

Bishop Stang Theatre Company to present Play On!

The Bishop Stang Theatre Company will present the often produced comedy Play On! by Rock Abbot. The play, delighting audiences for over 20 years, is the hilarious story of a theatre group trying desperately to put on a play in spite of maddening interference from its haughty author, Phyllis Montague, who keeps revising the script. The audience sees the final rehearsals and performance of her dreadful mystery A Murder Most Foul. Missed cues, sound effects run amok, and romantic intrigue will have the audience roaring with laughter as the casts' collective sanity slowly unravels. When the author decides to give a speech on the state of the modern theatre during the curtain calls, the audience is treated to a madcap climax to a thoroughly hilarious romp. For anyone who enjoys a good laugh, this production is definitely for them.

Play On! features a talented cast including: Giselle Ayala, Gia Chessa, Phoenix Carreiro, Elayna Fernandes, Kieran Gallison, Xavier Markey, Jeffry McDougal, Chicka Okafor, Adrian Ridolfi, Lily Saulnier, Jadin Taylor, and Myra Wong. The curtain goes up on Saturday, November 11 at 7:00 pm, and Sunday, November 12 at 2:00 pm on the stage at Bishop Stang High School, 500 Slocum Rd., North Dartmouth. General admission tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$7.00 for students and seniors. Call the school at (508) 996-5602 for more information.

New Bedford City Council Ward 2 parks discussion

We asked the New Bedford Ward 2 City Council candidates Maria Giesta, Carlos Pimentel Felix and Edwin Cartagena about the parks in Ward 2.

Southcoast Health offering free mammograms to the uninsured during the month of October

Southcoast Health today announced that it is offering free mammograms for uninsured individuals during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October. Screenings are offered at all 10 Southcoast Breast Imaging Centers across the region.

Statistics show that one in eight women over the age of 40 will develop breast cancer. Since patients are less likely to experience symptoms during the early stage of breast cancer, when tumors are small and most treatable, early detection and regular screenings are a necessity to reduce advanced stage diagnosis and often improve treatment outcome. The American Cancer Society (ACS) notes that it is very important for women to follow the recommended screening guidelines for detecting breast cancer at an early stage, before symptoms develop. The ACS recommends that women receive a regular, annual mammogram beginning at age 40.

Data also shows that individuals without health insurance are less likely to have regular breast cancer screenings, significantly reducing their chances of early detection. That is why Southcoast Health is offering this important screening, at no cost, to any uninsured individual during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Appointments are required. To schedule a free mammogram during the month of October, call central scheduling at 800-276-0103. Massachusetts residents will also have the opportunity to speak with Patient Financial Services for guidance on how to apply for health insurance. Rhode Island residents without insurance are welcome to take advantage of the free screenings, but will not qualify for financial assistance.

Southcoast Health is a primary provider of breast health services in the region. Southcoast Breast Imaging Center is designated as Centers of Excellence by the American College of Radiology, is certified by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers by the American College of Surgeons, and offer 100 percent digital mammography services at all of their sites throughout Southeastern Massachusetts.

The Southcoast Breast Imaging Centers are located at:

DARTMOUTH

Southcoast Center for Women's Health
300B Faunce Corner Road

FALL RIVER

Charlton Memorial Hospital
363 Highland Avenue

Borden Medical Building
300 Hanover Street

HealthFirst Family Care Center
387 Quarry Street, Suite 104

New Boston Medical Center
373 New Boston Road

Truesdale Clinic
263 Stanley Street

NEW BEDFORD

St. Luke's Hospital
101 Page Street

Greater New Bedford Community Health Center
874 Purchase Street

WAREHAM

Tobey Hospital
43 High Street

Southcoast Health at Rosebrook
100 Rosebrook Way

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**New Bedford
Preservation**

**Community
Committee**

launches Community Preservation Act (CPA) application

The city's Community Preservation Committee (CPC) will launch the Community Preservation Act application process on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 and also hold an informational Application Workshop that evening at 6 p.m., at the National Park Visitor Center located at 33 William Street.

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) was adopted by New Bedford voters through a ballot question in November 2014. This statewide enabling legislation allows communities to create dedicated funding for open space, outdoor recreational facilities, historic preservation and affordable housing activities in the city. Oversight of this process rests with the CPC, the body established by the city to oversee the CPA program in New Bedford.

In June, the Committee hosted three community meetings that invited the public to provide comments and suggestions for the community's goals and objectives for potential CPA uses that were included in developing a Community Preservation Plan. The input provided by citizens at these well-attended meetings has been incorporated into the Plan, and a final Community Preservation Plan was adopted on August 22 by the CPC.

The City Council recently approved that an amount of approximately \$2,500,000 be made available for projects that serve the four categories. With the plan and funding in place, the City, through its CPC, is now inviting organizations, businesses, and residents to consider applying for funding of eligible projects.

The application process is twofold: first, potential applicants must submit a completed Eligibility Determination

Form that will be made available to the public on October 4 and due Monday, October 16. If the project has been deemed eligible according to CPA regulations and criteria, the applicant will be notified on or about October 30, and invited to submit a full application that is due Monday, December 11, 2017. The CPC will then review and recommend project applications to the City Council for final consideration and awarding of funds.

An opportunity to ask questions about the full application process and CPA eligibility requirements will be discussed at a detailed Application Workshop. Interested applicants are strongly encouraged to attend this meeting to learn more.

Application materials will be made available at <http://www.newbedford-ma.gov/planning/community-preservation/>, and the Eligibility Determination Form can begin to be submitted on the evening of October 4, 2017 to coincide with the Application Workshop.

Applicants interested in pursuing CPA funding must submit an Eligibility Determination Form first, due Monday, October 16 by 12 noon. Directions for submission will be available on the website. The Fiscal Year 2018 Community Preservation Plan is also currently available on the website.

Questions concerning the application process and the Application Workshop should be directed to the Department of Planning, Housing & Community Development at 508.979.1500 or 508.979.1488.

Defendants in Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles Identity Theft Scheme Agree to Plead Guilty

Five individuals have agreed to plead guilty in federal court in Boston for their roles in a scheme to produce false identification documents through the Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV).

Evelyn Medina, 56, of Boston; Annette Gracia, 37, of Boston; Kimberly Jordan, 33, of Randolph; David Brimage, 46, of Boston; and Bivian Yohanny Brea, 41, of Boston, have agreed to plead guilty to one count of producing without lawful authority an identification document or a false identification document. At the time of their arrest, Medina, Gracia, Jordan, and Brimage were all employed as clerks at the Haymarket Registry of Motor Vehicles.

Angel Miguel Beltre Tejada, 32, a Dominican national illegally residing in Jamaica Plain, was charged in an Information with one count of aggravated identity theft. The defendants were arrested in August 2017.

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. Tejeda 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.

If the Court accepts the binding plea agreements for the clerks, Medina will be sentenced to 15 months in prison; Gracia to one year and one day in prison; Jordan to eight months in prison; and Brimage to eight months in prison. They all face two years of supervised release. Brea, who has entered a non-binding plea agreement, faces a sentence of no greater than 15 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The charge of aggravated identity theft for which Tejeda is charged provides for a mandatory minimum of two years in prison. Tejeda will also be subject to deportation proceedings upon completion of any sentence imposed. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

Sara Elizabeth Achorn Crowned 65th Miss New Bedford

Eight contenders took to the stage Saturday at the 65th annual Miss New Bedford pageant, but only one walked away with the crown and a \$6,500 college scholarship!

Sara Elizabeth Achorn, an 18-year-old freshman attending Lesley University, impressed the judges with her confidence, public speaking abilities, stage presence, and passion for the city, earning her the highest number of points and the coveted Miss New Bedford title.



In addition to winning a \$6,500 scholarship, Sara also received the Talent Award, a \$100 scholarship, for earning the highest points in talent for her vocal performance of “And I am Telling You” from the Broadway Musical, Dream Girls. She also received the Miracle Maker Award, a \$100 scholarship, for raising the most monies for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals.

When asked how she felt just moments before they announced the winner, Sara says she didn’t know what to think. Her name not yet being called, with only one spot left, she grew emotional. “I instantly felt myself to start to cry. Then when they actually called my name I still didn’t believe it. It was crazy!,” Sara says. “It sounds cliché but I truly believe any one of the women could have walked home with the crown that night. I’m so blessed to have received this title, and I’m so

excited to be the best Miss New Bedford I can be. I'm hoping to get at least 100 appearances this year!"



Throughout her year-long reign, Sara will serve the City of New Bedford and its surrounding communities as a role model and an active volunteer. She will dedicate her year of service to her personally selected platform, "Imperfection: Pushing the Importance of Body Positivity in Today's Youth." As Miss New Bedford, Sara has also earned the opportunity to compete for the title of Miss Massachusetts in 2018. Should she win the state title, she will go on to compete for the title of Miss America.

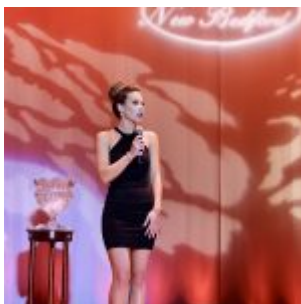
The Miss New Bedford pageant is local preliminary of the Miss America Organization. All phases of competition mirror the national pageant. Contestants competed in Interview (private panel of judges), On-Stage Question, Lifestyle & Physical Fitness in Swimsuit, Talent, and Evening Wear.

The eight young women to compete included Sara Elizabeth Achorn, Kenzi Farland, Morgan Garcia, Alyssa Maitoza, Kenzie Hazel Moniz, Beatriz Ribeiro, Kimberly Lim Souza, and Megan Sylvia, all from Greater New Bedford, between the ages of 17-24 years old.



The winner, plus additional award recipients are as follows:
Winner, \$6,500 scholarship: Sara Elizabeth Achorn
First runner-up, \$1,500 scholarship: Alyssa Maitoza
Second runner-up, \$750 scholarship: Megan Sylvia
Third runner-up, \$500 scholarship: Kimberly Lim Souza
Interview Award, \$200 scholarship: Kenzie Hazel Moniz
Talent Award, \$100 scholarship: Sara Elizabeth Achorn
Most Talented Non-Finalist, \$50 scholarship: Kenzie Hazel Moniz
Miracle Maker Award \$100 scholarship: Sara Elizabeth Achorn
Committee Award, non-scholarship gift: Morgan Garcia
Congeniality Award, \$100 scholarship: Morgan Garcia
Power of Performing Arts Award, \$100 scholarship: Alyssa Maitoza
Quality of Life Award, \$100 scholarship: Morgan Garcia

On behalf of the Greater New Bedford Scholarship Foundation, the program would like to thank its many sponsors and dedicated volunteers. For more information on sponsorships and/or becoming a contestant, visit www.missnewbedford.org. To view all photos from this year's pageant, and to keep up with us throughout the year, search "Miss New Bedford" on Facebook.





Thrivent Financial provides financial planning and investment services for the SouthCoast

By Jonathan Comey

Thrivent Financial is a unique organization that provides financial planning and investment services for Christians, and Jon Skov feels fortunate to be a part of it.

“I think sometimes people become intimidated by money, financial planners, and the stock market,” says Skov, who works from a North Dartmouth location along with office manager Beth Weinstein. “This really doesn’t need to be the case. Most people we work with just want to do the best they can with the money they have, provide for their families and enjoy their lifestyle both now and in retirement.

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ASK ME ABOUT THE THRIVENT STORY

Thrivent is a membership organization of Christians ...

We help members be wise with money ...

And live generously.

The result is stronger members, families and communities.

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Let's start a new conversation about money.

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Thrivent Financial was named one of the "World's Most Ethical Companies" by Ethisphere Institute 2012-2017.

“They want to be empowered and to have the capacity to help others along the way. They want to prepare for and navigate life’s transitions well. We want to partner with those who wish for a little coaching in coordinating those desires.”

Thrivent Financial is a Fortune 500 financial service organization that helps Christians by focusing on serving folks that are accumulating for, transitioning to, or living in retirement.

“As a financial service organization, we aspire to guide our members in making wise financial decisions with their money, and also want to help them live generously,” Skov says. “Our members recognize that life, and money, is more than about them. Most of our members are already involved in helping others through their church, community organization, or school, and we want to help them do more of what is already on their heart.”

Thrivent, as a not-for-profit organization, leverages its tax-

exempt status and invites its members to help distribute its tax savings for causes close to them.




“It’s really something different we do,” Skov says. “Connecting faith and finances, providing guidance for making wise decisions with money, and encouraging our members to live generously ... I’m very proud to be part of that.”

For Skov, the work isn’t work so much as a calling. In 2010, drawing on his experience working for other financial service organizations, he opened his own Thrivent practice. In 2014, the practice moved to a prime location located off Route 6 in North Dartmouth at 77 Wollcott Ave. – “We’re across the street from Home Depot, and next to TGI Fridays,” notes Skov.

Skov is a Chartered Financial Consultant and works as a Registered Investment Advisor, holding his FINRA Series 66, FINRA Series 7, and Life & Health licenses. Beth, the office manager, is also securities licensed which helps her serve

existing customers.

“To me, it’s really practical experience that makes the difference,” Skov says. “Life experience, financial experience, just being a student of behaviors and the industry – it all adds up. We have the experience, and by understanding our customers’ values we are able to guide them in aligning their plans with those values.”



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Licensed agent/producer of Thrivent Financial, the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.
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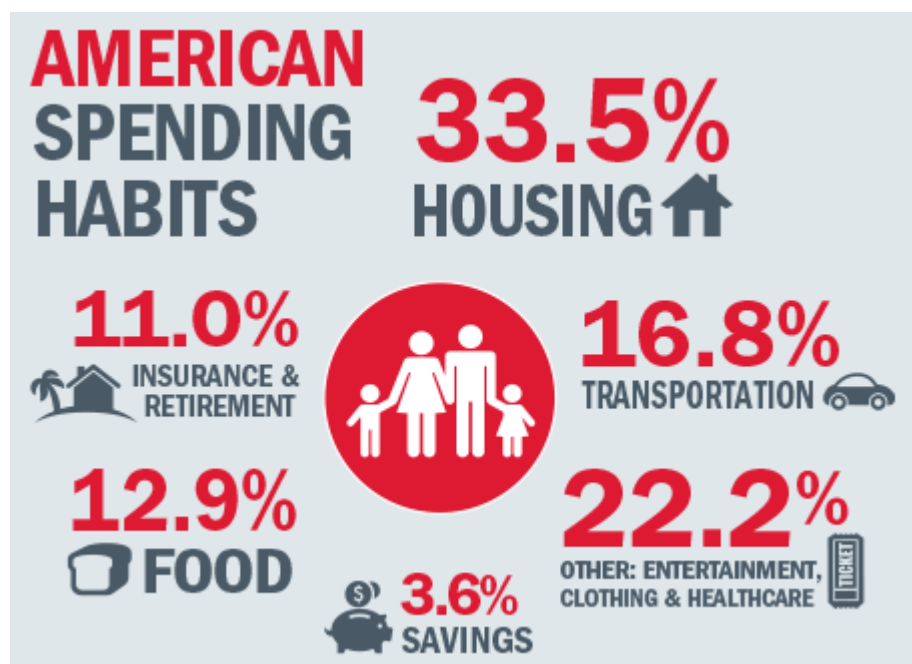
One investment track that Skov is particularly proud of is in the area of “values based” investing, and he says that interest and opportunities in that realm are expanding. “The key is to first discuss and understand what a person’s values are,” Skov says. “There is increasing interest to invest in companies deemed to be more responsible. We enjoy helping our members become more aligned in those areas.”

Their North Dartmouth branch often hosts educational events on topics like retirement income planning, navigating social

security decisions, and legacy giving through gifts and estate planning, and various other topics. They also are able to provide workshops through local hosts like churches or clubs who wish to provide a service for their members.

Keep in touch with all of these programs at Jon's Thrivent website.

For Skov, the work is rewarding, especially when he sees the impact it can have on people's lives.



"I was working with a couple where it became very clear to me that I was going to be the hand off guy to help execute the financial plans when the husband passed," Skov recalls. "This gentleman was extremely talented and organized, and he could have held his investments and insurance anywhere, but he chose Thrivent Financial because the Christian faith was important for him.

"When his time came, it came suddenly. No one likes to lose a loved one, but financially speaking his family was at peace. Today they're doing great. What an example of stewardship, and aligning a person's faith to their financial decision making. "I was proud to be a part of it."

Fortune Magazine, June 2017

The member's experience may not be the same as other members' and does not indicate future performance or success.

Securities and investment advisory services are offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., 625 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55415, a FINRA and SIPC member and a wholly owned subsidiary of Thrivent Financial, the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, WI. Thrivent Financial representatives are registered representatives of Thrivent Investment Management Inc. For additional important information, visit Thrivent.com/disclosures.



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Friday: 9:00am-4:30pm

Saturday & Sunday: CLOSED

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Facebook: facebook.com/crossroadfinancialassociates.thrivent/

Email: crossroadfinancialassociates@thrivent.com

New Bedford Ward 2 City Council candidates saying something good about each other

During the New Bedford Ward 2 City Council debate, we asked candidates Maria Giesta, Carlos Pimentel Felix and Edwin Cartagena to say something good about their opponents.

New Bedford Ward 2 City Council candidates discuss problem landlords

During the debate, I asked the Ward 2 candidates Maria Giesta, Carlos Pimentel Felix and Edwin Cartagena about the problem and absentee landlords in Ward 2.