

3rd EyE Unlimited Launches “Your New Bedford” on Juneteenth; Virtual pop-up events to foster bonds between downtown and neighborhoods

On Friday, June 19th – “Juneteenth” – the youth empowerment organization 3rd EyE Unlimited launches “Your New Bedford”, a monthly pop-up event featuring music, dance, visual arts, education and a community corner for dialogue about local needs and challenges.

The event runs from 6 to 9 p.m. and will be live-streamed on 3rd EyE’s Facebook page and YouTube Channel. “Your New Bedford” is a collaboration between 3rd EyE, which uses the five pillars of hip hop to foster young people’s creative capacities, and community partners attuned to the needs and resources of specific neighborhoods or populations.

Our partner for the first event is Hatch Street Studios, New Bedford’s largest community of visual and performing artists housed in two adjoining historic mill buildings in the city’s North End. The project is designed to deepen connections between neighborhoods and downtown, build partnerships between cultural organizations and community groups, and strengthen the creative economy and arts ecosystem.



“It is both coincidental and highly appropriate that our first ‘Your New Bedford’ event falls on Juneteenth – the day in 1865 that enslaved people in Texas learned about the Emancipation Proclamation”, noted project manager Peter Lonelle Walker, a local businessperson and community activist. “This gives us a rich opportunity to connect the history of racial injustice with the youth-led social protest movement unfolding around us.”

This Friday’s event will intersperse performances by young artists active in local Black Lives Matter initiatives, with live painting, a studio tour and live music by Hatch Street artists, and a special guest appearance by New Bedford’s Poet Laureate Patricia Gomes. Other featured artists include Lynea Gilreath, a spoken word artist and leader of local youth protests, dancer Momo (Monique) Hobson, painter Devin McLaughlin and glass mural designer Tracy Silva Barbosa.

The event’s educational component will be rounded out by the New Bedford Historical Society and Groundworks South Coast. The event will be co-hosted by local break dancing legend C.J. “JunnYahh” Burnett and health and wellness promoter Shianne Costa.

“Your New Bedford” demonstrates that New Bedford’s arts scene is more than its rich whaling and abolitionist histories – it is also a hothouse for inclusive and cutting-edge youth-

oriented culture. “A thriving community is more than just what’s seen on the surface, it’s also what is not immediately visible,” said Walker.

“The New Bedford that visitors see, particularly in our revitalized historic downtown, is fueled by the influence, expression and culture of the communities and neighborhoods that lie outside the tourist map.” Shianne Costa, the evening’s co-host, adds, “It’s harder to connect right now, and our goal is to use the virtual space to create a platform that empowers and showcases our communities and neighborhoods, celebrating the contributions we and our neighbors have made and will continue to make.”

Your New Bedford is the pilot project of the Art is Everywhere initiative, established by the Barr Foundation and Mass Development to accelerate arts-based development.

New Bedford Symphony Orchestra presents “Music, Presence and Us,” FREE live- stream

Tune in Friday, June 5th at 7:00pm on the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra website or on Facebook for a LIVE STREAM of “Music, Presence and Us” with NBSO musicians Dana Ianculovici (violin) and Kevin Crudder (cello).

Building upon their April program “A Journey of Hope,” Clearvision (New Bedford Symphony members Dana Ianculovici and Kevin Crudder) returns to share their understanding of what

Presence is and how music can support us in deepening our experience of it. The program will include works of Bach, Beethoven, Bartok, and Schulhoff, as well as a few 'Pop' offerings.

You have two options to view this live stream. The live videos will not appear until very close to 7pm, and it is possible that the performance may start a bit late.

Option 1: If you have a Facebook account, go to the NBSO Facebook Live Videos page where you will see current and past live videos. Click on "Music, Presence and Us" to open the post so that you can comment and see others' comments.

Option 2: Go to our website and look for the Events tab, then Upcoming Events, and click on "Music, Presence and Us." Simply scroll down to find the video.

All of our live stream performances can be viewed afterward in either place.



Boston Marathon canceled as Mayor Walsh prepares for summer of distancing

Chris Lisinski

Katie Lannan contributed
State House News Service

The Boston Marathon has been run in some form every year since 1897, withstanding the 1918 influenza pandemic, two world wars and other disruptions. But with the state's path through the COVID-19 era still uncertain, the marathon will not take place in 2020.

During a wide-ranging press conference that included hints about restaurant reopenings and an announcement about expanding roadway spacing, Boston Mayor Martin Walsh announced Thursday that the marathon, previously postponed from April 20 until Sept. 14, will be outright canceled this year.

The historic first underscores how long the road to the new normal will be for Massachusetts.

"We're putting our own health and other people's health before our own celebration, our own enjoyment of these events," Walsh said. "Right now, the best celebration we can do to each other is respecting each other and supporting each other and not spreading the virus."

Officials had hoped that delaying the marathon about five months would buy enough time to conduct it safely, but Walsh said he became convinced it is "less and less plausible" because of how long the post-peak tail of infection has been

and because of the lingering threat of a second surge in COVID-19 cases between August and October.

“There’s no way to hold this usual race format without bringing large numbers of people into close proximity,” he said. “While our goal and our hope was to make progress in containing the virus and recovering our economy, this type of event would not be possible or realistic on Sept. 14 or any time this year.”

Restaurants and other tourism-centric businesses, many of which are already under enormous strain, will take another hit from the cancellation. Walsh estimated that marathon weekend typically draws about \$200 million into the regional economy.

Boston Athletic Association CEO Tom Grilk said the organization will issue refunds to all registered runners, and when it opens the field for the 2021 Marathon, it will consider qualifying race times as far back as September 2018.

The BAA will conduct a “virtual marathon” between Sept. 7 and 14, making available online panels and a “printable finish line.” Any runner who completes 26.2 miles within six hours during that span and can provide proof of time will earn a medal, a t-shirt and a runner’s bib.

During a separate press conference later on Thursday, Gov. Charlie Baker said the city and the BAA “made the right decision by erring on the side of caution.”

“We’ve all concluded that – and I know this is not the answer anybody would want to hear – that for the time being, we are better off being careful and cautious when it comes to really big events like that,” he said.

Baker filed a bill (H 4571) to designate Sept. 14 as a state holiday after the race was postponed on March 13, but neither the House nor Senate moved to vote on it in the ensuing months.

The marathon cancellation comes as the state continues its early steps toward reviving public activity. The resumption of full, large-scale recreational activities will not get approval to resume until the fourth phase of the Baker administration's plan, during which officials hope to have a COVID-19 vaccine or treatment available – a milestone that may be months or more than a year away.

“Nothing close to old normal routines will be possible until a vaccine or an effective treatment for COVID is ready,” Walsh said Thursday.

State officials have indicated that restaurants could expand beyond takeout and delivery operations starting in the second phase, when lodging could also reopen with safety precautions in place.

Baker's team tapped a separate group to craft recommendations for those industries, and Walsh said Thursday that he expects those guidelines to surface as soon as Friday.

“We're working with the state right now waiting for the state to finalize the guidelines,” Walsh said. “We're expecting probably within the next 24 hours, we'll know from the state, whether indoor (dining), outdoor or both.”

The city has been studying how to make outdoor, socially distant dining more feasible once restaurants get the go-ahead, and Walsh said 264 establishments expressed interest in placing seating on sidewalks or parking lanes.

Asked about closing entire streets to make space for dining al fresco, Walsh said he has some concerns with shutting down major thoroughfares but wants to consider the matter on a case-by-case basis.

“Every option's on the table,” he said.

Other states have opened rights-of-way they control to

restaurants during the COVID era to help space out patrons during warm-weather months.

Walsh also announced a framework for employers in the city, who can begin hosting employees in physical offices on June 1, as long as they cap capacity at 25 percent.

The range of recommendations include limiting elevators to four people at a time, naming a workplace COVID-19 coordinator, placing markers of six-foot distances in all high-traffic areas, and regularly disinfecting public spaces.

Boston businesses should instruct all employees and visitors to cover their faces unless they have a medical condition or disability, and the employers should provide facial coverings to workers, Walsh said.

Over the next few months, the city also plans to implement changes on its streets aimed at ensuring residents can practice social distancing.

Boston's Transportation Department starting in June will expand bus stops at 10 locations, such as Broadway Station and the northbound Hynes Station stop. Workers will also build new bike lanes to connect the downtown area to other parts of the city.

"As we move through this next reopening phase of COVID-19, it's incumbent upon all of us to make sure we can get it right," Walsh said. "The impact of a second shutdown on our economy could be even more devastating than the first."

New Bedford Symphony Orchestra presents FREE live-stream “Jesse Holstein Bach-Talk with Talk-Bach”

On Wednesday, May 27, 7pm tune in on the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra website or on Facebook for a LIVE STREAM of Bach-Talk with Talk-Bach with NBSO concertmaster Jesse Holstein.

The first known edition of Bach’s Sonatas and Partitas for Solo Violin dates from 1720 while he was employed at the court of Anhalt-Cothen in Germany. These works greatly expanded the musical, technical, and harmonic possibilities of the violin, which was largely used as a singularly melodic instrument up to that point. With these works, Bach revolutionized both solo violin music and violin playing beyond measure.

Please join Jesse for a deep-dive into their genesis and history through the lens of the final Partita in E-major. (He might even do some very bad baroque dance moves to illustrate the rhythm of the movements. Please don’t let that be a deterrent!)

This Bach-Talk will include a “Talk-Bach” where you can type in questions and comments.

You have two options to view this live stream. The live videos will not appear until very close to 7pm, and it is possible that the performance may start a bit late.

Option 1: If you have a Facebook account, go to the NBSO Facebook Live Videos page where you will see current and past live videos. Click on “Bach-Talk with Talk-Bach” to open the post so that you can comment and see others’ comments.

Option 2: Go to our website and look for the Events tab, then

Upcoming Events, and click on “Bach-Talk with Talk-Bach”
Simply scroll down to find the video.

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either place.



Kennedy Summer Day Program

cancelled for summer 2020; beach passes available for New Bedford residents

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and based on federal, state and city guidelines, the New Bedford Department of Parks, Recreation & Beaches Kennedy Summer Day Program will be cancelled for the summer of 2020.

Staff from the Department of Parks, Recreation & Beaches will be in contact with those who have already submitted a payment for the 2020 session of the Kennedy Summer Day Program in order to issue full refunds.

The Summer Food Service Program and other family programming will continue to be offered throughout the city in accordance with social distancing and hygiene guidelines.

Beach passes available for New Bedford residents

Mayor Jon Mitchell announced this week that New Bedford's beaches will follow the state's guidelines, reopening May 25 with additional guidelines.

At New Bedford's beaches, only New Bedford residents will be able to purchase a beach pass until further notice. Social distancing measures will be enforced, with no beach volleyball or other organized sports permitted.

Public restrooms at the beach will be closed until further notice.

Beach parking passes will be sold on-site at Fort Taber Park (cash only) and with credit/debit card only at www.nbprb.com, under Register Now, Beach Parking Information.

A pop-up beach parking pass sale will be held on Friday, May

22, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. outside the Andrea McCoy Recreation Center, 181 Hillman Street. Cash, credit/debit cards will be accepted. Masks must be worn and social distancing and hygiene protocols will be observed.

Massachusetts to recognize Memorial Day with series of virtual events

The Baker-Polito Administration will recognize Memorial Day this year in a virtual format, enabling the Commonwealth to continue to honor members of the military who have sacrificed for our country.

The series of events will kick off with virtual observances at the Soldiers' Homes in Chelsea and Holyoke on Thursday, May 21 and Friday, May 22 respectively, followed by a coordinated statewide lighting of buildings, bridges, flags and parks on Sunday, May 24, and concluding with a Memorial Day program that will air on Monday, May 25.

"We are deeply grateful to all service members past and present who bravely served our country, and as we mark Memorial Day, we pay special tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in their service to protect us and ensure our freedom," said Governor Charlie Baker. "During this difficult time, it is important that we honor and remember them, and share our gratitude and deep respect for their courage."

"This year we will honor the lives of the brave men and women who died while serving the country in a different, but equally

special way,” said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. “These virtual remembrances ensure we pay tribute to the Commonwealth’s military community and our veterans, and we encourage all residents to participate as we honor their service and sacrifice.”

“Memorial Day is sacred for our fellow service members, veterans and families – in particular, Gold Star Families – as we collectively remember those we’ve lost. Freedom is not free, and the eternal valor of our fallen brothers and sisters allows us to live in peace,” said Veterans’ Services Secretary Francisco Ureña.

Overview of Memorial Day virtual events:

– Thursday, May 21 – Chelsea Soldiers’ Home virtual observance will be streamed on the Home’s Facebook page at 5pm Thursday. The program will be available on their Facebook page on demand following the stream.

<https://www.facebook.com/ChelseaSoldiersHome/>

– Friday, May 22 – Holyoke Soldiers’ Home virtual observance will be streamed on the Home’s Facebook page at 5pm Friday. The program will be available on their Facebook page on demand following the stream.

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/HolyokeSoldiersHome/>

– Sunday, May 24 – Buildings, bridges, flags and parks to be illuminated in gold to honor Gold Star Families on the evening of Sunday, May 24 in observance of Memorial Day. The Department of Veterans’ Services has partnered with MassDOT, building managers and Veteran Service Organizations across the state to invite communities to light up prominent structures on the eve of Memorial Day. Locations listed below.

– Monday, May 25 – Memorial Day Ceremony, with speakers and musical performers from across the Commonwealth, remarks by Governor Baker and Lt. Governor Polito, Legislative leaders, and a special “Tribute to the Fallen” by the Massachusetts National Guard. This program will stream on mass.gov/MemorialDay and on participating TV stations and

digital channels on Monday, May 25.

Visit mass.gov/MemorialDay and follow #MemorialDayMA on Facebook and Twitter for the latest information on this year's virtual programs.

Buildings, bridges, flags, and parks to be illuminated Sunday Night, May 24:

Agawam – Military Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Agawam

Arlington Town Hall

Beverly Department of Public Works Building

Boston:

Boston City Hall

Government Center, Boston

Prudential Tower, Boston

Leonard P. Zakim Bunker Hill Memorial Bridge, Boston

Cambridge City Hall

Chelsea:

Soldiers' Home in Chelsea

Locations throughout the community

Dracut Revolutionary Monument

Easton Veterans Memorial Park

Essex Town Hall

Fall River Government Center Building

Georgetown Town Hall

Holyoke – Soldiers' Home in Holyoke

Ipswich Town Hall

Kingston Town Hall

Lawrence Canal Street Bridge

Leominster Veterans Memorial Center

Ludlow Town Hall

Marshfield Veterans Memorial Park

Medford City Hall

Melrose Memorial Hall

New Bedford:

New Bedford City Hall

Elm Street Garage

Newbury Town Hall
Norton Town Hall
Palmer Town Hall
Pittsfield City Hall
Rowley Town Hall
Saugus Town Hall
Scituate Town Common
Sharon Fire Department
Stoneham Town Common
Swansea Town Hall
Watertown Flag Pole
Wenham Town Hall
West Newbury Town Hall
Westfield Town Green
Westford Town Hall
Winchendon – Military Veterans’ Memorial Cemetery in
Winchendon
Woburn City Hall
Worcester – Kenneth F. Burns Memorial Bridge

This list is current as of 9am Thursday – additional communities will be listed on mass.gov/MemorialDay.

2020 Buzzards Bay swim canceled due to ongoing concerns over the coronavirus

The following was posted by The Buzzards Bay Coalition:

“The Buzzards Bay Coalition has announced that the 2020 Buzzards BaySwim will be canceled due to the unprecedented and still-evolving conditions presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The health and well-being of our participants, volunteers, emergency personnel, staff, and our community is our top priority,” Coalition President Mark Rasmussen said in a message to this year’s swimmers. “Under the current circumstances, and based upon the guidance of public health officials, we concluded that this year’s event cannot take place safely.

The event, which has been run annually since 1993, brings hundreds of participants to New Bedford each June to swim across New Bedford Harbor to Fort Phoenix State Park in Fairhaven, where the event ends with a beach party brunch. Last year’s event raised more than \$187,000 to support education, conservation, water quality monitoring, and advocacy work.

“I’m sure that you share our disappointment in this year’s cancellation of the swim, but I hope you take solace in the fact that your early fundraising has already contributed more than \$25,000 to sustain Bay protection efforts,” Rasmussen told swimmers. “In the current environment, those funds are more critical than ever to continuing our water quality monitoring, land conservation, public education and clean water advocacy work.”

The Coalition has other events planned later this summer and fall. The organization will field a team of runners for the Falmouth Road Race, which will be held as a “virtual” run on August 16, 2020. And on Sunday, October 4, the Coalition will host the 2020 Watershed Ride—an event in which cyclists ride one of three overlapping courses, the longest of which stretches 100 miles from Sakonnet Point to Woods Hole.

Registered swimmers have multiple options due to the cancellation, including deferring registration until the 2021 swim or transferring their registration to participate in the upcoming Watershed Ride. Full details are included in the memo to registrants.”

South Coast Chamber Series Season concludes with Live Stream Concert on New Bedford Symphony Orchestra 's Facebook

The South Coast Chamber Music Series May 16 & 17 season finale concert has been modified and the season will now conclude with a streaming bouquet for music lovers on Sunday, May 17, at 4pm.

The live stream performance by SCCMS Artistic Director Janice Weber (piano), Emmy Holmes-Hicks (violin), Anna Griffis (viola), and Leo Eguchi (cello), will feature Gabriel Faure's shimmering Quartet No. 1 in C Minor, Op. 15, and Brahms's Quartet No. 1 in G Minor, Op. 25, ending with a fiery Gypsy Rondo.

You have two options to view the live stream: You can watch on the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra website at www.nbsymphony.org. Look for the Events tab, then Upcoming Events, and click on "O Beautiful May." Simply scroll down to find the video.

If you have a Facebook account, you can watch on the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra Facebook page. On the day of the concert, the "O Beautiful May" post will appear at the top.

The New Bedford Symphony Orchestra has found new ways to bring music to our community! You can live stream an array of performances by NBSO musicians from the NBSO website or

Facebook page. The NBSO is a professional orchestra that annually presents a concert series of classical and pops music with internationally acclaimed guest artists, as well as an outstanding chamber music series. In addition, the NBSO's innovative and nationally recognized educational programs reach 8,000 students each year. The NBSO is dedicated to building a community of music in the South Coast. Visit www.nbsymphony.org today!

New Bedford's Portuguese Feast still on schedule for this summer

While New Bedford's **Cape Verdean Recognition Parade** and **Memorial Day parade** have been canceled, and **Fall River's Day of Portugal has been postponed**, the **2020 Feast of the Blessed Sacrament** in New Bedford is still moving forward as planned. This year's festival is scheduled for July 30-31 and August 1-2.

The following was sent out last week by Club Madeirense S. S. Sacramento Inc President Michael Canasta:

"Good afternoon Fellow members of Club Madeirense S. S. Sacramento Inc., family and friends, residents of our great City of New Bedford and Feast patrons from close and afar,

I hope that at the time this message gets out to you, that you and your families are all healthy and safe knowing what our city, state and country are going through dealing with this life threatening COVID-19 virus. At this point and time our Club and grounds have been temporarily closed, resulting

In the cancellation and postponement of all events scheduled at Madeira Field, presently up to the end of May. However, this was done for the safety of our members and their families, organizations renting our grounds and the public. Just a reminder that our organization has extended the deadline for applications to both the academic scholarships and the vocational awards to June 1st, 2020.

I hope I put you at ease knowing that I am in constant touch with our Club's Executive Officers as well as our Club's Board of Directors, meeting as often as needed each month, as we all strive to get through this period of time of home confinement to beat the COVID-19 virus.

In my opinion, our Club is the best at what we do, with each year learning and growing to give you all the best and safest Feast possible as we enter our 106th year. Feast President Richard Fernandes and the 2020 Feast Committee are presently moving forward with their plans for the 2020 Feast of the Blessed Sacrament. As always and even more so now with what our society is dealing with, the safety and well-being of everyone is our primary concern, not just for our members and their families, but for all our volunteers and all you people that support our organization and the Feast, year after year, during our pride filled celebration of the Feast of the Blessed Sacrament.

Now that we have recently opened the door to spring, I know that there are many of you that are getting fidgety with cabin fever, especially since we have been asked to implement home confinement and social distancing. As the President and leader of our amazing organization, I can only ask that we all remain positive and to please listen and adhere to what our government officials are asking of us. The goal of Club Madeirense S. S. Sacramento Inc. is to bring all our Feast families back to Madeira Field as soon as it is safe and as soon as we can. Remember, www.feastoftheblessedsacrament.com

We will get through this together.
Be safe and God's Blessings to You All."

Do meu coração para o teu,
Have a Blessed Easter!

Michael R. Canasta, President
Club Madeirense S. S. Sacramento Inc.

Amidst Closure, New Bedford's BP Zoo to Offer Virtual Keeper Chats and Nature Connection Activities

The Buttonwood Park Zoo closed to visitors yesterday, in an effort to help stem the spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). The Mayor's office announced the closure in a press release on Monday afternoon and indicated that the Zoo will be closed until at least Sunday, March 22, 2020. The City is expected to make announcements regarding extended closures of the BPZOO and other city facilities later this week.

In an effort to keep our community connected during this trying time, the BPZOO will offer "Virtual Keeper Chats", an opportunity to spend time with Zoo Residents and ask questions in real time to Zoo Keepers and Educators. These chats will happen daily, beginning Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 11:00 am on the Zoo's Facebook page. The videos will also be uploaded to the Zoo's YouTube channel.



“During this challenging time we wanted to create programming that allowed followers to stay connected to the Zoo in a fun and educational way,” said BPZ00 Director, Keith Lovett. “Our daily social media offerings will hopefully brighten everyone’s day while also allowing us to continue with one of our key missions of connecting the community to wildlife and nature.”

Additionally, BPZ00 is posting Nature Connection activities daily on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter; ideas and suggestions that families can do together outside to alleviate stress.

“Spending time in nature can help relieve stress and anxiety, improve mood, and boost feelings of happiness and well-being,” said Carrie Hawthorne, Curator of Education at BPZ00. “We hope families will try these activities and share pictures and stories of how it went on our social media pages, so we can all feel connected as a community.”