

OPINION: Chantele Bruno's murder shows New Bedford's lack of respect of personal space

The following essay was submitted to us by Jeff Taylor. Have an opinion to share? Email mike@newbedfordguide.com.

"With the news coming out recently regarding the unfortunate murder of Chantele Bruno, I feel it's time to discuss what many of us know to be true to New Bedford: Lack of respect of personal space.

In a city so congested, understandably it can be difficult to find personal space. A place we have full control over whether it be temperature, noise, smell, etc. Within that quest for personal space lies the responsibility to also respect others' space. We've all heard that car at the car wash or the gas station, blasting offensive music. We've been inside our apartments, and heard somebody cleaning their car down the block. I myself have had neighbors so loud picture frames would shake off my wall, I've had kids hanging out in front of my place so loudly my (then) infant son was unable to sleep.

This all adds to the stressful climate of the city, and leads to choices of how to react. Just live miserably, sacrificing your peace so the neighborhood narcissist has a good day? Or complain to the landlord or the police? Neither of these are productive or generally healthy.

The answer is RESPECT PERSONAL SPACE. The stress level within the confines of New Bedford is through the roof, and given we all have choices of how we act/react we ought to choose respect. Respect our neighbors, daily life will be better for all. Trust me." – Jeff Taylor

It's your responsibility to clear your car after a snowfall

With each snowfall, comes responsibilities – the city and state must salt, sand and plow the roads. We citizens have our responsibilities too; we have to clear our driveway, walkways, sidewalks and cars.

However, with each snowfall, we see the same laziness or ignorance of the law and responsibilities and these create added dangerous conditions to the already dangerous conditions on the road. It is difficult enough to drive in wintry conditions, so making it even more dangerous for yourself and others ends up doing no one any good.

The vast majority of the issues stem from laziness and in some cases, it's ignorance. Not ignorance in a demeaning or insulting way, but in a manner that simply means not knowing. However, in this information age and with people glued to their computers and smart phones and the information circulating everywhere, there is really no excuse. You don't want to actually focus on the information and follow it AFTER you've been in an accident, harmed yourself or others or even worse cause mortal injury.

After someone reads this, the only excuse left is sheer laziness. This is when you are taking a gamble with your health, wallet, and the health of others – a gamble that you will eventually lose. It's only a matter of time before you are in an accident, get a ticket that also raises your insurance rates, or cause an accident. Don't gamble. We all

know that the house always wins. You may go “home” once in a while with winning more than you paid in, but you won’t be able to make that the case always. The house always wins.

While technically it is not illegal to leave to snow on your windshield or top of the car, you can STILL get a ticket – so even if you want to ignore the safety benefits, or be a productive member of society and the community, your wallet will take a hit. State and local police can prohibit you from using the roads if snow or ice, could potentially fall from your car and endanger individuals/property. It is within their authority to issue tickets and/or fines.

TIPS TO PREVENT AN ACCIDENT OR TICKET

Remove the snow from your windshields:

Sounds simple, right? Apparently it’s not.

Many think that that means just quickly scrape whatever snow is obscuring the driver’s view – leaving snow on the passenger side and/or back windshield. Don’t be lazy – a state trooper or local police officer will ticket you and hopefully before you get in an accident or cause one. You need to be able to see all around your vehicle. Why would you do something that would make it so you CAN’T see multi-ton death machines coming at you? Don’t you want to see what others are doing, especially if they are sliding towards you, not paying attention.

People will often say, they don’t have time. In an era when people send 50 texts or more a day – none of which are more important than your safety or life – I find it hard to believe you don’t have enough time. You do. And guess what? You’ll have plenty of time when you are on the side of the road waiting for an officer to write your ticket or for the tow truck to take your banged car to a repair shop.

Impeded operation from snow on the windows is a \$40 fine.

Remove the snow from the TOP of your car:

Another common foul. Not removing the snow on top of the car means that time goes on, the snow starts packing together and creates little blocks, sheets or chunks. All of the snow can slough off at once once you are on the road and the wind drag increases – it can cover the windshield of the car behind you. It has happened to me a number of times and the heavy, compact snow will make it difficult for you wipers to remove in a timely fashion. Very dangerous.

An Unsecured Load from having snow and/or ice on the roof will set you back \$200. Even worse, if that sheet of snow from the roof (or even the windshields) causes a crash, you can face additional civil or criminal liability and charged with Negligent Operation.

Clear the license plates:

While this one isn't dangerous, it's a red flag for any police officer. It looks pretty suspicious – one has to wonder why something that literally will take 2 seconds, wasn't done. Knowing many police officers, I can't tell you how many times they have said they have pulled over a car for the most minor of things – sometimes not even to the intent to ticket or arrest someone – and it turns into an arrest once the plate and license is run through the system.

If you have warrants, your registration or inspection sticker has expired, you have something illegal on you or in your car, or you have other violations that turn up only because you were pulled over... you can only blame yourself for the ignorant act of not clearing your windshields and license plate. You basically asked to get pulled over and put a flashing neon sign on your car saying "LOOK AT ME OFFICER!!!"

Clear the headlights and wipers:

When it snows, visibility is reduced. Having your lights on

and visible helps others see you. We're in this together, so helping others, helps you. In Massachusetts you can get a ticket for using your wipers and not having your lights on anyway.

The Massachusetts DOT RMV states *"Massachusetts drivers should remove ice and snow from your vehicle before driving. Clear all windows, windshield, wipers, headlights, and brake lights. Clear the roof so ice and snow does not blow into vehicles behind you."*

It's the law, it's safe practice, it's the responsible, ethical adult thing to do.

Opinion: Little is being done about bullying at Parker Elementary School

Do you have a child that goes to a school in New Bedford, is subject to bullying, but getting little to no response or action for the school? Kourtney shares her grievance:

"My daughter is a 10 yr old 5th grader at Parker Elementary School and she is one of 8 students being bullied by one particular girl. There have been multiple reports on the bully from others in the class.

I'm just wondering how many more kids feel targeted and does the school actually steps up? The children should feel safe in school and mine doesn't. Totally unfair. The school keeps saying that they are taking care of it but there are seven

kids before my daughter that had complaints with nothing done about it.”

Have an opinion to share? E-mail mike@newbedfordguide.com

Opinion: Why doesn't the mayor fine homeowners that do not clear sidewalks?

Here's a letter to the New Bedford Guide editor concerning homeowners that do not clear their sidewalks:

“My question is how come the City of New Bedford during snowy times can implement a parking ban and raise over \$30,000, to which we see NOT where it goes and they are able to ticket the disabled, pregnant, low income people, but can't fine all of these slum lords and homeowners that do not clear their sidewalks?

Is it more of a concern for the City that doesn't even do a decent job at plowing to make sure that cars are fined but we can sit here and watch all these little children walk in the middle of the road to school and no one bats an eye. It's disgusting. I'm a homeowner and I clear my sidewalk, partly because I'm supposed to or receive a fine and partly because I was taught to do the right thing. Year after year, why does the mayor not DO something about it!” – Annie Garcia

Have an opinion to share? E-mail mike@newbedfordguide.com

Live with New Bedford Police Chief Joseph Cordeiro and Lt. Rezendes

Live with New Bedford Police Chief Joseph Cordeiro and public information officer Lt. Rezendes to discuss New Bedford issues.

Chris Resendes Show with doctors Michael Rocha and Bonnie Boerl

Chris Resendes Show sat down with Dr. Mike Rocha and Dr Bonnie Boerl to discuss the medical field's role in creating the Opioid Epidemic and what they've done now to help fight it.

They'll also touch upon programs and ideas that will help our children stay away from drug abuse.

The LGBTQ Voice – Parents with LGBTQ children

Join The LGBTQ Voice for their fourth episode! In this episode, we will chat with parents with LGBTQ children.

Catch The LGBTQ Voice on New Bedford Guide's Facebook page every Tuesday at 7pm.

OPINION: Where's the leadership from the Oval Office during the #TrumpShutdown?

By Bruce Ditata

On the anniversary of his inauguration as POTUS, Donald J. Trump yearned for a Mar-a-Lago getaway, celebratory gala with his deep-pocketed cronies, the exhilaration of basking in praise he always yearns for.

Instead, he found himself shuttered in the White House, unable to join the opulent festival at his beloved Florida retreat. Outside the security moat on Pennsylvania Avenue, protestors chanted slogans, pounded drums, carried signs-against Trump and his policies, as well as for women's and immigration advocacy. It was one of hundreds of women's marches across the nation to coincide with the anniversary of the President's inauguration.

A short distance away from the executive offices on Capitol Hill, lawmakers lobbed verbal grenades across the aisles in the United States Senate after a vote to keep the government running, which failed on the day before Trump's anniversary.

The vitriol flowed like the champagne at Mar-a-Lago with Democratic and Republican members blaming each other for the government shutdown which, officially, began on January 20.

Democratic Senators perseverated on their unwillingness to "kick the can down the road" on the need to establish long term funding and public policy agreements to fund the Dream Act, border security, military personnel, children health insurance, medical facilities, and immigration legislation.

Republican Senators, conversely, accused their Democratic colleagues of being intransigent on issues they have always supported for the sake of one single issue- the Dream Act- the long established program due to expire in March of 2018 which offers a path to citizenship for the offspring of illegal immigrants, young people who call America their home, the only country they have even known.

Meanwhile, the stalemate in the Senate rages on and the government shutdown continues, a situation labelled as "trench warfare." It has elicited harsh attacks against Democratic Senators by Trump subordinates, while the President has remained, mostly, silent with the exception of an anti-Democratic Party tweet and an aggressive, campaign style attack advertisement.

Where is the leadership from the Oval Office, the decisive intervention of a self-proclaimed deal maker, who railed against his predecessor, Barack Obama, for failure to bring both political parties to the negotiating table?

Without Trump working decisively to end the impasse, does this stalemate, causing the federal government to grind to a halt- the question becomes will historians in point of fact,

accurately categorize it as the #TrumpShutdown?

The LGBTQ Voice – “T” in LGBTQ

On last week's The LGBTQ Voice episode, Dan asked the youth and elders if they struggle with the “T” in LGBT.

Watch the full episode here:
<https://www.newbedfordguide.com/the-lgbtq-voice-show-episode-2-youth-and-elders/2018/01/14>

Catch The LGBTQ Voice on New Bedford Guide's Facebook page every Tuesday at 7pm.

The LGBTQ Voice – What can New Bedford do better for the LGBTQ community?

On last week's The LGBTQ Voice episode, Dan asked if New Bedford is doing enough for the LGBTQ community.

Watch the full episode here:
<https://www.newbedfordguide.com/the-lgbtq-voice-show-episode-2-youth-and-elders/2018/01/14>

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