

Started In, Established In, Incorporated In; Why are some towns and cities unincorporated?

Being a monumental nerd, I like to observe things that that “disappear” from view. The brain has the necessary habit of glossing over things it feels are unimportant so we can better process the perpetual assault on the senses. By narrowing down the input we can better attend to what is important and necessary to the goal at hand.

While that goal usually revolves around Maslow’s hierarchy of needs – food, water, sleep, sex, et al – humans discern themselves from animals in the sense of having the awareness to reroute that attention away from those needs. We have the ability – for good or bad – to decide that what we attend to is more important than food, water, sleep, or even our very own survival. Simply observe people texting while driving for an example.



Point being that our brain works in such a way that by necessity or by choice we excise objects we pass by every day from our visual field. We pass by things so often, that we stop seeing them. Ever have someone ask you “Did you notice the new store on Acushnet Avenue? It opened up 2 months ago.” and you had no idea what store they were talking about even though you drive the “Ave” every other day.

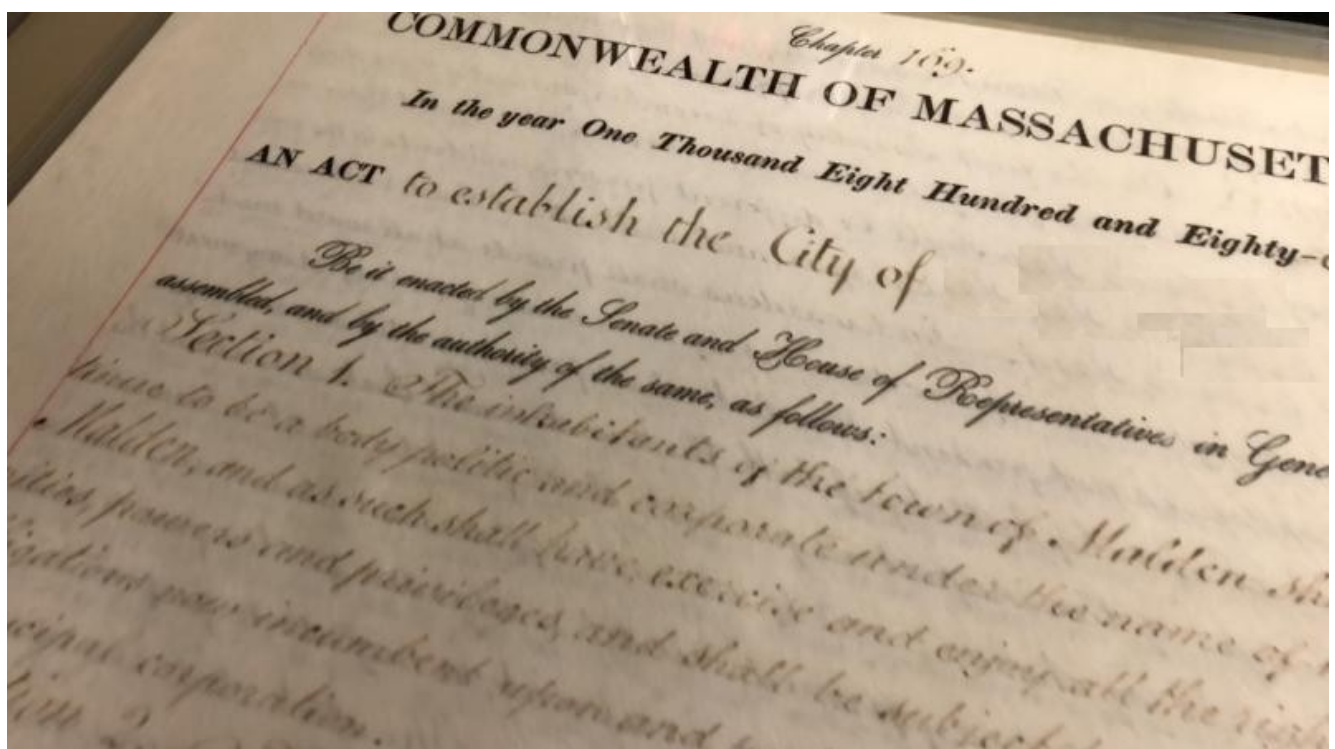
An old coach used to say to me often “There are no such things as secrets. People call them secrets because they can’t see them and think they must be hidden, but in fact, they are not seen because of how close they are.”

This applies not to just training, but daily life. Not just something esoteric, or something deeply meaningful, but simple, everyday knowledge.

Case in point: under the vast majority of “Welcome to...” signs at the borders to towns and cities you will see “Established in ...” or even “Incorporated in...” Have you ever wondered what the established or incorporated bit was about? Of course, if you already know you need read no longer, but imagine this: many don’t. This is for them.

Why does a town or city say incorporated when the term is typically used to refer to a business? Incorporated towns and cities **are** businesses or properly stated, they are municipal corporations – self-governing entities under a charter or the granting of authority or rights to a governing body.

Interestingly, while there are some states that are completely comprised of only incorporated towns and cities, there are actually some states with towns that are unincorporated. Some of these unincorporated areas have been annexed by large cities or metropolises and are known as “consolidated city-counties.” While these unincorporated towns don’t have a charter or central government like the incorporated cities and towns do, they make important decisions with regular town meetings.



So, what does incorporation mean? Why do some towns and cities incorporate and others do not? Are there benefits to one or the other? What is the general impact on day-to-day lives for residents of both?

In general, the difference between incorporated towns and ones that aren't is in how they are governed which was alluded to

above. Incorporated towns and cities will have a government body with a mayor, city council, clerks and other positions – all integral decision makers for the corporation.

Incorporated towns will also have police departments who function independently of constables, sheriffs or other state law enforcement agencies. Many small towns are governed by a sheriff who polices entire counties which will include unincorporated towns that have no need for a police department or simply don't have a large enough revenue to pay for one if they wanted it or in some cases, like Paradise (often misconstrued with Las Vegas) they **are** large enough and have the monies, but aren't interested in paying all those darn taxes.

However, by far and large, most unincorporated towns are small and with not enough of a population, no governing body, no fiscal budget, and no monies for government salaries. That also means if an unincorporated town or city wants things like a school, sewage, policing, and all the other things the incorporated cities get, they have to fund it themselves which is what the afore-mentioned Paradise does.

When a town or city incorporates and forms a governing body – or in the smallest towns selectmen, elders or some official – they reap the benefits that come with it: officials dedicated to specific departments and therefore the safety, security and well-being of the citizens.



Officials like the mayor and city councilors, educators, administrators, all the way down to the clerk and, even the much-hated tax collector decide the best way to delegate finances, resources, and tackle issues large and small. Of course, we can't forget to mention the all-important emergency departments like fire and police.

These are substantial benefits that unincorporated towns don't reap, though by proxy to do benefit from a county's emergency services. These services come at a cost – a cost that is garnered through collected taxes.

While griping about taxes is one of a citizens' favorite past-time, if we did not have the governing body and emergency resources we would suffer immensely. Often we don't see the amount of thought, effort, and consideration that has gone behind certain decisions made by the governing body, but likely there has been quite a bit of discussion and multiple meetings before a decision is made while many people are angry about something immediately upon hearing about a decision.

When it comes to incorporated towns and cities there are also

more laws, rules, zoning, and what we would call endless red-tape. That is because everyone has to follow the federal, state and county laws no matter where they live, but cities have additional ones...and taxes to enforce them. Using Paradise as an example again, they remained incorporated and pay their own police department: security forces.

So there are pros and cons about incorporating and not incorporating and now when you enter into a nearby town or city and see the sign that states "Est. in" or doesn't, you will know exactly what that means! You will also understand why a town was "started in" in one year and "incorporated in" another.

Additionally, have you ever noticed why the sign itself is in the shape of an open book? That is symbolic of the municipal or city charter, which is actually a legal document.

New Bedford cold weather overflow shelter open tonight, Dec.7th

Due to the expected low temperatures, the overflow at 71 Division Street will be opened again tonight. The temperatures look like they will be rising well above 28 after this evening and going through the weekend. Guests should plan to arrive for 6pm and the cutoff will be 8:30pm

All inquiries can be forwarded to Sister Rose House and 1-800-homeless'

Faces Of New Bedford #183: Chris Andrade

Meet Chris Andrade, 32-year-old Program Supervisor at the Key Program, Inc. As a lifelong native of New Bedford, he recalls facing adversity as a youth being raised in public housing and coming from an immigrant family. Despite these challenges, Chris was thankful to have a strong supportive family who invested in his future and guided him away from the negative influences within his neighborhood.



In high school, he interned for PAACA as a peer mentor, working with troubled youth in efforts to engage them in positive outlets. After high school, Chris went away to UMass Amherst focusing on Legal Studies with hopes to eventually go on to Law school. Each summer, Chris returned home to work for the Greater New Bedford Youth Annex (New Directions) through the Career Center, assisting youth with attaining summer employment. After attaining his Bachelor's Degree, he found that his passion lies within Human Services and opted out of pursuing Law school.

Chris continued his path in servicing others by obtaining a position as an Outreach Worker for a non-profit agency named the Key Program, Inc. where he worked to assist at-risk youth and families involved with the Department of Children and Families (DCF). From there, he worked his way up to the position of Program Supervisor and now oversees several

community-based programs that focus on the development of positive life skills and experiences for youth and families so they may lead productive and rewarding lives. Even at the supervisory level, Chris has continued to carry a caseload of his own because he is passionate about helping others and creating a positive impact on the community.

Faces of New Bedford is a project by Colton Simmons. If you are interested in booking a shoot or getting prints from the series email all inquiries to colton@coltonsimmons.com. Follow Colton on Instagram: <https://instagram.com/simmonscolton>

Read more of the Faces of New Bedford series [here](#).

UMass Dartmouth celebrates 20th anniversary of America Reads/Counts program

The Leduc Center for Civic Engagement initiative has delivered 300,000 hours of reading and math tutoring to New Bedford and Fall River students

On Thursday, December 6, 2018, the UMass Dartmouth Leduc Center for Civic Engagement celebrated 20 years of America Reads/Counts tutoring program that has sent student tutors into the SouthCoast community. To commemorate the anniversary, university officials, legislators, and community partners gathered at the YMCA's in New Bedford and Fall River to witness the impact of tutoring.

The America Reads program, which was started by President

Clinton in 1996 to increase literacy across the nation, connects university student tutors to SouthCoast K-12 students at 14 different locations in the two cities. At community centers, and local elementary, middle, and preschools, UMass Dartmouth students provide classroom support and individual attention to the younger students.

“This program is about the human element of connection, allowing for new and incredible possibilities,” Matthew Roy, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Civic Engagement, said. “Our student’s tutoring and mentoring youth in the SouthCoast open their eyes and hearts through learning. They provide an example of how furthering your education is possible and how education enriches lives.”

The program strives to increase the reading levels and mathematics understanding of local children from pre-K to fifth grade, increase university students’ involvement in the community, and strengthen the partnership between the university and the local community.

America Reads/Counts program sites include:

- Boys & Girls Club, Fall River
- Boys & Girls Club, New Bedford
- Brooks Elementary school, New Bedford
- Buttonwood Park Zoo, New Bedford
- Carney Academy, New Bedford
- Dennison Memorial Community Center, New Bedford
- Gomes Elementary, New Bedford
- Head Start, Fall River
- Henry Lord Community School, Fall River
- Housing Authority, Presidential Heights, New Bedford
- School on Wheels, Harbour House, New Bedford
- St. Andrew’s afterschool, New Bedford
- YMCA, Fall River
- YMCA, New Bedford

Since the initiative began, UMass Dartmouth has provided more than 300,000 hours of tutoring and helped more than 15,000 SouthCoast students. Each year, 175 to 200 tutors perform approximately 20,000 hours of reading and/or math instruction and homework help.

Dartmouth career thief receives 10 to 13-year state prison sentence

Shane O'Donnell, a 34 year old Dartmouth man, was sentenced in the Fall River Superior Court on November 30, 2018, for Larceny and Robbery offenses stemming from a 2016 crime spree in Seekonk, Fairhaven and New Bedford, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

On February 29, 2016, the defendant went into Total Fitness in Seekonk. While inside the men's locker room he cut the lock off of two lockers and stole phones, credit cards and keys. He utilized one set of stolen keys to steal a motor vehicle from the lot of the gym.

On March 2, 2016 the defendant robbed the Santander Bank in Fairhaven of \$1,000 after he approached the teller, wearing gloves, with a note stating he had a gun. Surveillance video from Santander Bank showed the defendant in the stolen car from the February 29th incident. The defendant abandoned the stolen vehicle in Fairhaven.

After a joint investigation between Fairhaven and Seekonk Police they were able to develop a fingerprint off of a package of gloves that surveillance showed the defendant

purchased just prior to the bank robbery. The fingerprint came back as a match to the defendant. The gym manager viewed the surveillance video from Santander Bank and indicated he appeared to be the same individual who went into Seekonk Total Fitness on February 29th and signed the gym form, "Shane Donnell".

Police also obtained the defendant's phone records which showed a call placed from his phone to the Seekonk Total Fitness on the date of offense. On March 12, 2016, the defendant went into Gold's Gym in New Bedford with a large gym bag and snapped the locks off of three lockers. The defendant stole credit cards and wallets out of the lockers. The defendant was identified through video surveillance.

At sentencing, the Commonwealth, represented by Assistant District Attorney William Flynn, recommended a 10 to 13-year state prison sentence. The Defendant recommended a 5 year State Prison sentence. Judge Mark Hallal imposed a State Prison sentence of 6 years to 8 years for the charges of Larceny over \$250, Breaking into Depositories, Armed Robbery and Receiving a Stolen Motor Vehicle. The defendant was also recently convicted in Norfolk Superior Court for similar charges in that county and was sentenced to 3.5 to 5 years in the State Prison.

"This defendant, a convicted felon, is a career criminal who continues to rob and steal from people." District Attorney Quinn said. "The only alternative is to lock him up and keep him off the streets to protect the public."

2019 Civil Service Police Officer Exam for entry-level Police Officers scheduled for March 23, 2019

Applications, together with the \$100 application fee, must be filed no later than February 5, 2019. An extended deadline of February 19, 2019 is being offered, however, a late fee of \$50 will be required.

No applications will be accepted after the final February 19, 2019 deadline.

Exam information is available at www.newbedford-ma.gov; or the Massachusetts Human Resources Division, civilservice@state.ma.us CivilService@state.ma.us.

To apply for the exam, please visit <http://www.mass.gov/civilservice>.

29th Annual “Coats for Kids” (and adults too!) community coat drive , Dec. 15

The snow has just begun to fall, but now is the time to prepare for cold winter temperatures in the 20's and 30's and the need for warm coats and jackets, hats, scarves and gloves. As the temperatures drop, please sort through your closets for winter coats and jackets you no longer need, but will help

someone else keep warm this winter.

The 29th annual Coats for Kids (and grownups, too!) community coat drive is beginning now and coats are needed for this year's coat drive.

Coats will be distributed to anyone in need 11 AM to 3 PM on Saturday, December 15th from the First Unitarian Church in NB, 71 Eighth Street. The location in downtown New Bedford is handicapped accessible.

New, Next-to-new or gently worn clean coats can be brought directly to the Unitarian Church on Saturday, December 15th between 9 AM and 11 AM. Or you can drop off your coats at the following locations this year through Friday, December 14th

- First Unitarian Church in NB, 71 Eighth Street (please call 508.994.9686 to be sure they are open)
- City Hall, Room 220, 133 William Street 8:00am – 4:00pm
- Spherion Staffing Services, 365 Faunce Corner Road, Dartmouth (across from Vanity Fair), (Monday thru Friday – 8:00am to 5:00pm 508-991-8170)

Coats for Kids will also accept hats, scarves, and mittens or gloves, snow pants, sweaters and boots, as well as blankets. In past years, the greatest demand has been for children, men's and larger-sized women's coats. For 28 winter seasons, Coats for Kids has collected gently used children's and adult coats, giving away more than 12,300 coats and helping more than 250 families and individuals each year.

For more information about the coat drive, call Pam Pollock at 508-965-6927 or the YWCA at 508-999-3255. This year's coat drive is sponsored by the City of New Bedford – Mayor's Youth Council and the First Unitarian Church in New Bedford in partnership with the YWCA Southeastern MA and New Bedford Office of Community Services.

Blue Christmas: A Service of Remembrance and Hope when the Holidays Hurt, Dec. 18

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, in collaboration with The Bridge: A Center for Hope and Healing, is offering a special service of support and hope for anyone in the community who may be struggling at this difficult time of year.

"BLUE CHRISTMAS: A Service of Remembrance and Hope when the Holidays Hurt" will be held on Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 7:00PM at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 351 Elm Street, Dartmouth.

This service is held at the time of the Winter Solstice, the darkest time of the year as we long for light.

This service is geared toward anyone who is hurting or is experiencing loss due to the death of a spouse, child, family member or another loved one; those struggling with separation of divorce; those struggling to find hope and meaning in life; those struggling with health issues or the illness of a loved one; those who are alone, isolated, stressed or experiencing emotional pain; those struggling with addiction or in recovery.

For more information, please call 508.997.0903.

(The Rev.) Scott A. Ciosek,
Executive Director
The Bridge: A Center for Hope and Healing,
351 Elm Street, Dartmouth, MA 02748

Pastor, St. Peter's Episcopal Church,
351 Elm Street, Dartmouth, MA 02748

Pastor, St. Martin's Episcopal Church,
136 Rivet Street, New Bedford, MA 02744

New Bedford High School partners with Home Instead to create holiday cards

The New Bedford High School Early Childhood Education program participated in a holiday card creation activity in concert with Home Instead Senior Care of Dartmouth. The holiday cards were created jointly by the high school students and their child clients enrolled in the "Little Whalers" Pre-K Daycare, which is facilitated by the early childhood education program at NBHS. The cards were presented to Home Instead staff at a ceremony on Friday, November 30. The colorful cards are being delivered by Home Instead to seniors through the local Councils on Aging.

Jill Khoury, Community Relations Manager at Home Instead Senior Care, worked with NBHS to ensure that every card would have a recipient. "We are so pleased to have partnered with NBHS students and the Little Whalers Daycare Program to make this wonderful idea a reality. I know that our seniors appreciate receiving these cards, made by little, loving hands; it's a thoughtful gift of caring at this time of year," she said.

"This enriching project implemented by our high school students and the Little Whalers is an outstanding example of

New Bedford High School's core values in action, as it demonstrates how our students are committed to kindness and compassion toward all in our community, said Bernadette Coelho, Headmaster of New Bedford High School, "I am so proud of their taking the time to brighten the holiday season for the seniors at Home Instead."



Lauren Langevin of Home Instead Senior Care receives holiday cards from Little Whalers Ayden Boyd and Jax Ribeiro for delivery to area seniors.

Early Childhood Education is one of several vocational programs at New Bedford High School, all of which are linked to business and community partners that play a key role in shaping curriculum and instructional experiences.

"The holiday card creation activity represents a fulfilling service learning project blended with an opportunity for our high school students to practice their career technical skills in early childhood education. Both our high school students and their Pre-K student clients were excited to collaborate with Home Instead on this project", said Christopher Cummings,

Manager of Career Vocational Technical Education. "Our vocational programs are enhanced by value-added school-business partnerships, and we look forward to collaborating with Home Instead through additional initiatives."

New Bedford High School's Early Childhood Education program is part of the school's offerings of Career Vocational Technical Education programming. In addition to Early Childhood, the school offers career pathway programs in Finance, Instructional Technology, Health Sciences, Engineering, and Criminal Justice. For more information about Career and Technical Education at New Bedford High School, please contact Christopher Cummings, Manager of CVTE, 508-997-4511, ext. 24204.

Massachusetts State Police Investigate Double-Fatal Head-On Crash on I-495

Late this morning, at approximately 11:52 a.m., troopers from the State Police Barracks in Andover responded to reports of a head-on crash, I-495 northbound, just south of Exit 42A in Lawrence. The actual location of the crash was directly on the Andover and Lawrence town-line.

Upon arrival, troopers discovered that a 2016 Kia Sportage, driven by a 38-year-old woman from Lawrence was traveling southbound on I-495, when for reasons still under investigation, she traveled through the median into the northbound lanes of traffic on I-495. The Kia sideswiped a 2004 Ford F350, driven by a 59-year-old man from Dracut, who was not injured. The Kia then continued and struck a 2003

Honda Pilot head-on. The Honda was being driven by a 55-year-old woman, with a 56-year-old male passenger, both of Lawrence. The Kia then struck a 2016 Toyota RAV4 driven by a 58-year-old woman, with a 27-year-old female passenger, both of Andover.

The driver of the Kia and the male passenger of the Honda were both determined to be deceased at the scene. The driver of the Honda was transported with serious injuries to Lawrence General Hospital. The driver and passenger of the Toyota were also transported to Lawrence General Hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

During the incident, all lanes of Interstate 495 northbound were closed to traffic. Traffic was diverted off initially at exit 41, then later changed to Exit 40, I-93, and detoured up to Route 213 and back onto I-495. All lanes were opened at approximately 2:56 p.m.

Troop A Headquarters, State Police Andover Barracks, Essex County State Police Detective Unit, State Police Collision Analysis Reconstruction Section (CARS), State Police Crime Scene Services Section (CSSS), Andover Fire/EMS, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (Mass DOT) all assisted on scene.

The remaining facts and circumstances of the crash are under investigation.