

Changing New Bedford Through City Legislation

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7 Things To Do This AHA!

The Southcoast Hot Jobs List – 10 December, 2012



by
Michael
Silvia

The Greater New Bedford unemployment rate is much higher than the rest of Massachusetts, but believe it or not there really are a lot of jobs available for qualified applicants. Sometimes the barrier to a new job can be the lack of information on available job openings. To solve this, each week New Bedford Guide will be working with the New Directions Southcoast (also known as the Greater New Bedford Career Center) to inform job seekers about the hottest jobs in the

area. We will define “Hot Jobs” as those jobs that need to be filled by the employer immediately. For those looking to search some large job databases, checkout my Best Job Search Resources for New Bedford Residents article. Unless noted otherwise, those interested in these positions or want more information should go to the Greater New Bedford Career Center at 618 Acushnet Avenue. Here are the Hot Jobs as of December 10th, 2012:

1. Plumbing & Gas Fitter #1649047 – ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Enforces plumbing-related codes, including the 248 CMR and International Fuel & Gas Code, and local plumbing codes such as those for fire protection sprinkler systems, fire hydrants, etc. Issues stop-work orders, correction notices and citations. Performs on site inspections of plumbing systems. Performs plumbing inspections of all plumbing fixtures examining for vent size, grade and size of pipe, and examines all joints for proper sealing to insure that there are no leaks, etc. Performs water tests on all completed plumbing, examining for sealing and leakage, etc.

2. Collections Representative #1648446 – Responsible for the collection of overdrawn deposit accounts via telephone contact with customers, resolve customer issues with regard to negative balance, negotiate repayment terms. Must provide consistent quality customer service to customers. 6 months collections, customer service or Telemarketing Experience.

3. Electrician Helper #1651836 – Must have two years experience as a helper and graduated from an electrical program.



4. Site Coordinator #1651876 – Must be 20 yrs. old and be EEC

Certified Site Coordinator. Degree preferred. Site Coordinators are responsible for:

Planning and implementing curriculum to group of children grades K-6, ensuring that staff and children follow policies and procedures, accuracy in attendance taking, following EEC regulations. Site coordinators work directly with the children of the program and are also part of the ratios in the room.

5. Group Leader #1651874 – Candidates must show an ability to effectively interact with parents and children on a range of issues. Must also demonstrated skill in developing and leading a range of children's educational, recreational, and social activities. Group Leaders must be able to demonstrate ability to make mature judgments in difficult situations. We are looking for individuals that can connect with our families and make them feel welcome in our association.

6. Teller #1650493 – Ability to work within established policies, procedures and guidelines. Identify customer needs and refer financial products and services. Consistently seek to delight our customers and deliver exceptional customer service with a positive attitude. Contribute to a positive team environment in the banking center through teamwork, team spirit and coaching. Minimum of six months customer service experience.

Arctic Day in New Bedford (December 27th)

Have you ever wanted to explore the Arctic? Here is your chance to do it, without even having to travel far! New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park offers two free screenings of the hit movie, "Big Miracle" on Thursday, December 27, as a part of "A Day in the Arctic." During the week of school vacation, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park and New Bedford



Whaling Museum will be creating a fun-filled day, featuring free crafts, movies, and activities from 10 am- 4 pm. New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park is located at 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford. New Bedford Whaling Museum is located just one block away, at 18 Johnny Cake Hill. At New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park: (508-996-4095):

10:00 a.m. – Enjoy a reading of the children's book, "Whale Snow" and try on Arctic clothing; screening of the movie, "Big Miracle", rated PG; 107 minutes.

11:00 a.m. – Make a snow globe to take home.

12:00 p.m. – Build a snow fort; have a snowball fight.

1:00 p.m. – How are snowflakes created? Discover how nature creates this wonder of nature; make a snowflake tree ornament; participate in Arctic Olympics activities.

2:00 p.m. – screening of movie: "Big Miracle," rated PG; 107 minutes Weather permitting, build a snowman outside.

At New Bedford Whaling Museum: (508-997-0046):

Free crafts and hands-on activities for the family in the Jacobs Family Gallery, 10:00-12:00 Highlights tours (with regular admission) from 10:00-11:00 am and 1:00-2:00 pm Go below deck on the Lagoda (with regular admission) from 10:00 am-12:00 noon.

Touch a real seal hide, try on parkas, and cardboard snow goggles, from 10:00-12:00 in the Jacobs Family Gallery.

Whales of Gold Free Showing at New Bedford Historic Park

The Dock-U-Mentaries Film Series continues Friday, December 21st at 7 p.m. with Whales of Gold, introduced by the award-winning film maker, Lucia Duncan. Dock-U-Mentaries is a co-production of New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park and the Working



Waterfront Festival. Films about the working waterfront are screened on the third Friday of each month beginning at 7:00 PM in the theater of the Corson Maritime Learning Center, located at 33 William Street in downtown New Bedford. All programs are open to the public and presented free of charge.

Whales of Gold (42 minutes) explores the impact of eco-tourism on a traditional fishing village. Every winter, following the migration of gray whales, tourists, scientists, and conservationists descend upon the San Ignacio Lagoon in Baja California, Mexico. Their presence – and the establishment of Latin America's largest biosphere reserve – brings profound change to the lagoon's small fishing community. Twelve-year-old Antonio negotiates between the different points of view of locals and outsiders about the changes and what the future will bring. Whales of Gold raises questions about how to conserve habitat and species in a way that also sustains the livelihoods of local people. Whales of Gold was named best

documentary at the UFRAME and NEXT FRAME film festivals in 2009. Film Maker Lucia Duncan will introduce the film and take questions following the screening. Ms. Duncan has produced and directed films in the U.S., Mexico, and Brazil about topics such as labor, immigration, tourism, culture, and the environment. Her films have screened at festivals worldwide and have received awards from the International Documentary Association, CINE, the International Labor Communications Association, and the Angelus Student Film Festival.

Community Input Session Planned for Custom House Square Project




The City's Office of Planning will host the second public meeting on the creation of a new urban park at Custom House Square.

The public is invited to join Stoss Landscape Urbanism and CDM Consultants for a presentation of the concept design for Custom House Square Park. This community input session is intended to solicit feedback so that Custom House Square can become a vibrant space that will serve the needs of our downtown for many years to come.

Tuesday, December 18 at 5:30 p.m. at the Corson Maritime Learning Center, 33 William Street, New Bedford.

For more information, please contact Jill Maclean, Acting City Planner, jill.maclean@newbedford-ma.gov. For translation services, please contact the City of New Bedford Office of Community Services at (508) 961-3136.

Winter Wonderland Holiday Open House

New Bedford Parks, Recreation and Beaches will host a  Winter Wonderland Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 8th from 3pm-5pm at the Andrea McCoy Recreation Center located at 181 Hillman St. The event will include winter craft activities, holiday card making, winter-themed sports activities, holiday music, hot chocolate, and tree lighting at 4:30pm. All activities are open to the public and are offered free of charge.

The holiday tree at Andrea McCoy is a “Giving Tree” and families and individuals are invited to help decorate the tree with donated hats, gloves, or socks. The donated items will be distributed to local children. The deadline to submit items for the tree is Wednesday, December 19th.

Instructors from the City of New Bedford Parks and Recreation 2013 Winter Program schedule will be on hand during the open house and city residents may enroll in programming. For a complete list of the 2013 Winter Programs, visit: http://www.newbedford-ma.gov/publicfacilities/parkrecreation/2012/parks_brochure_fall_2012.pdf Programs begin on January 8th, 2013.

Space is limited and parents are encouraged to complete and submit program registration as soon as possible. Registration forms are available at the Andrea McCoy Recreation Center located at 181 Hillman St. Please contact New Bedford Parks, Recreation and Beaches for more information at (508) 961-3015.

10 Classic Christmas Movies



By Shonna
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For those of you who celebrate Christmas, it is undoubtedly a time of year that can be filled with fun, family and an almost magical feeling that dates back to the nostalgia of our childhoods. It can also be stressful, commercialistic, and expensive. It seems every year at least a few people I know become full-blown Scrooges, bah humbugging about the lines at the malls and the never-ending commercials.

If you have found that the Christmas spirit has become a bit

drained from you, I think there is no better way to restore your interest in the holiday season than sitting down with a hot cup of cocoa, some fresh baked cookies and one of these Christmas classics. If these films don't get you in a festive mood, maybe you will require more drastic measures (perhaps a visit from the ghost of Christmas past?).

While this list could have been far longer, I tried to stick to some of my all-time favorites. If you have a Christmas Classic that isn't listed here, we'd love to hear about it in the comments box at the end of the article!

1. The Snowman

As with many holiday classics, "The Snowman" was a book before it was turned into a 26 minute animated film. As with the original children's book, there are no words in this film, but it is artfully drawn and the music, composed by Howard Blake, is beautiful. It is no surprise that this short movie was nominated for an Academy Award.

If you've never seen "The Snowman", I should warn you that it is quite sad in a way, and almost haunting in how the story is portrayed and the music is written. However, as a child I was addicted to watching this short film every winter and can still remember the theme music by heart. Still, I just suggest that you follow this holiday classic up with a comedy, which brings me to movie #2.

2. Elf

Will Ferrell stars in this undeniably ridiculous comedy as Buddy, a man who was raised by Elves in the North Pole before discovering that he was adopted and his biological father lives in New York City. Buddy takes a journey to meet his father, and hilarity ensues. The movie also features Zooey Deschanel as a romantic interest of the jovial man-elf, Buddy. While some people find Ferrell to be over the top, his role in this movie guarantees some laughs, and has quickly made "Elf"

a Christmas favorite.

3. A Christmas Story



Although it was filmed in 1983, “A Christmas Story” is still one of those holiday classics that is inescapable. Whether it’s the TBS 24 hour marathon, or people quoting “You’ll shoot your eye out!”, this movie has secured a spot in Christmas culture. The story is told from 9 year old Ralphie’s point of view, as he attempts to obtain his dream Christmas gift; a Red Ryder BB Gun. I love this movie, not only for it’s strange humor, but also because it really carries a sense of nostalgia for what it was like to be a kid during the holidays.

4. How the Grinch Stole Christmas

Based on yet another children’s book, you would have to be living under a rock to never had heard of, read, or seen Dr. Seuss’, “How the Grinch Stole Christmas”. Of course, there are two adaptations of this movie, both of which I enjoy for different reasons.

The 1966 animated special can be attributed for the song “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch” which takes me straight back to my childhood in an instant. This 26 minute animated classic is still considered to still be one of the best holiday specials out there.

Then of course, there is the 2000 big budget remake of this tale, which stars Jim Carey as the Grinch. The remake has mixed reviews, especially since it had to take many liberties with the plot in order to make it a feature length film. Still, I've found that it's grown on me, and Carey makes a pretty good Grinch.

5. Miracle on 34th Street

Originally filmed in 1947, this Christmas Classic has undergone numerous remakes in the past. The original film won multiple Academy Awards, but it is really the festive tone of the story that makes it a classic. "Miracle of 34th Street" is about the real Santa Claus ending up as the Santa at a Macy's department store in NYC.



If watching old films isn't really your thing, there is also a great family friendly version that was made in 1994. This is the version of "Miracle on 34th Street" I watched every holiday season with my family, as it really draws upon the magic of the season. Additionally, much was changed from the original film line, making it more modern and easier to follow.

6. The Santa Clause

Unlike many Christmas classics that became more popular over time, "The Santa Clause" was an instant box office hit when it was released in 1994. This movie is very family friendly, and I fondly remember it as one of my father's favorites as it had humor everyone in the household could enjoy. The movie stars Tim Allen as Scott Calvin, a regular guy until one Christmas Eve Santa falls from his rooftop and he is stuck replacing him.

The movie is both humorous and heartwarming as it features the themes of family and believing in the spirit of Christmas.

7. The Polar Express

I feel iffy about listing “The Polar Express” here because as a film I was never very into it, but as a children’s book by Chris Van Allsburg, reading it was a family tradition that I will never forget.

Still, my personal reservations about the movie aside, it has certainly adapted a cult following and had earned itself the name of Christmas Classic. The story of “The Polar Express” is truly a magical one that can capture any child’s imagination. The movie follows a little boy who boards a train called the “Polar Express” which takes him to the North Pole on Christmas Eve. The film was done with motion-capture computer animation technology, which gives it a very distinct look and makes this a good family Christmas film.

8. A Christmas Carol

Written originally as a novella by Charles Dickens, this Christmas tale is by far the most well known and beloved. It has been portrayed in numerous films, plays, musicals and even as an opera. Most people already know the plot of this tale, so I won’t bore you with the details;



the story of Scrooge and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Yet to Come have become part of our culture!

If you’re considering renting or buying some version of A Christmas Carol, you’ll find yourself faced with quite a bizarre variety of options. There is the classic, kid friendly, “Mickey’s Christmas Carol” from 1983. There is also “The Muppet Christmas Carol”, which is one of my absolute

favorites but hard to find.

There are also numerous live filmed adaptations and made for TV versions, such as TNT's 1999 "A Christmas Carol" which starred Patrick Stewart. Of course, at this point in time, the most popular version of "A Christmas Carol" is Disney's animated version from 2009. While it has gotten mixed reviews, I find the visuals to be exhilarating and like that it's both funny and frightening at different points.

Whichever version you choose to watch, "A Christmas Carol" is yuletide must!

9. The Nightmare Before Christmas

I have gotten into many arguments about whether "The Nightmare Before Christmas" is a Halloween movie or a Christmas movie. I'd like to contend that it's both, and it is hands down my favorite movie to watch around the holidays. Created by



Tim Burton, this stop motion film is dark and certainly not jovial in the way most holiday films are. When Jack Skellington of Halloween Town discovers Christmas Town, he is fascinated by the holiday and decides to try his hand at being Santa Claus. It's strange story line with creepy visuals, but all these things make it a great pick for those of you who don't love uplifting, heartwarming tales.

Despite the dark cinematography and twisted Tim Burton touch, "The Nightmare Before Christmas" is both funny, visually stunning and largely entertaining, with a great soundtrack and musical numbers written by Danny Elfman.

10. It's a Wonderful Life

Released in 1946, this holiday film is certainly a classic in the length of time it's endured. While it's admittedly a bit sappy, it's a timeless tale of a man who is down on his luck and wants to die, when an angel intervenes and shows him the importance of his life.



It's a touching tale that takes place on Christmas Eve, and if you've never seen it I suggest overcoming any issues you may have with black and white films and checking it out. You'll be glad to finally know what people are talking about when they say, "every time a bell rings an angel gets his wings"!

The Southcoast Hot Jobs List – 5 December, 2012



by
Michael
Silvia

The Greater New Bedford unemployment rate is much higher than the rest of Massachusetts, but believe it or not there really are a lot of jobs available for qualified applicants. Sometimes the barrier to a new job can be the lack of information on available job openings. To solve this, each week New Bedford Guide will be working with the New Directions

Southcoast (also known as the Greater New Bedford Career Center) to inform job seekers about the hottest jobs in the area. We will define "Hot Jobs" as those jobs that need to be filled by the employer immediately. For those looking to search some large job databases, checkout my Best Job Search Resources for New Bedford Residents article. Unless noted otherwise, those interested in these positions or want more information should go to the Greater New Bedford Career Center at 618 Acushnet Avenue. Here are the Hot Jobs as of December 5th, 2012:

1. Watchperson #1643355 – FUNCTION: Provides security to eliminate thefts or vandalism of vehicles and property, and performs janitorial duties.

RESPONSIBILITIES: Guards against fire, theft, vandalism and unlawful entry at assigned areas and buildings; checks locks to see that they are secure; maintains order in a given area; reports situations to police that cannot be handled immediately. Checks validity of individuals' credentials; patrols buildings and grounds looking for foreign objects, missing or inoperable lights. Checks gates, doors, exhibit fences inside perimeter; patrols parking lot. Performs tasks such as cleaning floors, offices and restrooms. May perform other duties such as checking boilers, regulating heat. Maintains buildings and office to ensure that these are kept clean and orderly.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: Possession of a valid Massachusetts driver's license with a good driving record. Must have a Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) check, mandatory by MGL Chapter 6 Sec. 172C. Subject to Civil Service Examination.

NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES: High school diploma or GED equivalent preferred.

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT USED: Hand-held two-way radio, automobile.

The job description does not constitute an employment agreement between the employer and employee and is subject to change by the employer as the needs of the employer and requirements of the job change.

2. Production Workers #1641915 –

Qualified candidates must have previous machine operating or general production experience in PRODUCTION ASSEMBLY, PRODUCTION MACHINERY OR MACHINE OPERATOR.



3. Welder #1647226 – Current welding experience necessary and should have own welding helmet. Welding pipes and converters, some building, tube shaping and bending.

4. Dietician/Nutritionist (Part-time) #1647273 – Reporting to the Elderly Nutrition Program Director, the Dietitian/Nutritionist is responsible for the planning and certification of menus, Nutritional Supplement Program, community education and outreach programs, and assists the Elderly Nutrition Program Director as needed.

Provide, assess, and evaluate nutrition education at congregate meal sites and other community venues as dictated by state nutrition standards. Assess the nutritional status of older adults via home visits and phone consultations; develop individualized nutrition plans and provide appropriate nutritional counseling; Must have Bachelor's Degree in nutrition, food service or related field, and Dietitian/Nutritionist Licensure. Must have good knowledge of food service principles and considerable knowledge of the theories and principles of nutrition.

Prior work experience in a community agency helpful. Should be sensitive to the needs of the elderly. Must have or become

ServSafe Certified, Allergen Certified, CPR Certified.

5. Patient Account Representative #1645354 – Performs timely and accurate posting of manual and electronic cash receipts, denials and adjustments to patient accounts to meet billing deadlines. Generates various reports to identify outstanding credit balances and prepares overpayment packages as necessary. Excellent customer service skills. Takes initiative and action to respond, resolve and follow up regarding customer service issues with all customers in a timely manner. EXPERIENCE AND REQUIRED SKILLS: 1-2 years healthcare billing or collections experience required with a High School Diploma. No experience required with a Healthcare Certificate or 2 or 4 year Degree.

6. Store Manager #1645214 – If you have superior leadership skills, operational excellence and can increase sales and profitability while managing a dynamic sales team, this could be the position for you!

Responsibilities: Build a loyal customer base by creating long-term relationships, Achieve or exceed sales and profit targets, Manage the store's controllable categories on the store's profit and loss statement, Achieve personal sales and profitability goals, Recruit, hire, and retain top tier talent, Manage the day to day operations of the business. Requirements: Minimum 18 years of age, High School diploma, GED or equivalent, Minimum of 2 years experience in retail management, Strong verbal and written communication skills, Ability to work independently and lead a team, Strong computer skills.

7. Office Administrator/Bookkeeper #1647989 – CPA Firm looking for an Office Administrator/Bookkeeper. Duties include: bookkeeping services for multiple clients, manage multiple office duties and support. Need to be able to work independently and adapt to a fast-paced office. Knowledge of QuickBooks, Microsoft Office, and Tax preparation. Competitive salary and benefits.

New Bedford Receives \$352,800 for Harborwalk Project



At a press conference in Yarmouth, Massachusetts today, Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Richard K. Sullivan Jr., awarded a Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant to the City of New Bedford for the Harborwalk Project—a project to develop a recreational pathway atop the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier that will offer scenic views of Buzzards Bay.

Mayor Jon Mitchell, who attended the ceremony and accepted the PARC grant, explained the project will add a recreational component to the utilitarian stone structure that has protected New Bedford Harbor from surging floodwaters since 1966.

“The Hurricane Barrier has protected our city well for 50

years; today we begin a new chapter in the history of the barrier as a critical public safety asset becomes a cherished recreational jewel for future generations. We are grateful that Governor Patrick and Secretary Sullivan recognize the unique potential of the City's proposal and granted their support," said the Mayor.

The City will use the \$352,800 to fund the first phase of the Harborwalk Project which will include the installation of a 6,200 foot long walkway with lighting, seating, and hand railings.

New Bedford Harbor offers an extraordinary mix of natural, historic and cultural attractions. The Harborwalk Project will complement the city's authentic working waterfront, lighthouses, waterfront parks and natural areas, Fort Rodman and Buzzard's Bay.

At-Large City Councilor Brian Gomes has long advocated for the recreational use of the barrier and Joseph Lopes, Ward Six City Councilor provided a letter of support for the City's grant application.

Construction of the New Bedford barrier began in 1962 through the cooperation of local, state and federal governments and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The barrier was built across New Bedford Harbor with the goal of greatly minimizing or eliminating the destructive effects of hurricane floodwaters. It has proved its value many times, including most recently in managing tidal surges during Hurricane Sandy.