


# Operation Clean Sweep (21 April)

Operation Clean Sweep, a New Bedford based anti-litter  organization, will hold a neighborhood cleanup on **Saturday, April 21, 2012 in Ward 2 from 8:30 am until Noon.** The Ward 2 cleanup will be hosted by Cotali Mar Restaurant, and headquarters will be located in the restaurant's parking lot on Sawyer Street.

Students, individuals, families and community service groups are encouraged to volunteer with Operation Clean Sweep to earn community service hours, demonstrate support for the neighborhood, and pride in the community.

Cotali Mar Restaurant will provide breakfast for volunteers in the morning and lunch will be provided by Domino's Pizza, "The Official Pizza" of Operation Clean Sweep.

Volunteers are encouraged to pre-register by visiting [www.operationcleansweep.net](http://www.operationcleansweep.net) or call 508.979.1493.

Pre-registration is not required but it is preferred so that organizers are better able to plan for the needs of the day. Volunteers are asked to wear closed toe shoes and clothing appropriate for the weather. Tools and gloves provided. Walk-ups are always welcome and all volunteer names will be entered into a drawing for a covered trash barrel!

Anyone interested in hosting a Ward cleanup is encouraged to call (508) 979-1493 for more information.

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# April is “Donate Life Month” in New Bedford

Last year the lives of more than 240 New Englanders were saved because individuals registered as organ donors on their state driver's license or online through the Donate Life New England registry. In addition, the lives of 25,000 in this region were enhanced by tissue donations from registered tissue donors. Registering as a donor can make a very real difference in the life of someone desperately in need of a transplant. Currently, over 113,700 Americans await a life saving organ transplant that may not come in time.



On Wednesday, April 18th at 10:00 AM at New Bedford City Hall on 133 William Street, Mayor Jon Mitchell will present a Proclamation to representatives from New England Organ Bank proclaiming April is Donate Life Month in the City of New Bedford. April is National Donate Life Month and it is an opportunity to continue to educate the public, celebrate the lives saved and enhanced through donation and honor the donors who made the ultimate gift.

Mayor Mitchell said he looks forward to the ceremony and the opportunity to acknowledge the New England Organ Bank efforts to increase public awareness and to acknowledge the partnership between the RMV and Donate Life.

Matt Boger, State Relations for New England Organ Bank said, "Statistics show that 99.8% of all Massachusetts residents who designate themselves as an organ and tissue donor do so at the RMV. They play a very important party in the donation process."

Mike Lenza, liver recipient and New England Organ Bank RMV Ambassador for Lowell says “It’s very inspiring to have the support of Mayor Mitchell for Donate Life Month. We hope the people of New Bedford decide to register today and tell their family and friends to do the same.”

### **About New England Organ Bank**

New England Organ Bank is the federally-designated, non-profit procurement organization responsible for the surgical recovery of organs and tissues for transplant throughout the New England region.

### **About Donate Life New England**

Donate Life New England is a joint project of two federally designated organ procurement organizations that serve New England – LifeChoice Donor Services and New England Organ Bank. They have come together to create a fast and easy way for citizens of New England to register as organ and tissue donors in a secure and confidential manner. For more information, visit [www.donatelifenewengland.org](http://www.donatelifenewengland.org).

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# **Whaling Museum School Vacation Activities**

A week of fun activities are planned for spring vacation at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, April 16-20, in partnership with New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park.



Monday, April 16 is Right Whale Day, when the museum offers free family activities focused on the highly endangered northern right whale starting at 10:00 a.m. under the massive right whale skeleton on display in the Jacobs Family Gallery. Walk inside a life-sized inflatable right whale and stand next to a life-sized inflatable right whale calf for a photo. Challenge yourself in the coastal obstacle course as you attempt to survive the dangers right whales face in their migrations. Test your observation skills by identifying individual whales based on their markings. Enjoy a slice of the huge "right whale cake" at 1:35 p.m.

Right Whale Day schedule of activities: 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Go Inside the Inflatable Whale (presented by the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society); 10:00 a.m. – 1:15 p.m., Right Whale Obstacle Course (presented by the museum's high school apprentices), museum plaza; 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Make Right Whale Magnets & Whale Origami (presented by the New England Coastal Wildlife Alliance); 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Right Whale Crafts & Learning Activities (presented by the museum docents & high school apprentices); 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., Inflatable Right Whale Calf, Right Whale Info & Photo-Op with the Right Whale Calf (presented by the education staff of NOAA); 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.: Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary 20th Anniversary display & activities (presented by Stellwagen Sanctuary staff); 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Right Whale Identification Activities, (presented by the museum volunteers); 1:35 p.m.: Right Whale Day Cake; 2:00 p.m.: Free screening of "Ocean Frontiers – The Dawn of a New Era in Ocean Stewardship," (Cook Memorial Theater). "Ocean Frontiers" is an engaging, inspirational film that features four very different, but equally important success stories of ocean stewardship, including one that is taking place in Massachusetts Bay.

Spring vacation week activities continue through Friday, April 20. Schedule of activities: Tuesday- Friday, April 17-20,

10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.: "Highlights Tours: Go Below Decks on The Lagoda." Join a docent for a 45-minute tour that focuses on highlights of the Museum's collection. The tour leaves from the front desk. The first ten participants to sign up will go below decks on the Lagoda. Regular admission applies.

Tuesday, April 17, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: "Moby-Dick Highlights Tour" Docents bring the characters and action from Herman Melville's great American novel to life through a tour of the Museum's collection. Tour leaves from the front desk. Regular admission rates apply.

Wednesday morning, April 18, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: "Maritime Arts & Crafts." Children make and take home their project. This program is free for children in the Jacobs Family Gallery. Regular admission rates apply to the Museum galleries.

Wednesday afternoon, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.: New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park offers a free fun-filled afternoon for the whole family, including scavenger hunt, carnival games, bean bag toss and Earth Day crafts. Try croquet on the lawn with Ruth & Abby – the 1850s ladies – and watch the Youth Ambassador Program (YAP!) videos, "Get Outside" and "My Backyard" series. Pick up a free "Burn While You Learn," map of the park to explore history while getting some exercise. The National Park Visitor Center is located at 33 William Street, adjacent to the museum plaza.

Thursday, April 19, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: "Sailors' Valentines." Learn how to make sailors' valentines, traditional gifts whalemens gave to their wives and loved ones upon returning from long voyages. Take your valentine home as a keepsake. This program is free for children in the Jacobs Family Gallery. Regular admission rates apply to the Museum galleries.

Friday, April 20, 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.: "All Aboard The

Lagoda" allows children to dress as their favorite seafaring character and climb aboard the Lagoda, learning the ropes, interacting with different cultures, and scouring the seas in search of whales as they experience a global whaling voyage through role-play on the world's largest model whaleship (regular admission rates apply).

Spring vacation week activities are free where noted for children to 14 years. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

In celebration of the Bicentennial of the Town of Fairhaven, Massachusetts (1812-2012), Fairhaven residents receive free admission to the museum, Sunday, April 15 through Saturday, April 21 (proof of residency required).

The New Bedford Whaling Museum is the world's most comprehensive museum devoted to the global story of whales, whaling and the cultural history of the region. The cornerstone of New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, the Museum is located at 18 Johnny Cake Hill in the heart of the city's historic downtown. For events: [www.whalingmuseum.org](http://www.whalingmuseum.org).

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## **Ocean Explorium Hosts EPA Photo Project**

For the Documerica Project (1971 – 1977), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) hired freelance photographers to capture pictures of environmental problems, EPA activities and everyday life in the 1970's. These images were intended to establish a visual baseline against which progress could be measured.

In 2011, the EPA invited citizens to submit photographs to update the record. This photo project, called State of the Environment, includes “Then and Now” images taken nearly 40 years apart.

The Ocean Explorium has been chosen to exhibit some of the most compelling images, from both the Documerica and State of the Environment series. For a few days only, several photographs will be on view before moving on to another location.

“The Ocean Explorium is fortunate to be able to showcase these amazing images. When the opportunity was presented to us on Thursday afternoon, we could not say no! The exhibit will be installed on Saturday and will be dismantled on Tuesday, so it is important we get the word out so folks can see these beautiful photographs” according to Abbey Spargo, Education Programs Coordinator.

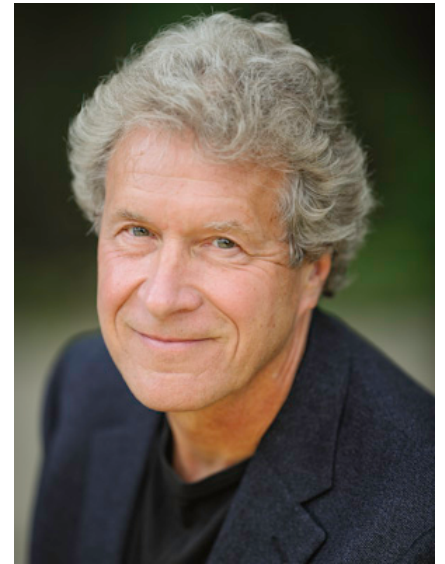


In the meantime, it is not too late to participate in the EPA photo project. Readers who feel inspired may join the EPA State of the Environment photo project or view the photo archives at: <http://blog.epa.gov/epplocations>.

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## **Ocean Explorium Hosts Author, Activist John Perkins**

John Perkins will present "Geo-Politics, the Future, and You: A Call to Action" on Tuesday, April 17, in the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Woodland Commons from 12:30 to 2:00 pm and again at the Ocean Explorium, with a reception from 6:30 pm until the talk begins at 7:30 pm.



Perkins will discuss his experiences in the corporate world, the epiphany that initiated personal change, and his optimism for the future. A sustainability advocate, an expert on global economic strategies, and New York Times bestselling author of *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man* and *Hoodwinked*, his message underscores the need for each individual to appreciate the roles they play in creating a sustainable or unsustainable world, a just or unjust society.

According to Susan Jennings, Director of UMass Dartmouth Office of Campus and Community Sustainability, "UMass Dartmouth's Sustainability Initiative encourages all of us to appreciate the freedoms of speech we enjoy in this country, to take responsibility for acting against threats to our civil liberties, and to develop a voice in politics and activism that supports a just, sustainable, and peaceful future."

John Perkins's appearances on the SouthCoast are part of the UMass Dartmouth Sustainability Initiative's "Finding Our Voices" series and are co-sponsored by Bristol Community College's Center for Sustainability and Post-Carbon Education.

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 the Office of Campus and Community Sustainability at 508.910.6484 or sustainability@umassd.edu; or Abbey Spargo at 508.994.5400 or aspargo@oceanexplorium.org .

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## Seven Enjoyable AHA! Events for April 12th



by  
Michael  
Silvia

One of my favorite days each month is the second Thursday of the month in downtown New Bedford. Why? Because that's when downtown New Bedford comes to life with AHA! (Arts, History and Architecture). It's really the only monthly event that brings people from outside and inside New Bedford in large numbers to the center of New Bedford to experience our city's rich history, art and architecture. Now that spring is here, AHA! really brings in a crowd. This month's AHA! theme is Sustainable Southcoast. Here are my suggested events to attend tonight, April 12, 2012. A full schedule can be found online. Printed copies can be found at most businesses in downtown New Bedford.

### **1. Eco-Friendly Procession/Eco-Floats**

**Time:** 5 pm, parade starts at 5:30 pm

**Location:** Custom House Square (across the street from Freestone's and Carter's)

**Details:** This is a “people powered” parade with tunes provided by the New Bedford All-City Middle School Marching Band and the New Bedford High School Whalers Marching Band. Some of the float participants include Ocean Explorium, UMD Net Impact Club, Buttonwood Park Zoo, Humane Society Southcoast, Kiddie Kampus, New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District, YMCA Southcoast and Boys & Girls Club of NB.

## **2. Youth Ambassador Program (YAP) Performance and Open Mic**

**Time:** 5 pm

**Location:** New Bedford Commons, formerly Ginger Grille (778 Purchase Street)

**Details:** One of my favorite programs in New Bedford is the Youth Ambassador Program (YAP). These are the same folks that produced the “Walk with Me” music video that provides a fun tour of New Bedford from our youth’s perspective. catch some fun music and participate if you have some musical talent.

## **3. J Kelley Acoustic Solo Show**

**Time:** 6-8 pm

**Location:** Celtic Coffee House (42 North Water Street)

**Details:** Catch the singer/song writer Jason Kelley from the J.Kelley Band. Enjoy a coffee and acoustic show with some friends before enjoying some of the events later in the evening. Check out the J.Kelley Band’s music mix [here](#).

## **J.Kelley Band Music Video – New Bedford MA**

## **4. SEEAL’s 5th Annual “Shrink Your Footprint” Fair**

**Time:** 6:30-8 pm

**Location:** Ocean Explorium (174 Union Street)

**Details:** The Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance, or SEEAL’s goal is to provide environmental awareness and stewardship in Southeastern Massachusetts. There will be vendors, youth exhibits, demonstrations, and non-profit tables with a raffle of great prizes to participants.

## **5. Free Wine Tasting**

**Time:** 5-9 pm

**Location:** Travessia Urban Winery (760 Purchase Street)

**Details:** Travessia offers FREE wine tasting with the purchase of any bottle of wine. Last month, I sampled six delicious wines before making a purchase. This is a great place to kick-off your AHA!

## **6. Talk with Ruth and Abby, the 1850s Ladies**

**Time:** 6:30-8 pm

**Location:** New Bedford National Historic Park Visitors Center (33 William St)

**Details:** Step back in time and chat with Ruth and Abby as they create traditional crocheted fish using modern day recycled materials.



## **7. Enjoy Some Art!**

New Bedford is a Mecca for art in New England. Several galleries and the New Bedford Art Museum are having special exhibits for AHA.

- **New Bedford Art Museum** (608 Pleasant Street) – The New Bedford Art Museum has gone through a make over. Tonight, there is an exhibit about of what the future of art will be at the museum, showcasing various forms of artistic expression within our newly renovated gallery space.
- **Judith Klein Art Gallery** (98 William Street) – “2012 UMASS Dartmouth CVPA Student Exhibit” – 20 students show featuring paintings, sculptures, fiber work, printmaking, drawings and photography. The artists will be at the gallery to talk about their work.
- **Gallery 65** (65 William Street) – The Bug Show: Works by gallery members and guest artists including Lasse Antonsen, Chuck Hauck, Elaine McBride and Charles Talley.

- **UMass Dartmouth CVPA at the Star Store** (715 Purchase Street) – 2012 MFA Thesis Exhibition: View the graduate exhibition in the University Gallery.
- **Artworks!** (384 Acushnet Avenue) – Senior thesis show featuring students from the UMass Dartmouth CVPA program.
- **UGLY gallery** (246 Union St.) – New York and New Bedford based artists!

These are just my suggestions for this evening. I recommend you visit AHA!'s page to see the full schedule to find out the best entertainment for you. Call, text or Facebook your friends and invite them to downtown New Bedford. I promise you will have a great, unique time!

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## Last Nantucket Fishing Family Film (20 Apr)

Bill Blount, Nantucket's last commercial fisherman, is the subject of the April Dock-u-mentaries film series which continues Friday, April 20th at 7 pm with Ruthie B., Ruthie B. 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 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.



This month's film, Ruthie B., Ruthie B, is a 45-minute

presents an intimate portrait of Bill and Ruthie Blount, the last fishing family on Nantucket. It paints a vivid portrait of their struggles to stay afloat financially, Bill's determination to pursue a career that gives him satisfaction if not monetary rewards, Ruth's worries over being in debt, and her efforts to contribute to the family's income.

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## **New Bedford's 44th Annual Whaling City Festival**



by Joe  
Silvia

The 44th Whaling City Festival is coming to the Veteran's Memorial Buttonwood Park in New Bedford's west end from July 13-15th, bringing the ever familiar musical acts, festival foods, local vendors, merchant booths, amusement rides and more that people have come to love. The new Whaling City Festival president Allen Richard plans on shaking things up by adding many new elements to the usual ones people love and come to expect. If you thought it was the same old festival, think again.

Mr. Richard, who took the reins as president this year, is focusing on sending a signal that the Whaling City Festival has changed and is continuing to change for the better. His eye is on improving every facet of the festival with each coming year. Festival hours are still from 9 am to 8 pm Friday through Sunday. Mr. Richard is hoping to extend those hours in

the future to allow the estimated 125,000 people that pass through the festival each year to continue to enjoy themselves after 8 pm.

Richard who has been involved with the festival since 1988, has grown through the ranks because of his love and passion for the city's historic festival. "I started getting involved in 1988 picking up trash as a volunteer and now as President...I'm still picking up trash," he told us over coffee at Cafe Arpeggio.



Richard is ambitious, creative, and has a blue collar work ethic when it comes to managing and organizing the festival. However, he is struggling to overcome some negativity that has cropped up in the past. An incident in 2006 in which a brawl broke out and 23 arrests were made, and a problem with a small minority of vendors hawking counterfeit items has presented a few problems for the festival organizers. "Identifying counterfeits is hard. If you have some experience and expertise with them it's easier to spot. But I'm learning." Richard stated. "I have no tolerance for it. I'm keeping a sharp eye out and doing everything in my power to crack down on it."

As for the brawl in 2006 Richard said, "the police chief at the time said that the brawl is responsible for the 8pm curfew, and that by closing before nightfall the festival will be safer. But the brawl happened between 6 pm and 7 pm. At the Businessmen's Festival a few years ago [2008] a person was shot, and they are open until 10 pm. The Portuguese Feast has a bunch of people placed into protective custody each and

every year, and their curfew is 11:45 pm.”

“The truth is that the Whaling City Festival is a safe, fun family focused event and we’ve proven that year after year. Before the brawl in 2006 there were no issues and 6 years later we’ve had no incidences. We’re not asking for special treatment, just for a fair shake.”

Being restricted to an 8 pm curfew has harmed revenue and scared away some potential vendors who don’t want to lose the extra sales which would make it worth the trip. Out-of-state vendors have stated that with gas prices the way they are, they don’t want to make the drive when they are losing 2 hours of potential revenue each night. These 2 extra hours can make the difference in a vendor’s profit or loss.

Richard feels that this restriction is partially responsible for vendor participation dropping from 250 tables in 2006, to 140 last year. Sponsorships have dropped as well, resulting in what was an annual \$5,000 donated to citywide scholarships to now nothing at all. The drop in revenue has also restricted the entertainment, amusements, and acts that Richard has been able to recruit preventing him from putting on the highest quality festival possible. For example, the very popular laser light show, bigger name musical acts, and some children’s activities.

In spite of these obstacles Richard is optimistic and plans on proving to the city each and every year by having an incidence free and successful event.

Being able to remain open until 10 pm as other festivals throughout the city are allowed to do will encourage vendors to participate. This in turn will drive up sponsorship and



allow Richard to give back to the city with scholarships as well as continue to add new amusements.



“Some of new ideas I’m working on and hoping to recruit are the Soccer Collies-dogs who play soccer against a team of kids, Arm Wrestling, a BMX stunt show, an Illusionist, and the addition of a Foodfest that highlights New Bedford. We’re thinking of highlighting the Portuguese community, food, and culture by having a Cacoila Fest and having a challenge attached to it. We would charge around \$5 and donate some or all of the proceeds to the ailing K-9 program for the New Bedford Police. It would be a way of saying thanks for all the work, time and energy the NBPD has given us year after year. But to add these things and keep making the festival better, I need vendors and sponsors. To get them I need a later time slot.”

Of course, as always the expected crowd favorites will be present like Finelli Amusements, the Dance Extravaganza, Car and Motorcycle Show, Face Painting, Top Pro Wrestling, Live Music, and vendors selling crafts and goods. Popular food items like the Blooming Onion, Turkey Legs, Amaral’s Linguica, Greek Delight, Gyros, and Shish Kebab will of course whet everyone’s appetite.

Each year the Whaling City Festival has a crew of 20-30 volunteers from the ages of 12-90 who help with information, traffic, directions, setting up, breaking down, picking up trash, manning the gates, drink service, and more. It’s a ton of fun, and at the end of the festivities Richard treats all of the volunteers to a great meal at his expense.

As with every year FREE shuttle service will run from New



Bedford High School to the festival grounds.

In an attempt to help promote the festival, presidency, recruit vendors, sponsors, and volunteers Richard runs a website and an accompanying Facebook Page. The website will be updated in the coming weeks with the schedule, itinerary, and info.

If you are a potential vendor, or sponsor and interested in participating in this year's Whaling City Festival, you can apply here:  
<http://www.whalingcityfestival.net/applications.html>

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or are a musical act looking to participate in this year's festival you can contact Allen Richard at: [ARichard@WhalingCityFestival.net](mailto:ARichard@WhalingCityFestival.net).

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## **Amistad Illustrated Lecture at Whaling Museum**



Captain Sean S. Bercaw will present an illustrated talk, titled "Full Sail into Cuba on the Amistad" on Thursday, April 12th from 6:30 – 8 pm at the New Bedford Whaling Museum – part

of the museum's 22nd annual Sailors' Series lecture programs.

Captain of the Amistad, former Naval Officer and Master Mariner, Sean S. Bercaw has sailed over 160,000 nautical miles under sail. He shares the fascinating narrative of sailing the Amistad reproduction, in 2010, into the Cuban waters where the 1839 story – which was the subject of the 1997 Steven Spielberg movie, “Amistad” – began. The revolt of the Amistad's African captives, their takeover of the ship and the ensuing court battle is an inspiring human story that, in a case successfully argued by former President John Quincy Adams, culminated in their freedom being granted by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Admission: \$15 members; \$20 non-members. For tickets, call (508) 997-0046 Ext. 100.

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## **National Park and Whaling Museum School Vacation Activities**

When April vacation arrives, the children are thrilled to have time off from school, yet parents find themselves scrambling for activities to give them something new to do. New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park and the New Bedford Whaling Museum have partnered to offer a week of fun, family-friendly children's activities during the week of April vacation.



New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park will feature an afternoon of free activities from 1-4 pm on Wednesday, April 18. All activities will be ongoing from 1-4 pm, and take place at the national park visitor center at 33 William St. in downtown New Bedford. Try your hand at playing croquet on the lawn with Ruth & Abby, the 1850s ladies. Look for interesting landmarks in the park's scavenger hunt and see how many you can find! Celebrate Earth Day by making paper bead jewelry from recycled paper. Play carnival games, such as bean bag toss and Pin the Badge on the Ranger! Watch the Youth Ambassador Program (YAP!) videos, Get Outside and My Backyard series. Pick up a free copy of Burn While You Learn, the park's map to explore history while you get outside and get some exercise.

Park partner, the New Bedford Whaling Museum kicks off the week with Right Whale Day on Monday, April 16 (10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.), with several free kids' activities, a "whale cake," and the film "Ocean Frontiers." Museum activities continue through Friday, and include: Tour Below Lagoda's Decks (Tues., Fri., 10-1); Moby-Dick Highlights Tour (Tues., 11-noon); Free

Maritime Arts & Crafts (Wed., 10-noon); Free Sailors' Valentines (Thurs., 10-noon); and All Aboard The Lagoda Tour (Fri., 9:30-10:30). Museum admission applies to tours. Cape Verdean weaving, beadwork, and shell art demonstrations, Tues.-Fri. 10-2. In celebration of the Town of Fairhaven's Bicentennial, Fairhaven residents receive free admission to the museum, April 15-21 (proof of residency required).