

# New Bedford Hurricane Sandy Update and Services



**October 30th update can be found at:** <http://www.newbedfordguide.com/city-of-new-bedford-services-update/2012/10/30>.

Here is an update from Mayor Jon Mitchell on New Bedford services for Hurricane Sandy. We will update this often so check back for updates!

## **New Bedford Hurricane Barrier Street Gates Closed**

The City of New Bedford in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has closed the hurricane gates on East and West Rodney French Boulevards and on Cove Road. Residents will still be able to enter and exit the peninsula using Brock Avenue. The gates will remain closed for the duration of the storm.

## **South Dartmouth Being Evacuated**

Police say there is a mandatory evacuation for the south area of Dartmouth because of Hurricane Sandy. Police officers are going door to door to alert residents if they are in the area that needs to evacuate. Read more here.

## **New Bedford Public Schools Closed on Tuesday**

New Bedford Public Schools, including after school and night programs, will be closed for a second day tomorrow, Tuesday, October 30, 2012.

## **New Bedford City Offices Closed on Tuesday**

City offices will be closed for a second day, tomorrow Tuesday, October 30, 2012 including City Hall, the public libraries, senior centers, and the Buttonwood Park Zoo. Only City employees designated as essential should report to work.

## **Sandbags Distributed to City Residents**

City crews continue to fill sandbags and are distributing them to City residents at the City Yard on Liberty Street. Residents should call the City yard **first** to confirm the availability of bags 508-991-6133. The supply of bags that the City had been making available at 1105 Shawmut Ave. (DPI) has been exhausted with more than 2,000 bags distributed. Residents should no longer go to the Shawmut Avenue location.

## **The Southeastern Regional Transit Authority Shutting Down**

The Southeastern Regional Transit Authority has announced plans to suspend services at 3:30 PM today, Monday, October 29. Plans for resumption of service will be announced based on road and weather conditions. Residents can call 508-999-5211 for information about the status of SRTA services.

## **Voluntary Evacuation Recommended for Low-lying Areas**

This afternoon, the Mayor recommended that residents in homes along Padanaram Avenue, and low-lying areas that traditionally experience flooding along East and West Rodney French Boulevard evacuate their properties by 8:00 a.m. on Monday, October, 29th. There is no mandatory evacuation order in effect at this time, but it is strongly suggested in light of

the predicted high storm surge in these vulnerable areas.

The New Bedford Police Department will man security checkpoints to limit access to the South End (from the intersections of Cove Street and East and West Rodney French Boulevard, and Padanaram Avenue). Police will also limit local travel throughout the South End. In order to protect the public and ensure the safety of emergency personnel, no one will be permitted to travel to the South End to watch the storm.

### **NSTAR Power Outage Tracker**

<http://outagemap.nstar.com/outage/OutageMap.aspx>

### **Shelters**

As of 8:00 p.m. tonight, city officials will open Keith Middle School, 225 Hathaway Boulevard for those residents who are in need of shelter. The Keith Middle School shelter is a “pet friendly” shelter. Residents are allowed to bring pets with them to the shelter when they evacuate. Individuals needing transportation to the Keith shelter should call the New Bedford Police Department non-emergency line at (508) 991-6350.

As of 7:00 a.m. Monday morning, the soup kitchen at Pilgrim Church, 634 Purchase Street will also be open to those seeking food and shelter throughout the storm.

Both the Keith and Pilgrim Church shelters will be equipped with staff, food, and cots. Residents should bring blankets, prescription medication, and toiletries with them.

### **New Bedford Public Schools Closed on Monday**

New Bedford Public Schools, including after school and night programs, will be closed tomorrow, Monday, October 29, 2012. No decision has been made yet on whether school will be in session on Tuesday, October 30, 2012.

## **New Bedford City Offices Closed on Monday**

City offices will be closed tomorrow Monday, October 29, 2012 including City Hall, the public libraries, senior centers, and the Buttonwood Park Zoo. New Bedford Regional Airport will remain in operation for as long as it remains safe. Passengers should contact their air carriers, including Cape Air, directly to confirm their flight status. Only City employees designated as essential should report to work. No decision has been made yet on whether city offices will be open on Tuesday, October 30, 2012.

## **Trash Collection Schedule Delayed Two Days**

The normal trash collection schedule will be delayed by 2 days. For example, if your trash is normally collected on Monday, it will be collected on Wednesday this week. If your trash is normally collected on Tuesday, it will be collected on Thursday this week, and so on...

## **Anticipated Closure of the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier**

The Army Corps of Engineers has indicated that the New Bedford Hurricane Barrier may close as early as 5:00 a.m. on Monday, October 29, 2012. The Mayor urged all vessel owners to plan to be inside the harbor prior to 5:00 a.m. on Monday, October 29, 2012. The Army Corps will make a determination regarding the closure of the barrier street gates at Padanaram Avenue, West Rodney French Boulevard and East Rodney French Boulevard based on the severity of any storm surge. **Update: The New Bedford Hurricane Barrier was closed around 3 p.m. on Monday, 29 October.**

## **New Bedford Airport**

All scheduled airline flights at New Bedford Regional Airport have been cancelled today. Passengers should check with their airline concerning flights scheduled for Tuesday, October 30. The Airport remains open as of 8:30 a.m. this morning.

## **Important Emergency Contact Numbers**

- To report a downed power line, medical, fire or other emergencies please dial 911.
- NSTAR is prepared to address and damage and outages resulting from the storm and encourages customers whose electric service is affected to call 1-800-592-2000. NSTAR strongly urges people to stay away from all down wires and to report them immediately.
- To report a fallen tree or branch, please contact the New Bedford City Yard at (508) 991-6133.
- New Bedford Police Department can also be reached on its Non-emergency line at (508) 991-6350
- Please visit the City's website at [www.newbedford-ma.gov](http://www.newbedford-ma.gov) for more information and updates regarding Hurricane Sandy.

Here is New Bedford's official Hurricane Preparedness Checklist ([http://newbedford-ma.gov/Mayor/PressReleases2012/-Hurricane\\_Preparedness\\_Checklist.pdf](http://newbedford-ma.gov/Mayor/PressReleases2012/-Hurricane_Preparedness_Checklist.pdf)) and a general one ([http://newbedford-ma.gov/Mayor/PressReleases2012/-Hurricane\\_Preparedness.ENGLISH.pdf](http://newbedford-ma.gov/Mayor/PressReleases2012/-Hurricane_Preparedness.ENGLISH.pdf)). For Spanish readers: [http://newbedford-ma.gov/Mayor/PressReleases2012/-Hurricane\\_Preparedness.SPANISH.pdf](http://newbedford-ma.gov/Mayor/PressReleases2012/-Hurricane_Preparedness.SPANISH.pdf).

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# **New Bedford Schools Closed for Monday, October 29th**

Per Mayor Jon Mitchell, all public schools in New Bedford will be closed on Monday, October 29th due to Hurricane Sandy. No decision has been made yet on whether school will be in session on Tuesday, October 30, 2012. Additionally, Umass Dartmouth has cancelled their classes for Monday. details: <http://www.umassd.edu/>.



Umass Dartmouth

Details on shelters, emergency phone numbers, trash services and the Hurricane Barrier closing: <http://www.newbedfordguide.com/new-bedford-hurricane-sandy-update-and-services/2012/10/28>

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## **Downtown New Bedford Trick-or-Treat Event**

Downtown New Bedford, Inc. is inviting all New Bedford area children to put on their costume, grab an adult, and head to Downtown New Bedford this Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 11:00am–2:00pm for trick-or-treating! Downtown New Bedford businesses participating in the first “All Treats, No Tricks” event will be handing out treats to elementary school age children dressed in costume.



Downtown New Bedford Inc. Executive Director Diane Arsenault said, “This weekend is a great opportunity to visit downtown businesses and do some local shopping. We are encouraging the public to bring along their children in costume to collect Halloween treats from participating merchants.”

Mayor Jon Mitchell said, “Downtown New Bedford will be bustling with activity this weekend as the city is hosting the Connecting for Change Conference and this is a great time for families to visit their favorite downtown restaurants and shops and check out new ones.”

Children may collect treats from the following Downtown merchants:

- be jeweled – 26 Centre Street
- Bristol Community College – 188 Union Street
- The Bay/The Cottage – 89 North Water Street
- The Bedford Merchant – 28 William Street
- Cafe Arpeggio – 800 Purchase Street
- Carter’s Clothing & Footwear – 55 William Street

- Celia's Boutique – 111 William Street
  - Cork Wine & Tapas – 90 Front Street
  - Destination Soups – 149 Union Street
  - Dunkin' Donuts – 231 Union Street
  - Fairfield Inn – 185 MacArthur Drive
  - For Veda Boutique – 763 Purchase Street
  - Judith Klein Art Gallery – 98 William Street
  - Moby Dick Retail – 27 William Street
  - Muse Cards & Gifts – 516 Pleasant Street
  - NB Art Museum – 608 Pleasant Street, noon-2pm
  - NB Whaling National Historical Park Visitor's Center – 33 William Street
  - Ocean Explorium – 174 Union Street
  - St. Anne Credit Union – 93 Union Street, 11am-noon
  - YMCA – 25 South Water Street
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## **Buttonwood Park Zoo Welcomes Home Its Beloved Harbor Seals**



Today the Buttonwood Park Zoo and Mayor Jon Mitchell welcomed the return of the zoo's harbor seals (Sandy and Yellow) to their newly renovated exhibit. The main entrance to the Buttonwood Park Zoo is located at 425 Hawthorn Street, New Bedford, Massachusetts, 02740. To learn more about the harbor seals at the zoo: <http://bpzoo.org/our-animals/mammals/harbor-seal/>.



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## New Bedford Food Pantry List



by  
Michael  
Silvia

Recently, The Standard Times reported that several food pantries were dangerously low on food items with some even forced to close their doors to hungry visitors. The story boosted the food stocks temporarily, but more can be done for the long-term. I'm certain most of us have a few items that we can spare sitting in our cupboards. Also, the next time you go grocery shopping, you can spend a few extra dollars and pick up a few additional items. If you see some deep discount items buy a bunch and stop by the closest food pantry on our list on your way home. You can also donate money so that the pantries can purchase perishable items they need the most. Your generosity will go a long way.

I coordinated with the Mayor's office and they provided me a

list of food pantries that provide services throughout New Bedford. I also discovered a Southcoast, Massachusetts food pantries list that provides details on pantries in New Bedford and the surrounding towns. I suggest calling ahead to confirm the drop off times, what they accept and most importantly what they need the most.

## City of New Bedford Provides Pantry List



### **Mercy Meals and More**

634 Purchase Street

508-728-1489

Mon–Thurs 7-7:30am

### **Braz/Bean Community Center**

508.979.1737

360 Coggeshall St.

Mon–Thurs 9-1 p.m. (available 1x every 30 days). ID and/or MA Health card required.

### **Catholic Social Services**

508.997.7337

238 Bonney St. (in back of O. L. of Mt. Carmel R. C. Church)

Wed. & Thurs. 10-12 p.m. (available 1x every 30 days). Min. 18 years-old, proofs of income & residency, pic. ID, MA Health ID required for all children. Bread, non-perishable foods and fresh produce.

**Grace Episcopal Church**

508.993.0547

133 School St.

Wed. & Fri. 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. (available 1x per month / 12 x per yr. Photo ID required and children's insurance cards.

**M0 Food = Life Pantry**

508.992.5978

724 Pleasant Street Wed. 10-Noon (available 3 x every 30 days). For adults, picture ID & proof of income, ID for family members.

**Mobile Loaves and Fishes**

Food/clothing available at sites across the city: Sat: Salvation

Army parking lot 11:30 AM, Th: NB Main Library 12:00 PM, Fr: PAACA 5:30 PM, Tu and Th: NB Bus Terminal 5:30 PM

**P.A.C.E.**

508.999.9920

166 William St.

Mon-Fri (new walk-ins or received no service w/in past yr.: 9-11, all others by appointment). Available 1x every 3 months, if PACE client, 1x per month. Referral, Picture ID & verification of dependents required.

**The Salvation Army**

508.997.6561

619 Purchase St.

Mon-Fri 8:30-Noon & 1-3 (available 1x every 3 months). Required: ID for household members & proof of residence for appt. 3-5 days of food / clothing vouchers for fire victims only.

**St. Anthony's Church**

508.993.1611

Nye St. Entrance (enter through church basement door). Thurs. @ Noon (1x every other week) Picture. ID and MA Health.

**Missionaries of Charity**

508.997.7347

Appt. required. Accepting referrals from service providers only.

**St. Martin's Church**

508.264.1520

136 Rivet St.

2nd and last Saturday 10-11 and last Tu 5-6, (1 x per month).

**Veterans Transition House**

508.991.8791

20 Willis St.

Veterans only! (1 x per month) Copy of DD214 and proof of residency required Contact: Moe Mann X 24.

**St. Paul's United Methodist Church**

884 Kempton Street

New Bedford, MA 02740

Tel. 508-993-0614

Mobile Loaves Fishes is a mission of St. Paul's Church

**New Bedford Guide Facebook User Suggested  
Pantry List****Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish**

230 Bonney Street New Bedford, MA 02744

Phone: (508) 993-4704 Fax: (508) 991-5536

**Shepherd's Pantry**

1215 Main St Acushnet

Saturdays from 9-11AM.

508-763-9289

**St Martin's Pantry**

Open the 3rd Saturday 10-11am and the Last Tuesday 5-6pm.

**Mount Carmel Church (Rivet Street)**

Did I miss a food pantry? Post a reply and we'll add it!

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# Public Wireless Internet Comes to New Bedford City Hall

The City of New Bedford has implemented a computer network upgrade that establishes new public wireless internet access and improves internal communication between municipal offices.



As part of the effort, City Hall now joins the City's public library branches in offering public wireless internet service. Other municipal sites, including the New Bedford Airport and the Buttonwood Park Zoo, will soon offer the same Wi-Fi access.

Mayor Jon Mitchell heralded the wireless project, "In an age of smart phones, iPads, and laptops, public Wi-Fi service is a necessity not a luxury. It is going to make life a lot easier for both visitors and residents doing business at City Hall. This is a great example of our efforts to bring the City's communications systems into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century."

The service does not require a security key for access and will allow anyone, within range of the signal, unlimited access to the Internet with some limitations. The public

access complies with the FCC's Children Internet Protection Act (CIPA) in order to protect children from accessing inappropriate material. Anyone attempting to visit a website considered inappropriate by the content filter will be redirected to the City of New Bedford home page. These same safeguards are used in the public libraries.

In order to ensure high speed connection on the network, the City has restricted the ability to stream audio or video signals between 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.

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## **New Bedford City Council Agenda – October 11th, 2012**

The following is the agenda for the scheduled City Council session scheduled for Thursday, October 11th, 2012.

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## **New Bedford Teachers Agree to New Labor Contract**

The New Bedford School Committee has approved the agreement that Mayor Jon Mitchell and New Bedford Public Schools Interim Superintendent Michael R. Shea reached with the leaders of the New Bedford Educators Association on a labor contract for New Bedford teachers.



The three-year contract includes groundbreaking changes that will support the school department's efforts to improve academic quality, increase the graduation rate, and close achievement gaps.

"This agreement represents a major leap forward for the New Bedford Public Schools. New Bedford teachers have really stepped up and put students first," Mayor Mitchell said.

He added, "The contract provides teachers with the support they need. It gives schools the flexibility they need. And most importantly, it will put us on a path toward a higher-performing and more engaging learning environment for our children."

Interim School Superintendent Michael R. Shea said, "This contract is part of a broad effort to put New Bedford schools on a path that educators on every level can support, from rank and file teachers, to principals, to administrators, to state level overseers."

Highlights of the 3-year contract include:

- A new teacher evaluation system: The teacher's union agreed to the Massachusetts Department of Education model language on educator evaluations. Going forward, a significant portion of teacher evaluations will be based

on student test data, with a combination of a teacher's classroom data as well as whole-school data being considered.

- Increased management flexibility for administrators: School leaders will now be able to select the right teacher for every classroom, replacing a system solely based on seniority. Teachers can no longer “bump” another teacher with professional status. The decision now rests with the Superintendent, and the principal of the receiving school has the right to weigh in on the decision, which may be based in part on student performance.
- New Performance-based Pay for Advanced Placement (AP) Teachers: An anticipated expansion of the AP program at New Bedford High School will be supported by a new system of monetary awards to teachers through a grant account based on test scores in math, science and English and other subjects. This is designed to help close achievement gaps and increase the competitiveness of students applying for college.
- Compensation Increases: 0% raise in year one, 1.5% raise for most teachers in year two, and a 1.75% raise for most teachers in year three. The contract will be in effect through June 30, 2014.

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## **International Walk and Bike to School Day (Oct 3rd)**





Wednesday, October 3rd, New Bedford will be participating the International Walk and Bike to School Day. This is a wonderful day for parents, grandparents and family to bike or walk with their child. Also, ask your local school if they are planning any special event on this day. Mass in Motion New Bedford hopes to see you all participate next Wednesday!

This years "featured" school will at Normandin Middle School on 81 Felton Street. Hundreds of students from Normandin Middle School will be walking and rolling to school with Mayor Jon Mitchell, Principal William Burkhead, Normandin Health Educator Darcy Aungst, New Bedford Health Department Director Dr. Brenda Weis, City officials, Mass in Motion New Bedford Coordinator Pauline Hamel and the Mass in Motion Kids team, as well as parents, teachers, school staff, community leaders and Mass in Motion New Bedford coalition partners.

The event will begin at 8:15 a.m. with Mayor Mitchell, Normandin Middle School students, parents and community leaders. Following the walk, we will hear a few brief speeches about the importance of Safe Walking and physical activity

throughout New Bedford.

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# **Women's Center Events to Mark Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month in New Bedford.