

# Music Performance by the Afro-Semitic Experience



*The Afro-Semitic Experience is redefining the jazz concert.*

The City of New Bedford Department of Community Services is pleased to announce an upcoming musical performance by The Afro-Semitic Experience, on Thursday, July 9th at 6 p.m. at the Greater New Bedford Vocational-Technical High School Auditorium.

With their unique instrumentation, solid grooves, and their ability to get an audience on its feet, The Afro-Semitic Experience is redefining the jazz concert. Their music is an intricate tapestry of spiritual, world-beat, funk, jazz, cantorial, gospel, salsa, swing . . . soul-driven music. Co-founded by African-American jazz pianist Warren Byrd, and Jewish-American jazz bassist David Chevan in 1998, The Afro-Semitic Experience is a band that combines an eclectic array of styles, sophisticated musicianship, good songwriting, deep grooves, and years of friendship with a simple message: Unity in the Community.

This program is presented by the City's Invest-in-Kids and No Place for Hate programs, and is supported in part by a grant from the New Bedford Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

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# HDC Plans For Port Director Transition



At a meeting of the New Bedford Harbor Development Commission (HDC) on Thursday, June 11, Port Director Jeffrey Stieb announced his decision to step down from the post, and the seven-member board voted to appoint Deputy Port Director Edward Anthes-Washburn as Acting Port Director on a transition date to be decided.

Stieb, a former Massport executive and U.S. Coastguard officer who has overseen the port of New Bedford since September 2012, cited the challenges of a long-distance commute from his home in Weymouth, MA as reason for his decision.

In a letter to the HDC board, Stieb noted the successes of the port over the past three years, including the organization's advocacy for the fishing industry, improvements in fiscal and operational management, the securing of \$72 million in state bond authorizations working in close coordination with the local legislative delegation, and the successful hosting of

the whaleship Charles W. Morgan that drew tens of thousands to the waterfront in 2014.

Stieb also expressed confidence in the strength of the existing leadership team, including current Deputy Director Washburn who has served capably as Acting Port Director for an extended period in the past, and Harbormaster David Condon who recently assumed the post after the position was held open for several years (while a legislative reform awaited passage).

Mayor Jon Mitchell reflected on the status of the port and thanked Stieb for his contributions: “Our strategy for growing the port and creating and sustaining maritime jobs is succeeding. We are fighting hard for the fishing industry. We are seeing increases in cargo activity and in recreational boating interest. And we are set up long-term to capture the potential of the offshore wind energy industry. Jeff has been a key contributor in all those efforts, so he leaves his position with our appreciation and thanks.”

HDC Commissioner Richard Canastra echoed the Mayor’s comments, “Overseeing a very active harbor that operates around the clock every day of the year is a demanding responsibility that never stops, so I have nothing but respect for Jeff and his decision.”

The Harbor Development Commission plans to revisit the selection and appointment process for the Director position at the conclusion of the boating season in the fall.

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# Paskamansett Concert Series in Dartmouth set to launch this July



*The Spindle Rock River Rats.*

The new Paskamansett Concert Series is set to launch on Saturday, July 11th, with a 7:30 pm performance by the Spindle Rock River Rats at the historic Dartmouth Grange Hall in the Russells Mills Village Historic District of South Dartmouth, MA.

The monthly concerts are being organized by Russ Smith, founder of the popular Sandywoods Music Series in Tiverton, RI and its director until April of this year.

The Paskamansett concerts will be held in the Dartmouth Grange Hall on the 2nd Saturday of the month, except for the 3rd Saturday in September. All shows start at 7:30 pm. Tickets to all concerts are \$15, \$12 for children under 18, seniors 60 and over, and college students, and there is also a \$35 family admission price. Guests are invited to bring along food and non-alcoholic beverages if they wish.

The Summer/Fall 2015 lineup includes the Spindle Rock River Rats on July 11th, Seamus Galligan & Michael Laureanno on August 8th, Four Bridges on September 19th, Joanne Doherty & Barbara Phaneuf on October 10th, and Grace Morrison on

November 14th. Smith has already booked Bill Harley, Fourteen Strings, Danielle Miraglia, and Matt Borrello for some early 2016 dates.

According to Smith, the goal of the Paskamansett Concert Series is to offer affordable, family-friendly, monthly concerts in an intimate setting, featuring great local, regional, and national acts performing Americana, folk, roots, singer-songwriter, Celtic, blues, and bluegrass music.

Tickets may be purchased with cash or check on concert nights (doors open 7 pm), or in advance at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com). There are no surcharges or extra fees for an online advance purchase.



*The historic  
Dartmouth Grange.*

The historic Dartmouth Grange Patrons Hall is an intimate listening room with seating for 85 guests. The classic Greek Revival building was constructed in 1837 as a two-room schoolhouse. A stage and kitchen were added in 1929. The hall has remained essentially unchanged since then. The street address is 1133 Fisher Road in Dartmouth. For more info, email [paskamansettconcertseries@gmail.com](mailto:paskamansettconcertseries@gmail.com), call 401-241-3793, or visit <http://paskamansettconcertseries.weebly.com>.

The Spindle Rock River Rats play an eclectic blend of bluegrass, old-time, folk, popular, western and fiddle tunes. The Rats include Woody Underwood on fiddle, Polly Gardner on bass, Steve Brauch on mandolin, Borden Snow on five-string banjo, Ransom Griffin on guitar, Maury May on guitar, Brad Jenkins on tenor banjo, and Juergen Hallemeier on accordion,

with everyone helping out on vocals!

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# **Homicide Investigation Underway in New Bedford**

New Bedford Police, Massachusetts State Police detectives assigned to this office and Homicide Unit prosecutors are actively investigating a homicide which occurred in New Bedford late Thursday night.

New Bedford Police received 911 calls regarding gunshots in the area of Liberty and Court Street around 11:30 pm. Upon arrival at the scene, police found a 19-year-old male victim in Harrington Park suffering from gunshot wounds. EMT's responded though the victim was pronounced dead shortly after their arrival.

The investigation is being coordinated by Assistant District Attorney Dan Walsh.

If anyone has information about this incident or was in the area of Liberty and Court streets last night between 11:00 and 12:00PM, they are urged to call the New Bedford Police Department's Detectives Division at 508-991-6300. If individuals wish to remain anonymous, they can call New Bedford Police's anonymous tip line at 508-961-4584, or utilize the district attorney's anonymous text-a-tip program by either logging on to [tipsubmit.com](http://tipsubmit.com) or by texting the phrase "CALL50" to the phone number 274637 (which spells CRIMES).

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# Keith Truehart, suspect on Massachusetts State Police 'most wanted' list, arrested in Belchertown



*Truehart was wanted on warrants issued in connection with the alleged beating of his girlfriend's daughter, reported on Nov. 15, 2014.*

A Belchertown man on the Massachusetts State Police "most wanted" list for an alleged November assault that left a 9-month-old girl with broken ribs was taken into custody Wednesday morning. Police found him hiding under a sink in a

North Main Street apartment.

Keith Truehart, 30, was arrested at 5 a.m. by members of the State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section and Belchertown police officers, according to a statement issued by state police. Officers found Truehart in a "makeshift hideout" built from wood and sheetrock, police said.

Truehart was wanted on warrants issued in connection with the alleged beating of his girlfriend's daughter, reported on Nov. 15, 2014.

Mary Carey, spokeswoman for the Northwestern district attorney's office, said that at his arraignment Wednesday in Eastern Hampshire District Court Truehart was ordered held without bail pending a June 16 dangerousness hearing. He is charged with two counts of assault and battery on a child causing substantial injury and one count of witness intimidation.

Each of the assault charges carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in state prison, Carey said.

The witness intimidation charge was filed because Truehart allegedly misled police about the origin of the child's injuries, Carey said.

"The defendant was not immediately arrested because the police were still investigating the matter," Carey said in a statement. "It is alleged by the Commonwealth that after a criminal complaint was issued against the defendant, he fled."

According to previous statements issued by state police, the investigation into the alleged beating began when Belchertown police responded to a call about a baby who was injured in a fall. Investigators later determined that Truehart had been alone with the child at the time, according to police.

Police said first responders observed injuries that were



inconsistent with a fall, including bruising on the girl's forehead and around her eyes. Paramedics treated the girl at the scene, and hospital staff later found the girl had two rib fractures that were "in the healing stages."

"They further determined that the current injuries suffered were not accidental but were inflicted upon the child," police said.

Last week, state police added Truehart to the agency's list of Top Ten Most Wanted Fugitives.

"Police recently developed information suggesting that Truehart had returned to his girlfriend's apartment," state police said Wednesday. "He was located there this morning."

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## **Absentee ballots available for June 23 New Bedford casino referendum**

The Board of Election Commissioners has announced that absentee ballots are available for voters who cannot go to the polls on Tuesday, June 23, 2015 to vote in the Special Referendum Election.

On June 23, 2015 New Bedford voters will be casting their votes to determine if the City of New Bedford will permit the operation of a gaming establishment licensed by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission on approximately 43 acres located off of MacArthur Drive at the site of the former Cannon Street power station.

Voters may cast absentee ballots at the Elections Office in City Hall (133 William Street, Room 144) during regular office hours (8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday) and on Saturday, June 20, 2015 from 8:00 A.M. to noon. Absentee ballots may be cast until noon on June 22, 2015 (the day prior to the Referendum Election).

A link to a Specimen Ballot can be found on the homepage of the City of New Bedford ([www.newbedford-ma.gov](http://www.newbedford-ma.gov)). On Election Day polls will be open from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. If you have any questions on absentee ballots, voting status, or voting precinct, please call the Elections Office at 979-1420 or 979-1421.

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## **Pictures in the Park: an outdoor movie series at Buttonwood Park for Summer 2015**



*The first film—Sandlot—will begin at*

*sunset on Friday, June 26.*

Pictures in the Park is an outdoor movie series being held in New Bedford's Buttonwood Park during the summer of 2015. Coordinated by a group of volunteers, the series is made possible thanks to: partnerships with the City of New Bedford's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Beaches, which is providing activities as well as park access; the Friends of Buttonwood Park, which is helping us ensure that donations to this project are tax-deductible; and, most importantly, contributions from residents and businesses who support our mission.

That mission is to promote New Bedford's civic vitality and encourage the use and enjoyment of Buttonwood Park by city residents and visitors alike during the summer of 2015 and beyond. Going forward, we hope to use our experience developing and presenting this series to develop a "how-to" guide that will encourage more New Bedford residents to initiate similar events in parks throughout the city next summer.

The first film—Sandlot—will begin at sunset on Friday, June 26, following a fitness activity being coordinated by the city's Parks Department to engage children and families. Based on the success of our fundraising efforts, two more films will be shown through the end of summer, and we are currently working with the Parks Department and other groups using the park to determine the best dates for subsequent events.

### Sponsorship opportunities

We believe that producing a professional, high-quality series is key to achieving our goals and encouraging more of our fellow citizens to "be the change" they wish to see in our city. Therefore, we have engaged a professional to provide and manage equipment that will meet the needs of an audience as large as 500 people. In order to offset this cost and that of

the licensing fees for each film, we have established a fundraising goal of \$3,000 for the entire series. In addition to securing a \$1,000 Community Building Mini-Grant from the United Way of Greater New Bedford and asking movie-goers to make small-dollar contributions, we are in the process of securing donations from individuals and sponsorships from area businesses.

We expect the outdoor movie series to offer a high level of visibility to sponsors both at the event and in all relevant advertising. Title sponsors who donate \$1,000 or more will be credited as the presenter of one of this summer's films; their logo will be displayed on the screen before the movie and in all advertisements for the film and the series. Title sponsors will also have the opportunity to set up a promotional table at the event and to reserve an area of seating for their employees and families.

Business sponsors contributing \$300 or more will have their company formally recognized at the start of the film and their logo will be included in large print advertisements. And because we wish to bolster civic vitality through the series, we will list on the screen the names of all other business and individual donors half an hour before the start of the film so that attendees can get a sense of the degree to which members of the community have pitched in their own resources to ensure that this positive experience can be enjoyed by all. Indeed, promoting contributors in every way possible will go a long way toward sustaining this effort into summers beyond by encouraging and rewarding a philanthropic spirit in our city.

Would you like to sponsor Pictures in the Park? Please make checks payable to the Friends of Buttonwood Park and note that your contribution is for Pictures in the Park. Checks can be mailed to: Friends of Buttonwood Park, P.O. Box 2011, New Bedford, MA 02741.

Questions? Ideas? Contact Colleen Dawicki ([cdawicki@gmail.com](mailto:cdawicki@gmail.com))

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# **Gain Valuable Growing Insights at a Workshop with Local Farmer Derek Christianson**



*Growing Vegetables for Health,  
Quality and Profit.*

NOFA/Mass presents a workshop at Brix Bounty Farm on Sunday, June 14th, titled Growing Vegetables for Health, Quality and Profit. Participants will tour the fields and examine what is working well at the farm this season as well as the disappointments, with an emphasis on fertility as a foundation for vigorous crop production and in-season monitoring and management.

“We realize it’s challenging to take time out of the busy season to visit and experience other farm’s, however we also

feel the insights gleaned from in-season farm visits are mighty valuable. At Brix Bounty Farm we've planted more than 5 acres since late April, all grown without supplemental irrigation (in a dry spring to say the very least) and a good majority of our crops are faring quite well despite the dry conditions. We'll check in on the progress of our onion crops, lettuce succession, and field tomatoes while reviewing crop monitoring tools and techniques and in-season fertility management – including foliar sprays and side dressing to address specific crop needs based on the season," said Brix Bounty farmer Derek Christianson, who will be the host and presenter during the workshop series.

Derek has been farming in the Northeast for the past 13 seasons, relocating to the South Coast from Hawthorne Valley Farm in New York. Derek and his wife Katie started Brix Bounty Farm in 2008. To register and for more info, visit [www.nofamass.org](http://www.nofamass.org) or contact Glenn Oliveira at [glenn@nofamass.org](mailto:glenn@nofamass.org).

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**Clear Pond Park Open June 20  
to August 23rd**



*The Park will be open 7 day a week  
from 10am to 6pm daily.*

The Lakeville Park Commission would like to announce the opening of Clear Pond Park on Saturday June 20th through August 23rd. The Park will be open 7 day a week from 10am to 6pm daily.

Day passes are available at the gate for \$6 for adults, children under 16 are \$4 and Lakeville senior citizens are free. Season passes are also available \$100 for a family pass for Lakeville residents (ID required) and \$130 for a family pass for non-residents.

There will be special activities throughout the summer, a playground, mini golf, concession stand, as well as swimming lessons.

Questions please call the Park Department at 508-947-1100, email [parkcorrespondence@lakevillema.org](mailto:parkcorrespondence@lakevillema.org), or find the Lakeville Park Commission or Clear Pond on Facebook!

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# Mayor Mitchell Proposes Naming One Washington Square 'Tom Lopes Park'



Mayor Jon Mitchell has submitted a letter to the New Bedford City Council requesting that the Council name the vacant city-owned lot known as One Washington Square 'Tom Lopes Park.' Mr. Lopes, who died in 2012, was the publisher of the Cape Verdean News and the first Cape Verdean-American to serve in the Massachusetts State Legislature. A beloved figure in the Cape Verdean community and throughout the city, Mr. Lopes was also active in various neighborhood and youth initiatives.

In a letter to the Council the Mayor reports that the Community Leadership Team of NeighborWorks Southern Massachusetts has partnered with WHALE, local artist Erik Durant, and other community members to design and build a memorial sculpture in honor of the late Tom Lopes. The effort grew out of a community engagement process initiated by WHALE and NeighborWorks to redevelop One Washington Square. The process revealed tremendous community support to create the memorial sculpture and to build a small park at One Washington Square at which to site the memorial sculpture. The group had petitioned the Mayor to name the new green space 'Tom Lopes Park.'

In his letter Mayor Mitchell said, "Given the enormous



contributions Mr. Lopes made to New Bedford's Cape Verdean community and to the city generally, I wholeheartedly support the community's effort. Mr. Lopez's impact on the community as the first Cape Verdean-American elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, as a journalist and publisher, and as a neighborhood advocate and mentor, is well-known to many of us, but perhaps less so to newcomers to New Bedford and to the younger generations. The park and sculpture at a prominent gateway location will stand as a permanent reminder to present and future residents of our city that one person can truly make a difference."

City Council Brian K. Gomes, who, through the City Council's Memorials and Dedications Committee, has spearheaded discussions about establishing a memorial tribute to Mr. Lopes, concurred, "The Cape Verdean community and the entire City of New Bedford owe Tom Lopes a debt of gratitude for all he did for us. Those of us who knew him and worked with him still feel his absence in our city every day. I can't think of a more fitting tribute to him than to build this statue and name this park in his honor."

Councilor Dana Rebeiro, who represents Ward 4, where the would-be park is located, added, "Tom Lopes was a true renaissance man and the contributions he made in his lifetime served not only the Cape Verdean community but the entire city. Knowing that family and friends will be able to enjoy Tom Lopes Park is a fitting tribute and hopefully it will inspire someone to continue his very important work."

Deborah Ramos, the Co-Chair of the NeighborWorks Leadership Team and Mr. Lopez's sister, expressed her gratitude to Mayor Mitchell for moving the project forward, "On behalf of the Committee and my family, I want to thank the Mayor for embracing our vision for the memorial sculpture and park. He and his staff have supported us from the beginning, and when this plan finally comes to fruition, it will be a triumph of team work and dedication by all involved."

The park, which is being funded by the City with a Community Development Block Grant, is tentatively slated for construction in the fall of 2015.

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