

City to Offer Tax Credit Assistance

Mayor Jon Mitchell and the Community Economic Development Center of Southeastern Massachusetts (CEDC) are encouraging residents of New Bedford to learn whether they qualify for valuable tax credits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the MA Senior Circuit Breaker.



Interested residents must contact the CEDC to make an appointment to learn whether they qualify to claim these benefits on their tax returns. The CEDC will provide assistance to qualifying individuals at New Bedford City Hall on Thursday, April 5th from 11:00 a.m.–4:00p.m., residents interested in making an appointment to meet CEDC at City Hall should contact the organization at (508) 979-4684.

The Internal Revenue Service defines the Earned Income Tax Credit as, “a refundable federal income tax credit available to eligible families low-income working individuals and families.” And, while the EITC is the federal government’s largest program benefiting working families, it is largely underutilized.

“The EITC is a proven means of providing tax relief that spurs economic activity and labor force participation while targeting those most in need. I encourage the people of New Bedford to learn whether they qualify for this benefit, and to use the tax preparation services offered by the Community Economic Development Center,” said Mayor Mitchell.

Community Economic Development Center Director, Corinn

Williams said each year, her organization staffs a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program site where residents who are unable to prepare their own taxes and cannot afford professional help are assisted. "There are still many working families and seniors in our community who may qualify to get money back, but are not aware they need to file to receive their refund. In addition, the recent announcement regarding the economic stimulus bill also requires that individuals to file their taxes to collect the rebate. Dollars reclaimed through the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Senior Circuit Breaker give a boost not only to these families but it helps our local economy as well," said Ms. Williams.

The federal government states that the new maximum credit is \$5,751 for a family with two or more children; \$3,094 for a family with one child and \$464 if there are no children. The government also states that the new income limits are:

- \$40,964 (\$40,044 if married filing jointly) for families with two or more children
- \$36,052 (\$41,132 if married filing jointly) for families with one child
- \$13,660 (\$18,740 if married filing jointly) if there are no children

Investment income must be \$3,150 or less and children must meet certain age, relationship and residency requirements.

6th Annual General Aviation Fun Day



[Click to Enlarge!](#)

The 6th Annual General Aviation Fun Day at the New Bedford Regional Airport is scheduled for May 19th, 2012 from 10 am to 4 pm.

There will be performances by local dance studios, karate demonstrations, Mad Science of Southeastern Mass, formation flying, aircraft displays, skydivers, airplane rides, Buttonwood Park Zoo's Zoo Choo, and so much more!

Confirmed Participants for this year's event include:

- New Bedford Police Department K9 & Dive Team
- New Bedford Fire Department & Crash Truck
- Sherrif's Department Mobile Command Center
- Gonsalves Tae Kwon Do
- Dan D'Onfro World Class Kempo
- Buttonwood Park Zoo Choo Rides
- US Coast Guard Reserve and Coastie
- Antique Fire Truck Rides
- Community Nurse
- Chiropractic USA
- Away Cafe
- Ben & Jerry's
- Center Stage Dance Studio

Confirmed aircraft on display:

- Avenger
- Waco UPF 7
- T-6
- Stearman
- Citabria Explorer
- Russian Sukhoi
- RV-8
- SN-J
- Phenom Jet

For more information and up-to-date details check out the Fun Day website.

Website Launched to Help Home Buyers, Owners

The City of New Bedford Office of Housing and Community Development and the Fall River and New Bedford Housing Partnership, launched a new website designed to provide both prospective homebuyers and homeowners with a full range of information.



At www.frnbhp.com, homebuyers can access information including

upcoming homebuyer education classes, down payment assistance programs and mortgage programs. The information is provided to empower homebuyers to make the best decisions regarding purchasing a new home and to share tools that can help them to save money. Existing homeowners can find out information on low interest loans and grants to help make needed repairs to their homes. Visitors to the website may also access information about affordable properties for sale in New Bedford and Fall River through a lottery program.

The “News & Events” section of the site will be updated regularly with housing related events and classes in the New Bedford and Fall River area. The website contains links to all of the participating agencies including local lenders and social service agencies that can assist with credit counseling, tenant counseling, legal assistance and foreclosure prevention counseling.

The Fall River and New Bedford Housing Partnership participating agencies include: BankFive; BayCoast Bank, Bristol County Savings Bank; Bristol Elder Services; Catholic Social Services; Fall River Community Development Agency; Fall River Municipal Credit Union; Fannie Mae; First Citizens’ Federal Credit Union; MassHousing; Mechanics Cooperative Bank; Money Management International; Neighborhood Housing Services of the South Shore; City of New Bedford Office of Housing & Community Development; South Coastal Counties Legal Services; South Shore Housing; and St. Anne’s Credit Union.

The Fall River and New Bedford Housing Partnership, founded in 2007, was formed to address the housing and foreclosure crisis. The Partnership provides assistance to individuals and families facing a risk of foreclosure by providing foreclosure prevention counseling, as well as educating consumers about financial literacy, credit worthiness and innovative loan products, including purchase and rehabilitation programs.

For additional information, please visit the new website at www.frnbnhp.com or contact the City of New Bedford Office of Housing and Community Development at 508-979-1500.

Whaling City Clippers, First Team Meeting for 2012 Season

The Whaling City Clippers today announced that the team will be holding its first team meeting of the 2012 season. Any and all current or prospective players are invited to attend. This will be the first meeting to prepare for the 2012 Whaling City Clippers as they enter their second-consecutive year in the highly-competitive New England Football League's AAA Conference.



"We finished the 2011 season with our first playoff win in AAA and have added to a strong core of returning players who have dedicated themselves to improving upon last year's performance," said Mike Arguin, General Manager. "Interest in the team has never been higher. Last year we had nearly 100 players express an interest in playing for us and we expect to surpass that number this year. Only 50-60 players will have what it takes to make the final cut," continued Arguin. A number of players have already signed up through the team's website.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 5th at 7:30PM in

the auditorium at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School, 1121 Ashley Boulevard in New Bedford, MA.

The goals of this first team meeting will be to begin the sign-up process and to communicate the goals of the team both on and off the field. Topics will include an introduction to the 2012 coaching staff, the outlook for the NEFL's AAA Conference, the team's player requirements and expectations, conditioning camp and practice schedule for 2012.

There is a non-refundable \$25 sign-up fee for players interested in signing-up with the team. Players may pre-register on the team website at: <http://whalingcityclippers.com/contact-us/player-inquiry/>.

New Bedford's Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Brooklawn Park

The City of New Bedford has announced that the Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Brooklawn Park at 2 pm, on Saturday, March 31st. The event is open to children ages 1-12 years and will include a variety of eggs filled with goodies for all participants.



The day will be comprised of an egg hunt, plenty of games including an egg toss, egg rolling competition, an egg relay, and more. Children are invited to take a picture with the Easter Bunny as well. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt is sponsored by the City of New Bedford Mayor's Office, Parks, Recreation & Beaches, Community Development Block Grant Program, Child Development and Education Inc., and St. Joseph's Early Childhood Academy Inc.

For more information and to register your child as a participant please call the Administrative Offices of Parks, Recreation and Beaches prior to the event at (508) 961-3015.

Best Job Search Resources for New Bedford Residents



by
Michael
Silvia

A man willing to work, and unable to find work, is perhaps the saddest sight that fortune's inequality exhibits under this sun. ~Thomas Carlyle

There's no doubt that it can be hard to find a job in today's tough economic conditions. If you live in New Bedford, it's even tougher to find a job than in the rest of the state of Massachusetts. According to the **Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development**, as of January 2012, the

New Bedford unemployment rate stood at 14.3%. This means 6,208 of the 43,556 people in the New Bedford labor force are looking for work. The Massachusetts unemployment rate stands at 7.7%, which means New Bedford's unemployment rate is twice the the state average.

The key to getting a job in this tough, competitive environment is to know where to look. Simply looking in the Standard Times or randomly filling out job applications is not enough. Here is a list of resources for anyone looking for work in the New Bedford area or throughout the state.

1. The New Bedford Guide Jobs Portal/Map – Our jobs portal adds 500-1,000 jobs daily and allows you search jobs on a map. Jobs are posted within 50 miles of New Bedford: http://www.newbedfordguide.com/map-page#pm_jobs_tab.

2. The City of New Bedford Job Board – The City of New Bedford's website provides a list of city jobs. There are typically a dozen or more jobs available at any time. It is no secret that city government jobs pay well and provide great benefits like medical, life insurance, a retirement pension plan, paid vacations, holidays, sick and personal days. If you are a New Bedford resident start here.



3. New Directions Southcoast New Bedford Job Listing – Located in New Bedford, New Directions is a non-profit that not only provides job listings, they provide assistance and training for job seekers. From their website, "New Directions Southcoast, Inc. is the 501(C)3 non-profit corporation that operates the federally funded One Stop Career Centers in New

Bedford and Wareham Massachusetts. We provide workforce development and training services for job seekers and employers throughout southeastern Massachusetts. Our professional staff works side by side with State job specialists to ensure our customers are afforded the individual assistance they need to meet their employment and training goals.”

4. **TopUSAJobs.com New Bedford Search** – Last I looked (March 21st, 2012), the New Bedford search on this website resulted in 14,396 jobs within 50 miles or 2,781 jobs within 25 miles of New Bedford, MA.

5. **The Standard Times – South Coast Job Mart** – The Standard Times provides a job search tool that job seekers can search by job title and region. You can also use their **advanced search tool** to narrow down your search. Last I looked (March 21st, 2012), there were 775 jobs listed in their database.

6. **Monster.com, New Bedford Search** – There were over 1,000 jobs listed on Monster.com within 20 miles of New Bedford.

7. **southcoast.craigslist.org** – I’ve heard of people getting jobs through Craigslist, but I’d recommend it as a last resort. While there may be tons of valid jobs listed, Craigslist is know for having lots of scams. I’ve found Craig’s List to be useful in hiring short-term, temporary jobs. If that’s what you are looking for, search through the jobs section of the **southcoast.craigslist.org** portion of craigslist.org.

The key to finding a good job is to leave no rock unturned. Hopefully, this list provides a valuable resource in your job search. If you know of a good resource that i should add to this list post a reply. If you find a job due to this article, I drink coffee and I’m available for a “thank you coffee” anytime.

It’s a recession when your neighbor loses his job; it’s a

depression when you lose your own. ~Harry S Truman

2012 Lillian B. Lamoureux Music Scholarship

The New Bedford Symphony Orchestra is pleased to once again offer the \$1,000 Lillian B. Lamoureux Music Scholarship to assist an individual in pursuing his or her musical education. The deadline for the 2012 scholarship applications is April 13. To qualify for consideration, the individual must meet the following eligibility requirements:



1. Be between 15-21 years of age as of the date of the audition.
2. Be a resident of South Coast Region of Massachusetts.
3. Be actively involved in an instrumental or vocal performance program and intending to continue such music study.
4. Must submit two (2) letters of recommendation from music teachers/instructors – these
5. should include your current vocal/instrumental director and/or your private teacher.
6. Must not have been awarded this scholarship within the last two years.
7. Must provide his/her own live or recorded accompaniment for the audition, unless the work performed is originally an unaccompanied work for solo instrument or voice

To apply, download the eligibility

requirements and scholarship application.

The winner will be notified prior to the NBSO's Season Finale Concert at 8:00 pm on May 12, 2012, at the Zeiterion Theatre located in New Bedford, MA. Tickets to the performance will be provided to the winner.

New Bedford's Orpheum Theatre Turns 100!

On April 15, 1912, as people in New Bedford were getting ready for the Grand Opening of the Orpheum Theatre, little did they realize that the famed steamship, "RMS Titanic" had struck an iceberg and sank, taking along over 1,500 souls on



that very same day. But although the Titanic was lost, the Orpheum Theatre and French Sharpshooters' Hall opened to large crowds. It was one of the jewels of this area's many theaters. It was cherished for its entertainment by many of this region's local citizens for 46 years until it closed in 1958.

The organization O.R.P.H., INC. (*Orpheum Rising Project Helpers*) with support of the Community Building Mini-Grant Program of the United Way of Greater New Bedford, invites the public to join us in celebrating this 100 year milestone and to highlight plans to save this historic landmark.

Sunday April 15th, 2012 6-9 PM

Café Vila Franca Restaurant
601 South Second St. New Bedford, MA.
(One block West of the Orpheum Theatre)

The \$25 donation includes membership to O.R.P.H., Inc. (*Orpheum Rising Project Helpers*). There will be complimentary appetizers and a cash bar. Also, Café Vila Franca has offered O.R.P.H., Inc. a gracious donation for signature drinks sold, which includes the "*Titanic Martini*". There will also be a silent auction and raffle!

There will be entertainment along with memorabilia, photos, and documentary videos, highlighting the theater's rich history.

ORPH, Inc. would like to thank the following... The Mini-Grant Program of the United Way of Greater New Bedford Area, Vila Franca Restaurant, W.H.A.L.E., NBEDC, Central Food Market, Atty. Maja Bozic along with countless supporters and volunteers.

For more info contact ORPH, Inc. President, Frank C. Grace at 508-971-4173 or visit www.orphinc.org.

So please come out to show your support and help us to continue our ongoing efforts to save this grand old lady and restore her to her former splendor. We hope to see you there!

The Orpheum turns 100!

SUNDAY APRIL 15TH, 2012
CAFE VILA FRANCA
601 South Second Street, New Bedford, MA
(One block west of the Orpheum Theatre)

\$25.00 Donation includes Membership to O.R.P.H., INC.
(Orpheum Rising Project Helpers)
Appetizers Cash Bar 6-9 PM
Entertainment, memorabilia, photos, documentaries,
and much more...

For more info contact O.R.P.H. Inc President Frank Grace 508 971 4173

Celebrate the 100th Birthday
Of The
NEW BEDFORD
Orpheum Theatre

Cafe Vila Franco has graciously offered \$1.00 to
the cause for each signature drink purchased,
and that includes the "Titanic Martini"!

Silent Auction
and Raffle!

United Way

SPONSORED IN PART BY THE MINI GRANT PROGRAM OF THE UNITED WAY
OF GREATER NEW BEDFORD

Orph Inc would like to thank the following... Vila Franca Restaurant, W.H.A.L.E., NBEDC,
Central Food Market, Atty. Maja Bozic along with countless supporters and volunteers.

Thousands of Fishermen, Mayor Mitchell To March on Capitol

Hill

On Wednesday, March 21, 2012, New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell will join New Bedford commercial fishermen in Washington D.C., for a march and rally on Capitol Hill. Organizers anticipate thousands of fishermen hailing from ports across America will participate in the rally. The event will draw attention to the damaging effect federal fisheries regulations are having on America's commercial fishing industry.



Mayor Mitchell said rally attendees will urge Congress to address the lack of flexibility in the Magnuson-Stevens Act and pointed to the 10-year rebuilding requirement as an example of the Act's inflexibility.

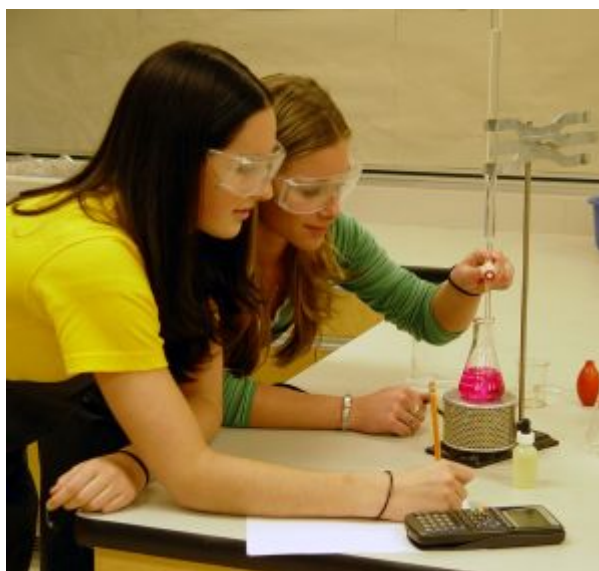
"Decisions need to be based on timely, accurate information. Today, the federal government is relying on data from 2007 and the lack of fresh, reliable science is unacceptable," the Mayor said.

"An important step in the right direction is for Congress is to pass the Kerry-Snowe Fisheries Investment and Regulatory Relief Act which will invest in fishing science that we can have confidence in," he continued.

The Port of New Bedford is America's #1 fishing port with landings valued at \$306 million. New Bedford is New England's seafood hub, with more than 30 processors and distributors, ranging in size from high-volume international wholesale to local retail operations.

Sara MacSorley to Speak at Ocean Explorium (March 22)

The speaker series **Girls Interested in Real Life Science (GIRLS)** continues as the Ocean Explorium welcomes Sara MacSorley, project administrator for the NSF Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) in Rhode Island. Ms. MacSorley has had many experiences in marine biology. While participating in a study-abroad program in Bermuda conducting marine research, she



learned that she did not enjoy research as much as she had predicted. Faced with changing her perceptions of her future career, Sara turned to her mentors and through their help, found and is still finding the path that she truly enjoys. Sara's professional interests lie in scientific communication, marine science education in informal settings, and helping young women get started on their own paths to careers in science. Ms. MacSorley will speak to the audience on how to best use the people in your life who support you to help you challenge yourself and reach your goals. Currently, Sara works as the project administrator for RI EPSCoR, where she helps other people do research in Marine Science. EPSCoR works to advance marine life science research and education in Rhode Island, and aims to integrate programs around the research theme of how climate variability affects marine life.

The **Girls Interested in Real Life Science (GIRLS)** series runs each Thursday in March and features inspiring speakers drawn from professions in which the STEM subjects play a major role.

The series continues with:

March 22: Sara MacSorley, NSF Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research

March 29: Kate Clopeck, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Community Water Solutions

The **G**irls **I**nterested in **R**eal **L**ife **S**cience (**GIRLS**) speaker series is free and open to the public, thanks to the support of the Women's Fund. Doors open at 5:00 pm each Thursday in March for refreshments and mingling in the Ocean Explorium before the talks begin at 5:30 pm. Students will receive a special memento to indicate attendance at each week's event. Girls and boys in grades 5 – 12 are encouraged to attend: families are always welcome!

The Ocean Explorium is grateful to the Women's Fund for making the GIRLS speaker series possible. We look forward to students of all ages attending the evening speaker series to be inspired by women who have found success in the STEM subjects.

The Ocean Explorium is located at 174 Union Street in downtown New Bedford and is handicap accessible via the rear entrance. Call 508.994.5400 for after-hours access.

For further information, contact Abbey Spargo at aspargo@oceanexplorium.org or 508.994.5400, or visit the Ocean Explorium website at www.oceanexplorium.org.