

Democracy in New Bedford and The South Coast



by
Michael
Silvia

The 2012 elections were depressing. Not because of the winners and losers, but because democracy in America seems to be dying a slow death. A few stats to chew on. While we've had some 20 million new voting age men and women since the 2008 elections, President Obama and Mitt Romney took in 8 million fewer voters than did President Obama and Senator McCain. In the 2012 Presidential elections, President Obama received 4.2 million less votes than he did in 2008 (66.8 million compared to 62.6 million in 2012) and Romney received about 800,000 less votes than McCain. Most attribute the low turn out to the swing from the positive campaigns that Obama and McCain ran to mostly negative campaigning in 2012. I can confidently say that in New Bedford democracy is dead with little chance of being revived. In the New Bedford and south coast Massachusetts area, incumbents mostly ran unopposed in 2012.



As an Air Force veteran, I've seen what democracy looks like in Iraq, Afghanistan, Serbia (and several former Yugoslavia countries), and many other countries. Outside of America, most countries seem to take their elections seriously. They come out in high numbers and there is plenty of choice. When

casting my ballot in New Bedford on November 6th, I noticed a troubling trend. Almost all of the local candidates ran unopposed. It reminded me of the "elections" in Iraq when Saddam garnered 99% of the vote. Does New Bedford really lack qualified candidates? Are our incumbents so entrenched that no one feels they can win? Money and name recognition win elections, and challengers always face an uphill battle, but I feel as a city we deserve at least a choice. I'm not saying the incumbents are bad and are not the best choice, but how do we really know if we are given no options?

If you take a quick look at the New Bedford Election Commission's November 6th, 2012 Election Results page, you will notice that the national elections (President Obama/Mitt Romney, Warren/Brown and Keating/Sheldon) provided us choice, but once you look at the state and local elections you'll notice that out of the 11 elections, 9 had candidates ran unopposed. Even the national elections really provide little choice for New Bedford residents as our city wouldn't vote for a Kennedy if he had an (R) or (I) by his name. Obama, Warren and Keaton, on average, won by a 3 to 1 victory. State Senator Mark Montigny has had one challenger since being first elected in 2002. So, he's faced opposition once out of five elections. State Representative Tony Cabral has a similar opposition history. Here's a look at the local election results:

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT	ward/precinct details
MARK C. MONTIGNY	28275
WRITE-IN	303
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT - EIGHTH BRISTOL DISTRICT	ward/precinct details
PAUL A. SCHMID, III	2764
WRITE-IN	28
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT - NINTH BRISTOL DISTRICT	ward/precinct details
CHRISTOPHER MARKEY	2650
WRITE-IN	21
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT - TENTH BRISTOL DISTRICT	ward/precinct details
WILLIAM M. STRAUS	1835
WRITE-IN	26
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT - ELEVENTH BRISTOL DISTRICT	ward/precinct details
ROBERT M. KOCZERA	7677
WRITE-IN	86
REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT - THIRTEENTH BRISTOL DISTRICT	ward/precinct details
ANTONIO F.D. CABRAL	12603
WRITE-IN	146
CLERK OF COURTS BRISTOL COUNTY	ward/precinct details
MARC J. SANTOS	26859
WRITE-IN	255
REGISTER OF DEEDS BRISTOL SOUTHERN DISTRICT	ward/precinct details
J. MARK TREADUP	27190
WRITE-IN	257
COUNTY COMMISSIONER BRISTOL COUNTY	ward/precinct details
PAUL B. KITCHEN	14209
JOHN R. MITCHELL	14585
PAUL J. LEVASSEUR	7858
WRITE-IN	120
COUNTY TREASURER BRISTOL COUNTY (TO FILL VACANCY)	ward/precinct details
CHRISTOPHER T. SAUNDERS	26640
WRITE-IN	240

Also running unopposed were State Representatives Paul Schmid, II (8th District), Chis Markey (9th District), William Straus (10th District), and Robert Koczera (11th District). The Clerk of Courts for Bristol County Marc Santos, the Register of Deeds Bristol Southern District Mark Treadup and the County Treasurer Chris Saunders also ran unopposed. This is due to the one party system in that dominates the south coast, Massachusetts area. The only real elections are in the primary elections and even those don't see real challenges locally. To be fair, this happens in both Republican and

Democratic strongholds around the country, not just in the New Bedford area. For example, in 2013, 25 states will be controlled by Republicans and 15 states will be controlled by Democrats leaving only 10 states to have a balanced state government.

In preparation for the 2011 New Bedford municipal elections, I produced an article on how to become a candidate and run for office in New Bedford. I wrote it because in the 2009 elections, half of the Ward City Councilors ran unopposed. In 2011, only one Ward City Councilor ran unopposed, so that is the one choice bright spot. My goal for the 2013 elections is that we continue the trend and offer more qualified candidates. In New Bedford our unemployment is consistently twice the state average, crime is always an issue and our schools seem to always be on the brink of a state take over. As a city, do we really want to be so disinterested in who runs our city or represents us in Boston and Washington?

We have 95,000+ residents in New Bedford with plenty leaders among us. As a city, we owe it to ourselves to ensure our candidates are truly vetted and we have a choice of several qualified candidates. Again, I'm not saying that we do not have the best candidates in office right now, but if we continue to allow our elections to provide a single choice we'll never truly know.

The Southcoast Hot Jobs List

– 21 November, 2012



by
Michael
Silvia

The Greater New Bedford unemployment rate is much higher than the rest of Massachusetts, but believe it or not there really are a lot of jobs available for qualified applicants. Sometimes the barrier to a new job can be the lack of information on available job openings. To solve this, each week New Bedford Guide will be working with the New Directions Southcoast (also known as the Greater New Bedford Career Center) to inform job seekers about the hottest jobs in the area. We will define “Hot Jobs” as those jobs that need to be filled by the employer immediately. For those looking to search some large job databases, checkout my Best Job Search Resources for New Bedford Residents article. Unless noted otherwise, those interested in these positions or want more information should go to the Greater New Bedford Career Center at 618 Acushnet Avenue. Here are the Hot Jobs as of November 21th, 2012:

1. Family Engagement Assistant #1628801 – Assist in the provision of family engagement activities. Provide bilingual support during program activities, home visits, and classroom activities. Fluency in Spanish required. High School diploma or equivalent. Experience working with children and families in a pre-school setting preferred.

This is an AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
Deadline to apply: 5:00 p.m., Monday, November 26, 2012

2. Sewing Machine Operator #1630044 –Requirements:

- Must have experience with industrial machines.
- The knowledge of single stitching is extremely helpful.
- The potential candidate must know how to change and thread a needle as well as must have their own scissors.

3. Security Investigator #1628805 – BHI

Energy is seeking a highly motivated, well organized individual for a position in our Security Investigations Department performing Background Investigations via phone, fax and e-mail. This support position requires critical attention to detail skills, flexibility, telephone, organizational, & data input skills. The ability to work in a team environment, while making independent judgments is important. The flexibility to work overtime based on business conditions is required. Candidates must satisfy a pre-employment background investigation that may include but not limited to: state criminal, Psychological, credit, employment & education. EOE/M/F/V/D/AA.



4. Fabric Cutter #1631430 – Experience with fabric handling, cutting and spreading as well as the general operating process of a Clothing manufacturing operation.

5. Yard Jockey #1631439 – A Yard Jockey is responsible for efficiently and accurately selecting and staging trailers for loading and transport while ensuring proper temperature control with proper understanding and operation of refrigeration equipment and other duties as assigned. The qualified candidate must be 18 years of age and able to work independently with little or no supervision. Qualifications include: High school diploma or equivalent preferred. A valid driver's license that meets the requirements of the division is required.

6. Executive Assistant #1631458 – This position will operate as a liaison for the Executive Director with the Marion

Institute Team and external constituencies in the resolution of a variety of day-to-day matters concerning the Institute.

– Assisting in administrative problem solving, program/project planning, development, and execution of stated goals and objectives.

– Assist in preparing presentations for the Executive Director for staff meetings, board meetings, and meetings with visiting VIPs.

– Schedule and coordinate agendas, meeting rooms, meals, travel arrangements, etc., for internal/external meetings held by the Executive Director.

- Basic abilities in graphic design a plus.

- Experience with new media Facebook, Twitter, etc. a plus.

7. Fleet Mechanic # 1633602 – Need experienced Fleet Mechanic for full time work on heavy equipment and medium duty trucks. Small engine experience a plus. Clean driving record and must pass drug testing.

New Bedford's 2012 Holiday Parking Program

In an effort to encourage everyone to do their holiday shopping in New Bedford, the City is offering a special Holiday Parking Program. Effective Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 2012 through Tuesday, January 1, 2013, the City of New Bedford will offer FREE 2-hour parking at metered spaces in both the Downtown and on Acushnet Avenue and 2-hour FREE parking at the Elm Street Garage, the Zeiterion Garage and Custom House Square!



Anyone parked at a meter in either the Downtown or on Acushnet Avenue while doing holiday shopping who receives a ticket as a result of parking in excess of the 2-hour limit, may mail or present their ticket along with a copy of a sales receipt for \$10.00 or more from a Downtown or North End Business District restaurant/merchant to the City of New Bedford Traffic Commission Office. The parking ticket will be forgiven with the presentation of the same day receipt.

The Traffic Commission Office is located at 51 Elm Street and is open from Monday through Thursday from 8:00am to 5:00pm and Friday from 8:00am to 12:00pm (noon). Questions regarding the Holiday Parking Program should be directed to the Traffic Commission Office at (508) 961-3153.

The 2012 Holiday Parking Program is sponsored by the New Bedford Mayor's Office in partnership with Downtown New Bedford Inc., and the New Bedford Economic Development Council.

New Bedford Tree Lighting Ceremonies 2012

There are eight tree lighting ceremonies in the City of New Bedford scheduled during the 2012 holiday season.

Child & Family Services' 2012 Holiday Hope Project

At a press conference in City Hall on Wednesday, November 21, at 3:00 p.m. Mayor Jon Mitchell will encourage community participation and will announce his own participation in the Child & Family Services' Annual Holiday Hope Project by sponsoring a local family.



The Holiday Hope Project is a community-wide, volunteer effort that provides food, clothing and gifts for families and individuals receiving services at Child & Family who have fallen on tough times. Each year, the goal of the project is to find sponsors in the community to "adopt" an individual or family for the holiday season. Sponsors range from individuals, to families, school groups, businesses, office groups, churches, and clubs.

Child & Family Services is a private, nonprofit, human service agency that provides adoption services, mental health counseling, psychiatry and specialized support programs to people of all ages living in Greater New Bedford, Greater Fall River, Cape Cod, Lawrence, Florence, Plymouth, Worcester and

Somerville. They have been helping families since 1843 and continue to fulfill their mission “...to heal and strengthen the lives of children and families.”

New Bedford 2012 Christmas & Holiday Schedule



by
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The following community events will take place throughout the City of New Bedford to celebrate the 2012 holiday season. When shopping, please consider local retailers! Typically, the City of New Bedford offers FREE 2-hour parking at most paid parking locations during December. Send an e-mail to info@newbedfordguide.com or reply with a comment to get your public Christmas or other holiday event added to this list! Also, check out our calendar for holiday and non-holiday events: <http://www.newbedfordguide.com/calendar>.

November 30th

Cove Street Neighborhood Group Tree Lighting (6 p.m.)

Location: Park on the corner of Ruth Street and Salisbury Street

December 1st

Downtown New Bedford Holiday Stroll

Each holiday season the downtown New Bedford district comes to life with hundreds of shoppers filling the streets thanks to great holiday deals and activities. Organized by Downtown New Bedford Inc., the Downtown New Bedford Holiday Stroll is a must attend weekend event (December 1st and 2nd) for anyone looking to support local businesses and enjoy some great holiday entertainment. Here is a list of activities and participating retailers provided by Downtown New Bedford Inc. Full entertainment list here: <http://www.newbedfordguide.com/2012-downtown-new-bedford-holiday-stroll/2012/11/15>

City of New Bedford Official Christmas Tree Lighting (4:30 p.m)

Location: City Hall Plaza

Join Mayor Mitchell and New Bedford officials for an annual New Bedford tradition! The parade will step off from the bottom of William Street (at North Water Street) and will march up to City Hall Plaza for the lighting of the City's Official Christmas Tree on the steps of the Main Library. The New Bedford High School Marching Band, the All-City Middle School Marching Band and Colorguard will participate in this festive event for the whole family to celebrate the holiday season.

Fairhaven Town Hall Toy and Food Drive (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m)

December 1, 2012, to mid-December, Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 8, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

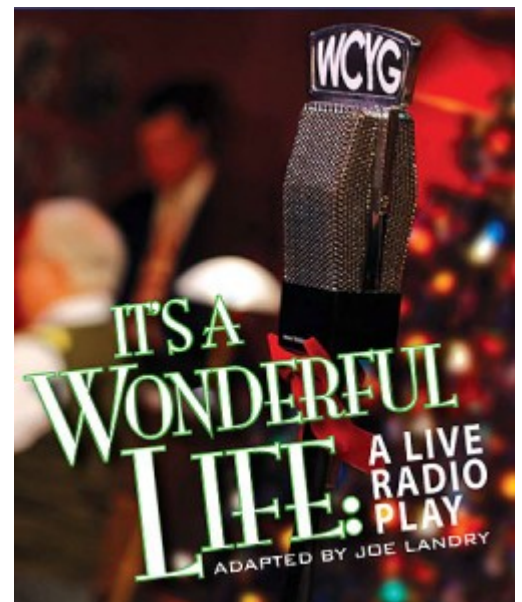
The Fairhaven Town Hall is partnering with the United Way and the New Bedford Firefighters' Union to bring Christmas presents to area children in need. This toy drive will run from December 1 to mid-December. New, unwrapped toys may be

dropped in the donation box. Make a toy donation a part of your family's annual Old-Time Holiday Weekend, as the toy donation box will be available at the Town Hall on Saturday, December 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., to coincide with Town-wide festivities. Rumor has it that one of Santa's elves will be at the donation box to help. The Town Hall is also a drop-off location for the ongoing United Way food drive. Please consider bringing non-perishable foods, such as canned meats, beans, peanut butter, etc. for the Town Hall collection bin. Handicap accessible. For more information, call the Selectmen's Office at 508-979-4023 and ask for Anne.

All That Glitters at the New Bedford Art Museum (6-9 p.m.)

Sip champagne from an open bar and nosh on hors d'oeuvres by Harriet's Catering while exploring our holiday auctions. Preview and shop at our Holiday Boutique featuring the works of local artists and artisans. And all while supporting the arts! All the proceeds from the weekend's holiday events go towards NBAM's free youth art education programs.

It's a Wonderful Life – The Radio Show Version (8 p.m)



The Marion Art Center Players will open their production of "It's A Wonderful Life – The Radio Show Version" on Friday, November 30, with shows on Saturday, December 1, Friday, December 7, Saturday, December 8 (all at 8:00 pm) and a 4:00

pm matinee on Sunday, December 9. This beloved tale, written by Frank Capra, has been adapted by Tony Palermo as a 1940s-style radio-on-stage production complete with a live audience and live sound effects. Rex McGraw is directing a stellar cast who will be put through their paces playing several roles each. This show is a perfect way to enjoy the season with family and friends. Tickets are \$12.50 for Marion Art Center.

Plumb Library Annual Holiday Open House (9 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

Drop by the Plumb Library on Saturday, December 1 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm for the Annual Holiday Open House. Featured at the Open House: Silent Auction, Bake Sale, Wreath Sale and Pick-up, Tea/Coffee/Hot Chocolate, Pampered Chef Items, Children's Table with crafts and face-painting by the Junior Friends. All proceeds from this program go toward the Friends of Plumb Library and their support of the library's programs.

December 2nd

Downtown New Bedford Holiday Stroll

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Many Moods of Christmas (4 p.m.)

Starting with the Irish 12th century Wexford Carol, the concert will display the diversity of Christmas music, from familiar popular songs, folk carols and hymns to an ancient

chant set to African rhythms. The well-known regional chorus is directed by Brian Roderick, and accompanied by pianist Michelle Gordon and organist Dwight Thomas. The Sippican Chamber Choir will also perform, and the Southcoast Children's Chorus will sing under the direction of Leslie Piper. Please visit our website at www.sippicanchoral.org.

Festival of Lights Celebration at Clasky Common Park (4:30 p.m.)

Location: Clasky Common Park at County and Pope Streets
Join the countdown celebration to illuminate festive displays of dazzling lights throughout Clasky Common Park. Members of the Parker Elementary School chorus will perform and Santa Claus is expected to join the celebration.

Far North End Neighborhood Association Tree Lighting (6:30 p.m.)

Location: Fire Station # 5, 3665 Acushnet Avenue

The Sippican Choral Society Christmas concert (8 p.m.)

The Sippican Choral Society will present its Christmas concert on Friday, November 30 at 8:00 pm at the Grace Episcopal Church in New Bedford and Sunday, December 2 at 4:00 pm at Wickenden Chapel at Tabor Academy. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. Tickets may be purchased at the Bookstall in Marion; Gail's Goodies in Mattapoisett; Symphony Music Shop in Dartmouth or at the door.

December 4th

South End Business Association Tree Lighting

Date and Time: Tuesday, December 4th—Reading of "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" at 4:00 p.m. and tree lighting at 5:30 p.m.

Location: Howland Green Library, 3 Rodney French Boulevard

December 5th



The Neediest Families Fun Day

Santa will be at the Standard Times building (25 Elm Street, New Bedford) so parents can bring their kids and cameras to take pictures. There will be food for \$5, a raffle and a bake sale. All proceeds will go to the Neediest Families Fund. The Standard Times is also a running Toy drive until December 5th.

In 1921, The Standard-Times and The Salvation Army joined forces to make the Holidays a happier time for underprivileged families in Greater New Bedford. Together, the two organizations founded the Neediest Families Fund. Since then, the Neediest Families Fund has raised thousands of dollars to help families and provide them with warm clothes, a good meal, and gifts for the holiday season. Last year our SouthCoast community joined together and helped the Neediest Families Fund raise over \$200,000. With your renewed support the Neediest Families Fund will be able to provide thousands of SouthCoast families with a holiday meal and gifts for children under their Christmas tree.

December 7th

Padanaram Christmas Festival (5-8 p.m.)



The Padanaram Christmas Festival is Friday, December 7th from 5-8 p.m. Several local businesses will be participating. There will also be a door decorating contest, so make sure you vote for your favorite door! Click on the flyer to view all the events.

Lighting of Benoit Square (6:30 p.m.)

Benoit Square, Main & Adams Streets, Fairhaven. The North Fairhaven Improvement Association will light the decorated square and welcome Santa Claus to North Fairhaven. Free.

It's a Wonderful Life – The Radio Show Version (8 p.m.)

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December 8th

New Bedford Preservation Society's Annual Holiday House Tour (4-8 p.m.)

To herald the holiday season, residents of New Bedford's historic neighborhoods will once again be opening their beautifully restored homes for the New Bedford Preservation Society's signature fundraising event – the 21st Annual Holiday House Tour. The elegant parlors of the magnificent Rotch-Jones-Duff House will be featured along with the historic Nathan and Polly Johnson House and several private historic residences, some of which have never before been open for the tour, all beautifully decorated for the holidays. Feel the presence of the past in the varied 19th century architecture and interiors which are as diverse as the owners. This year's candlelight tour will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, December 8th, with the December 9th Afternoon Tour from 1 to 5 p.m. Both tours start at the Wamsutta Club, 427 County Street, tour headquarters, where an elegant pre-tour brunch will be held on Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m., along with a holiday raffle and silent auction of beautiful gifts, art, antiques and handcrafted items.

Full details:
<http://www.newbedfordguide.com/preservation-society-holiday-tour/2012/11/02>

New Bedford Santa 5k Fun Run



What traditions do your friends and family uphold during the holiday season? Perhaps you go to an annual tree lighting, spend time shopping together, or get into season by trimming the tree whilst listening to your favorite carols. How about dressing up in Santa suits and going for a friendly 5K run together? This may sound like an unlikely way to celebrate the holidays, but if you witnessed the 1,600 jolly St. Nicks running through New Bedford streets last winter, you know that it is no joke. This year, the Santa Run will happen again on Saturday, December 8th and they are expecting an even greater numbers of participants in what is described as a "fun run" that invites runners of all ages and abilities to join. Full details: <http://www.newbedfordguide.com/2012-new-bedford-santa-fun-run/2012/09/12>

Rogers School Breakfast, Craft Making and Book Fair (9 a.m. – 12 p.m.)

Hosted by the Rogers School PT0, a pancake breakfast served. The breakfast is \$5.00 and includes: pancakes, sausage, orange juice and coffee. There will be crafts for kids to make or take home with them and a Scholastic Book Fair. There will be a visit from Santa between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. Parents please bring your cameras and your children can get a picture with Santa. Additionally, a food pantry donation box available if anyone would like to bring can goods to donate. The donations are going to M.O. Life's food pantry.

Ice Sculptor at the MAC (10 a.m.)

On Saturday, December 8, Timothy Wade, local sand and ice sculptor and painter, will give an ice carving demonstration starting at 10:00 am on the patio outside the Art Center. Visitors are invited to come and watch as he transforms ice into beautiful sculpture, take a few pictures with the finished product or stop by on their way along the Sippican Women's Club House Tour. The Marion Art Center is located at 80 Pleasant Street, Marion, MA 02738. For more information,

visit MAC's website at www.marionartcenter.org or call 508-748-1266.

The Brick Church Fair (10 a.m. – 3 p.m.)

First Congregational Church, 34 Center Street

The church will be alive with activity. Crafts, Baked Goods, Cookies, Home Cooking, Vermont Cheddar Cheese, Chance Auction, Coffee Shop and much more. We will be raffling off a custom made rocking horse. "Heavenly Treasures," our second-hand shop will be open all day. Lobster roll luncheon will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or until sold out. Chowder and hotdogs will also be available. Handicap accessible. For more information, call 508-993-3368 or email firstcongfairhaven@verizon.net.

Unitarian Church Holiday Marketplace (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

Unitarian Memorial Church parish house, 102 Green Street, Fairhaven

The Unitarian Church parish house will be the site stress-free shopping with a variety of fine crafters' booths, baked goods and the Women's Alliance holiday greens. Festive holiday music, a visit from St. Nicholas and a Christmas tree decorated with love will spread holiday cheer throughout the halls. Free Admission. Handicap accessible. For more information, call 508-992-7081.

Fairhaven Town Hall Shops (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

Non-profit and church groups have booths to sell holiday related items and more. Some of the organizations with tables are: VFW Ladies Auxiliary, HMHS Save Livesey Skate Park, Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society, Church of the Good Shepherd, Fairhaven Village Militia, Fairhaven Bicentennial Committee and others. Entertainment provided by Fairhaven music students. The Bicentennial Committee will be displaying the Time Capsule contents prior to sealing the capsule. There will also be a drop boxes for new, unwrapped toys to be given

to the area's needy children and for the United Way food drive. Free. Handicap accessible. For more information, call 508-979-4085.

Unitarian Memorial Church Sanctuary Tours (10 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

Unitarian Memorial Church, 102 Green Street, Fairhaven
Guided tours will be given of the English gothic church built in 1904 by Henry Huttleston Rogers. A \$1 per person donation is suggested. Handicap accessible. For more information, call 508-992-7081.

Holiday Ornament Crafting (11 a.m. – 4 p.m.)

Art on Center, 15 Center St., Fairhaven
Art on Center with have lots of great crafting materials on hand for you to design and make your own holiday ornaments. The cost is \$5 per ornament. For more information, call 774-206-1709 or email info@artoncenter.org.

Winter Wonderland at the Andrea McCoy Recreation Center (3-5 p.m.)

Bring your family and friends to enjoy some winter crafts, hot chocolate, winter sports and games, and sign-up for Winter 2013 programs. Plus official lighting of the Holiday Giving Tree!

It's a Wonderful Life – The Radio Show Version (8 p.m)

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December 9th

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Full

details: <http://www.newbedfordguide.com/preservation-society-holiday-tour/2012/11/02>

Old-Time Christmas Carol Sing (1 p.m.)

Trinity Lutheran Church, 16 Temple Place, Fairhaven
TLC Play and Learn Campus Youth Choir and other voice ensembles will sing carols and other Christmas songs. A Sing-along will follow. All are welcome. Free will offering. Handicap accessible. For more info: 508-994-3826.

Service of Lessons and Carols (4 p.m.)

Unitarian Memorial Church, 102 Green St., Fairhaven
The Unitarian Universalist Society of Fairhaven presents a service of lessons and carols, with seasonal readings and music performed by Music Director Dwight Thomas and the choir of the Unitarian Memorial Church. All are welcome. Free. (Donations accepted.) Handicap accessible. For more info: 508-992-7081.

Goulart Square Association Tree Lighting (6:30 p.m.)

Location: Ashley Park on the corner of Rivet Street and Bolton Street

December 11th

South Central /South First Association Tree Lighting (4:30 p.m.)

Location: Monte Park on the corner of Russell Street and Acushnet Avenue

December 13th

The Holly Jolly Christmas Party at Bar 908 (5:30 – 9 p.m)



The 3rd Annual Holly Jolly Christmas Party to benefit local needy children and families will be Thursday, December 13th from 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. Your donation of \$10 and one \$10 toy gets you access to a buffet, live music and dancing.

Peace & Joy Postcards From New Bedford (6-10 p.m.)

Join us on Thursday December 13th (AHA! night) at ArtWorks in New Bedford, as we gather as a community to write and send HAPPY HOLIDAYS postcards from New Bedford to those we love all over the world. A live music and dancing celebration will follow!

Facebook

event: <http://www.facebook.com/events/516671108351974/>

Rockdale Avenue Neighborhood Association Tree Lighting (6:30 p.m.)

Location: Harrington Park on the Corner of Court Street and Liberty Street (across from Hathaway School)

December 14th

14th Annual Firefighter Union's Toy Drive

Toy donations are accepted at Knuckleheads Bar (85 Macarthur Drive) until December 17th.

December 15th

Bullard Street Neighborhood Association Tree Lighting (6:00 p.m.)

Location: Riverside Park on the corner of Belleville Avenue and Coffin Avenue

2012 Downtown New Bedford Holiday Stroll



by
Michael
Silvia

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Santa and Mrs. Claus

Saturday from 12-4 p.m., Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive at Custom House Square by antique fire truck and set up shop in Mare' Studios, 27 Centre Street. On Saturday and Sunday from 12 – 4 p.m. Santa will greet his young admirers and pose for free souvenir photos. Visit Cork Wine and Tapas, 90 Front St., before or after your visit with Santa, for fresh baked cookies & milk, fresh hot coffee and autumn sangria samples for the adults. 12 – 4 pm. Trolley transportation and Antique Fire Truck rides will bring visitors around downtown.

Marching Band and Tree Lighting Ceremony

On Saturday at 4:30 p.m., stroll along with the NB High School and All-City Middle School Marching Bands and Color Guard for a parade up William Street to the Library for the City's official Tree Lighting Ceremony with Mayor Mitchell, The City Council, and Miss New Bedford. The city's giant tree will sparkle on the Library steps after the parade and lighting ceremony. Be sure to visit all the following to see what they have to offer:

- Arthur Moniz Gallery – 22 William St.
- ArtWorks! – 384 Acushnet Ave. Children's Craft and activities featuring – Elves' Recycling Workshop make-your-own Snowman Soup and Nature's Bounty ornaments.
- First Unitarian Church, 71 Eighth St. on Saturday from 10-2pm for their annual Holiday Fair.
- Gallery 65 at 65 William St. – offering a great selection of fine contemporary art & craft by artists from the South Coast and Cape Cod. 11-5 p.m.
- New Bedford Art Museum, 608 Pleasant St. Artist Boutique: Unique, one-of-a-kind gifts made by local artists. on Sunday only. 10 – 4 p.m.
- New Bedford Whaling Museum – 18 Johnny Cake Hill – will be open for shopping in their gift shop and the local artisan vendor fair in Jacobs Family Gallery. Live performances in the auditorium include: Saturday at 12:30 p.m. – Kathy Medina's Studio of Dance Winter Concert and at 3 p.m. Cheryl McCormack Dancers Holiday Show on Sunday at 2 p.m. The New Bedford Youth Ballet will present excerpts from A New England Nutcracker. At 3:15 p.m. Showstoppers "A Christmas Cabaret".
- New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park Visitors Center – 33 William St. Children's and family craft activities from 1-4 p.m.
- Ocean Explorium- 174 Union St. – 10-4 p.m. track Santa's journey in hi-tech on the amazing "Science on a Sphere"

and enjoy festive family crafts, such as decorating shells and Holiday themed crafts, treats of cider and cookies.- Saturday Only: Buy one admission, get one free.

- Seaman's Bethel-15 Johnny Cake Hill – performance by members of the New Bedford Symphony Youth Orchestra, 1-4 p.m.
- Travessia Winery – 760 Purchase St. Complimentary tasting of our 2009 Trapeze Pinot Noir expertly paired with Brigadeiro Barn's Dark Chocolate Raspberry Truffle. While supplies last and valid with any purchase. Sat. 12-8 p.m., Sun. 12-5 p.m.
- Whalemens Shipping List – 17 Johnny Cake Hill – – music, sweets and more. 12 – 4 p.m.
- YMCA- 25 So. Water St. – Crafts and treats.
- Zeiterion Performing Arts Center – 684 Purchase St.– Saturday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. – “A Christmas Carol” – this national production features lush sets, lavish costumes and the classic tale of a soul who is lost, then found. Tickets \$15 and up. Call 508-994-2900.

UFC 154: St. Pierre vs. Condit Preview & Results



UFC 154 – November 17, 2012 at the Bell Centre in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Main Card (Pay-Per-View):

170#: Georges St. Pierre (22-2) vs. Carlos Condit (28-5) wins by Unanimous Decision!

170#: Johny Hendricks (13-1) vs. Martin Kampmann (20-5) wins by KO in RD1!

185#: Tom Lawlor (8-4, 1 NC) vs. Francis Carmont (19-7) wins by Split Decision!

185#: Nick Ring (13-1) vs. Constantinos Philippou (11-2, 1 NC)

CANCELED

155#: Rafael dos Anjos (17-6) vs. Mark Bocek (11-4) wins by Unanimous Decision!

145#: Mark Hominick (21-11) vs. Pablo Garza (11-3) wins by Unanimous Decision!

Preliminary Card (FX Channel):

185#: Patrick Cote (25-8) vs. Alessio Sakara (15-9, 1 NC) wins by Disqualification!

205#: Cyrille Diabate (18-8) vs. Chad Griggs (11-2) wins by Rear Naked Choke in RD1!

155#: Sam Stout (18-7-1) vs. John Makdessi (9-2) wins by

Unanimous Decision!

145#: **Antonio Carvalho** (14-5) vs. Rodrigo Damm (10-5) wins by Split Decision!

Preliminary Card (Facebook):

170#: **Matthew Riddle** (6-3-1) vs John Maguire (18-4) wins by Unanimous Decision!

135#: **Ivan Menjivar** (24-9) vs. Azamat Gashimov (7-1) wins by Armbar in RD1!

145#: Steven Siler (21-9) vs. **Darren Elkins** (14-2) wins by Unanimous Decision!

Ultimate Fighting Championship 154 takes place on November 17, 2012 at the Bell Centre in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Facebook fights start at 7 p.m. EST. Preliminary card starts at 8 p.m. EST on FX Channel and Fox Deportes for Spanish language broadcast. PPV begins at 10 p.m. EST. Watch the official weigh-ins LIVE on Friday, November 16th at 4 p.m. EST and "The 'Countdown to UFC 154' show debuts at 9:30 p.m. EST Nov. 13 on FUEL TV.



by Joe
Silvia

Replays of the Countdown show on Wednesday, November 14 at 5 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET and again on Saturday, November 17 at 5:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. To watch the FREE prelims on Facebook simply visit their Facebook page and "like."

Georges St. Pierre vs. Carlos Condit

The major focal point of discussion for this fight is the time away from the octagon that GSP has had due to injury. His last fight was against Jake Shields at UFC 129 in April of last

year. Ring rust or no, GSP is more than a handful for just about anyone in his division, however his opponent Carlos Condit is one of the top guys and one of the most dangerous. Regardless of the criticism Condit received in his last fight against Nick Diaz for using movement and footwork as opposed to direct confrontation, his 26 finishes in 28 fights speak for itself.

GSP has been vocal about the criticism directed towards him for having put together a few decision wins in a row. The criticism is that he is playing it safe and doing enough to win. However, the trauma on peoples faces, multiple submission attempts, and fighting only top guys who are doing everything they can to not be finished counter the criticism. Regardless, GSP may be forced into having to finish since the pressure that Condit can place on him will place him in that situation. Even if St. Pierre had other intentions Condit will force skirmishes on him. Confrontation will be inevitable.

NBG Pick: **Georges St. Pierre.**

Johny Hendricks vs. Martin Kampmann

NCAA D1 champ Hendricks has show that he is much more than a great wrestler by KOing 7 of his opponents. His one punch KO of Jon Fitch at UFC 141 in December sent shockwaves through the Welterweight division. Knowing that you will not be able to take him down and have to box with a guy that can KO anyone with one punch is not a fun proposition for anyone.

His opponent the gritty, well rounded veteran Martin Kampmann is the kind of guy that will not be intimidated in the least. Kampmann's weakness is that his unflappability means he is aggressive in spite of his opponents' threats. Having this tactic – throwing defense to the wind – may turn out to be a bad idea against Hendricks. However, even when hurt, on wobbly legs, cut and bleeding and seemingly about to lose, Kampmann

finds a way to not only win, but finish. This is an incredibly volatile fight with both fighters coming out of this taking serious damage even in victory.

NBG Pick: **Martin Kampmann.**

Tom Lawlor vs. Francis Carmont

The ever popular fan favorite Tom Lawlor has had a luke warm career in the UFC so far, having gone 3-3. He continues in spite of his record, because he has only lost to top guys, goes out on his shield, guns for the finish and can finish at any time. His most recent performance was a KO win in 50 seconds over Jason MacDonald at UFC on Fuel 3 in May.

His opponent is the finisher Francis Carmont who is on a current 8 fight win streak. The obvious difference between the two fighters is a terms of their competition, with Lawlor having faced the distinctly better opposition. Regardless, finishing 16 in your 19 wins is pretty impressive. Lawlor needs to not throw caution to the wind, and use his better experience to utilize an effective gameplan.

NBG pick: **Tom Lawlor.**

Nick Ring vs. Constantinos Philippou

Nick Ring won his first 12 fights until he dropped a decision to Tim Boetsch at UFC 135 in September. He has since had one fight, a unanimous decision over Court McGee at UFC 149 in July, which certainly helped him gain some confidence back. Nick uses his athleticism, strength and grappling prowess to win his fights. With Constantinos Philippou he has an opponent who may actually be stronger, but prefers to keep it standing and strike. Both fighters are a bit on the "decision" making side and hopefully they understand there is pressure to put on an exciting show and get some finishes on the record.

Especially since these fighters haven't faced the cream of the crop and haven't been able to put together a lot of finishes. It will not get any easier as they climb the ranks.

NBG pick is: **Nick Ring**.

Mark Hominick vs. Pablo Garza

In what has all the makings of a Fight of the Night, Canadian Mark Hominick will face American Pablo Garza. Both fighters are aggressive and exciting. While Hominick will likely KO/TKO you, Garza will likely submit you. This contrast in styles always makes for exciting fights with each trying to impose their will and strategy and put the fight in opposing areas. Garza will find that Hominick is painted into a corner having lost 3 bouts in a row and a cut looming over his head. Hominick is one of this writer's favorite fighters and I would love nothing more than to see him back to his winning ways. Hominick is another fighter who throws caution to the wind and doesn't use much offense, but here is a fight where his opponent will likely grapple and he will need to take a page from the Liddell handbook. Since Garza is in a similar situation having lost his last two bouts we should have two fighters trying to make a statement and save their careers. Should translate into fireworks!

NBG Pick: **Mark Hominick**.

Come back for the results, updates and animated gifs. What are your picks for the headline fight between GSP and Condit? Does GSP's ring rust hurt him? Who wins the bonuses?

The Southcoast Hot Jobs List – 14 November, 2012



by
Michael
Silvia

The Greater New Bedford unemployment rate is much higher than the rest of Massachusetts, but believe it or not there really are a lot of jobs available for qualified applicants. Sometimes the barrier to a new job can be the lack of information on available job openings. To solve this, each week New Bedford Guide will be working with the New Directions Southcoast (also known as the Greater New Bedford Career Center) to inform job seekers about the hottest jobs in the area. We will define “Hot Jobs” as those jobs that need to be filled by the employer immediately. For those looking to search some large job databases, checkout my Best Job Search Resources for New Bedford Residents article. Unless noted otherwise, those interested in these positions or want more information should go to the Greater New Bedford Career Center at 618 Acushnet Avenue. Here are the Hot Jobs as of November 14th, 2012:

1. Call Center Reps #1623713 – Customer service representatives needed in New Bedford and Fall River. High call volume experience. Excellent phone skill and manners with customers. Fast paced, proficient data entry. Must have call center experience. High School. Word and data entry.

2. Programmer Analyst #1623617 –



Responsibilities:

The ideal candidate will play a role in developing, supporting, trouble-shooting, and maintaining new and existing applications. This individual must have a passion for excellence in his/her work and be highly organized and detail oriented. They must also be able to work effectively with other developers of the IT Team.

Qualifications:

Two plus years work experience working in a object-oriented development Server environment. Familiarity with XML and XSLT, web services. Must demonstrate the ability to learn new skills quickly and independently. Ability to successfully manage multiple tasks and projects.

Ability to communicate, both verbally and in writing, in a clear, concise and professional manner. Ability to translate business requirements into technical specifications and to communicate technical issues in non-technical language understood by the business. A high degree of motivation and enthusiasm. Ability to work effectively in-group situations. Must be a team player. Prior experience with manufacturing systems is a strong plus.

3. RN/Case Manager#1623599 – This company has immediate openings in New Bedford and surrounding areas. This is an excellent opening to work for a growing company. We provide skilled nursing visits to home based clients with mental health disorders. Ideal candidate will have home care and

psych experience, good communication skills, strong organizational skills as well as the ability to deal with difficult situations. Monday through Friday, no weekends or holidays. RN license, CPR certified, MA drivers license/registration/insurance on a reliable vehicle.


4. Sign Custom Metal Fabricators #1624724 – Award winning sign company seeking custom metal fabricators. Must have operational experience with Brake & Shear Equipment, MIG Welding (aluminum), and ability to read shop drawings. Competitive pay and benefits. Commitment to quality and efficient production with position attitude. Full capabilities of all power tools. Panel saws, brakes, welders a plus. Understand measuring, bolting, hoisting, use of drills. Auto CAD a plus. Knowledge of UL Electrical requirements. Ballast, transformers, LEDs, neon, lamps and wiring strongly preferred

5. Fishing Vessel Deckhand #1624752 – Job entails preparation of trawler for fishing activities: putting nets into water and retrieving them, sorting, preserving and offloading of catch. Assisting captain and riggers as needed. This job order is being filled in support of a future H2B application. Contract length: 03/01/2013 – 12/31/2013

6. Field Representatives – JO# 1624765 – The United States Census Bureau is hiring Field Representatives for the local area. The testing and interviewing will be conducted at the Greater New Bedford Career Center at 618 Acushnet Ave, New Bedford, MA.

7. Tax Return Preparer #1627133 – Tax return preparer for upcoming 2013 tax season. Potential for longer term. Experience preparing tax returns required and experience with ProSystem Fx software as well as other tax software is a plus.

Homework Helpers Cable Television Show Begins 2nd Season

The New Bedford Cable Network has announced that “Homework  Helpers,” a live show hosted by New Bedford Public Schools teachers who provide guidance to students seeking help with their homework, has begun its second season. Current and retired New Bedford Public Schools teachers host the half-hour call-in show on New Bedford’s Education Channel 17 and provide helpful instruction and advice to students tackling difficult homework questions.

Students can call into the show four days a week from 5-5:30 p.m. at (508) 979-1600 with their questions. Students may also e-mail questions to homeworkhelpers@newbedfordschools.org or leave a voice message either before or after the show at (508) 979-1760.

The show will be rebroadcast at 7:30 p.m. on the night it is taped live and again at 7:30 a.m. the next morning. Viewers can also watch the live show through the City of New Bedford website. [Click here to watch the show live!](#)

Mayor Jon Mitchell said the program is a great way for students who may be struggling with a particular subject to receive specialized guidance with their homework after regular school hours. “The teachers involved in this innovative program are really passionate about education and are looking forward to taking calls from students and helping them with any subject they may be struggling with,” said Mayor Mitchell.

The Mayor encouraged all New Bedford parents to consider the Homework Helper show a tool they can take advantage of to help their child overcome difficulties with homework problems.