Oliveira for the construction of a flood-zone compliant 32-foot by 40-foot single family dwelling with related grading and utilities at the property located at 1 Boulder Court, Assessors Map 2, Lot 6C. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage and the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland.
4. CON 023-211: **9 Taber Street** Notice of Intent filed by Keith Pedro for the construction of a 24-foot by 24-foot garage at the property located at 9 Taber Street, Assessors Map 15, Lot 26. Work to take place in Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage.
5. CON 023-212: **12 Huttleston Avenue (Fairhaven High School)** Request for Determination of Applicability filed under the Fairhaven Wetlands Bylaw only for the construction of a synthetic turf athletic field at the property located at 12 Huttleston Avenue, Assessors Map 12, Lot 236. Work to take place within the 100-foot buffer zone to Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage.
6. CON 023-213: **Cherrystone Road/Fir Street** Notice of Intent filed by Michael Ristuccia for the construction of a 28-foot by 60-foot single family dwelling and associated septic system and site grading at the property located at Cherrystone Road and Fir Street, Assessors Map 43B, Lots 313-315. Work to take place within Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage.

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: 4/1/21

Fairhaven Planning Board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Tuesday, April 13, 2021, at 6:30 pm
Banquet Room, Town Hall, 40 Center Street
Fairhaven, Massachusetts

Notice is hereby given that the Fairhaven Planning Board will conduct four Public Hearings at 6:30 P.M. on Tuesday April 13, 2021, remotely from Town Hall, 40 Center Street, Fairhaven, MA. The Planning Board Meeting will be conducted remotely for the public and will be televised live on Fairhaven TV Channel 18 and fairhaventv.com. To join the meeting from home log on to:

<https://zoom.us/j/93173407725?pwd=cUuWUTlwSXYSLOVmbWZfTmdsT1FIUOT9>
or Telephone 1-929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 931 7340 7725 ; Password: 933956

1. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive information and public comment on the updating of the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) to maintain currency with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This requires amendments to the Zoning Bylaw Chapter 198, Section 28, to replace five (5) existing map panels (25005C0391F, 25005C0392F, 25005C0394F, 25005C0411F, 25005C0413F dated July 7, 2009) with five (5) new map panels (25005C0391H, 25005C0392G, 25005C0394H, 25005C0411G, 25005C0413G dated July 6, 2021). The date of the Bristol County Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report needs to be changed to July 6, 2021 and some required language from the NFIP model bylaw must be added. The location is town wide.

A copy of the application is on file for public review at the Planning Board Office, Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and all information is accessible at the Planning Board webpage: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/planning-board/webforms/national-flood-insurance-maps-new-nfip-fairhaven-map-panels-and-bylaw>

2. The purpose of the hearing will be to receive information and public comment on the updating of the minimum additions to Stormwater Management Section 198-31.1 as required by the MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) General Permit for

Stormwater Discharges jointly issued by the US EPA and MassDEP.

A copy of the application is on file for public review at the Planning Board Office, Town Hall by appointment and on the Town website. To schedule an appointment to review the application email the Planning Department at pfoley@fairhaven-ma.gov or call (508) 979-4082, Ext. 9 or go to: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/planning-board>

3 The purpose of the public hearing will be to receive information and public comment on the proposal to establish a General Bylaw Amendment, proposed by the Planning Board, for regulation of Short Term Rentals (STR) to provide for the orderly and safe operation of short-term rentals within the Town and prevent negative impacts.

3A The purpose of the second hearing will be to receive information and public comment on the proposal to establish a General Bylaw Amendment, proposed by the Planning Board, that would impose a 3 percent Community Impact Fee, per Section 3D (b) of M.G.L. Chapter 64G, to be paid monthly on the total amount of rent for each transfer of occupancy on short-term rental units located within a one or two-family or multi-family dwelling that includes the operator's primary residence.

A copy of the application (3 & 3A) is on file for public review at the Planning Board Office, Town Hall from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and all information is accessible at the Planning Board webpage: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/planning-board/pages/short-term-rentals-bylaw-documents>

4 The purpose of the hearing will be to receive information and public comment on the following Special Permit application: 1) SP 2021-01 — Bijou Apartments, a proposal to renovate the fifteen (15) residential apartments on the second and third floor and the three commercial units on the ground floor with new windows, paint and a fire detection system. The building has been abandoned for at least 10 years. The applicant is Julio Barbosa and the location is 350 Main Street (Map 19, Lots 257 & 259) in Fairhaven.

A copy of the application is on file for public review at the Planning Board Office, Town Hall by appointment and on the Town website. To schedule an appointment to review the application call the Planning Department at (508) 979-4082, Ext. 9 or go to: <https://www.fairhaven-ma.gov/planning-board/pages/current-permits-being-reviewed-special-permits-definitive-subdivisions>

To schedule an appointment to review any of the applications call the Planning Department at (508) 979-4082, Ext. 9.

John Farrell Jr., Chairman of the Planning Board
FNN: 3/25/21, 4/1/21

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ACUSH: cont'd from page 19
ment will need for next year, barring any unforeseen illness or injury.

The ambulance service revenue did take a noticeable hit during the early part of the COVID-19 pandemic, when for one month, "Routine calls disappeared," said Chief Gallagher.

He said departments across the region also experienced it, and he anticipates call volumes will level-out ahead of this upcoming fiscal year.

Police Chief Christopher Richmond presented his \$1,510,019 FY22 budget, which is level-funded, except for contractual salary and longevity increases and the restoration of funding for a second police cruiser that was removed from FY21 to help the chief reduce his overall budget by 5% as requested last year. He said the preliminary FY22 budget he submitted in December reflected a \$90,000 placeholder for purchasing cruisers, which had to be brought up to \$99,400.

If the Town does move ahead with two new cruisers, Chief Richmond said he could eliminate the \$4,000 increase to the vehicle maintenance line item.

Building Inspector James Marot noted that the Green Communities municipal

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reimbursement rate for the purchase of hybrid and electric vehicles has increased. Now, the Town could receive \$15,000 in funding from the state per hybrid vehicle, something Mr. Marot asked the Selectboard to consider when buying new cruisers.

The board liked the idea, but Chief Richmond said he was not prepared at this time to move in that direction with his upcoming cruiser purchases; however, he said he is open to exploring the option.

The Selectboard will also explore whether federal COVID-19 funding could be spent on at least one of the new cruisers.

As for overtime, the FY21 budget is nearly fully expended, and Chief Richmond said he is still waiting on \$80,000 in funding to be transferred to the budget from reimbursement grants. He said he is "cautiously optimistic" that the FY21 overtime budget will last throughout June, but June is often one of the department's heaviest overtime use months.

The board also approved the chief's request to appoint Alyssa Mello to fill the vacant dispatcher position. The board approved her salary at a step-3 pay rate.

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

Board of Public Works

Mon., 4/12, Arsene St., 6:15 p.m.

Broadband Study Comm

Thurs., 4/8, Remote, 6 p.m.

Conservation Commission

Mon., 4/12, Town Hall/Remote, 6:30

FAIRHAVEN ELECTION

Mon., 4/5, Polls open 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

Finance Committee

Thurs., 4/1, Arsene St/Remote, 7 p.

Marine Resources Comm

Thurs., 4/1, Town Hall/Remote, 6:30

Planning Board

Tues., 4/13, Town Hall/Remote, 6:30

School Committee

Wed., 4/14, FHS Library, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

Mon. 4/12, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

Acushnet

Planning Board

Thurs., 4/22, Remote, 6:30 p.m.

Selectboard

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

TIDE TABLE

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

	Apr. 2021	HIGH		LOW	
		a.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.
Thursday	1	1140	----	0456*	1701*
Friday	2	0008	1238	0543*	1749*
Saturday	3	0109	1341	0645	1853
Sunday	4	0210	1442	0843	2029
Monday	5	0311	1544	1042	2258
Tuesday	6	0416	1654	1151	----
Wednesday	7	0524	1757	0010	1242
Thursday	8	0619	1844	0102	1327
Friday	9	0703	1924	0150	1407
Saturday	10	0742	2001	0235	1441
Sunday	11	0819	2038	0313	1425
Monday	12	0858	2115	0324	1428

*= 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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Society-Past President Fairhaven Improvement Assoc.-Past President of the Fairhaven Rotary Club

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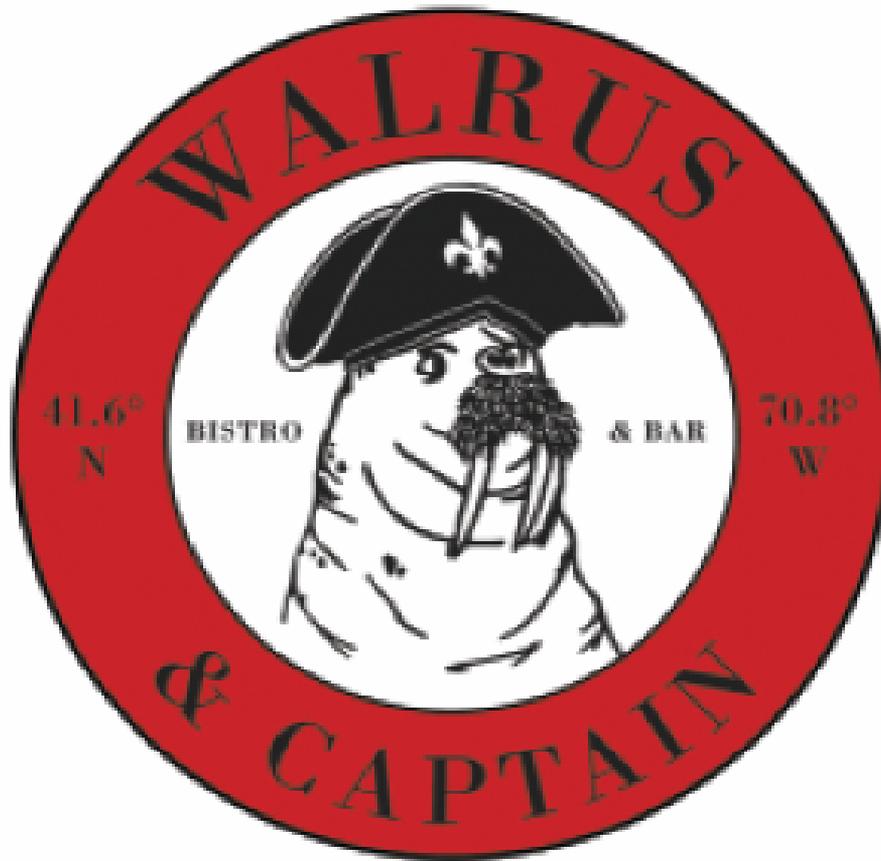
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and the administration and school committee should be applauded.

Some of these accomplishments include:

- The positive progression towards academic excellence
- We became a one to one district by providing Chromebooks to all high school students
- The addition of early childhood/preschool programs at the Wood school
- Investments in programs to support the social and emotional well-being of students
- Physical improvements to the middle school from new windows, roofs, and doors to new floors and ceilings
- At the high school new physical improvements included new lighting systems along with a new dehumidification system in the gym and approval for a multi-sport turf field.
- Finally, and most importantly, Robert Baldwin was named Massachusetts superintendent of the year in 2020

All of these accomplishments have come to fruition because of the hard working relationship between the school administration and the Fairhaven school committee.

The present school committee has impressed me because of these successes and more importantly because of the professional and dignified manner in which they have conducted business. The board has always been respectful while allowing the general public to always express their concerns and give their opinions.

It is because of their wonderful behavior and stated accomplishments that I enthusiastically recommend the reelection of Donna McKenna and Colin Veitch for Fairhaven School Committee.

Please vote and let your voice be heard on April 5th !

Mark Badwey, Fairhaven

Espindola should be re-elected

Bob Espindola — I have had the immense honor of getting to know Bob since he got sworn in as a Selectman on the Selectboard. Bob is a prime example of what it means to be a servant leader. He listens authentically to everyone's concerns, he's empathetic, especially to those who disagree with his decisions, he acts as his own person, and, most importantly, he is kind.

Bob has always handled himself with the utmost integrity and is honest with how he feels on various policy issues because of the research he does before

meetings. To me, at the least, that's what all of us should ask for from our elected officials. We are the faces of our community and how we conduct ourselves in meetings are true reflections of what our community values.

We should always expect our officials to lead by example through integrity, respect and decency for one another, especially for our students in the Fairhaven Public Schools district. Aside from his characteristics, Bob has done so much and more during his tenure. It's because of his strong leadership he has helped provide the following:

- Adopted recommendations from the free DOR Financial Management Review which resulted in our Town running five-year projections for revenues and expenses, established a formal Capital Planning process and most importantly, established Financial Management Policies that have served us well, unlike a majority of other communities, through COVID19. I cannot stress enough how these practices have allowed us to weather this storm, particularly when it comes to educating our scholars enrolled in the Fairhaven Public Schools district.
- Helped provide over \$1 million in grant monies to our community which helped provide Economic Development, IT Consolidation, Improved Energy Efficiency, Solar Installations and more. Essentially, these grants help save you, the taxpayer, monies overtime, as welcoming new businesses and utilizing green energy helps broaden our tax base. In comparison to other communities, we have one of the lowest residential tax assessments and it's because of our commercial base as well as other opportunities to reduce our carbon footprint that help us stay competitive.
- Helped make our government more transparent by requiring the Town to record all meetings aired on Cable TV. So, rather than only being able to watch live meetings, you can now watch any meeting at your leisure whether through Channel 9, online, or through Facebook.
- Because of Bob's strong empathetic personality, the complaints he has heard from many of you in our community about high cable rates, poor service and lack of competition was turned into action by helping form a Broadband Study Committee to look at how you, the taxpayer, can save on your cable bill.

Selectman Espindola is someone I fully trust to lead Fairhaven forward. He listens, he respects all opinions, and most importantly, the way he conducts himself

with integrity, empathy and honesty are why he deserves another 3 years on the Selectboard. My friends, I strongly encourage you all on Monday, April 5th, to vote for Bob Espindola for Selectmen.

Kyle Bueno, Fairhaven

School Committee incumbents show respect

With all of the political turmoil in town, it is hard to find a board representing the people as they should. Elected officials that instill a sense of pride in our town are few and far between. There is a board, though, that does set the bar high and provides a great example to everyone. That board is our School Committee. While watching their meetings, it is clear that they have a great deal of respect for one another and the office they hold. These are people with a great deal of integrity. The Fairhaven School Committee is not the board that needs change right now.

For this reason, I am urging Fairhaven voters to vote for Colin Veitch and Donna McKenna on April 5th. As voters, we will never agree with every decision, but personally, I am pleased with the education my children have received, even during the pandemic. I know that people like Colin and Donna are working hard to make sure that every student gets what they deserve, and they are doing it in a way that sets an example for those same students. So again, please vote for Colin Veitch and Donna McKenna on Monday, April 5th!

Gretchen Hubert, Fairhaven

Ahhh spring, town election

AHHHH, there's nothing like Spring in Fairhaven. Chirping birds making their nests and crocuses forcing themselves through the lingering snow and the time change that allows us to have daylight beyond 5:30 p.m.

For me, my absolute favorite Spring tradition is TOWN ELECTION. This year it is the Monday after Easter, April 5th. You may go to your precinct polling place (if you are unsure of where that is please call the Town Clerk's office 508-979-4079 ext 105 or 106) 10 a.m.-8 p.m. to cast your vote. With that in mind, I am writing this letter of support for three candidates vying for some of the most critical elected positions in our town.

First off, I am voting for Bob Espindola to be re-elected to the Selectboard. Throughout his tenure, Selectman Espindola has proven himself to be committed to the best interests of the citizens of Fairhaven. He has given countless hours of his personal and

LETTERS: cont'd from previous page

family time to do the hard work necessary to lead our town in a direction that benefits all of our families. More importantly he continues to be the stabilizing force in what has increasingly become a very difficult time to be governing Fairhaven. I am also publicly thanking Lisa Plante for her decade of service on what is arguably the most underrated committee in town, the Finance Committee. I for one would hate to lose her in that role.

The second race I'd like to comment on is that for the School Committee. I will be voting for Cathleen Marchessault. She will bring a new voice, one that has experience as an educator, to enhance the committee. Once again, I thank Ms. McKenna and Mr. Veitch for their years of excellent leadership, especially during what has certainly been the most challenging year facing a school department.

Many years ago, while our now grown children were at Wood School together, I suggested to Colin that he run for school committee and in fact I have worked in some capacity for the campaigns of every current member of the committee. During our Wood School days, I also worked closely with Donna in PTO and school volunteer capacities. However, whereas I have no complaints about either of their performances on behalf of our students, I feel strongly that every decade or so our students can only benefit from different perspectives and fresh ideas.

Finally, I come to the seat available on the Board of Health. One need only read archived editions of this credible news source to recognize that Kevin Gallagher is the absolute best candidate to win the seat. Throughout this horrible time of COVID 19 he has, in Acushnet, shown that he has the knowledge and expertise required to guide us through this global pandemic. He has also shared his dedication to the citizens and businesses in Fairhaven by asking for and receiving from the Board of Health the use of capacity limit signs in our restaurants. I want more of his ingenuity.

Regardless of your opinions, or mine for that matter, GET OUT AND VOTE!!

Diane Hahn, Fairhaven

Keep incumbents on SC

This past year has been unlike any other that we have experienced in our lives. Not many people can say they have lived through events like these. Navigating education policy, law, budgets, and other issues is difficult during regular times. COVID-19 has made the job 1000x's

harder.

As a school committee, we all take our job seriously and approach every meeting and decision with the utmost thoughtfulness and respect that our community deserves. Especially during the pandemic, we have prioritized allowing the public to speak and express their thoughts during every meeting.

Not everyone will agree with the steps the district has taken to keep our children and staff safe. Still, we made the best decisions we could based on science, data, and state mandates. We acknowledge that this has been difficult for our families and students. Some of these decisions have caused significant hardship and turmoil. I have personally lived through it, having a senior, sophomore, and 7th grader. I have endured tears and learning struggles while trying to work at the same time.

Despite the difficulty, our district has been able to navigate these troubled times due to solid and consistent leadership. This leadership has led to many successes over the past few years that have put Fairhaven Public Schools on the map. Here are a few:

- Funded an innovation program at the elementary level with plans to add it to the middle school. This program goes beyond science by introducing design, research, and engineering concepts.
- Funded a K-2 Literacy Initiative to teach essential literacy skills.
- Became a one-to-one district by providing Chromebooks to all high school students.
- Performed essential upkeep on our middle school to include new windows, doors, roof, floor tiles, ceiling tiles, and fresh paint.
- Added an Early Childhood/ Preschool program at the Leroy Wood School.
- Invested heavily in programs to support student social and emotional well-being with even more emphasis during the pandemic.

For these reasons, I ask you to vote for Colin Veitch and Donna McKenna for School Committee on Monday, April 5. Colin has a wealth of experience and wisdom in dealing with town government and budgets. He has devoted much of his life to service to the school district and town. Donna is a tireless volunteer and still gives 100's of hours organizing many high school events even though her children have graduated. She has also been our long-time representative to the Southeastern Massachusetts Educational Collaborative board of directors.

They are fantastic advocates for our schools and deserve your support. Let

them continue the hard work to make our schools some of the best in the area!

Brian Monroe, Chairperson, Fairhaven School Committee

Collasius has tree knowledge

I feel it is important to support Don Collasius for Tree Warden. He is very knowledgeable about trees, but he also understands the importance of responding to problems as they arise and before they become critical.

Having spoken with him on various occasions, I am convinced that, if elected, he will properly fulfill the role as tree warden. We need someone who is willing to put in the time to thoroughly review and ACT in the best interests of Fairhaven.

Sincerely, Glenn Williams

Enough is enough

Enough is Enough with this Selectboard Chairman. Yet another week has gone by and Mr. Freitas's corrupt and incompetent behavior has been lowered to the level of outright negligence of his duty as a Selectboard chair. He failed to even bother to show up to the last Selectboard meeting and is refusing to even schedule one this week, all without explanation. This is the definition of dereliction of duty, all while we still have no legitimate Town Administrator. Please don't mistake being tired of hearing about the same terrible behavior with being complacent and allowing it to continue. This failure of a chairman needs to resign immediately or be removed from office.

Remember this time last year when you were told there would be "change"? It should be clear to all that this change has all been for the worse. This has been a year of failure and corruption from Mr. Freitas and Mr. Silvia.

Seriously, if Mr. Silvia can't even discuss or vote on the most important issue the board faces, why is he even there? It's abundantly clear that Mr. Freitas only wanted a silent conspirator for his corrupt agenda, and this year he's trying to add another. We cannot let that happen. I believe the biggest mistake we can make as voters right now is to become numb to this outrageous behavior and list of failures.

Mr. Espindola has demonstrated transparent and honest leadership this past year (and every year of his tenure) and we desperately need his service to continue to prevent a total collapse of that Selectboard. Please join me in voting for Bob Espindola's re-election on Tuesday, April 5th.

Phil Washko, Fairhaven

BIJOU: cont'd from page 16

nowhere close to adhering to building codes and could never be approved without completely reconstructing the spaces.

He said they were built illegally in the 1970s, not to code even then. Since the building has been empty for ten years, he said nothing is “grandfathered” in.

Three other apartments on the Main Street side of the building are on one level and have big windows facing the Oxford School building. They each consist of a kitchen and one room.

The building also has three retail spaces with storefronts on Main Street, right across from the old Oxford School building, which is slated to have more than 50 apartments, with construction starting soon.

The Bijou building still has the large theater space, although all the seats are gone. Piping for gas heat sits on the floor now, but would be submerged when the floor is leveled out. It still has the steep pitch of a theater needing rows and rows of seats, facing the large screen area. Mr. Barbosa said he is considering that space for use as a function hall.

To use the Bijou building for apartments and retail, or “mixed use,” Mr. Barbosa needs a special permit, which would be granted by the Planning Board. He has a public hearing appointment on April 13.

Mr. Carmichael provided the *Neighb News* with a letter he sent in

response to Mr. Barbosa’s attorney. In the letter, Mr. Carmichael lays out the chronology of events leading to the stand-off. These included a couple of meetings with the planning director, fire chief, building commissioner, Mr. Barbosa and professionals he hired to work on the building design.

Mr. Barbosa said he figured the building would cost him about \$400,000 to get completely renovated. And he had hoped to get the retail spaces rented quickly to help with expenses. But the changes the town wants will cost him at least \$800,000 and probably more.

Mr. Carmichael said that the town needs to see detailed plans before he will issue any permits for any work on the building. He said town officials are in favor of having activity there.

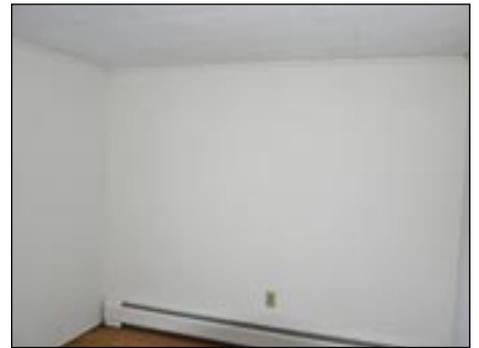
“To date the building permit has still not been issued as several items do not comply with the current building code,” wrote Mr. Carmichael in the letter dated 2/5/21. “The Town would welcome the renovation of the Bijou Building with its additional residential units and Storefronts to help revitalize this square in North Fairhaven. The Planning Department has spent countless hours attempting to help Mr. Barbosa with this Special Permit and advising him of financing opportunities available from the State if he chose to go with low income housing (40B) and of other avenues.”

In a follow-up by phone, Mr. Carmichael said the apartments in

question, as they are, will never be approved for people to live in. He ticked off a number of must-have items, including a sprinkler system, proper egress, an accessible way up to the second floor. And those do not address the problems with each individual apartment.

“He’s got a long way to go,” said Mr. Carmichael, but also said the town is in favor of the project. “We’re all for it. It’s an abandoned building. The way he’s done it is 100% wrong.”

He said adding residential units to the



neighborhood would be great for North Fairhaven and the whole town. The residential units are needed, he said, and will be used.

“But it will need to be done properly or it won’t be allowed,” said Mr. Carmichael.

As of press time, he had not seen any detailed plans, but hoped they would be ready for the 4/13 meeting.

“I look forward to seeing his full set of plans,” said Mr. Carmichael, adding that he hoped they would be able to come to an agreement for a special permit.

As for his part, Mr. Barbosa knows he got into a project that was a bit more than he thought it would be. But as he walks around the old place, he marvels at the concrete block construction, the gloriously spooky and large basement, and a host of other features of the old place.

“It’s amazing,” he said.

He pointed to the storefronts and then across the street to the old Oxford School building which will soon be bustling with new tenants.

There are so many choices to choose from for businesses to fill those spaces that would be mutually beneficial to the residents and to the merchants, he said.

He’s fighting the changes the town wants because “if you knock down one wall,” it changes everything and it all has to be to code.

But, according to Mr. Carmichael, it will all have to be to code, anyway.

They both agree it’s a building worth saving.

“We want to help him. We look forward to working with him,” said Mr. Carmichael. “We think it’s good for the town.”

“This is a beautiful, exciting building, and I want to bring it back to life,” said Mr. Barbosa.

The Planning Board hearing is on 4/13. See page 20 for legal notice.



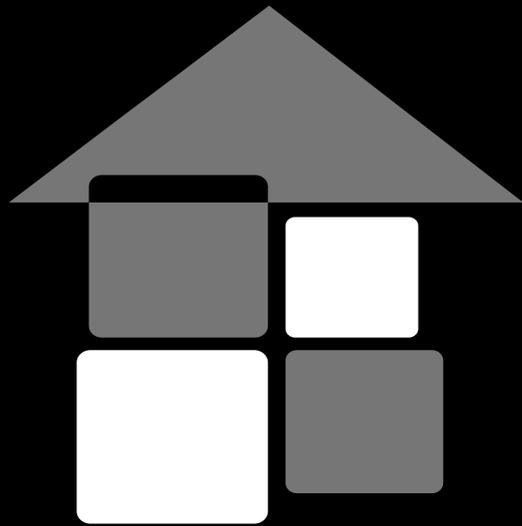
ABOVE: ABOVE: In a view from the projection room, the seats are gone from the theater space of the former Bijou Theater building, 350 Main Street, Fairhaven. The new owner, Julio Barbosa, wants to renovate 15 studio apartments and three retail spaces, and possibly rent the large room for functions. TOP: The bedroom on the upper level of one of the one-bedroom apartments has no window. *Photo by Beth David.*



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Bob Espindola SELECTMAN

BOB CHECKS ALL THE BOXES

✓ Educated and a Lifelong Learner

- Fairhaven Public Schools
- Mass Maritime Academy (Bachelor & Master)
- Leadership South Coast
- Mass Municipal Association Trainings

✓ Business Experience — 35 Years

- Engineering
- Project Management
- Energy Management
- Continuous Improvement and Cost Savings

✓ Established Relationships with State Officials & Regional Agencies

- Baker-Polito Administration
- Mass Department of Transportation
- Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD)
- Mass. Municipal Association

✓ Dedicated Service to Fairhaven

- 9 Years on the Select Board
- Implemented and Serves on many Subcommittees

✓ The LEADER We Need

- Open & Transparent
- Innovative and a Problem Solver
- Professional
- Respectful
- Has a solid plan for the future of Fairhaven

✓ **VOTE FOR**
Bob Espindola
SELECTMAN
MONDAY, APRIL 5TH