2 hours of free parking in New Bedford Business Districts during holiday season

In an effort to encourage everyone to do their holiday shopping in New Bedford, Mayor Jon Mitchell has announced that New Bedford will again offer a special Holiday Parking Program. From Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 22, 2018 through Tuesday, January 1, 2019, the City of New Bedford will offer FREE parking at your first metered space for up to two hours in both the Downtown and on Acushnet Avenue, or up to two hours FREE parking at the Elm Street Garage, and the Zeiterion Garage!

"New Bedford is pleased to once again offer free parking to encourage everyone to support local small businesses by doing their holiday shopping in the city," said Mayor Jon Mitchell.

Anyone parked at a meter in either the Downtown or on Acushnet Avenue while doing holiday shopping who receives a ticket as a result of parking in excess of the 2-hour limit, may mail or present their ticket along with a copy of a sales receipt for \$10.00 or more from a Downtown or North End Business District restaurant/merchant to the City of New Bedford Traffic Commission Office. The parking ticket will be forgiven with the presentation of the same day receipt.

The Traffic Commission Office is located at 51 Elm Street and is open from Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Questions regarding the Holiday Parking Program should be directed to the Traffic Commission Office at (508) 961-3153.

The 2018 Holiday Parking Program is presented by the Office of New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell in partnership with Downtown New Bedford Inc., and the New Bedford Economic Development Council.

New Bedford cold weather overflow shelter open tonight, Nov. 21

Due to expected temperature drop for this evening, the overflow will be opened tonight. Guests can arrive at 6pm and the cutoff time will be 8:30pm. We will expect to reach capacity of 30 guests within the next few days with the temps "feeling" lower than 10 degrees. The message is to plan accordingly and arrive early so ensure a cot. All inquires can be forwarded to 1-800-homeless and Sister Rose House.

Bishop Stang High School Names Shaun Stanton to Head the Boys Lacrosse Program

Bishop Stang High School has named Shaun Stanton to be the new Varsity Boys Lacrosse Head Coach.

Dennis Golden, Bishop Stang Athletic Director, commented, "We are very impressed by Coach Stanton's depth and breadth of experience, his commitment to excellence in academics and

athletics, and we look forward to his leadership of our young men."

Coach Stanton began his lacrosse career as a student-athlete at Avon Old Farms, where he was the captain of the New England champion lacrosse team in 1980, and is now a member of their Hall of Fame. He went on to play lacrosse at Boston College, where he captained the Men's Lacrosse team. Coach Stanton earned a Bachelor's degree in History and Philosophy from Boston College, and a Master of Arts in Teaching at the University of St. Mary's in Leavenworth, Kansas.

Coach Stanton currently teaches History at the St. Sebastian's School in Needham, MA. He founded their lacrosse program in 1985, and as head coach, earned more than 200 career victories in the Independent School League (ISL). The ISL twice named him Coach of the Year, he was named Man of the Year in 2003, and he received the ISL Service Award in 2013. During his tenure, he coached 4 All-Americans and 4 Academic All-Americans. Coach Stanton continued coaching lacrosse after he retired from coaching at St. Sebastian's, serving as the UMass Dartmouth Assistant Coach and Offensive Coordinator in 2014-15, and the head coach in 2016. He served as a volunteer assistant at Curry College in 2017.

In accepting the position, Shaun reflected, "I am honored to be selected to become part of a faith based program in line with my beliefs. The opportunity to work with young men, and to develop character, through the sport of lacrosse, is a great opportunity."

Shaun and his wife Christine live in Dartmouth, and have three sons, Zane, Mac, and Patrick.

Contact Bishop Stang Athletic Director, Dennis Golden for more details at dgolden@bishopstang.com or (508) 996-5602 x 427.

Seastreak invites you to experience the world-famous Nantucket Christmas Stroll, Nov.30-Dec.03!

We're thrilled to announce that Seastreak will be sailing between Nantucket and New Bedford from 11/30-12/3 for the world famous Nantucket Christmas Stroll!

Enjoy hundreds of decorated seven-foot Christmas trees that line downtown streets, carolers in costume singing familiar holiday tunes at various locations, craft shows, tours, and so much more!

Originally starting in 1973, the weekend was meant to keep shoppers on the island to encourage them to buy holiday gifts from locals. Today the weekend is one not to miss!

On Stroll Weekend Main Street will be closed to vehicles to allow for a variety of holiday events. Stores will be open for the weekend offering refreshments as shoppers browse the special discounts.

Other main events of Christmas stroll include the Festival of Trees in the Whaling Museum as well as meeting Santa and Mrs. Clause as they arrive off the Coast Guard Cutter.





Photo credits:

Santa Claus by Jamie Holmes. Christmas Trees by Emily Elisabeth Photography. Town Crier by Mark Snider.

Miss New Bedford's Outstanding Teen Pageant is Now Seeking Contestants!

Calling all teens! The Miss New Bedford's Outstanding Teen pageant is seeking contestants from New Bedford and its surrounding cities and towns to compete in its upcoming pageant! An information session will be on December 8th for anyone interested in learning more.

Do you know a teen that would make a great role model? One that wants to make a difference in her community? Could your teen benefit from developing leadership, confidence, and speaking skills? How about scholarship money?!

This year's winner will receive a \$500 college scholarship, entry to the Miss Massachusetts' Outstanding Teen pageant, plus additional gifts from community sponsors. The winner will also spend an entire year making appearances, and engaging in various community service and leadership opportunities. Runners-up and top scoring contestants will also receive scholarships and/or recognition.

Participation is open to teen girls between the ages of 13 and 18 from any of the following cities/town throughout Greater New Bedford: Acushnet, Assonet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Freetown, Lakeville, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester, and Westport.

Contestants compete in five phases of competition: Interview, Talent, Physical Fitness (a brief, group Zumba-style routine), On-Stage Question, and Evening Wear. Note: This is not a glitz/glam pageant. It does not require an expensive wardrobe. No experience is necessary!

A full information session will be held on Saturday December 8th at 2:00 PM at the Cheryl McCormack Academy of Dance located at 731 Tarkiln Hill Road, New Bedford. Attendance does not obligate competing, however interested contestants are required to attend. If this date does not work, we encourage contestants to contact us to discuss a secondary date.

To register for the info session, email info@missnewbedford.org or call (508) 971-9564. You may also visit www.MissNewBedford.org or find Miss New Bedford on Facebook

New Bedford police urge drivers to be extra vigilant on Thanksgiving Eve

"Good afternoon everyone, I was hoping you could share this important traffic message with your audience in advance of tomorrow night, Thanksgiving Eve, which has come to be known as Blackout Wednesday. We are urging residents to drive sober and be especially alert on what can be a dangerous driving night."

New Bedford Police has begun increased traffic enforcement, thanks to a Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant issued to the NBPD traffic division. The funds are issued by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security/Office of Grants and Research/Highway Safety Division by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Stepped up enforcement is especially important during the busy holiday season, with people on the road to holiday gatherings, shopping and holiday-themed events.

This is crucial on Thanksgiving Eve, which has become known as Blackout Wednesday.

Thanksgiving Eve , which falls on Wednesday, Nov. 21 this year, has become the deadliest holiday on our roads. From 2012 to 2016, drunk driving crashes killed more than 800 people over the long Thanksgiving holiday weekend, according to Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

The day has become so deadly that it has become known as Blackout Wednesday.

Why is it so dangerous? Several factors come into play.

A lot of people are home for the holiday, including college students. The night is popular at bars, with friends heading out to reunite before the family holiday the next day. Alcohol sales also tend to increase, according to MADD.

Stay safe tonight. Designate a sober driver. Take a cab, a bus, or a rideshare company.

NBPD will have extra patrols out on the road, making sure that everyone has a safe journey to their destination.

Remember that tonight will be the traditional pre-Thanksgiving game bonfire at Buttonwood Park.

So be alert, drive sober and stay especially aware of your surroundings. Your family and friends are looking forward to seeing you, safe and sound, on Thanksgiving. And so are we.

Empire Ford/Hyundai employees supporting the homeless in New Bedford

There are a lot of good people and organizations supporting those in need in New Bedford this Thanksgiving. Here's a look at some of the employees of Empire Ford/Hyundai distributing 35 turkeys to several organizations that support the less fortunate in New Bedford.

Fairhaven Police seek public's help in identifying thieves

"Let's make it a two for one! These two class acts also stole items from Marshall's at approximately 7:20 p..m. yesterday. Put their faces throughout the Facebook world and help them do what's right by coming forward. That always looks much better in a police report!" — Fairhaven Police Department: Call (508) 997-7421.



New Bedford Port Authority to become official fisheries representative to offshore

wind industry

The New Bedford Port Authority has reached an agreement with all offshore wind developers operating in the Massachusetts/Rhode Island market to serve as the designated Fisheries Representative of the commercial fishing industry to each of the development companies.

Under federal guidelines issued by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

(https://www.boem.gov/Social-and-Economic-Conditions-Fishery-C ommunication-Guidelines/) offshore wind developers must establish a Fisheries Representative to be the fishing community's primary point of contact for communicating project-related concerns to the developer.

In this role, the Port Authority will act as a central clearinghouse of information, convene stakeholders, facilitate dialogue between fishermen and respective developers, and advocate for ways to mitigate impacts of wind projects on commercial fishermen. The Port Authority will also work closely with state and federal agencies to adopt policies and regulations needed to ensure the viability of commercial fishing operations.

Responsible for managing the nation's largest commercial fishing port, the Port Authority has a long history of operating as a fishing advocate and policy facilitator. Most recently, the Port Authority convened a working group of East Coast fishing interests stretching from North Carolina to Maine. The working group has played the leading role in providing industry comment on current and future development plans, turbine layout, and transit corridors. That work, and Port Authority's history as an advocate and broker in regulatory matters involving the fishing industry, made the agency's new designation as Fisheries Representative a logical step.

The nascent offshore wind industry is rapidly developing projects along the Outer Continental Shelf of the eastern seaboard of the United States. Massachusetts and Rhode Island waters have attracted the most interest as the waters south of Martha's Vineyard account for roughly 25% offshore wind energy reserves nationally. Developers pursuing projects in MA/RI waters include Vineyard Wind and Orsted (the world's largest offshore wind developer). Rhode-Island based Deepwater Wind was recently acquired by Orsted.

"As the epicenter of commercial fishing in the Northwest Atlantic, New Bedford is the most logical place for the offshore wind industry to interface with fishermen," said New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell, who also serves as Chair of the NBPA. "The New Bedford Port Authority is a key organization to successfully facilitate the development of the offshore wind industry within a vibrant commercial fishing community."

"The NBPA has been contracted by the developers to represent the interests of commercial fishermen, and to be a conduit of information between the developers and the commercial fishing industry as offshore wind farms are developed on the Outer Continental Shelf. Given the strong relationship the Port Authority maintains with all aspects of the diverse commercial fishing industry, it is logical for the organization to work with both the offshore wind industry and the various commercial fisheries potentially impacted by the design, construction and operation of the wind farms," said Port Authority Director Ed Anthes-Washburn.

Washburn added, "We're very excited to have all three developers on board for this timely announcement. Adequate and sustained engagement with the fishing industry will translate into more conciliatory communications and interactions with fishing communities up and down the eastern seaboard as the offshore wind industry begins in the United States."

"We are committed to working with the commercial fishing

industry through every step of this process," said Thomas Brostrom, President of Orsted North America.

Brostrom added, "The New Bedford Port Authority as one of four Fishery Representatives to Bay State Wind, allows us to effectively communicate with commercial fishermen in New Bedford, helping us understand their needs and helping them understand ours without rushing stakeholder engagement, ensuring a robust process as we build up the offshore wind industry in the U.S."

"We're well on our way to making New Bedford a national hub of offshore wind, and the New Bedford Port Authority has been a reliable advocate for fishermen as we navigate this new industry together," said Erich Stephens, Chief Development Officer of New Bedford-based Vineyard Wind, which on in October entered into a lease for use of the New Bedford Marine Commerce Terminal, where the company will stage construction of the nation's first commercial-scale offshore wind farm.

Stephens continued, "Fishing remains the anchor industry for New Bedford and the region, and as we work together to ensure that both industries thrive, the Port Authority is a natural fit to represent fishing interests to all developers."

About The Port of New Bedford

The Port of New Bedford generates \$9.8 billion in total economic value annually, directly supporting more than 6,200 jobs. All together, this economic activity accounts for fully 2% of the Massachusetts economy. Managed by the New Bedford Port Authority, the Port is committed to adopting best management practices for port resources and pursuing aggressive growth strategies that maintain New Bedford's long-standing status as the nation's as top commercial fishing port while capitalizing on new opportunities that maximize the Port's economic potential.

About Ørsted US Offshore Wind

Ørsted US Offshore Wind delivers clean, renewable energy along the US Eastern Seaboard. The company operates Block Island Wind Farm, America's first offshore wind farm, and has a comprehensive geographic coverage with the largest pipeline of development capacity, totaling over 8GW in seven states. It is jointly headquartered in Boston, Massachusetts and Providence, Rhode Island and employs over 75 people.

The Ørsted vision is a world that runs entirely on green energy. Ørsted is the world's leading offshore wind farm developer, with 5.1GW offshore wind capacity installed in Europe and 3.8GW under construction. In addition, Ørsted develops, constructs and operates bioenergy plants, innovative waste-to-energy solutions and provides smart energy products to its customers. Headquartered in Denmark, Ørsted employs 5,700 people. Ørsted's shares are listed on Nasdaq Copenhagen (Orsted). In 2017, the group's revenue was DKK 59.5 billion (EUR 8.0 billion). For more information on Ørsted, visit https://orsted.com/ or follow us on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter.

About Vineyard Wind

Vineyard Ward Wind LLC is an offshore wind development company seeking to build the first large-scale offshore wind energy project in the U.S.. The project is located 14 miles south of Martha's Vineyard. Based in New Bedford, Massachusetts, the company is 50% owned by funds of Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners and 50% by Avangrid Renewables. The company recently signed a lease for use of the New Bedford Marine Commerce Terminal for staging of the project. The 8 MW project will generate clean, renewable cost-competitive energy for 400,000 homes and businesses across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, while reducing carbon emissions by over 1.6 million tons per year.

New Bedford Police Department releases strategic plan

At a press conference at City Hall, Mayor Jon Mitchell and Police Chief Joseph Cordeiro announced the findings of a strategic plan and organizational assessment of the New Bedford Police Department, which was submitted to the Department this month.

Last year, Mayor Jon Mitchell announced that the Police Department would undergo a strategic planning exercise. He underscored the review of the Department in his State of the City address at New Bedford High School in March 2018. "We're undertaking a thorough and candid self-assessment because we want our department go from good to great," Mayor Mitchell said in his address, noting that the last strategic plan for the Police Department had occurred more than 20 years ago, and as a result of a lawsuit. The new plan, sought proactively by the Department, was completed by Public Safety Strategies Group, LLC, a firm led by public safety management expert and former police officer Kym Craven.

The current assessment and strategic plan was a proactive exercise to seek recommendations on strengthening operations of the Department. It provides third-party, public safety management recommendations that would bring the New Bedford Police Department fully in line with 21st century policing practices.

To compile the data in the report and complete its assessment, Public Safety Strategies Group's team conducted four separate site visits, each several days long, and conducted interviews with police department employees, municipal department heads,

stakeholder agencies, community organizations, and members of the community. The team met with interview participants that they selected, as well as some suggested by the Department.

The review includes findings on organizational structure and culture, goals and performance measures, facilities and operations, equipment, communications, the Department's various units and divisions, and finances.

Among the recommendations, the report suggests that the Police Department:

- Consider reorganizing the narcotics and gang units under the purview of Criminal Investigations.
- Allow for the chief to appoint command staff.
- Continue to expand mobile cameras to address crime and monitor critical events.
- Secure new mapping software.
- Create a funding plan for cruiser replacement for the Department's vehicle fleet.
- Evaluate facilities and determine the best location(s) for modern police facilities.
- Secure funding to increase the training budget.
- Civilianizing certain positions, including the management information systems position.
- Consider automated recordkeeping to ensure accountability and address the time-consuming nature of manual recordkeeping.
- Continue to evaluate its opioid task force and deployment of mental health professionals in diversion programs.

"This assessment is useful for a police department that is always striving to operate effectively and innovatively," said Mayor Jon Mitchell. "A strategic plan will inform the critical operational, financial and facilities decisions with which the New Bedford Police Department is faced, and it will help the department fulfill its mission of continuous improvement, capitalizing on its strengths and addressing areas that need restructuring."

"The recommendations will serve as a guideline for the Police Department moving forward," said Chief Joseph Cordeiro. "There are helpful suggestions and areas of improvement, as well as acknowledgements of the department's progress in key areas, such as our leadership on the opioid crisis and our successful use of cameras in targeted ways. We are grateful to Public Safety Strategies Group for its comprehensive look at every level of the Department, and its assessment of our operations."