

New Bedford Mayor Mitchell on possible Charter School expansion

New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell discussed the push of Charter School schools wanting to expand in New Bedford.

How New Bedford could provide free parking for customers using City meters

Currently, New Bedford is providing two hours of free parking for many of the parking meters in downtown New Bedford. During my interview with Mayor Mitchell this past Wednesday, one of the business owners downtown voiced her happiness with the free parking and wanted to know how long it would last. Here is his response:

Mayor Mitchell pointed out that the two hours of free parking was temporary and would end soon, once the construction in the area of Union Street ends.

Convenient parking downtown became less numerous when **Mayor Mitchell converted about 60 public parking spots into today's Custom House park** near the water fountain on Union Street and accorss from Carter's Clothing and The Garden bar. Having more green space downtown came at a price – less parking in the

heart of downtown New Bedford. Yes, there are two large parking garages downtown on Elm Street (**which the City has invested \$5 million to upgrade recently**) and near the Zeiterion Theatre, but those are less convenient and further away from most of the downtown restaurants and retailers. Additionally, those 60 spots at Custom House Square were available for long-term parking – downtown meters have a limit of 2-hours.

During the past few holiday seasons, usually for the last 30-40 days of the year, the **Mitchell administration has provided free parking for those making a purchase at a downtown or Acushnet Avenue retailer**. Visitors to those areas are given two hours of free parking and if you go over that time, just submit a receipt from a business with your ticket and the ticket cost is waived. It's a popular program, so why not do it every day of the year? The obvious answer would be a significant loss of revenue for the City. The City of New Bedford takes in about \$1 million for parking fees and tickets.

It wouldn't be hard to implement a free parking program for customers as the City of New Bedford implemented a **smartphone app that allows you to scan a parking meter's QR Code**. Why not just provide the downtown and Acushnet Ave. businesses with their own QR Code and when visitor shops at their location scan it to waive the parking fee? I couldn't imagine it being too costly for the app developer to add this feature. An alternative would be to just submit your receipt with your ticket and have the ticket fee waived like the **free parking holiday program** allows.

What do you think? If you like the idea you can contact your New Bedford City Councilors **here**, message the mayor's office at Mayor.Mitchell@newbedford-ma.gov and leave a comment below!

Who Remembers ... The Huttleston House Restaurant?

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

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

While I grew up in New Bedford, I spent the last years of high school in the nearby town of Fairhaven. Over the following years of traveling with my gypsy caravan, I would travel, tramp, backpack, all over America, Western Europe and back to Massachusetts. It's like a tractor beam from which you can't avoid or escape. I alternated between New Bedford and Fairhaven many times up through today.

I've mentioned Fairhaven's Top Ten Forgotten Landmark's and iconic business like Barbero's Pizza and here I'd like to wax nostalgic about another icon, The Huttleston House – a place I ate at frequently growing up.



*Henry Huttleston
Rogers en route to his
mausoleum at Riverside
Cemetery, late May of
1909.*

Don't flee – I won't turn this into a "Eyes, Dry Eyes" narrated historical article about the 19th century Fairhaven tycoon, the friend of Booker T. Washington. and Mark Twain. The information on him is voluminous and ubiquitous and would be redundant here.

One of the most popular topics that people like to recall is anything that revolves around food, whether penny candy, certain dishes or a specific restaurant. The list of restaurants that have come and gone in Fairhaven, e.g. Tofu, Ground Round, A&W Restaurant, Naughty Dawgs (Dot's Donut's and Roger's Dairy before that), Homelyke Bakery, and the aforementioned Barbero's Pizza are too long to list.

The Huttleston House Restaurant was a Fairhaven staple for decades before it became "Emma Jeans." It was a place where people got married, celebrated birthdays, wedding anniversaries, and business Christmas parties. Over the years people would mention that it was the sport where married couples went on their first date, had their first 21st birthday, visited every Mother's Day or special occasion. Entire generations regularly visited that family-style restaurant.

Attending Fairhaven High School in the mid-to-late 80s, I

remember the Huttleston House Restaurant being one of **the** destinations for bringing dates if you really wanted to impress them. At the time, the only real competition was the nearby Pasta House.

This was a time before smartphones were the third wheel, or actually, I should say before the smartphone went on a date and the people were the third wheels. The Huttleston House Restaurant was considered classy, respectable, and in spite of that, the prices were mostly reasonable and affordable.



An old Huttleston House Restaurant coupon.

It had a special ambiance and was especially charming around Christmas time when it would be all decorated inside and out.

The interior always had that antique feel with its low ceilings, dark wood, and actual antique decorations – I believe they wanted to capture a bit of the 19th century, a time when Henry Huttleston himself roamed the town. The waiters would wear white Tuxedo styled shirts, black pants, and an apron. A large selection of wines was available. Slow, easy Jazz was always piping through the P.A. system.

Who cares about that though? FOOD. There was always some complimentary bread, rolls or baked pita crisps that arrived after you sat down and could be served with a homemade creamed dipping sauce or hummus.

I remember falling in love with the clam chowder as a kid. When I think of the Huttleston House Restaurant it immediately

conjures up that clam chowder. Oh, and their amazing Baked Clams Casino. The Fried Clam Roll was the real deal clams and not strips, they actually used clams with bellies. Also “famous” was the All Meat Lobster Roll w/a Cup of Chowder, French Fries and a Pickle, which, if I recall correctly, was a healthy portion.

They offered a bunch of Veal dishes including Veal Piccata, Veal Michael – Lightly breaded & finished w/ subtly seasoned Tomato Slices & melted Swiss. Sauce de Veau, and Veal Oscar a La Huttleston was lightly breaded Veal finished w/ Lobster Meat, Fresh Asparagus And Topped w/ Sauce Béarnaise.



*The Huttleston House
Restaurant hours
before its demolition.*

Chicken dishes were a mixture of traditional and original like Chicken Parmesan, Chicken Veronique – lightly breaded, sautéed & finished w/ Seedless Grapes & melted Swiss Cheese, Chicken Peach Tree with was sauteed chicken with peach sauce. Of course, every kind of steak you could think of, a variety unique, original salads, Swordfish, Tuna and Salmon dishes, Lobster in a number of ways including Lobster Savannah – removed from its shell, sautéed in a delicate Lobster Sauce w/ Mushrooms & Sherry, returned to its shell and baked to a savory goodness, and the popular Lobster Dewey -removed from its shell, sautéed in a Mornay Cheese sauce w/ additional Shrimp, Scallops, & Crabmeat, A dash of Sherry & Cognac, then placed baked into its shell and dusted w/ seasoned breadcrumbs.

OK, I'm seriously salivating.

Unfortunately, the restaurant began to go downhill in terms of quality. To this day, I am unsure what the reasons were, but bit by bit aspects began to be neglected. It was empty for approximately 5 years before it was demolished. I have read comments from people on social media that said the owner bought Mikey B's restaurant and that you can actually order things from the old Huttleston House menu!

What were your fondest memories of the Huttleston House Restaurant? Did you have a milestone, anniversary, birthday or first date there?



Downtown New Bedford historical walking tour

Have you had a chance to take a downtown walking tour with the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park? Here's a highlight with some great New Bedford history ...

Live with New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell

New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell discussed tougher laws on criminals, NOAA's recent decision and how it will impact fishing, Comcast and more.

Mayor Mitchell discusses New Bedford water rate increases over the past three years

Mayor Mitchell was asked about the combined water-sewer rate going up 10% a year for the past three years and if that trend will continue in the future.

PODCAST: Are roadways a priority in New Bedford?

New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell was asked when roadways in New Bedford will become a priority.

Will New Bedford open more at-risk youth centers?

Mayor Mitchell was asked if there are more at-risk community centers opening in New Bedford and more local job opportunities.

PODCAST: Will New Bedford ever see an alternative to Comcast?

Mayor Jon Mitchell was asked if New Bedford will ever see a competitor to Comcast.

PODCAST: Will the Davy's Locker location be opened again soon?

During our interview this week, Mayor Jon Mitchell was asked if there are plans to open the old Davy's Locker location again?