

# The Downtown Beat

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## We did it! Second Annual Chowder Festival draws record number of tasters and restaurants on a perfect Sunday afternoon

An older man was moving through the Chowder Festival line, tasting samples of this chowder and that soup. He took a sip of one kale soup and stopped. Suddenly he wasn't in the tent any more, but somewhere else. The soup had triggered a memory. "Where is this restaurant?" he asked the next person in line. The next person pointed to one of the restaurant owners and the two of them chatted for some time. There is no doubt that the restaurant has a new customer. That's how it is with chowder and kale soup around here. It's not just the ingredients, the recipe and the presentation. It's the memories too.

If you were at the Chowder Festival, you saw children in strollers being spoon fed chowder and soup. Building memories of food, face painting, scallop shell painting, music and a perfect family day.

Thanks to the restaurants, sponsors, volunteers, voters, Board of Directors, Events Committee, staff of DNB, Inc. and the band, Shipyard Wreck, for making the day so successful. Also to Buzzard's Bay Brewing, Inc., Westport Rivers Vineyard & Winery and Davey's Locker for providing beer, wine and sandwiches.

Voting was taken very seriously, and many tasters stayed around for the results, which are:

**Table Presentation First Place - Cape Quality Seafood (first time); Second Place - Healthy Grille Restaurant; Third Place - St.**

**Luke's Hospital.**

**Kale Soup First Place - St. Michael's Restaurant (second year); Second Place - Antonio's; Third Place - Cape Quality Seafood**

**Seafood Chowder**

**First Place - Freestone's City Grill (first year); Second Place - Me & Ed's; Third Place - M&C Cafe Restaurant/Catering**

**Clam Chowder**

**First Place - St. Luke's Hospital; Second Place - Black Bass Grille; Third Place - Pasta House (See photos on page three.)**

Memory is fickle, though. The same memory that can take you back to your grandmother's kitchen with perfect accuracy may be of no help when you want to visit one or the restaurants in the Chowder Festival, and you can't remember its name. Therefore we have included a menu of restaurant choices containing the names of the Chowder Festival Restaurants and the Taste Our SouthCoast participants. Put it by your phone or in your car glove compartment.

The best thanks we can give to the restaurants that make such an effort to present us with excellent food is to visit them and become regular customers.



*Chowder festival organizers, staff and volunteers from left to right, Jeff Pontiff, board member; Donna Motta, DNB, Inc. Executive Director; Kevin Pelland, DNB, Inc. president; Marianne Conley Hodgson, administrative assistant; Modesta Levesque, board member; Richard Poyant, board member. Each person in the photo represents many other people working at the event and behind the scenes.*

### DNB, Inc. annual meeting and election is October 31

We invite you to attend our annual meeting and election of officers on October 31 at 11:30 AM at the Wamsutta Club. Tickets are \$40.00 each. This is our annual opportunity to review the past year and to honor departing board members and businesses that have made extraordinary contributions to Downtown New Bedford during the year. This year Henry G.

Bousquet, former owner of Cobblestone Restaurant, left the board. He was generous with his time and willing to tackle difficult problems like parking. He was also instrumental in the success of the first Chowder Festival.

We honor departing board member James G. DeMello as the Downtown

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***Executive Director's Corner***



By: **Donna Motta, Executive Director**

**The Year in Review**

So much has occurred over the last year for Downtown New Bedford, Incorporated that it is difficult to know where to start, so I'll start at the beginning.

In January, DNB, Inc. solicited the services of Paul Allen of New Bedford 360 to redesign the organization's website. He did. The new, updated look is a refreshing sight, and the redesign was paid for, in part, with a matching grant from the Southeastern Massachusetts Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

Meanwhile, Kate Powers, a student at UMass Dartmouth served as a DNB, Inc. intern over the spring. Kate began her work with us first by helping to update information on the website and secondly, to assist in marketing plans for the *Taste Our SouthCoast* festival, which DNB, Inc. presented to the public in collaboration with ArtWorks on May 20 at Custom House Square.

During this major event, twenty-one restaurants and caterers were on hand to serve the finest foods the area has to offer from soup to nuts. The weather man thought we had ordered *Taste Our SouthCoast* weather and sent samples of sun, wind, rain and more but, we still saw over a thousand folks turn up for the festivities in the heart of our historic district. That's over one thousand more people than otherwise would have come out to enjoy the aesthetic beauty of the historic district and what it has to offer.

In the middle of the festival planning,

DNB, Inc. also held its 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala at Webster Bank. In addition to our guests having the opportunity to view and purchase works from local artists once again this year, we also invited the New Bedford High School Jazz Orchestra to sing some lively songs from the bank's balcony. The balcony overlooks the first floor lobby where refreshments and appetizers were being served to our 125 guests. The students were delightfully entertaining!

While the gala was being planned, DNB, Inc. also produced the 2006-2007 Visitor's Guide. The guide lists retail, restaurants, museums, and services that are available in the greater downtown area. DNB, Inc. printed approximately twenty-six thousand of the guides, and already half of them have been distributed through numerous outlets. The new cover was designed by Moore & Isherwood, Inc., and the guide itself is used as an effective marketing tool.

In June, after a Community Development Block Grant was submitted to the local CDBG office, DNB, Inc. learned that it was awarded additional funding over the previous year's amount – namely, five thousand dollars. This money is used to help low-income start-up businesses make their home in our historic downtown.

In other news, the Board of Director's Parking Committee also had a success to be proud of this spring, when the Traffic Commission voted to institute a new policy at the committee's request: to allow Bristol Community College and downtown UMass students to park at the Zeiterion Garage for 50 cents an hour. The cost to the students is the same as metered parking, but by utilizing the Zeiterion Garage the students' vehicles are off downtown streets. This allows for more parking spaces being made available for shoppers. Just recently, the Traffic Commission agreed to extend the pilot program for another year.

While in the midst of the Parking Committee meetings, DNB, Inc. held an Open Meeting at Cobblestone Restaurant. This meeting was very well attended, and downtown stakeholders gave their opinions on what areas of downtown could be improved and what was working well. Some of the suggestions included improving parking conditions and coming up with innovative marketing plans for the downtown as a whole. The summer months were spent planning the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual New Bedford Seaport Chowder Festival, which was a huge success with thousands of folks coming downtown for the food and festivities.

Thanks to all of you who have helped to make this year such a success. I hope to see all of you at the annual meeting on Oct. 31.

## Thanks to each of our restaurants:

Antonio's Restaurant  
Black Bass Grille  
Camborie's Restaurant  
Cape Quality Seafood  
Cobblestone Restaurant  
Cork Wine Tapas Bar  
Freestone's City Grill

Hawthorne Country Club  
Healthy Grille Restaurant  
Kinsale Inn  
Margaret's/Elizabeth's  
Restaurant  
M & C Café Restaurant/  
Catering Co.

ME & ED's Restaurant, Inc.  
Mattapoisett Chowder House  
& Tavern  
Mirasol's Café  
On-A-Roll  
Pasta House  
St. Luke's Hospital  
St. Michael's Restaurant  
Seafood Hut

## Kudos to our first place finishers:

St. Michael's Restaurant, Kale Soup



Louis Cabral and Rita Cabral.

Freestone's City Grill, Seafood Chowder



Elizabeth Azevedo, Dave DiPaulo, Kate Howland,  
Tristan Todd, Trudy Clark, Katie Newport, Meg Ryan.

Cape Quality Seafood, table presentation, Gilligan's Island



Lorianne Rebello as Ginger, Mark Bergeron as Skipper,  
Joyelle Bergeron as Mary Ann, Tyler Zarch as Thurston,  
Mike Freitas as Gilligan, Kaitlyn Medeiros as Lovely.

Clam Chowder, St. Luke's Hospital



Greg DeLiberis, Maria DaCosta, Joyce Amaral,  
Michelle and Gavin, Daniel DaSilva, Peter Costa.

## Thanks to each of our 2007 sponsors:

### MAJOR SPONSOR

Hygrade Ocean Products, Inc.

### PLATINUM SPONSORS

City of New Bedford  
STAT Ambulance  
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### GOLD SPONSORS

Bristol County Savings Bank  
Partridge, Snow & Hahn

### SILVER SPONSORS

American Pride Seafood  
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Sea Fuels Marine Service, Inc.  
Sovereign Bank  
Sylvia & Group Insurance  
Webster Bank

## **DNB, Inc. annual meeting and election of officers is October 31 at Wamsutta Club**

*Continued from page 1*

New Bedford, Inc. Person of the Year. This award is given to someone who has made extraordinary contributions to the downtown community. In Jim's case, the resume is very long and very distinguished. We will also be honoring three local businesses for their contributions to the economic development of Downtown New Bedford. They are Command Print Solutions, Inc. who have provided

printing services either at no cost or low cost for the Chowder Festival; M-V Electrical, who provided the electrical services for the Chowder Festival pro bono; and the law firm Partridge, Snow and Hahn, a major sponsor of the Chowder Festival. What these businesses have given to the Chowder Festival and other DNB, Inc. projects are just small pieces of their public service contributions which

are extensive and far reaching. Giving back to the community has high priority for all of them.

There will be a separately announced speaker for the Annual Meeting, but regardless of who it is, the speaker is icing on the cake. Just listening to the people who are being honored talk about their pride in their community and support of it will make it an interesting and rewarding event.

### **James G. DeMello is DNB, Inc. Person of the Year**

As a member of the Board of Directors of DNB, Inc. Jim DeMello has called himself a retired CEO. While that is so, he is far from retired from public service.

He is on the St. Luke's Hospital Business Council. He was on the search committee for the New Bedford Superintendent of Schools, was a founding member of the New Bedford Economic Development Council and is an advisor to the Advanced Technology & Manufacturing Center (ATMC) at UMass in Fall River and is a Southcoast Hospital Group Business Council Member, to name a just a few.

Jim was born in New Bedford and went to local schools, then Friends Academy and Tabor Academy. He is a graduate of Northeastern University with a degree in chemical engineering. The cooperative model of education he experienced at Northeastern still influences his thinking today.

As a student at Northeastern, Jim had a co-op job at the Acushnet Company, and a few years after graduation, he returned there as an engineer. He worked his way through a number of positions: chief of applications and new products; vice president of engineering, product development, manufacturing, sales and marketing until he became president of the Rubber Division of the Acushnet Company (then an American Brands company).

In 1994 he bought the Rubber Division with partner Ron Fernandes and became company president and chief executive officer. The business grew three fold, establishing factories in Taiwan and Portugal in the process.

In 1997 the Rubber Division was sold, but Jim stayed on for two years to help with the transition, leaving him able, in 1999, to become more involved with economic development in the region and to develop his own venture capital interests.

With such a wide base of experience, what does Jim feel are the most important priorities for New Bedford and the region now?

"Education," he says. "Education, education, education. Education is the key locally, state wide and nationally." Health care will provide many new jobs in the near future. The baby boomers are aging, and he sees a severe nursing shortage developing in the next five to seven years. Accordingly, he would like to see more local cooperative programs established for nursing education and medical technology education.

While Jim is involved in a number of local projects and initiatives, he likes to stay out of the limelight these days, preferring to contribute from the background.

### **In thanks for support of DNB, Inc.'s economic development efforts, we honor the following businesses:**

#### **Command Print Solutions, Inc.**

Ronald A. Clement is the owner of Command Print Solutions, Inc. and an active member of the community. He is on the board of the Nativity Prep School and does its printing pro bono. He is also on the board of the United Way.

All printing work he does for the New Bedford Public Schools is done at a 40-50% discount. Many flyers, tickets and program books for local non-profits are done pro-bono or at 50%.

Command Print Solutions, Inc. is located in the New Bedford Industrial Park and employs 18 people. They specialize in innovative commercial digital printing using all forms of the latest technologies. They publish newsletters and do media kits of all types, among other work.

#### **Partridge, Snow and Hahn, LLP**

Randall T. Weeks, Jr. is Partner-In-Charge of the SouthCoast Office located at 128 Union Street, Suite 500 on the top floor. The firm, with branches in Providence and Boston, came to New Bedford in 2002 and since has had exponential growth. They started in a small office on Union Street two full time and two part time lawyers. They now have and six full time attorneys and several others who work part of the week here. The New Bedford office alone makes Partridge, Snow and Hahn the largest law firm in either New Bedford or Fall River.

At this firm, giving back to the community is a mantra. They allow non-profits to use their board room for meetings at no charge. The firm donates money to a number of causes, and all attorneys are involved in community institutions including the Whaling Museum, Child and Family Services, the Zeiterion Theatre, the Buttonwood Zoo, Junior Achievement, the New Bedford Economic Development Council, the Lloyd Center and others.

#### **M-V Electrical Contractors**

M-V Electrical owners Paul N. Magalhaes and Gilbert M. Vieira probably said it best when describing their reason for community involvement. "We have soft hearts," they said.

They donated their services to set up the critical electrical services for the Chowder Festival both this year and last. "We have a good crew," they said. "Everyone pitches in."

They also donate services to other festivals as well as supporting youth baseball and hockey teams. They have helped to build a playground in Dartmouth. They feel that Downtown is where it all started, and they are helping to bring it back.

## Happy Birthday

### Converse Photo Supply

12 North Sixth St. 508-992-3910



Jann Macomber (left) owns Converse Photo Supply with her husband Everett Macomber. Their daughter Erin works in the business too.

Converse Photo Supply celebrated its 75th birthday this summer with a photo contest that drew 170 entries from people who submitted favorite New England scenes.

In seventy five years, Converse has probably processed millions of photographs of favorite New England scenes, so many that Converse may be the oldest one family retail business in Downtown New Bedford. It stays in business partly because Jann Macomber loves her job.

"It's a labor of love," she says. "If you don't like it, it's a job. If you do like it, it's fun."

A key also has been top notch equipment. Buying the best equipment is a lesson Jann learned from her father George Hellyer. Another key is the ability to adapt to change. Imagine, if you will, the results if Converse decided to deal only with film and film cameras. But instead of resisting the advent of digital photography, Converse embraced it.

The store itself is a view of the history of photography. Old cameras ring the store on shelves near the top of the walls. The oldest camera in the store is about 100 years old. The old cameras overlook the computers where customers submit their digital images for processing.

They cater to anyone who needs help and provide top notch service and products. "We always research and try to give our customers the best product we can," Jann says. The staff cares about more than selling cameras. It also cares about the quality of the photographs that come from the cameras. Customers include professional photographers but also many people who have a more casual interest in photography. Jann has given group

photography lessons for years and has recently added private photo lessons.

She comes by her interest in photography naturally, having worked in the shop since she was a teen when the shop was owned by her parents George and Mildred Hellyer. She has been taking photographs since she was a young child.

If you think small retail businesses cannot succeed in downtown New Bedford, keep in mind that Converse employs six people and has been in business for seventy-five years.



A photo of store founders George and Mildred Hellyer looks out over the store.

**Carter's, 55 William St.  
Phone: (508) 993-8221**



Steve Carter, center, flanked by sons Kevin, left and Trevor, right

Ask Steve Carter how business is, and his answer is always the same. "Business is good," he says. "I'm lucky. I like doing what I do," he adds.

Carter's celebrates birthday 60 this year.

The business was founded in 1947 by Steve's father Bill, now 88, who is still in-

involved with store operations and comes in every morning at 8:30 to supervise. Steve has been working at Carter's since he was thirteen or fourteen. When the business began, it was more of an Army Navy store. Over time it has added working casual styles while still selling to fishermen and construction workers. Not a business that changes something that is going well, they still carry Dickie Work Pants. On the other hand, they have not ignored the tastes of teens and students. Sons Kevin and Trevor, who both work in the business, have been particularly responsible for updating to styles that appeal to younger customers. In the past few years Carter's has greatly increased the quantity of footwear it carries.

Carter's customers appreciate the service this family supplies. "They come in with a smile, and they walk out with a smile. They are happy to have someone to talk to who knows something about what they are selling," Steve says. Parking is crucial too.

Even though business is good at Carter's, Steve does not underestimate the difficulties of running a small business. When you first start a new business, he thinks you should plan on being at the business or thinking about it from 6:00 am until 10:00 PM just about every day for the first five to ten years. You can't count the hours. It might be ten years before you can think about getting out on the occasional afternoon.

Downtown New Bedford has its own set of problems, because sometimes people just don't think to come here as a first retail option. This happens even when the customer already knows Carter's probably has what they are looking for at a good price.

Steve relates a phone call from a customer. "Do you have X?" she asked. "Yes we do," Steve replied.

"I knew you would have it," she said. "You have no idea how many places I have been looking for this." It's a familiar theme that people just don't think of shopping downtown first.

A walk into Carter's is a journey to a comfortable place with good service where you almost always find what you came for. The brands are classic: Woolrich, Levi, Carhartt, Dockers and Dickie. They have Nike and Adidas shoes and Timberland work boots. Not an inch in the store is wasted. If you think they have something you want, they probably do, so stop by and find out.

*Continued on page 6*

## Happy Birthday

**Crowell's Custom Framing**  
**382 Acushnet Ave.**  
**508-992-5231**

Crowell's is celebrating birthday 110 this year, but it is an anniversary marked by sorrow as co-owner Barbara Crowe Bushell died in August at age 82.

The Bushell's, Edwin and Barbara, have owned Crowell's since 1972. Besides working in the custom framing business, Barbara was a gifted artist in her own right, particularly in water colors. Many customers bought her art work in the store. Barbara also painted the sign that hangs outside the Acushnet Avenue shop. She painted it not once, but four times. Front and back for a shop which lost its roof in a 1977 gas explosion, only five years after they purchased it. She painted it twice again front and back for the present business on Acushnet Avenue. The portrait is a copy of a picture the Bushell's own, but they fondly named the sign "Mr. Crowell" in honor of the original owner who established the business in 1897.



*Bob Bolton, left, is managing Crowell's. He and owner Ed Bushell stand in front of paintings that are for sale in the gallery.*

Downtown New Bedford will miss the presence of Barbara who came to work with spirit and determination long after the age most people would have considered retirement. She was undeterred by illness and difficulties with her eyesight. She left a visible legacy in downtown New Bedford. The sign she painted helps define the character of the Crowell's block on Acushnet Ave.

Ed, also in his 80's, is carrying on now with the help of nephew Bob Bolton who is managing the business. Whenever the weather is warm, Crowell's door is open. Even if it is not open, step inside, shop and admire prints and paintings in a variety of media from the 19th century to the present.

## **New Bedford Campus of Bristol Community College is expanding**



*Theresa Romanovitch, Director of the New Bedford Campus of BCC and DNB, Inc. board member.*

Theresa Romanovitch began directing the New Bedford Campus of BCC when it opened six years ago, just after 9/11. The campus started with 400 students, a number which has more than tripled since she began. Originally a special education teacher in the Fall River Public Schools, she has worked as an academic advisor, as a director of financial aid and, before coming to BCC, as the director of special projects for all 15 state community colleges. This background has given her an excellent skill set to direct the New Bedford Campus with its diverse needs.

Under her direction, the New Bedford Campus of Bristol Community College has expanded its degree programs, its courses, the number of students attending

and services available to those students. Fourteen hundred students attend classes in 13 tightly scheduled classrooms. The classrooms are occupied day, night and on weekends.

BCC would like to be expand its space and is limited only in funding to do so. Currently Senator Mark Montigny has filed a bill in the legislature authorizing a twenty year lease for appropriate downtown classroom space.

In the meantime BCC is making do with its 13 classrooms, 8 on in the Star Store campus and five in rented spaces nearby.

The Massachusetts community colleges are quick response units in the state education system, and that's how it is in New Bedford. They fit the education to the needs of the students. Many BCC graduates stay in the community, so students educated at BCC raise the educational level of the community as a whole. BCC offers a course to help students whose first language is not English prepare for college. For parents who need time to get their children started in their own school year, there are late start programs. There are weekend classes for students who cannot attend during the week, night classes for those who cannot attend during the day and computer courses for those who cannot come to the campus. Financial aid is available, and tutoring is free for those who need it. Active in the community as well, BCC has certified all of the paraprofessionals in the New Bedford Public schools.

***Make your reservations for the DNB, Inc.***

***Annual Meeting on October 31***

***Phone your request to (508) 990-2777, or e-mail***

***dnb@downtownnewbedford.com,***

***or fax this reservation form to DNB, Inc. at (508) 997-7969***

***Business name*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Number of tickets requested*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Contact information:***

***Name:*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Business name:*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Phone:*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Fax:*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Email address:*** \_\_\_\_\_

## Annual Building update

### Standard-Times Building/ Boy's Club

About once a year we look behind the scaffolding to see what is happening in downtown construction. This year the pieces are coming together in a most satisfying way with steady ongoing growth from the inside out. Several long term renovation projects are reaching the finish line. What follows is a taste of what is happening as building after building in downtown New Bedford is restored.

Jim Muse is, by now, a dean of successful downtown development, particularly residential development, and he says his business is in "great shape" and moving forward. He retains his enthusiasm for renovating lovely old buildings and says some of his condos rival those you can find just about any where. If you are skeptical, go to one of the open houses Maureen Cavanaugh conducts on Thursday afternoons at the Boy's Club site.

Jim purchased the Standard Times and Boy's Club Building in 2002 while he was still working on his other properties, the Smith Office Supply Building, the Tabor Market Building, and the Hudner Building. These buildings are fully occupied.

The Boy's Club and the Standard Times Buildings share a common wall and are collectively called Market Street Condominiums. The Boy's Club renovation is 98% complete and fully ready for occupancy with only custom finishing touches remaining. Each condo has two parking spaces. There are five available units in the Boy's Club. One has been sold and one is under agreement so three are available. Prices range from \$275,000 to \$650,000.

The Standard Times Building will be ready for spring occupancy. Here there are up to fourteen condos.

Jim has interesting observations on the sub-prime mortgage crisis. It affects him in general to the extent that it affects everyone, but it does not affect his business in particular because he isn't selling properties likely to be financed with sub-prime mortgages. His typical customers are purchasing with hefty down payments.

And the sub prime market crisis does not have a direct or depressing effect on

the trend back to the city for gracious and convenient living. According to Jim, this trend is very much alive.

Jim sells his properties with a complete understanding of their market which he says is narrow and specific. He is selling to people who enjoy an urban life with the art, architecture, history, entertainment and restaurants that New Bedford has to offer. Such a narrow target audience can lead to a long selling cycle, which is fine with Jim because he understands the cycle.

He might like progress to be faster, but right now he says, his business is in "great shape."

### McDonald's Building

Remember the Downtown New Bedford McDonald's building? It extends for a whole block from Purchase St. to Acushnet Ave. The building has been a few things since the McDonald's days.

Now owner Joseph Pires, a young entrepreneur and 2004 graduate of Wentworth Institute of Technology, is renovating it as office space on the Purchase Street side and as three condos on the Acushnet Ave. side. The condos are two story loft units, 1,150 square feet to 1,450 square feet with one and one half baths. There is also a 1,600 square foot basement that is suitable storage space. Expect a November completion date for the condos.

### Corson Building

The Corson Building on William Street (actually two three story buildings) burned and lost its roof in September, 1997. The Waterfront Historic Area League (WHALE) purchased the building after the fire, stabilized it and then donated it to the National Park in 2004.

Now, just about ten years after the fire, a renovation that will make it an education center and part of the New Bedford Whaling National Park is almost complete. In the beginning of the construction process it took very careful work to keep the walls from collapsing..

The park headquarters and Corson Building will be linked by a corridor through carefully landscaped grounds. The first floor has a 55 seat theater, interpretive museum exhibits and a retail store. The second floor has an open floor space with room for groups of 5 to 100. On the third floor are administrative offices and a conference room. This building is

modern and historic at the same time with lots of glass and light.

The construction stage is now almost complete, with finishing touches and landscaping remaining to be done. Local New Bedford contractors have been used as often as possible, including MAG Irrigation Incorporated, Integrity Mechanical Contractors Inc., W.C. Smith & Son, Inc. and M-V Electrical Contractors who are being honored for their community service at the upcoming DNB, Inc. annual meeting.

Although all of the construction may be complete before the January 14, 2008 deadline, look for a February 2008 ribbon cutting with Representative Barney Frank and Senator Ted Kennedy attending.

### 42 North Water Street

At 42 North Water Street, next door to Tatlock Gallery, building owner Philip Dwane, originally from Dublin and now from Martha's Vineyard is very excited about his plans for a new coffee house/bookstore. He expects it to open on the first floor of his building early next year.

He didn't buy the building, he says, "The building bought me." But he did his research first. The city reminds him a bit of Dublin, he says, and it is refreshing to be in a city that cares about its heritage. He feels that New Bedford will go a long way in the next ten years.

While he plans on building a solid, profitable business, he anticipates that the shop will have the comfortable feeling of a book-filled home with WIFI too. The prospect of comfort and good coffee will draw people from the Whaling Museum, the Standard-Times and beyond, he hopes. The coffee house does not yet have an official name, but the name will have a New Bedford flavor.

Along with the coffee shop, he has plans for three upstairs condos which will have decks and wonderful harbor views. They will sell in the mid \$300,000 to the high \$400,000 range.

• *Laurel Day is November 27, 8:00 AM, Custom House Square. This is the day we decorate the lampposts in the historic district with real laurel and red bows. This year we need more than volunteers and ladders. We need money too for the purchase of the laurel. We are asking local businesses to donate \$25.00 each to the laurel fund. To donate call (508) 990-2777.*

## Scenes from the Chowder Festival



The youngest voter



The votes are counted.



Mayor Lang attends.



The band Shipyard Wreck played and played and played.

## Downtown Beats



Annie Hayes is doing the labor intensive job of repairing the windows and metal bars on the windows at the Hayes Building, now the home of Pegasus Artisans Jewelry Design

owned by Don Hoaglund. She has thoughts of renovating the upstairs either for apartments or condos.

- Tatlock Gallery will host its second annual vintage motorcycle show October 6 - 31st. They are also selling a motorcycle calendar featuring local people on vintage motorcycles in familiar locations.

- The Wilson Gallery at 25 Centre Street has a new exhibit **Western Isles and the Highlands**, photographic views of Scotland.

## New businesses

### Attia

Meghan McNally has opened Attia, a clothing store for young professional men and women, at 173 Union Street. Meghan considers her grandmother to be her fashion icon, and the store bears her grandmother's first name. She opened the store because she feels that the young SouthCoast shopper should not have to go to Providence or Boston for the kind of clothing she carries. Brands are 7, Joe's Jeans, Paper Denim and Cloth, Citizens, True Religion and others.

### Skin Med Spa

This Centre Street business will hold its grand opening on AHA! night in October, and we will tell you more about it in a coming issue.

### MOSAIC Gallery

Adding to downtown galleries, the Mosaic Gallery has opened at 752 Purchase Street in the Bristol Building. This is a women-run artist's retail cooperative with the works of a number of artists for sale. It is open Wednesday through Saturday beginning at noon.

## Pride on Purchase Street



Elaine Lima, owner of Elaine's T-Shirts & Costumes At The Black Whale, 778 Purchase Street, provided the scallop shells for children to paint at the Chowder Festival, one of her many community activities.

Now that the Purchase Street building projects are completed and the dumpsters removed, Elaine Lima has decided it's time for the street to look better. Not one to complain about a problem without working towards a solution, she has written a grant to pay for eight matching flower boxes for Purchase Street buildings. New Bedford Voke has built the boxes, and the New Bedford Garden Club is working to fill them. They will also be decorated for Christmas.