

New Bedford residents can now use BayCoast Bank Interactive Teller Machines (ITMs) for utility, real estate, personal property, excise taxes

Effective immediately, New Bedford residents can now utilize two BayCoast Bank Interactive Teller Machine (ITM) locations for certain payments. Residents who are unable to come to City Hall during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.) can take advantage of this option to make payments at BayCoast's ITM locations at 23 Elm Street in New Bedford, 714 Dartmouth Street in Dartmouth, or at any of its other ITM locations in Fall River, Seekonk, Attleboro, and Little Compton, RI. Visit www.baycoastbank.com or call 508-678-7641 or 888-806-2872 for more information.

The ITMs accept cash or checks; the ITMs combine the convenience of a traditional ATM with the personal service of banking for customers, allowing the customer to see and talk to a real person through a video monitor.

"We're happy to help make tax payments easier for New Bedford residents, by accepting payments at our Interactive Teller Machines," said Ann Ramos-Desrosiers, Chief Community Banking Officer at BayCoast. "Now residents can make their payments as early as 7 a.m. and as late as 7 p.m. on weekdays, and on Saturdays between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. at our Elm Street branch – or any of our ITMs throughout the Southcoast."

"BayCoast Bank has served as an alternate payment center for the residents of the City of New Bedford for many years," said

Renee Fernandes, Treasurer-Collector for the City. "The ability to utilize the new ITM technology for City payments, especially when city offices are closed, provides our customers with greater flexibility."

HELP WANTED: City of New Bedford is hiring for a Motor Equipment Repair person

PAY: \$16.45hr – \$22.57hr

Inspects and troubleshoots gasoline internal combustion engine-powered equipment; performs tune-ups; repairs electrical systems; adjusts and replaces brakes, clutches and carburetors; performs front-end work as needed for repairs. Removes and replaces clutches and transmissions; removes and disassembles gasoline engines; replaces faulty or worn parts. Also performs duties on large heavy equipment such as dump trucks, garbage packers, front-end loaders and backhoes.

Subject to call for emergency work during any given twenty-four hour work period, such as any emergency that the Commissioner feels would impair the safety of the general public, i.e. ice or snowstorms.

High school graduate or GED equivalent and two years of full-time paid experience in the field of repairing heavy equipment; or any equivalent combination of education and experience.

Knowledge of job hazards, handling of equipment, special tools and test equipment. Thoroughly familiar with hand and power

tool safe-working methods. Ability to write detailed reports, and prepare, comprehend and evaluate records. Ability to use sound judgment in applying knowledge and skills in all types of situations. Ability to work well with co-workers.

Possession of a valid Massachusetts driver's license and good driving record.

Motorized vehicles for mechanical testing purposes, power and hand tools, and equipment for vehicle and mechanical system work; mechanic's tools including jacks, hydraulic lifts, air tools and other tools required for minor repairs and routine maintenance of motorized vehicles; electrical vehicle diagnostic equipment.

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. EE0

New Bedford has a residency requirement.

HELP WANTED: City of New Bedford is hiring for a Diesel Engine Repair Mechanic

PAY: \$17.16hr – \$23.82hr

Performs skilled repairs of various types of diesel equipment, including electrical, fuel, ejector and ignition problems. Determines repair costs. Disassembles, overhauls, removes and replaces all types of engines. Assembles and disassembles transmissions. Performs other preventive maintenance work such

as truck replacements and components, brake jobs and miscellaneous tasks related to the work.

Two years of full-time paid experience in the field of repairing heavy equipment. Knowledge of various hydraulic systems and clutch replacements/components. Knowledge of job hazards, handling of equipment, special tools and test equipment. Must be fully capable of writing detail reports and capable of estimating repair costs. Must have the ability to use sound judgment in applying knowledge and skills in all types of situations. Must have the proper Registry classification for road test repaired equipment and be physically fit to perform the duties of this position.

Possession of a valid Massachusetts driver's license with good driving record. Possession of or ability to obtain Class B CDL within six months from date of hire. Subject to call for emergency work during any given twenty-four hour work period, as determined by the Commissioner.

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. EE0

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Buttonwood Park Zoo to introduce sloth to its new

home

On Friday, January 26th at 10:45 AM, the Buttonwood Park Zoo will introduce Bernardo, a 16 year-old male sloth, to his new home in the Zoo's Rainforests, Rivers & Reefs building. Zoo Director, Keith Lovett along with animal care staff have given Bernardo a clean bill of health and are now ready to introduce him to his new home in the building's Brazil habitat. Rainforests, Rivers & Reefs sponsored by Stoico/FIRSTFED introduces guests to unique species found in the rainforests and rivers of South America through four naturalistic, multi-species habitats representing countries of South America. Bernardo is the first sloth to call the Buttonwood Park Zoo home.

Bernardo arrived at the Zoo in mid-December and has been under quarantine, a process that is implemented in zoos and aquariums worldwide to ensure the health of existing species. All new arrivals to the Zoo undergo a thirty-day quarantine or observation period which includes examinations and diagnostic tests. The quarantine process provides Zoo staff the opportunity to assess the health of the incoming animal and ensure the health and safety of those already residing at the Zoo. It also allows the animal to acclimate to their new home and for animal care staff to observe their behaviors and develop a relationship.

Bernardo joins the Buttonwood Park Zoo as part of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums Species Survival Plan (SSP). Zoo staff will work with AZA to develop a breeding program at the Zoo to ensure a healthy and genetically diverse population both in captivity and in the wild.

Councillor Gomes pushes for more neighborhood crime watch groups and signs

New Bedford City Councillor at-Large Brian Gomes filed the following motion to be presented at the New Bedford City Council session scheduled for 25 January, 2018:

Councillor Gomes, requesting, that the Committee on Public Safety and Neighborhoods, meet with a Representative from the Mayor's Office, Police Chief Cordeiro, the Community Development Director Patrick Sullivan, the President of Neighborhoods United and Chairs from neighborhood crime watch groups from across the City, for the purposes of discussing the creation of new neighborhood crime watch signs; these new signs will be placed in all present areas that have crime watch groups and awarded to new neighborhood crime watch groups that organize and participate in making their neighborhoods safer across the City.



Former Registry of Motor Vehicles Clerk Sentenced For Role in Identity Theft Scheme

A former Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) clerk was sentenced today in federal court in Boston for her role in a scheme to produce false identification documents.

Annette Gracia, 37, of Boston, was sentenced to one year and one day in prison and two years of supervised release. In October 2017, Gracia and co-conspirators Evelyn Medina, 56, of Boston; Kimberly Jordan, 33, of Randolph; David Brimage, 46, of Boston; and Bivian Yohanny Brea, 41, of Boston, agreed to plead guilty to one count of producing without lawful authority an identification document or a false identification document. In December 2017, Angel Miguel Beltre Tejada, 32, a Dominican national illegally residing in Jamaica Plain, was sentenced to two years in prison after pleading guilty to one count of aggravated identity theft. Tejada will be subject to deportation proceedings upon completion of any sentence imposed.

In October 2015, law enforcement received an anonymous letter alleging that a corrupt RMV employee was providing Massachusetts identifications and drivers' licenses to individuals who were using false identifications. An investigation revealed that several Haymarket RMV clerks – Medina, Gracia, Jordan, and Brimage – were working with Brea and Tejada to fraudulently provide Massachusetts licenses and identification cards to illegal aliens for cash.

The scheme involved several steps. Tejada and Brea would obtain identification documents belonging to United States citizens in Puerto Rico and sell them to clients who were seeking legitimate identities in Massachusetts. These clients included illegal aliens, individuals who were previously deported, and an individual who admitted to previously facing drug charges. Tejada would receive several hundred dollars in cash each time he sold identification documents. Brea received up to \$2,700 per identity for her role in the scheme, which included helping clients obtain the documents and facilitating their acquisition of Massachusetts identity documents.

Typically, Brea and the client brought the stolen identities to the Haymarket RMV, where Medina, Gracia, Jordan, and/or Brimage would accept hundreds of dollars in cash to illegally

issue authentic RMV documents, including Massachusetts licenses and ID cards. The clerks also accepted bribes to use the RMV's system to run queries, including Social Security number audits, to confirm that the identities the clients were stealing actually belonged to verifiable individuals.

On Jan. 17, 2018, Medina was sentenced to 15 months in prison and two years of supervised release.

Man hits two cars, crashes into utility pole trying to escape Dartmouth police

On Tuesday, January 23, at approximately 5:40 PM, Dartmouth Police Officer Alec Grant attempted to stop a 2002 Kia Optima on Slocum Road near Mary Ann Way for motor vehicle infractions.

In response, the operator of the Kia, later identified as Anthony Terry, 25, of Glen Charlie Road, Wareham, failed to stop and fled from police.

While attempting to elude the police, TERRY struck two (2) vehicles at the intersection of Slocum Road and Allen Street, before crashing into a utility pole, causing a minor localized power outage.

As a result of the incident, TERRY was placed under arrest for numerous charges, that included failure to stop for police, unlicensed operation, negligent operation, failure to stop for red light, marked lanes violation, speed greater than reasonable, passing violation, fail to use a seat belt, and no

inspection sticker.

Guatemalan national charged in \$1.25 million Fentanyl conspiracy

A Guatemalan national was charged yesterday in federal court in Boston in connection with a conspiracy to distribute over five kilograms of fentanyl, worth approximately \$1.25 million.

Rene Alejandro Salazar Reyes, 26, was charged by complaint with one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute fentanyl. Salazar was arrested on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018, and will remain in custody pending a detention and probable cause hearing on Jan. 25, 2018, in federal court in Boston.

“Fentanyl is devastating communities across Massachusetts,” said United States Attorney Andrew E. Lelling. “Just a few milligrams of fentanyl can cause a fatal overdose. Saturday’s seizure of over five kilograms is an important step in our efforts to keep this deadly drug off our streets. This investigation is a testament to our commitment to work with our law enforcement partners to aggressively pursue individuals who seek to distribute deadly narcotics, without any regard for human life, throughout our neighborhoods and communities.”

“Opioid abuse is at epidemic levels in Massachusetts and across the Northeast,” said DEA Special Agent in Charge Michael J. Ferguson. “Fentanyl is causing deaths in record numbers and DEA remains committed to aggressively pursuing

Drug Trafficking Organizations or individuals who distribute this poison in order to profit and destroy people's lives. This investigation demonstrates the strength of collaborative law enforcement efforts in Massachusetts and our strong partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office."

According to court documents, in November 2017, a cooperating witness informed a federal law enforcement officer that a Guatemalan man was selling heroin and/or fentanyl in the Boston area. After a series of recorded cell phone texts and calls, the Guatemalan man agreed to sell the cooperating witness five kilograms of fentanyl, which he would arrange to be delivered to the cooperating witness in Massachusetts. The cooperating witness agreed to make a partial payment of \$70,000 for the drugs. The estimated street value of one kilogram of fentanyl is \$250,000; one gram sells for approximately \$40-\$50.

It is alleged that on Jan. 19, 2018, the Guatemalan man placed a call, which was also recorded, to the cooperating witness informing him that a courier would deliver the fentanyl to him in Massachusetts the next day. Soon after, the cooperating witness received a call from the Guatemalan man's courier, who law enforcement agents determined to be Salazar, the target of a previous criminal investigation in Maryland.

On Jan. 20, 2018, the cooperating witness called Salazar and asked him where he was and then drove to meet Salazar so that Salazar could then follow the cooperating witness to a location to conduct the transaction. While Salazar was on the phone with the cooperating witness, surveillance officers saw Salazar standing outside his vehicle. Once Salazar got into his car to follow the cooperating witness, agents followed Salazar and directed law enforcement officers to conduct a traffic stop.

According to court documents, when the officer stopped Salazar for failing to stop at a stop sign, Salazar appeared visibly

nervous. The officer asked Salazar if he had any drugs or weapons in the car, to which Salazar replied that he did not. The officer then asked if he could search the car, to which Salazar replied, "Yes, go ahead." According to the complaint affidavit, the officer found a large plastic shopping bag on the rear passenger floorboard that contained 23 individually heat sealed clear plastic bags containing approximately 5.2 kilograms of a white powdery substance. Salazar was then placed under arrest.

Salazar faces a sentence of no greater than 20 years in prison, three years and up to a lifetime of supervised release, a fine of \$1 million, and will be subject to deportation proceedings upon completion of his sentence. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based on the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

U.S. Attorney Lelling and DEA SAC Ferguson made the announcement. Assistance was provided by Homeland Security Investigations in Maryland and the Massachusetts State Police. Assistant U.S. Attorney Leah Foley of Lelling's Narcotics and Money Laundering Unit is prosecuting the case.

The details contained in the charging document are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

Southcoast Health named among top 5 percent of hospitals in

the nation for clinical outcomes

Southcoast Health announced today that it has received the 2018 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence from Healthgrades, the leading online resource for comprehensive information about physicians and hospitals. The distinction places Southcoast Health in the top 5 percent for clinical excellence among nearly 4,500 hospitals nationwide. This is the third consecutive year that Southcoast Health has received this recognition.

“When you spend time in a Southcoast Health facility, whether as a patient or a visitor, it is clear that the mission of our employees is to deliver both clinical excellence and personalized care that is unmatched,” said Keith A. Hovan, President & CEO of Southcoast Health. “Southcoast Health physicians, nurses and staff work tirelessly to achieve the very best results for patients, and I am pleased that this award from Healthgrades has further highlighted their tremendous efforts.”



The 250 recipients of the Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence stand out among the rest for overall clinical excellence across a broad spectrum of care. During the 2018 study period (2014-2016), these hospitals showed superior performance in clinical outcomes for patients in the Medicare population across at least 21 of 32 of the most common inpatient conditions and procedures –as measured by objective clinical outcomes performance data (risk-adjusted mortality and in-hospital complications).

“We commend hospitals that have achieved Healthgrades 2018 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence, demonstrating a steadfast commitment to high quality care for their patients,” said Brad Bowman, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, Healthgrades. “Hospitals that meet these high-quality standards will continue to distinguish themselves with consumers making decisions about where to receive care.”

In October, Southcoast Health was honored with 19 additional awards and recognitions from Healthgrades, including being named one of America’s 100 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Care for the seventh year in a row (2012-18). In all, it was recognized for superior cardiovascular services with 11 awards, including the Healthgrades Cardiac Care Excellence Award for the 12th year in a row (2007-18). Southcoast Health also placed in the Top 5% in the Nation for Overall Pulmonary Services (2014-2018).

To learn more about how Healthgrades determines Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence recipients, please visit www.healthgrades.com/quality.

HELP WANTED: the New Bedford Department of Facilities & Fleet Management is hiring for an Account Clerk position

PAY: \$15.23hr – \$20.61hr

Applies basic accounting principles in maintaining financial accounts and records; may be required to prepare payroll and

maintain personnel records; makes general ledger entries; accounts for receipt and disbursement of cash transactions and cash accounts; reconciles cash books; operates adding machines and computers; answers telephones; operates simple calculators in connection with this work. Performs clerical work of ordinary difficulty.

Graduation from a high school or GED equivalent with specialized course work in general office practices such as typing, accounting, data processing, and two years of increasingly responsible related experience; or any equivalent combination of education and 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. EEO