

New Bedford Festival Theatre celebrates its 30th Anniversary with a sizzling production of the musical sensation MAMMA MIA!

New Bedford Festival Theatre celebrates its 30th Anniversary with a sizzling production of the musical sensation MAMMA MIA!! to be presented at the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center. Come fall in love with this feel-good show, dazzling the Zeiterion stage from July 19th-28th for 7 amazing shows.

Over 60 million people worldwide have fallen in love with the characters, the story and the music that make Mamma Mia! the ultimate feel-good show!

ABBA's hits tell the hilarious story of a young woman's search for her birth father. This sunny and funny tale unfolds on a Greek island paradise. On the eve of her wedding, a daughter's quest to discover the identity of her father brings three men from her mother's past back to the island they last visited 20 years ago.

The story-telling magic of ABBA's timeless songs propels this enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship, creating an unforgettable show. A large cast, non-stop laughs and explosive dance numbers combine to make Mamma Mia! a guaranteed smash hit. A mother. A daughter. Three possible dads. And a trip down the aisle you'll never forget!

Such memorable and danceable ABBA hits as "Money, Money," "Dancing Queen," "Lay All Your Love on Me," "Does Your Mother Know," "Take a Chance on Me," and the title song "Mamma Mia" wrap-up the story in brilliant musical numbers and energetic

and spirited choreography that will lift the spirits and hearts of all audience members.

With splendid settings and costumes and a full orchestra, the multi-talented cast of 24 will have the audience singing along and dancing in the aisles to such ABBA hits as "Money, Money," "Dancing Queen," "Super Trouper," "The Winner Takes It All," "Take a Chance on Me," and "Does Your Mother Know." Don't miss this spectacular summer celebration that will have the entire South Coast buzzing with joy! Dates are July 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 at 7:00 pm and July 21 and 28 at 2:00 pm.

Tickets are available at the Zeiterion box office, by calling 508.994.2900, or on-line at zeiterion.org/nbft-mama-mia/. Group discount rates are also available. To purchase tickets for groups of 10 or more, call 508-997-5664 x123 or email dlegge@zeiterion.org.

New Bedford Festival Theatre

684 Purchase St
New Bedford, Massachusetts
Phone: (508) 991-5212

Email: newbedfordft@aol.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NewBedfordFestivalTheatre/>

Website: nbfestivaltheatre.com/

Event Page: [facebook.com/events/688291891591185/](https://www.facebook.com/events/688291891591185/)



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684 Purchase St ♦ New Bedford, MA 02740 ♦ Phone: (508) 991-5212 ♦ Fax: (508) 991-2170

New Bedford 4th of July fireworks display 2019

Mayor Jon Mitchell and the City of New Bedford, in collaboration with event sponsor Clean Uniforms and More!, are celebrating 4th of July with a fireworks spectacular. The fireworks spectacular will take place overlooking state pier on Thursday, July 4th at 9:00pm.

New Bedford's Fourth of July fireworks display will be staged from a barge located off State Pier in New Bedford Harbor. Spectators planning to watch the display are encouraged to park downtown. Lower Union Street (east of Water Street) will be closed to vehicle traffic and will be the best spot in the Downtown New Bedford area for pedestrians to view the fireworks display.

State Pier will NOT be accessible during the fireworks and there will be no parking on State Pier on the evening of July 4th.

In addition to the generous sponsorship of Clean Uniforms and More! of the 2019 City of New Bedford Fourth of July Fireworks Display. Tucker Roy Marine Towing & Salvage and AGM Marine Contractors will again support the event this year by providing the commercial barges.

Buttonwood Park Zoo Celebrates 125 Years with Zoobilation!

The Buttonwood Park Zoological Society is celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Zoo on Saturday, July 6, with “Zoobilation” – a celebration for the whole family.

“The 125th Anniversary of the Buttonwood Park Zoo deserves to be celebrated,” says Buttonwood Park Zoological Society Board Member and Chair of the 125th Anniversary Committee, Adrienne Beauregard-Rheaume, Esq. “The Zoo has been an integral part of the South Coast community and Zoobilation will be a celebration of the Zoo as a wonderful experience for kids and grownups alike.”

Zoobilation is the pinnacle event of the Zoo’s anniversary and will deliver excitement for the entire family. Event-goers will be treated to unlimited amusement rides, encounters with zoo animals, face painting, live music, and a complimentary ice cream sundae bar. Mad Science of Southern MA & RI will be entertaining and educating while a stilt walker and juggler amaze.

Moby Dick Brewing will be onsite with a specially brewed SMASH Ale, aptly named “Zoobilation” in honor of the 125th anniversary celebration. Westport Rivers Winery and Brother’s Artisanal will also be offering their products for sale.

The event isn’t just about celebrating, but also about remembering. To commemorate the 125 year history of the Zoo, the Buttonwood Park Zoological Society will be collecting photos and memories to display at the event and to place in a

time capsule until the 150th anniversary celebration. Memories and photos can be brought day of or emailed in advance to 1894@bpzoo.org.

“It is my hope that Zoobilation will bring friends and families together to enjoy the Zoo and all it has to offer at a celebration designed for children and adults” said Beauregard-Rheaume.

Zoobilation is sponsored by Hawthorn Medical Associates and the Law Offices of Beauregard Burke and Franco.

Zoobilation will be held at the Buttonwood Park Zoo on Saturday, July 6, 2019 from 5:30 pm until 8:00 pm. Tickets for members \$11 for adults and \$7 for children; Non-members tickets are \$16 for adults and \$12 for children. Children under 2 are free.


NASA Astronaut Stephen G. Bowen to speak in New Bedford

NASA Astronaut Stephen G. Bowen will speak at ‘A Universe of Stories’ at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, 18 Johnny Cake Hill, on Saturday, June 22 at 3:00 p.m. to kick off the New Bedford Free Public Library’s summer reading program. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. The event is free, open to the public of all ages, and is provided with funding from the Enable Hope Foundation and New Bedford Free Public Library.

Stephen G. Bowen will speak about his time aboard the International Space Station. Bowen (Captain, U.S. Navy) was the first submarine officer to be selected as an astronaut by NASA Bowen is a veteran of STS-126, STS-132, and STS-133. The

STS-126 mission was the 27th International Space Station assembly mission. The crew delivered equipment and supplies as well as expanded the living quarters to house six-member crews aboard ISS. STS-132 delivered an integrated cargo carrier and a Russian mini-research module. STS-133 delivered the permanent multipurpose module and the fourth express logistics carrier to the station.

Bowen has logged more than 40 days in space, including 47 hours and 18 minutes in seven space walks. He was also the first American to fly on back-to-back space missions.



*The Enable Hope Foundation
and the New Bedford Free Public Library Present:*

A **UNIVERSE** *of Stories* with

NASA Astronaut Stephen G. Bowen
June 22nd at 3PM | Doors at 2:30
New Bedford Whaling Museum | 18 Johnny Cake Hill

Join us for a Summer Reading kick off event with a visit from NASA Astronaut Captain Stephen G. Bowen. Explore "A Universe of Stories" through the eyes of Captain Bowen and hear about his time aboard the International Space Station. This event is free, all ages, and open to the public. Brought to you with funding from the Enable Hope Foundation, the New Bedford Free Public Library and with support from the City of New Bedford Mayor's Office.

Annual Play in the Park and Summer Food Service Program offers FREE, healthy lunch and activities to New Bedford youth all summer long

I'm a firm believer that genuine deeds of kindness, selflessness and generosity deserve to be recognized. While most people I know that possess these traits aren't looking for the recognition, I think it is important to share because it not only shows the community the good that is therein but will become infectious. This is important for others to see, because it can soften the heart of the adult cynic, and will certainly be powerful in forming young minds and personalities.

Did you know that there is a program in the city whereby our youth can gather all summer to take part in supervised, safe and fun activities and also eat healthy meals to fuel up and have even more fun? There is and many aren't even aware of it.



The “Play in the Park” summer food service program that the New Bedford Parks, Recreation and Beaches operates is an absolutely stellar and generous program that has a powerful impact in the community. Promoting health, wellness, nutrition and outdoor activities are just a few of the objectives. What does that specifically entail for youth in greater New Bedford through the coming summer months?

It means that with over 20 outdoor sites throughout the city and new ones coming, there are many fun, safe, structured recreational and educational activities they can participate in and also enjoy a **free** lunch. The goal is to get youth outside, stay active, make some new friends, sharpen social skills, and eat healthy during the summer months.

This year a new dinner program called Summer EATS will be introduced. As part of the Summer Food Program it will be running on Tuesday and Thursday nights from 4:00pm-7:00pm at Montes Park. Izzy’s Food Truck will be giving out free dinner to anyone 18 and under and there will be arts & crafts, games, and a free Ben Rose Recreational Basketball clinic during the dinners. The dinner program is rain or shine at Montes Park!

There is no need to sign up for anything – the only requirement is to be 18 and under and want to have a blast. Simply make plans and show up. These free youth activities take place at a variety of sites throughout the city that are strategically located in neighborhoods to maximize access for youth and/or are operated in collaboration with community partners who serve youth across the city. Want to plan to participate but concerned about rain? Not a problem as there are half a dozen indoor and covered sites. So, if you are a parent or guardian go right ahead and plan out the summer.



What I love about the way that the program determines the curriculum of a site's activities is that they are not rote pre-determined activities, but the staff is so packed with creative ideas that they vary the day depending on the group of kids that show up that day. I call it "structured

spontaneity” and it is a sure fire way to create a fun environment. A variety of crafts, games, and sports are utilized so as to appeal to every personality and interest. Even if your child is a bookworm there is something: the Art-Mobile and Book-Mobile also make visits to many of their sites.

A program of this caliber has to be spearheaded by people who care about the community and have a deep love for it. That way those characteristics trickle down to everyone involved. Like attracts like and if you have ever participated in any of the “Play in the Park” programs over the years, you know how evident this is and if you are planning on participating, you will find out.

“All of the staff in our program are New Bedford residents and it allows us to offer many summer positions and job training to them, especially to the many teenage employees we hire. For some of them this is their first job experience and then year after year they tell us how much they love working in our program and being able to give back to their community,” states New Bedford Parks, Recreation & Beaches programs and events manager for Alexandria Matthews.



The program which facilitates and operates over 65 food sites throughout the city has been a smashing success by serving tens of thousands of meals to low-income youth since it has been running – in 2018 alone they served well over 82,000 meals. Think about the impact on the community this outreach has considering that for many kids it is the only real nutritional meal they will have all week.

While the Summer Food Service Program runs throughout the country, here in New Bedford the program is called “Play in the Park” and it has been running since at least the 1960s. “We strive to reach more families and give out as many meals as possible,” explains Mary Rapoza, the Director of New

Bedford Parks, Recreation & Beaches. ”

Parents and grandparents come into our office all the time and tell us their first job was working in “Play in the Park” and let us know about all the great memories they still have of working in the program or they’ll tell us about their favorite thing they used to do with the staff as kids participating in the program.”

The powerful effect of a program that gets the local youth together, gives them an outlet, way to have fun and get fed can’t be stated enough. “Many of the kids that show up at our “Play in the Park” sites come every single day and form a close bond with the staff in our program. It gives them a good role model to look up to and learn from. The staff knows most of the kids who come to their sites by name and what their favorite sports or crafts are and by the end of the summer the staff are always sad when the kids have to go back to school.”



This highlights their “Of the community, for the community, by the community” ethos that drives everything that the program

and everyone involved with it does.

Like last year, there will be two big events to kick-off the Summer Food Service Program/Play in the Park. **The first will be on Thursday, June 27 at Montes Park from 4:00pm-7:00pm** and will feature Izzy's Food Truck who will be providing the mouth-watering food FREE of charge to all youth 18 and under from 5-6PM. There will be Basketball from 4-7PM with a recreational coach from the Ben Rose Recreational Education Center plus lots of arts & crafts as well as games.

This day will provide the community with a glimpse at what every Tuesday and Thursday will be like through August 22nd, excluding July 4th: FREE meals for kid & teens and lots of fun and healthy activities. See the flyer here.

The second on Friday, June 28 at Brooklawn Park from 11:00am-2:00pm. The special details of these kick-off events are yet to be declared but we'll update this article as soon as they are announced.

Added this year during the lunch program there will be **free** lawn bowling program at Hazelwood Park, Mondays and Fridays. The Hayden-McFadden Elementary playground will be the site for the gardening program, a great way for the kids to get their green thumb.

As always, there will, of course, be plenty of activities like face painting, henna tattoos, caricatures, arts & crafts, sports, games and all kinds of hands-on fun at both kick off events!



“We have so much going on this year at our kick-off events and we hope that lots of families will be able to come out and enjoy them!” enthused Alexandria Matthews. I am confident that anyone that shows up for these kick-off events will get a glimpse of that enthusiasm which is shared by everyone at New Bedford Parks, Recreation & Beaches. Once you get a taste of the kick-off events, you will be starving for more and your kids will be tugging at your coattails to make sure plans are made for the summer involving the “Play in the Park.”

Annual partners in the Play in the Park and Summer Food Program are the Mayor’s Office, the New Bedford Public Schools Department, the New Bedford Housing Authority, the Boys and Girls Club, the YWCA, Community Boating Center, Trips for Kids, and many other community-based agencies. For more information about the program contact Alexandrea.Matthews@newbedford-ma.gov 508-961-3015.

New Bedford Parks, Recreation & Beaches

WHEN: *Monday-Friday from June 19-August 23*

Lunch: Monday – Friday from 11 am to 2 pm

Dinner: Montes Park Tuesday & Thursday 4 pm to 7 pm

WHERE: It will be held at parks, playgrounds, and housing sites across New Bedford. *Locations subject to change.

- Ashley Park
- Brickenwood Housing
- Brooklawn Park
- Buttonwood Park
- Clasky Common Park
- Dottin Place Housing
- Harrington Park
- Hayden-McFadden Playground
- Hazelwood Park
- Gomes School Playground
- Montes Park (Dinner Only)
- Noah's Playground
- Nashmont Housing
- Parkdale Housing
- Presidential Heights Housing
- Riverside Park Playground
- Roberto Clemente Park
- Ruth Street Playground
- Satellite Housing
- Shawmut Village Housing
- Westlawn Housing

On rain days meals will still be provided at Andrea McCoy Recreation Center, Brooklawn Park, Montes Park (dinner), Roberto Clemente, Riverside Park, West Beach Pavilion.

Phone: 508-961-3015

Website: www.NBPRB.com

Facebook: facebook.com/NBParksRecreationBeaches/

Email: infopr@newbedford-ma.gov



Downtown New Bedford Public Library to hold Drag Queen Story Time June 29

The downtown New Bedford Public Library at 613 Pleasant Street will host Story Time with Rhode Island's Drag Queen Jacqueline DiMera at 11 am on June 29th. The event is open to all ages and no registration is required and will be held in the Children's Room.

The programming is part of Pride Month.





Drag Queen
STORY HOUR



Join us at the Main Library
Children's Room on Saturday,
June 29th, at 11am for Story Time
with Rhode Island's Drag
Sweetheart Jacqueline DiMera

All ages are welcome for this free
event and no registration is
required. Hope to see you there!

Let's Celebrate:

- *June is LGBTQIA PRIDE MONTH
 - *Diverse Literacy at Your Library
 - *15 Years for Same-Sex Marriage
Legalized in MA 
 - *50th Anniversary of Stonewall Riots
 - *LGBTQ History now in MA Curriculum
- 

Blount Fine Foods announces job fair to be held on June 25th in Fall River

Are you looking to work with a growing company? Come see what Blount has to offer you and add some spice to your work life.

Join Blount for their Onsite Job Fair on Tuesday, June 25, 2019 from 3 PM – 6 PM at their location at 575 Currant Road, Fall River.

Have the opportunity to speak with supervisors at the event and hear about their superior benefits package, competitive wages and room for advancement. Many opportunities for machine

operators, warehouse associates, food prep individuals, quality control, quality assurance and much more! See what Blount has to offer you!

Blount Fine Foods offers competitive wages, medical, dental and vision benefits; 401k with Company match and Profit Sharing Plan; Paid time off including vacation, sick time and holidays; Education Assistance Program; Life Insurance and Short Term Disability; Discounts on Blount products at Company retail locations.

Can't make the job fair? Apply directly at www.blountjobs.com

Blount Fine Foods is an equal opportunity employer & prohibits unlawful discrimination based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, national origin/ancestry, age, disability, marital, & veteran status.

Follow the event on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/622641274879351>



New Bedford Cape Verdean Recognition Parade Set For July 6th

The Traffic Division of the New Bedford Police Department announces that the annual Cape Verdean Recognition Parade will be held on Saturday, July 6, 2019.

The Parade will form at Buttonwood Park at 9:00 am and will step off sharply at 11:00 am from Union St. and Rockdale Ave. The route will be East on Union St. to Acushnet Ave., South on Acushnet Ave., to Grinnell St., West on Grinnell St., then right, North on Purchase St., ending at the Cape Verdean-American Veterans Hall, 561 Purchase St.

Parking is banned along the entire parade route and the ban will be strictly enforced. Illegally parked vehicles WILL be towed at the owner's expense.

The public is once again being asked to cooperate in order to make this a successful parade celebration.

New Bedford Resilient Community Day: music, food trucks, basketball, animals, arts & crafts and more

Come learn about New Bedford's plan for climate action and resilience while enjoying activities, food trucks, music,

games and more.

New Bedford launched NB Resilient, a plan to strengthen the city by preparing for the impacts of climate change. New Bedford's greatest asset is its people, and NB Resilient will have the greatest impact if everyone is involved.

The City is hosting NB Resilient Community Day, an event to learn about the plan, celebrate sustainability, and have a blast doing it.

Activities will include:

- Sustainable art and crafts
- Animals from Buttonwood Park Zoo
- Basketball with the New Bedford Police Department
- A raffle with exciting prizes
- Music
- Food trucks

The event will be held in Magnett Park, 370 Middle Street and will be a great activity for the whole family! The event is free to the public. Registration is appreciated, but not required.

For more information, or to register, visit www.nb-resilient-community-day.eventbrite.com.

Please reach out to Michele Paul, Director of Resilience and Environmental Stewardship, at michele.paul@newbedford-ma.gov with any questions.

New Bedford to raise the LGBTQ flag over City Hall on June 13

According to the New Bedford mayor's office, the LGBTQ flag will be raised over New Bedford's city hall during AHA! Pride and will remain through the rest of June in support of LGBT Pride Month.

AHA! is a monthly celebration in downtown New Bedford. Dozens of LGBTQ centric events are planned from 5-9 pm and can be seen [here](#).