

New Bedford awarded major Travel & Tourism recovery grant to fund “Summer in the Seaport” campaign

Mass. Office of Travel and Tourism Grant to Fund Summer in the Seaport Campaign.

A partnership of local arts and culture organizations has been awarded a major grant by the Mass. Office of Travel and Tourism for an effort to promote tourism in the city's downtown this summer and foster recovery in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic.

“New Bedford has a resilient spirit at its core,” said AHA! Director Lee Heald. “We are excited to reopen the city after the pandemic and are grateful to the Mass. Office of Travel and Tourism for funding our partnership of arts and culture organizations to develop this marketing campaign, Summer in the Seaport. We welcome community members and visitors alike to a summer of new exhibitions and enhanced outdoor activities.”

The \$45,531 Travel and Tourism Recovery Grant was awarded to AHA! (Art, History, Architecture) for Summer in the Seaport, a marketing campaign to promote New Bedford as an arts, culture and maritime heritage destination through a combination of website redesign, advertising, lamppost banners, and social media promotion. The campaign will encourage visitors from 50-plus miles away to explore the city's vibrant culture for an afternoon, a “daycation”, or an overnight or long weekend stay this summer.

Other partners in the effort are DATMA (Design Art Technology Massachusetts) and the New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center.

“New Bedford’s arts, culture, and maritime heritage are rich resources, and we look forward to sharing them with visitors this summer,” said Laura Orleans, Executive Director of the New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center. “We are thankful to the Mass. Office of Travel and Tourism for funding this effort and helping us spread the word.”

Additional tourism and marketing collaborators include the Southeastern Massachusetts Convention & Visitors Bureau, One SouthCoast Chamber of Commerce, the Seaport Cultural District, New Bedford Creative, and Destination New Bedford.

“On behalf of One SouthCoast Chamber and Southeastern Massachusetts Visitors Bureau, we are so very pleased that AHA! and its many partners are recipients of the grant from Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism,” said Rick Kidder, Co-CEO of One SouthCoast Chamber. “This award reflects the great professionalism of the partners to help bring our region back from the economic devastation of the pandemic.”

The grants were announced recently by Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, Housing and Economic Development Secretary Mike Kennealy, and Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism Executive Director Keiko Orrall during a virtual press conference. The program aims to strengthen the economy of Massachusetts through the development and enhancement of the state’s tourism industry. The grant will be administered by AHA!, a fiscal agent project of the SouthCoast Community Foundation; additional support has been provided by the Southeastern Mass. Convention & Visitors Bureau, One SouthCoast Chamber of Commerce, and the New Bedford Seaport Cultural District.

“Summer in the Seaport is the perfect campaign to celebrate the reopening of safe, in-person arts and cultural events, shopping and retail, restaurants and tours in the Seaport Cultural District downtown and throughout the City of New Bedford,” added Margo Saulnier, Creative Strategist with New

Bedford Creative. “Kudos to AHA! New Bedford, DATMA, and NB Fishing Heritage Center for stepping up to represent the best of what our city has to offer visitors and tourists.”

Daily commercial service to resume at New Bedford Regional Airport

New Bedford Regional Airport has announced that daily Commercial service with Southern Airways and Cape Air will resume Wednesday, May 26.

Both Cape Air and Southern Airways offer non-stop service to Nantucket, with Cape Air also offering cargo services and weekly flights to Martha’s Vineyard. The new daily schedule will include several flight options, giving travelers a number of convenient arrival and departure times. Tickets for flights to Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket are available for purchase now.

“Southern Airways Express is excited to be re-launching our New England service. We are expanding our New Bedford to Nantucket service from one to two daily roundtrip flights, perfect for vacationers, second homeowners and even day-trippers. Fares begin at just \$59 each way,” said Southern Airways Express Chief Commercial Officer, Mark Cestari.

“We are looking forward to a strong summer in New Bedford and the Cape and islands! To inspire safe and healthy summer travel, Cape Air is thrilled to be launching a variety of multimedia campaigns in New Bedford. We encourage you to tune into local favorites like FUN 107, Country 102.5 and WCAI to

hear directly from radio influencers about the ease and benefits of flying Cape Air from New Bedford Regional Airport,” said Cape Air Northeast Regional Marketing Director, Kelly Collopy.

In addition, both Cape Air and Southern Airways Express are hiring for part-time and full-time positions based at New Bedford Regional Airport.

To apply or to book your reservation, please visit iflysouthern.com or capeair.com.

New Bedford man charged with firearm and cocaine offenses

A New Bedford man was indicted last week by a federal grand jury on charges of illegally possessing a firearm and selling cocaine.

Khyron Thompson, 32, was indicted on one count of being a felon in possession of firearm and ammunition and one count of distribution of and possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

According to the indictment, on Feb. 13, 2020, Thompson allegedly possessed a loaded .32 caliber Hi-Point pistol firearm. It is further alleged that Thompson sold a quantity of cocaine on that same date. Federal law prohibits Thompson from possessing a firearm or ammunition due to a prior felony conviction.

The charge of being a felon in possession of firearm and ammunition provides for a sentence of up to 10 years in

prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The charge of distribution of and possession with intent to distribute cocaine provides for a sentence of up to 20 years in prison, up to a lifetime of supervised release and a fine of \$1 million. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

Acting United States Attorney Nathaniel Mendell; Kelly D. Brady, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives, Boston Field Division; and New Bedford Police Chief Joseph C. Cordeiro made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Evan Gotlob of Mendell's Major Crimes Unit is prosecuting the case.

This case is part of Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), a program bringing together all levels of law enforcement and the communities they serve to reduce violent crime and make our neighborhoods safer for everyone. The Department of Justice reinvigorated PSN in 2017 as part of the Department's renewed focus on targeting violent criminals, directing all U.S. Attorney's Offices to work in partnership with federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement and the local community to develop effective, locally-based strategies to reduce violent crime.

The details contained in the indictment are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Massachusetts home prices

pass \$500,000 for the first time

Michael P. Norton

State House News Service

Massachusetts home sales and prices have been setting records for a while now, and there's another one to add to the pile. The Warren Group reported Tuesday morning that the median sale price for a single-family home in Massachusetts during April sailed past the \$500,000 mark for the first time, resting at \$508,000. Buyers in that range, if they had a 10 percent down-payment to make of \$50,000, would face a rough monthly mortgage payment of about \$2,300, not including the cost of property taxes and insurance, according to Warren Group CEO Tim Warren.

Using 2019 data for comparison since last spring's housing market was skewed by pandemic impacts, the Warren Group said single-family home sales were up 5.2 percent compared to April 2019 and April home sale prices were up by 32.6 percent.

"The amazing fact of the matter is that the monthly median price has not declined in any month in the past five years, not even during the darkest days of the pandemic," Warren said in a statement.

The 15,262 single-family home sales recorded year-to-date in Massachusetts mark an 11.5 percent increase from the first four months of 2020, and the year-to-date median home sale price increased 15.7 percent on the same basis to \$440,000. Condominium sales are also knocking on the door of the \$500,000 threshold, coming in last month at a median of \$475,000. And higher prices were not keeping buyers away: condo sales last month were up more than 27 percent compared to April 2019.

“The Greater Boston condo market is definitely back, and for good reason,” Warren said. “There’s a clearly-defined reopening schedule for the city, which will help spur activity in population centers that were very unappealing to prospective buyers just a year ago.”

UMass Dartmouth to reinstate women’s tennis and women’s swimming & diving

Due to changing demographics within the UMass Dartmouth student population and given the current collegiate sports environment, the University has revisited its July 2020 decision to discontinue eight of the University’s 25 intercollegiate athletic programs – women’s equestrian, men’s golf, men’s lacrosse, co-ed sailing, men’s and women’s swimming and diving, and men’s and women’s tennis.

In the first of several anticipated changes as part of an overall strategy to better align athletic participation opportunities for women with the female undergraduate population, UMass Dartmouth is reinstating Women’s Tennis and Women’s Swimming and Diving as varsity intercollegiate programs, effective immediately.

The University’s July 2020 decision was based on outside reviews of the University’s intercollegiate athletics program to provide the best possible competitive and co-curricular experiences for student-athletes. The reviews analyzed major aspects of the current Department of Athletics & Recreation structure and metrics such as available resources, gender equity, enrollment, and facilities to formulate a long-term

strategic plan for athletic competition at UMass Dartmouth.

“We will move quickly over the next week to meet with student-athletes and staff to ensure our intent is clear. Our commitment to enhance the quality and increase the number participating in our tennis and swimming/diving programs is a priority,” said Athletic Director Amanda Van Voorhis.

With this decision, the University will work to address the needs of student-athletes that will compete in the reinstated programs, including medical clearance, training, and scheduling contests for fall 2021. The Department of Athletics & Recreation and Human Resources are currently working to address coaching needs to ensure student-athletes in these programs have the necessary level of support. Student-athletes from the tennis and swimming and diving programs have been contacted by Van Voorhis via email. A virtual meeting will be scheduled to allow student-athletes to ask questions, as well as discuss the details surrounding the transition back to varsity programs.

“Providing opportunities for student-athletes is always a priority,” said David Gingerella, Vice Chancellor for Administration & Finance at UMass Dartmouth. “The University is committed to making this transition as smooth as possible and commit the necessary resources to allow our students to succeed both on and off the playing field.”

Acushnet Fire Department fights fire on Perry Hill

Road with assistance from neighboring towns

"A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF:

"Yesterday we got a little help from our friends!

"At approximately 4:30pm the department responded to a fire on a farm located on Perry Hill Road. Arriving personnel found large piles of logs and mulch burning in an area of approximately 200 feet by 120 feet. No structures or equipment were threatened. The fire spread from an agriculturally permitted fire.

"Firefighter Andrew Corrigan established command then went to work. He assumed the role of Incident Commander and realized that the biggest issue facing him was the establishment of a water supply as there are no hydrants in that part of town.

"Corrigan asked and our neighbors responded. Tankers from Rochester (2), Freetown, Lakeville and Dartmouth District 3.

Mattapoisett sent an engine to serve as a pump and Fairhaven covered our Station One. The Acushnet DPW provided scene lighting, Acushnet Water Department monitored our water system while Acushnet PD secured the roads so we could work safely. The Providence Canteen arrived and provided much needed refreshments to the crews.

"In total, 35 firefighters were kept busy for several hours. In addition, two ambulance were dispatched during this time for Acushnet residents experiencing medical emergencies. By the end of the incident, well over 100,000 gallons of water had been moved from hydrants via apparatus to the base of the fire. That is an incredible amount of good old Acushnet H2O.

"We thank the firefighters and officers from the surrounding

communities for their assistance. We are thankful that this incident did not result in any injuries or damage beyond wood, mulch and agricultural debris.

“I also want to commend the men and women of our department for their smarts, muscle, sweat and strain. Fires like these are labor intensive as the fire hides in all the little pockets of large piles of stuff.”-Chief Kevin Gallagher.

Boston Fire Department's "Cannoli" and Massachusetts State Police's "Luna" enjoy meet and greet session

“Massachusetts State Police General Headquarters was the site of a special meet-and-greet as the Boston Fire Department's crisis response dog, Cannoli, stopped by to say hello to Luna, one of the MSP's two crisis response dogs.

Cannoli's owner and handler, Firefighter John Merlino, chatted with Luna's handler, Trooper Chad Tata of the Massachusetts State Police's Employee Assistance Unit. Cannoli, a four-year-old female English Bulldog, has been helping provide stress relief for the Boston Fire Department for about a year, while Luna, our female English lab, has been on the job a couple of years now. Needless to say, the canine confab was the best part of the day here by far!”



Massachusetts State Police photo.



Massachusetts State Police photo.

Boston Police Department cracking down on reckless operation of recreational vehicles across the city

“As part of our ongoing efforts to address public safety complaints and quality of life concerns relative to large groups of recreational vehicles including dirt bikes, ATV’s, mopeds and motor scooters being driven around the city in a reckless and irresponsible manner, members of the BPD’s Auto Theft Unit seized eleven off road vehicles over this past weekend.

At about 7:46 PM on Sunday May 16, 2021, officers observed two dirt bikes and an ATV in the area of Norfolk Street and Morton Street operating in an unsafe manner while in clear violation of the ordinance relating to the operation of recreational vehicles within the City of Boston. The officers later located the offending vehicles as they were being loaded into an awaiting rental box truck behind Saint Matthew’s Parish Church in the area of 33 Stanton Street in Dorchester. The two dirt bikes and ATV were seized and towed away from the scene. The lone suspect remaining on scene, an adult male from Haverhill, will be cited and summonsed for his violations of the Auto Laws and associated City Ordinances.

At about 9:06 PM on Sunday May, 16, 2021, officers seized eight recreational and off-road vehicles following a traffic stop which was conducted as part of an investigation by the BPD Auto Theft Unit in the area of 27 Gallivan Boulevard in Dorchester.

The officers were in the area in response to the overwhelming number of community complaints regarding the operation of off road and recreational vehicles within our neighborhoods when they stopped a rental box truck in connection to their efforts. As a result, officers seized and towed the rental truck along with eight dirt bikes and mopeds which were being stored in the back at the time of the stop. Officers will summons two adult male suspects from Lawrence as part of this ongoing investigation on charges relating to the MA Auto Laws, related offenses and City Ordinances.

Community members with information relative to the storage or reckless operation of these recreational vehicles who wish to assist in these investigations anonymously can do so by calling the CrimeStoppers Tip Line at 1 (800) 494-TIPS or by texting the word 'TIP' to CRIME (27463). The Boston Police Department will stringently guard and protect the identities of all those who wish to assist this investigation in an anonymous manner."

All photos by the Boston Police Department:



Massachusetts State Police participate in 22nd Annual “Relay For Life”

“This past Saturday, May 15th, the 22nd Annual Natick, Framingham, Ashland, Sherborn, and Holliston Relay for Life was held.

This year’s event was a ‘Rolling Relay’ consisting of

participants making multiple stops and holding individual ceremonies, centered on the themes of “Celebrate, Remember, Fight Back.” The ‘Rolling Relay’ started at Dover-Sherborn Regional High School for the opening ceremony – Celebrate. Then the relay established a convoy to Natick High School for the next ceremony – Remember. Then it was back on the road for the final event – Fight Back – and the closing of the Rally in Framingham, at CJs restaurant.

Included in the convoy was “Cruising for a Cure,” a group of antique and classic cars dedicated to the fight against cancer. Also joining the convoy from the Framingham Barracks were Trooper Paul Ryan driving the marked Ford Mustang cruiser; and Trooper Jeff Gordon driving the Pink Patch cruiser for cancer awareness. The MSP tow ramp truck also joined to display some of the capabilities of our Fleet vehicle section.

A low-power FM transmitter allowed cars and participants to tune into the ceremonies while maintaining a social distance. Thank you to Natick, Framingham, Ashland, Sherborn & Holliston Relay for Life Co-Chair Lewis Glass for organizing the event and providing pictures throughout the day.”-Massachusetts State Police.

All photos by the Massachusetts State Police:



Who Remembers ... the New Bedford Scallop Festival?

Here is another installment in our *Who Remembers?* series. You can browse previous articles by using the search bar on the right or by clicking **here**. These articles are strolls down memory lane. In some cases, the buildings, but new businesses have replaced them. In other instances, the buildings or even the properties have been razed. Instead of a building, it may be a TV show, personality, or commercial that no one longer exists. Either way, it can't stop us from taking the Memory Lane stroll!

As always we would rather this be a discussion. No one knows this area better than those who grew up here! Please, leave constructive criticism, feedback, and corrections. We'd love

to hear your anecdotes. Please share!

In a typical year of fishing for Atlantic sea scallops, around 55 million pounds are harvested at a value of approximately \$570 million. Massachusetts is the state where more scallops are brought to port than anywhere else in the country and the city of New Bedford is responsible for a lion's share of this annual scallop harvesting: we have been the nation's most valuable port for 20 years straight with scallops comprising about 80% of the seafood we caught. We're not only darn good at scalloping, but we've been doing it since 1883.



Yazan Elayan photo

While the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has reported that scallops are not currently overharvested and New Bedford's fishermen are more than eager to head out to sea and meet the demands of hungry seafood lovers, the New England Fishery Management Council said that there will be a

significant drop in this year's catch, to a predicted 40 million pounds. This likely means an increase from the average current price of \$20 per pound, but that also depends on how much scallops are brought to market from foreign markets.

We obviously love scallops! Wrapped in bacon, seared lemon-garlic butter, fried scallops, scallop roll, broiled, stuffed scallops, in a casserole, paella, or stew, or as part of a surf 'n turf, you name it, our love affair with the bivalve. Believe it or not, what we call a "scallop" is actually the adductor muscle of a saltwater clam that is responsible for closing the clam's shell. The muscle only makes up about 30% of the clam and the rest is the stomach, digestive glands, eyes, intestines, a "foot," heart, tentacles (yes, tentacles), gonads (yes, gonads!), gills, ovary or roe, etc. A strange creature that belies its tastiness!

Now that we've satisfied Joe Friday's requirements about our beloved scallop, let's have some foodie talk. We are the world's highest-grossing seafood ports and the majority of that seafood is scallops, thereby producing revenue for the city and plenty of jobs, why the heck do we not have a Scallop festival?!



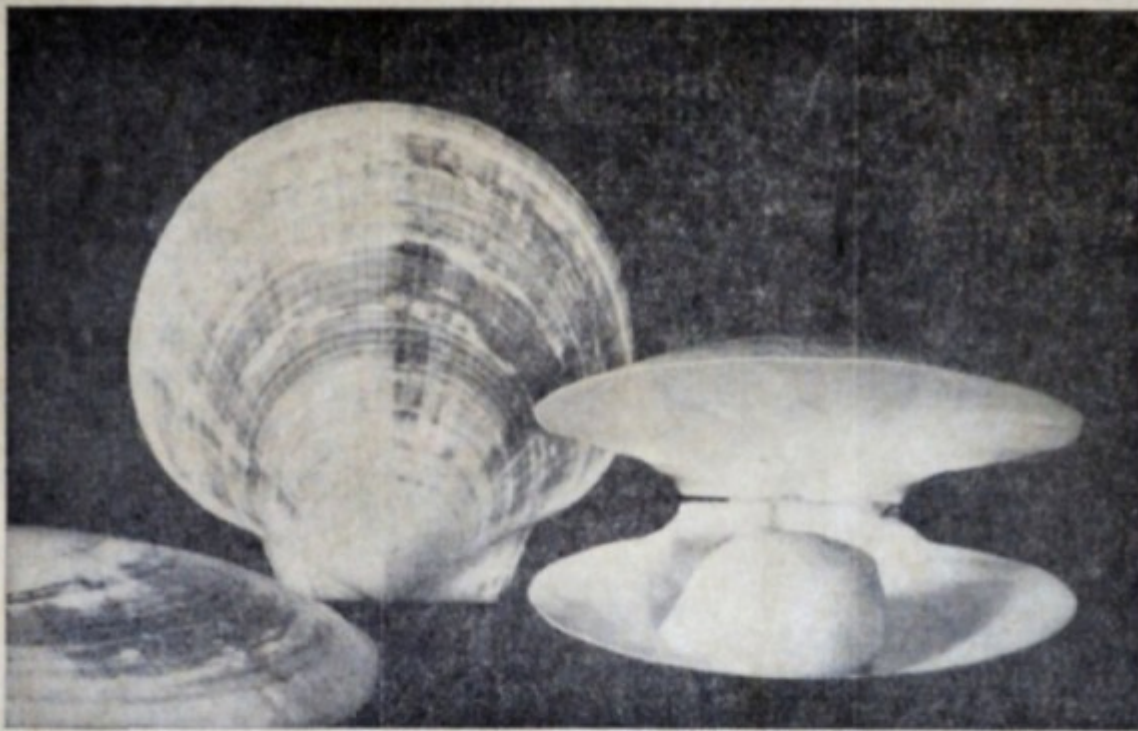
The insides of the saltwater clam showing the proportion of the adductor muscle or "scallop" compared to the entire clam.

We have a Seaport Chowder Festival (which does feature scallop shucking) Folk Festival, Jazz Festival, two Portuguese "Feasts", and until recently a Whaling City Festival and Working Waterfront Festival. These festivals characterize everything that is quintessentially New Bedford. No scallop festival seems to be a glaring oversight and an obvious event that would generate revenue for the city as well as please tens of thousands of people.

An obvious idea is obvious, you say? Well, this is not a new idea, but instead, an old idea: New Bedford had its first Scallop Festival in 1958!

The festival was the brainchild of the New Bedford Exchange Club and the New Bedford Seafood Co-Op who wanted to promote the idea of scallops being tasty, fat-free, boneless, and

nutritious and help boost profits in the novel industry. Incredibly, not many people were familiar with scallops being on the dinner plate and the two groups felt that a festival where locals could have a taste would be a great way to introduce locals to the idea. The dish they tried to promote? Nope, not scallops wrapped in bacon, but “Curried Scallop Kebabs.” Say what?



PEARL OF THE ATLANTIC

Of the Atlantic Ocean scallop it can truly be said, "Here is the perfect gem of seafood."

Scallops grow plump, sweet and flavorsome in the coldwater beds of Georges Bank where New Bedford fishermen, proud of a long tradition of harvesting quality seafoods, sustain the ocean freshness of each catch with tender, loving care.

August is SCALLOP FESTIVAL month . . . a time when tribute is paid to this succulent shellfish in New Bedford, Mass. If you can't join us in this festive event, have one of your own . . . back-yard style . . . along with other scallop lovers throughout the land. *New Bedford Seafood Council.*

CURRIED SCALLOP KABOBS

Thread scallops on skewers (or use foil lined broiler pan). Brush scallops generously with the following, well-mixed: $\frac{1}{4}$ cup honey; $\frac{1}{4}$ cup prepared mustard; 2 teaspoons curry powder and 1 teaspoon lemon juice. Broil, turning frequently, 5 to 8 minutes, or until nicely browned.



6TH ANNUAL SCALLOP FESTIVAL • NEW BEDFORD, MASS. • AUG. 9, 10, 11



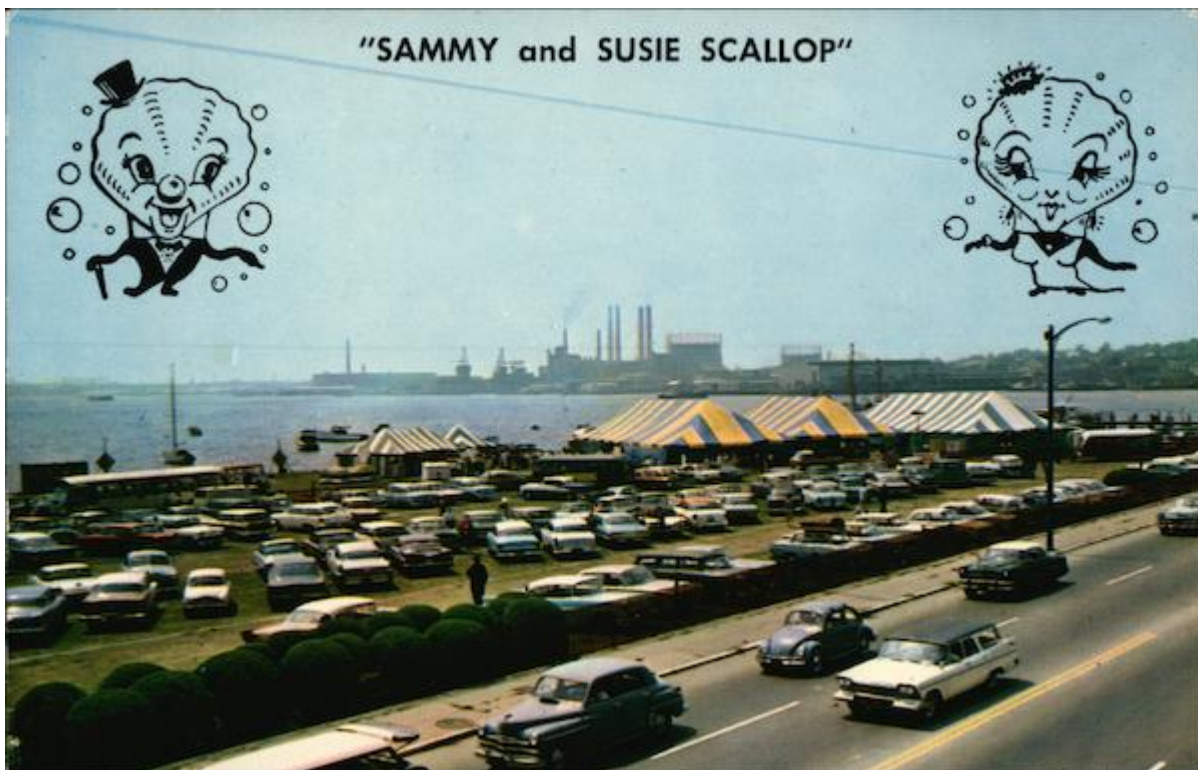
Poster advertising "Curried Scallop Kebabs" during the New Bedford Scallop Festival.

Each August, organizers would pitch tents at Pope's Island for 3 days, and with the help of mascots "Sammy the Scallop" and

"Susie Scallop" they would promote the festival which brought in people from the South Coast, Boston, Providence, and Cape Cod and beyond. They would flock to the annual event to gobble up the "Pearl of the Atlantic" in as many ways as chefs could create.

The price for a pound of scallops at that first festival? 60 cents during the winter and half that in the summer, prices which likely reflected the supply – more scallops available, the lower the cost for the consumer, and more boats harvesting in the summer meant driving down prices.

Each year, for a decade, the New Bedford Scallop Festival grew until it hit a snag in the market price: in 1968 there was a decline in landings of scallops while there was simultaneously an increase in yellowtail flounder landings. Organizers switched gears and redubbed the festival to the New Bedford Seafood Festival and alas the scallop festival was no more.



Postcard featuring two of the festivals mascots, "Sammie and "Susie."

But here we sit more than 50 years later in a much different seafood market. There's no need to convince people that

scallops are tasty or that we should curry kebab them. Oh, we know scallops intimately now. How about we bring back the New Bedford Scallop Festival, the 11th Annual New Bedford Scallop Festival to be exact.

Can you imagine the aroma of scallops, bacon, garlic, and butter being cooked, wafting through the air? We could have live music, food trucks and stands, a shucking contest, a seafood market, and awards for the best dishes. All the area seafood companies could supply the festival with seafood, and feature their products and employees, while the restaurants can offer signature scallop dishes right from their menu.

Once again we would draw a crowd from the region and beyond, bringing in revenue and a boost to local businesses as visitors explored the rest of the city, enjoying and exploring all the New Bedford has to offer. How about it New Bedford?



Live scallop in its natural habitat.

Appointment - Tues. Apr
12:45



NEW BEDFORD Sea SCALLOP FESTIVAL

SPONSORED BY THE EXCHANGE CLUB OF NEW BEDFORD
WITH COOPERATION OF NEW BEDFORD SEAFOOD COUNCIL

P. O. Box 469 - New Bedford, Massachusetts

Senator John F. Kennedy
Senate Office Bldg.,
Washington D. C.

6 April 1959

Dear Senator Kennedy

Because of your continuing interest in the fishing industry of Massachusetts the Scallop Festival Committee of New Bedford enlists your support and endorsement. The purpose of this event which will hold for the second year on August 7 & 8 is to project and advertise the city of New Bedford and more particularly New Bedford Scallops. Last year we fed 8,200 complete scallop dinners in 2 days and hope to accommodate twice that number this year. Our effort attracted much attention from the nation's food editors and stories and recipes appeared in many national publications as an end-product of the Festival. We of the Exchange Club are most anxious to promote our fishing fleet in the hopes that this industry will do much to enhance the economic climate of the Commonwealth.

For the second year I am acting as Co-Chairman of the Festival and as a part of another service club activity for the New Bedford Jaycees I have been awarded an expense paid trip to Washington this coming week (please see news clipping). I am arriving in Washington Monday night (April 13) with the hopes of attending the TASE-EMER dedication ceremonies the following day. I am flying to Washington with Hal Neilson, staff photographer, New Bedford Standard-Times. I would greatly appreciate it if you would consent to be photographed holding a "blown up" invitation to the Scallop Festival from the people of New Bedford. I am sure such a shot would give our community project a much needed national flavor and would help enhance the fishing industry here. If this request is feasible we would appreciate it if such a meeting might be arranged before Mr. Neilson departs for New Bedford (5PM Tuesday 14 April). I wish to impress that this is not a commercial venture- but a community attempt to promote one of its native industries.

If you favorably consider my request, I would appreciate a call from your administrative assistant at my business phone (WYman 9-8295-Lincoln Pharmacy), collect of course. Thanking you in advance for your continued interest in New Bedford, I remain



Charles E. Sharek Jr.
Charles E. Sharek Jr., Co-Chairman
Scallop Festival Committee



Yazan Elayan photo



Yazan Elayan photo

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Do you recall when the New Bedford Scallop Festival was up and running? Remember the mascots "Sammie and Susie"? Would like

to see it return? Let us know in the comment section or email us at info@newbedfordguide.com.