



Custom Square



Saturday Academy



# Neighborhood & Community News

## Welcome to the Neighborhood!

Welcome to the spring edition of the Neighborhood and Community Outreach Newsletter. This newsletter is being brought to you by the Neighborhood and Community Outreach Unit within the Department of Community Services. We work together as a team attending neighborhood meetings throughout the city providing outreach and support to the many neighborhood groups. The NCOU team is lead by Marci Pina-Christian and includes John Lobo, Neighborhood Liaison, Pauline Macedo, Ombudsperson, Nora Andino, Constituent Services Liaison & Robert McPherson, Weed & Seed Coordinator.

It's been a long snowy and icy winter and many of us are awaiting the first signs of spring, the yellow daffodils, beautiful azalea bushes, greener landscapes, some warmer days, and the excitement over the outdoor activities that will soon fill our calendars.

On the neighborhood scene, we can expect to see more community gardens in different parts of the city. Morse Drill Site and Victory Park are two future sites where beautiful community gardens will be developed. The waterfront, Fort Taber, Custom Square and many of the city's parks will be the venues for a host of spring and summer activities. Spring is here!



Fort Taber Park

## Marci

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## Neighborhood Spotlight



This month's spotlight is on Gerry Pinto, the chair of the Rockdale Avenue Neighborhood Association for the past two years. Gerry is also the founder of Safe Zones, a bully prevention program, based throughout the city of New Bedford. Gerry describes himself as a long time silent leader who became a more visible community organizer through the influence of neighborhood liaison, John Lobo. Gerry met John close to two years ago at a community meeting and they became fast friends. He soon discovered that community work was very important to him, along with being a single parent to his son Gerry Jr, the most important part of his life. In fact often times Gerry Jr. attends neighborhood meetings with his dad.

Along with his busy schedule at work and within the community Gerry is also taking on the additional responsibility of furthering his education. He is an evening student at Cambridge College, majoring in psychology and juvenile justice, and attends classes once a week. Some of the upcoming events the Rockdale Association will host include New Bedford Sports day in August, which will be a part of the annual Family Fun Day. The association will also sponsor a fundraiser for Safe Zones with some of the proceeds being applied to the on-going fundraiser for Baby Owen, to augment his medical expenses. For additional information visit [www.fight4owen.com](http://www.fight4owen.com).

# See What's Going On in Your Neighborhood...

There is representation at neighborhood meetings from City Hall, the Police Department, the District Attorney's Community Service Liaison, city councilors and other concerned citizens. Attend a meeting, be heard, find solutions, and make a difference in your neighborhood.

<b>Brook lawn Neighborhood Association</b>
Meets the 1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Brooklawn Senior Center at 6:30 PM. The chair of this group is Scott Lemieux.
<b>Hope VI Safety Watch</b>
Meets the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6:30 at the Caroline Community Center. The chair of this group is Ron Gonsalves.
<b>Acushnet Commons</b>
Meets the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Wamsutta Apts. office at 6:30 PM. This group includes the Wamsutta apts and the surrounding area.
<b>Mt Pleasant Neighborhood Association</b>
Meets the last Wednesday of the month at the Sacred Heart Church Community Center at 6:30PM. The chair of this group is Henry Bousquet.
<b>Clarks Point Neighborhood Association</b>
Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at Fort Taber Community Ctr. The chair of this group is Celine Sarava.
<b>Far North End Neighborhood Association</b>
Meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Pulaski School at 6:30 PM. The co chairs of this group are Bob and Peggy Souza.
<b>Goulart Square Improvement Association</b>
Meets the last Tuesday of each month at Ashley Park Community Center at 6:30 PM. The chair of this group is Steve Pontes.
<b>Bullard Street Neighborhood Association</b>
This group meets at St. Anthony's Church on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM. The chair of this group is Ken Resendes.
<b>Rockdale Avenue Neighborhood Association</b>
Meets the first Monday of the month at 6:30, at the Buttonwood Warming Center and the chair is Gerry Pinto. The June monthly meeting has been cancelled. Special guest in July, Representative Tony Cabral. Their family sports day will be Aug. 4 <sup>th</sup> . For more info contact Gerry@safeones.org.
<b>Acushnet Heights Neighborhood Association</b>
Meets the 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month. Currently, it is redeveloping. Meeting dates and times will be reported as they become available.

<b>Neighborhood United</b>
Meets the 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month in the Ashley Room at City Hall. Neighborhood United is a group of neighborhood chairs who meet once a week and support the work of each other. National Night Out, August 4 <sup>th</sup> , come and join in on the planning. The chair and President of Neighborhood United is Susan Braga. Congratulations to newly elected Vice President, Henry Bousquet.
<b>South Central South First</b>
Meets the last Monday of the month at the Gomes School at 6:30 PM. The co-chairs of the group are Suzanne Braga and Latisha Silva. Come to a meeting and join in on the excitement over the Community Garden at the Morse Drill site. Coming this summer, Family Movie Night at Gomes School. Volunteers are needed for the Family Movie Nights. It's great entertainment for the entire family.  For more information contact Suzanne bee @aol.com or silva.l@comcast.net. All are welcome.
<b>Cove St. Neighborhood Association</b>
Meets on the first Monday of each month at New England Demolition & Salvage, 73 Cove Street, New Bedford, MA. The chair of this group is Ms. Loretta Bourque. Family Fun Day is June 20 <sup>th</sup> , 11-3PM on Ruth and Salisbury St. Entertainment includes DJ Logan Bourque, Showstoppers, Lulu the Clown, Face Painting, Tatooing by Roosevelt Middle School students, Book Mobile, Art Mobile and Oceanarium van.
<b>West End Neighborhood Association</b>
Meets the third Monday of the month at Carney Academy at 6:30 PM. This is a newly formed neighborhood association. A new chair and co chair were elected at last month's meeting.

## Neighborhood Activities

**Art Classes offered in 10 week sessions at the New Bedford Senior Centers. For more info call (508)991-6209.**

**Gifts to Give, Father's Day Sock Drive.** Help the less fortunate by donating packages of socks. Gifts to give will be collecting new socks, any size, men's, women's, children and babies or make a donation in memory of a dad that died, the money will be used to buy socks. Drop off the socks at City Hall before **6/21** or the mill on 21 Cove Street.

**Day of Portugal, Traditions in Azorean Craft and Culture in exhibition at the Day of Portugal.** Acushnet Avenue, from Beetle Street to Coffin Ave. **6/12-6/14.**

**Barry Bowers In Concert,** Come out and hear sacred, classical, traditional and contemporary music. A 6-string electric violin, allowing the artist to play in the ranges of a violin, viola, or cello. **6/13**

### Census 2010 IT'S IN OUR HANDS

The census is important because it determines the distribution of government funding for critical community services and it impacts your voice in Congress. "BE COUNTED"

**Mural Concept Presentation,** The community is invited to come to the viewing of the mural concept to be painted at the corner of County St. and Hillman St. The mural will be painted on the north side of Chadwick's Awards on 562 County Street. The meeting will be held at Dillon's Restaurant, 583 County St. Friday, 5:30-6:30, **6/12 1<sup>st</sup> Annual New Bedford Idol, 6/13, 6/20, 6/27** For more information call 774-930-2737.

**Operation Clean Sweep, 8-Noon, Ward 6.** To register call (508)979-1493. **6/20**