

City Council supports requiring property owners to clean up trash within 3 days

New Bedford's City Council – Committee on Ordinances approved by a 10-0 vote to make important changes to an ordinance related to trash. If the changes are approved during tomorrow's City Council session, "property owners will have only three (3) days as opposed to fourteen (14) to dispose of litter that is a source of filth or that is dangerous to the public health, safety or welfare."

04.12.2018_REPORT_-_ORDINANCE_-_DISPOSE_OF_LITTER

PODCAST: New Bedford Superintendent Thomas Anderson Q&A

The new superintendent of New Bedford Public Schools was introduced at City Hall on Friday, March 30, 2018. Thomas Anderson will take over as Superintendent beginning July 1, 2018.

Subscribe to our podcasts on iTunes [**here**](#) or search 'New Bedford Guide' where you listen to podcasts!

New Bedford Police warn residents about IRS scam calls

With the tax deadline a few days away, the New Bedford Police Department is warning residents to be aware of scammers who are calling people at random and claiming to be from the IRS.

Remember: The IRS does not call customers. They do not have the authority to issue warrants or make arrests.

Police urge the public to keep in mind a few basic points about the IRS.

The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages or social media channels to request personal or financial information.

The IRS does not threaten taxpayers with lawsuits, imprisonment or other enforcement actions. If you receive calls, call 1-800-366-4484. Visit [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov) for more information on scams and schemes.

For more information, call the New Bedford Police Department at 508-991-6300, ext. 79519.

21-year old New Bedford man killed in Potter Street house fire

A 21-year-old city man died in a single home fire at 176 Potter Street this morning.

The New Bedford Fire Department received a 911 call this morning around 7:15 a.m. reporting the house fire. Although the fire was quickly extinguished by New Bedford Fire officials, one individual who was upstairs at the time the fire started did die in the fire. The deceased has been identified as Jaxson Leahy, 21, of the same Potter Street address.

The initial investigation has preliminarily revealed that the fire started in the downstairs living room of the home and was likely caused by improper disposal of smoking materials. There were six people inside the home at the time of the fire. Aside from the deceased, no others were injured during the blaze.

The State Fire Marshall's Office is on scene and is investigating, along with New Bedford Fire and Massachusetts State Police Detectives assigned to this office, to confirm the cause of the fire at this time.

Taunton Domestic Abuser

Sentenced to Prison

A 47-year-old Taunton man who repeatedly violently assaulted his girlfriend and violated a restraining order on multiple occasions was sentenced last week in Fall River Superior Court to serve three to five years in state prison, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Scott Williams pleaded guilty to a multi-count indictment charging him with three counts of assault and battery on a household member, two counts of strangulation, two counts of intimidation of a witness, and one count each of threats and violation of a restraining order.

The defendant and the victim were in a dating relationship. During the course of the relationship, the defendant became more and more abusive. The victim would routinely appear at work with bruises and other injuries but historically would not report the abuse. Finally, in November 2017, Taunton Police were called to the victim's workplace. The victim told police of the abuse and stated that the night prior, the defendant beat her badly by repeatedly punching her in the face and choking her until she thought she was going to pass out. She also told police that in August, the defendant had struck her, choked her, and ripped out a clump of her hair during an argument. She told police she was fearful of proceeding with any charges at the time because the defendant had threatened to kill her if she called the police.

The victim obtained a restraining order, which the defendant promptly violated by sending several letters to her from the house of corrections during his pretrial detention. The defendant was held as a danger after his arraignment. While he was at the Bristol County House of Corrections, he wrote several letters to the victim in violation of the open restraining order. Each letter referenced the restraining order and the defendant repeatedly asked the victim to drop

the charges. He also attempted to call the victim by phone on several occasions.

During a plea hearing held before Judge Renee Dupuis, Assistant District Attorney Jennifer Thompson argued that due to the defendant's lengthy criminal record and the repeated nature of the abuse, the defendant should be sentenced to serve four to six years in state prison. The defendant, however, requested a more lenient two-and-a-half to three year prison term.

Judge Dupuis sentenced the defendant to serve three to five years in state prison, to be followed by five years of supervised probation. The conditions of his probation include mandatory mental health counseling, no contact with the victim, GPS monitoring, and the completion of a certified batterers program.

"The victim was subjected to repeated violent assaults over a lengthy period of time. I commend her for finally coming forward and reporting the repeated acts of abuse, including the savage act of ripping her hair out, "District Attorney Quinn said. "The sentence imposed by the court was well-deserved, and hopefully will protect the victim in this case."

One Dead In New Bedford House Fire

A 21-year-old city man died in a single home fire on Potter Street this morning.

The New Bedford Fire Department received a 911 call this morning around 7:15 a.m. reporting the house fire. Although

the fire was quickly extinguished by New Bedford Fire officials, one individual who was upstairs at the time the fire started did die in the fire. The deceased has been identified as Jackson Leahy, 21, of the same Potter Street address.

The initial investigation has preliminarily revealed that the fire started in the downstairs living room of the home and was likely caused by improper disposal of smoking materials. There were six people inside the home at the time of the fire. Aside from the deceased, no others were injured during the blaze.

The State Fire Marshall's Office is on scene and is investigating, along with New Bedford Fire and Massachusetts State Police Detectives assigned to this office, to confirm the cause of the fire at this time.

Massachusetts MS-13 Leader Sentenced to 19 Years in Prison

A leader of MS-13's Enfermos Criminales Salvatrucha clique was sentenced Monday in federal court in Boston.

Rafael Leoner Aguirre, a/k/a "Tremendo," 22, a Salvadoran national, was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV to 19 years in prison and three years of supervised release, which he will begin serving after completion of the state prison sentence for which he is currently incarcerated. Leoner Aguirre will also be subject to deportation upon the completion of his federal sentence. In November 2017, Leoner Aguirre was convicted by a federal jury after a multi-week

trial of conspiracy to conduct enterprise affairs through a pattern of racketeering activity, more commonly referred to as RICO conspiracy.

Leoner Aguirre was the leader of MS-13's Enfermos Criminales Salvatrucha clique. In 2013, Leoner Aguirre entered the United States illegally from El Salvador and initially moved to Michigan. From there, he began recruiting and planning MS-13 activities impacting Massachusetts. Among other things, Leoner Aguirre created recruitment videos for MS-13 and posted them on YouTube. This enabled younger gang members and associates to view these videos, including one witness who testified that he first saw these videos while at a local high school in Massachusetts.

In March 2014, Leoner Aguirre moved to the Chelsea area and immediately began activating, organizing, and supervising the Enfermos clique. As part of that activity, Leoner Aguirre encouraged members of the clique to attack and kill rival gang members, in addition to committing other racketeering acts such as robberies. Leoner Aguirre himself committed a number of racketeering acts, including an attempted murder in Chelsea where Leoner Aguirre struck a victim in the head with a machete. Leoner Aguirre also committed an attempted murder involving a shooting, which is the incident for which he is currently serving a four-to-five year state prison sentence. Leoner Aguirre committed both of these attempted murders in daylight on busy public streets in Chelsea.

The other members and associates of the Enfermos clique were Hector Ramires, a/k/a "Cuervo;" Bryan Galicia Barillas, a/k/a "Chucky;" David Lopez, a/k/a "Cilindro," a/k/a "Villano;" Daniel Menjivar, a/k/a "Roca," a/k/a "Sitiko;" Angel Pineda, a/k/a "Bravo;" and Kevin Ayala, a/k/a "Gallito." Each of these defendants has pleaded guilty and will be subject to deportation upon the completion of their sentences.

United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling; Harold H. Shaw,

Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Field Division; Michael Shea, Acting Special Agent in Charge of Homeland Security Investigations in Boston; Colonel Kerry A. Gilpin, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police; Commissioner Thomas Turco of the Massachusetts Department of Corrections; Essex County Sheriff Kevin F. Coppinger; Suffolk County Sheriff Steven W. Thompkins; Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel F. Conley; Middlesex County District Attorney Marian T. Ryan; Essex County District Attorney Jonathan Blodgett; Boston Police Commissioner William Evans; Chelsea Police Chief Brian A. Kyes; Everett Police Chief Steven A. Mazzie; Lynn Police Chief Michael Mageary; Revere Police Chief James Guido; and Somerville Police Chief David Fallon made the announcement.

2018 Viva Portugal: an outdoor street party to celebrate Portuguese culture!

By Sean McCarthy

A few years ago a local business luncheon produced a winning idea – The Portuguese know how to throw a party so let's do it like it hasn't been done before.

And so "Viva Portugal" was launched.

This Saturday, May 5th, downtown New Bedford will be enlivened with the third annual celebration of "Viva Portugal," a free four-block festival providing guests with the opportunity to indulge in the culture of a people whose influence on the region is like no other ethnic group.

And while Portuguese celebrations are proven commodities in the South Coast, the uniqueness of “Viva Portugal” is that it involves the contributions of a dozen local organizations devoted to Portuguese culture, coming together to create a wide spectrum of arts, food and entertainment.



Under the galvanizing direction of the Zeiterion Theatre, the local Portuguese community is being unified through its' diversity.

From 12:45 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. the streets surrounding the Zeiterion will teem with a something-for-everyone atmosphere that will range from adult beverages to children's play areas.

"The Portuguese still champion their cultural richness," says Rosemary Gill, Co-Director at the Zeiterion. "This event shows what a strong social fabric this community has – they've truly embraced this festival and we're proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with them."

"The Zeiterion is giving the Portuguese community the opportunity to do something that's never been done in New Bedford," says Joe Sousa, a current member of the Board of Directors for the Club Madeirense S.S. Sacramento which runs the Feast of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as the Chairman for the Committee that runs the Museum of Medeiran Heritage. "The Z is making cultural connections through the arts and entertainment."

Whether it's in "The Big Tent," on the outdoor stage, or in the streets, Viva Portugal is a lively and perpetual celebration, a family-friendly event which pays homage to a culture both classical and contemporary. The outdoor atmosphere will include a Portuguese marching band, folkloric dancers from the Discovery Language Academy, an orchestra of ukulele players, the comedy of the Portuguese Kids, fado singer Sofia Ribeiro and a Madeiran folkloric group.

"The Big Tent" will house the Portugala Marketplace of Fall River which will showcase their specialty grocery store and café, offering housewares, tiles, ceramics, olive oils, and pre-packaged foods. Simultaneously there will be cooking demonstrations with celebrity Portuguese chefs who will create dishes and provide samples, as well as doing book signings. Tagus Press, a publisher affiliated with UMass-Dartmouth's Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture, will allow guests to browse copies of their books while Manuela DaCosta, born in Terceira, Azores who immigrated to New Bedford as a young

adult, will be doing readings from the book “Hawk Island.”



The streets of the event will feature floats devoted to different facets of Portuguese culture. The S.S. Brinquinho Float is a replica of Columbus’s Santa Maria will be on display along with a float dedicated to the traditional wine making of the island of Madeira, along with a float designed as a replica of Madeira itself. Other street sights will include the Santana House, provided by the Madeiran Feast, that is a replica of a small thatched triangular house found in the village of Santana or Madeira. There will also be a display of an Azorean Whaleboat presented by the Azorean Maritime Heritage Society. Whaleboat races will take place at 1:30 p.m., 3 p.m., and 4:30 p.m.

Another street treat will be the Three Cousins – a musical group which will be roaming the area playing traditional Portuguese music with two mandolins and an accordion.

“The Portuguese are very social and proud of their culture,” says Shelley Pires, Portuguese Consul to New Bedford. “We immensely enjoy sharing our heritage with others – it’s

ingrained in the way we behave and in the way we communicate with others. This is a part of our way of life. This is who we genuinely are, we're not pretending to have a good time. It's in our souls and hearts – it's something we want to share with others."

Lelise Vicente is the Director of the Discovery Language Academy. She spent her first 12 years living on Pico Island in the Azores. She would frequent block parties that were only walking distance from her home.

"Viva Portugal reminds me of the kind of street parties we would enjoy back in the Old Country," Vicente says. "There were these little festivals where people could hang out together. You could have something to eat or drink or partake in an activity. This is typical of smaller festivals in Portugal."

"The Portuguese people are happy to help with the Zeiterion's vision and work with other like-minded organizations," Sousa says. "We get to show off some of our culture and be a part of the community. When you get to work with people doing the same thing you learn to appreciate each other.

"This event is about bringing people together."

"The Z has made the Portuguese community stronger," Vicente says.

The planners of "Viva Portugal" knew from the beginning that the success of the event would depend on the involvement of all of the regional organizations devoted to Portuguese culture. They were pleased to discover the enthusiasm of these groups.



"Right out of the gate we knew we had something," Gill says. "These people know how to roll up their sleeves and get things done, they have strong connections and networks. Bringing these groups together has given us something greater than the sum of our parts."

And the parts were being put together when Gill met with Pedro Carneiro, then Consul for the Portuguese Consulate in New Bedford, along with Mike Tavares, then President of the Prince Henry Society and a current member of the Zeiterion's Board of Directors. Their conversation was about how the Zeiterion could take action to bring greater recognition to Portuguese culture in the city. The Zeiterion was scheduled to host a concert of Portuguese music, but there was the feeling that more could be done.

The gears began turning.

"Eventually we thought 'What if we did something really amazing that brought the community together in a deeper way than just a performance? What if we had a party in front of the 'Z'?' Gill says.

But they knew that the only way they could make it happen was to involve all of the Portuguese organizations in the community – something that had never been done in the region before.

“They loved the idea,” Gill says. “They welcomed the opportunity to do something together.”

And Viva Portugal will serve to further a burgeoning trend in local Portuguese pride. According to Vicente “it’s now cool to be Portuguese. It’s cool to have a second culture. They enjoy learning about things like dancing, food and music. They like learning about the lives of past generations. Learning the language is part of learning the culture.”

The school, located in the DeMello Center in downtown New Bedford, includes 150 students of all ages who learn how to speak Portuguese as well as being introduced to their culture. The organization introduces students to the celebration of Portuguese holidays along with customary American holidays.

Viva Portugal is one of seven Portuguese-oriented celebrations to be held in the region this summer, but is considered unique because of the fact that it has yet to be Americanized such as festivals that have been held in America for 50 to 100 years or more. Other festivals include the Day of Portugal (held in New Bedford and Fall River) in June, the Portuguese Festival in Provincetown in June, the internationally recognized Madeiran Feast in July, The Feast of the Holy Spirit in Fall River in August, and the Feast of the Holy Ghost in Westport in August.

All of the workers at Viva Portugal are volunteers.

“Nobody’s making any money but we’re having a great time doing it,” Sousa says.

“The Portuguese have shown that through the generations they still have a passion for their culture,” Gill says. “We’re

happy to throw a party with them.”

City of New Bedford trash/recycling pick-up delay for week of Patriots’ Day (Monday, April 16, 2018)

Notice

City of New Bedford
Solid Waste/Recycling Collection

Patriots’ Day
Monday April 16th, 2018

Residential Collection
Monday Holiday-No Collection
All Trash, Recycling & Yard Waste Routes
Will be delayed by one day

Commercial Collection
All Downtown Trash & Cardboard Routes will be running on schedule

HELP WANTED: City of New Bedford's Management Information Systems department is hiring for a Systems Analyst position

PAY: \$58,957 – \$73,703

Supports and maintains all City computer systems; assist City employee with training and use of equipment and applications. Participates in technical projects such as developing computer programs for specified applications and modifying/supporting those applications already in existence. Supports and maintains numerous databases the city uses; set up a new database or convert outdated database; handle databases in SQL, Access, or SSRS. Provide user assistance and training within the City's financial and payroll system as well as outlook, word processing, spreadsheets, database application and operating systems. Participate in the continued and new development of all computer systems including, but not limited to, the City's Financial Information Management System, Geographical Information System, Real and Personal Property Appraisal System, Office Automation System, all local or wide area networks, the City's World Wide Web site, the City's Intranet, etc.

Bachelor's Degree in computer science or a related discipline. At least two years of experience in computer science, computer programming, software, or related work experience. Mandatory CORI (Criminal Offender Record Investigation) background check per City Council Ordinance effective May 14, 2013.

For application/complete job description, please visit

www.newbedford-ma.gov or contact the Personnel Dept., 133 William St., Room 212, 508-979-1444. Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is found. New Bedford has a residency requirement. EE0