

Trending Developments



FALL RIVER OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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The Tide is High for Two Waterfront Projects

The boardwalk at Heritage State Park is one of the City's major attractions to locals and out-of-towners alike. However, the ample use of the boardwalk has led to wear and tear that requires repair and that's exactly what will be happening down at the boardwalk this spring.

Extensive work will be done to the boardwalk during this rehabilitation project including repairing the existing granite-block seawall supporting the boardwalk; replacing the existing boardwalk and pedestrian bridge in their entirety, including the railing system; constructing the

understructure with closer supports and concrete sill to reduce deterioration; raising the boardwalk along the southern portions of the facility and regrading the areas adjacent to the newly raised sections; and replacing the lighting with higher-efficiency lights.

Funding for the project is being provided by the Seaport Advisory Council who approved \$1.54 million in funding for the design, permitting and construction of the project as well as \$1.5 million from the

(Continued on page 2)



Above: The boardwalk at Heritage State Park

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1,131 Jobs Available

Looking for a job?

Visit froed.org then select the "Current Employment Opportunities" tab. Next click "Job Search" and this will launch an interactive database.

Within this database alone there are currently **1,131** employment opportunities within a 5 mile radius of Fall River.

Waterfront Projects

(Continued from page 1)

Massachusetts Department of Transportation. The project is expected to take nine months to complete.

The boardwalk project compliments the Route 79 North project which will begin the 25% design phase once a project consultant is retained.

The Route 79 project will eliminate the elevated ramps of Route 79 thus creating a boulevard along the waterfront. By eliminating the elevated ramps the project will create 10 acres of developable land.

The new developable space will be able to accommodate 477,000 s/f of office and retail space, which will create 1,300 new permanent jobs.

The space will also house 649 market rate residential units.

The total construction cost to complete the project is estimated at \$55 million and it is expected that the project will receive approximately \$20 million in state and local incentives.

Great progress on Fall River's waterfront!



Above: Route 79 North project schematic illustrating boulevard design and new developable acreage

Destination: HUB

The US Small Business Administration has launched a new initiative, Destination: HUB, in an effort to reinvigorate the HUBZone (Historically Underutilized Business Zones) program.

The HUBZone program helps small businesses in urban and rural communities gain preferential access to federal procurement opportunities. The HUBZone program is believed to be one of the SBA's most critical resources in creating jobs and alleviating unemployment in the nation's most vulnerable communities.

The program's benefits for HUBZone-certified companies include: competitive and sole source contracting and 10% price evaluation preference in full and open contract competitions, as well as subcontracting opportunities.

This new three step program was created to help HUBZone businesses reach the goal the administration set of capturing 3 percent of federal contracts. According to a 2013 study, only 1.7% of federal contracts were awarded to businesses located within HUBZones.

Destination: HUB will examine HUBZone success stories to better understand the ideal situation for successful HUBZone collaborations. It will in turn use this information to identify additional companies to participate in the program. The next step will be launching a grass roots campaign utilizing local leaders to encourage HUBZone program participation at the regional and national levels.

HUBZones are urban and rural areas, as well as Indian land, designated for directed action to promote investment and economic development. A number of Rhode Island communities as well as parts of Fall River, New Bedford and Taunton have been designated HUBZones.

For additional information about HUBZones including a map of the zones, visit www.sba.gov/hubzone.



Quequechan River Rail Trail

The City of Fall River is in the process of converting a former rail line along the Quequechan River into a multi-use trail for bikes and pedestrians. This multi-million dollar project is being funded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs.

Phase 1 of the Quequechan River Rail Trail was constructed in 2008 and extends from the Westport line to the Route 24/Brayton Avenue ramp.

The Gateway City Parks Program is funding two phases of trail design and

construction as well as the design and construction of a major renovation of Father Travassos Park. Mass Dot is funding the construction of Phase 3.

The Phase 2 project extends from the downtown to Britland Park and on to Quequechan Street. Phase 3 will continue across Brayton Avenue and on to Phase 1. When funded, Phase 4 will link the rail trail to Father Travassos Park.

The entire project provides green space amenities and alternative transportation to previously disconnected areas of the City.



Above: Design for Father Travassos Park Improvements

Fast Facts

- Fall River was originally called Freetown, a village of about 100 people and about 20 dwellings
- In 1803, Fall River was separated from Freetown and became its own village
- In 1804, the name of Fall River was changed to Troy. For thirty years this was the name of the city. In 1834 the name was changed back to Fall River as it was felt this better described the area and hence was easier to remember
- In 1862, the border between Fall River, MA and Fall River, RI was settled. The new border was moved south from Columbia Street to State Street. The dispute was settled by the US Supreme Court
- By the 1880s, Fall River could boast of the most modern conveniences, including street cars, telephones and electric service. In education, Fall River stood head and shoulders above its neighbors. The city provided free textbooks to pupils 10 years prior to the law requiring it. When Durfee High School was opened in 1886, it was considered the finest in the nation.
- In 1885, The Fall River Daily Globe, a Democratic newspaper, was established. It was absorbed by the Fall River Herald News in 1929.



*Source: <http://atgerrys.com>

Keeping Fall River working in Fall River.

FALL RIVER OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

12 Tips to Grow Your Fan Base on Facebook

On Wednesday, April 15, 2015 the Fall River Office of Economic Development will sponsor a technical assistance workshop focused on expanding your facebook presence.

Are you having trouble growing your Facebook page? Have you defined your target audience on Facebook? Now is a good time to examine your Facebook activities, cut out what isn't working and expand what works.

Tammi Jacobsen, online marketing strategist and social media manager, will offer 12 Tips to Grow Your Fan Base on Facebook. Brand messaging, post frequency and content, engagement, and advertising options will be discussed.

This FREE event will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Cherry & Webb Building, 139 South Main Street, 4th floor, Fall River, MA and is sponsored by the Fall River Office of Economic Development.

Space is limited, so please register on line at www.msbdc.org/semass and click on event calendar or call 508-673-9783 x10.

Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.



U.S. Small Business Administration

(Article contributed by MSBDC)

Fall River's Finest: E.J. Dionne, Jr.

E.J. Dionne, Jr. was born in Boston in 1952 to a dentist and a teacher and has one sister. Dionne is married to Mary Boyle and has three children.

Despite being born in Boston, Dionne was raised in Fall River and attended local Fall River Catholic Schools before moving on to Portsmouth (Priory) Abbey School, Harvard College and Oxford.

Dionne was brought up in the wealthy Highland section of the city, but his exposure to underclass families seemed to influence his desire to expose and correct injustice.

A nationally syndicated journalist and political commentator, Dionne is also a senior fellow at the Brookings Institute, a professor at Georgetown University, a research fellow at Saint Anselm College and a National

Radio commentator.

His columns appear in *The Washington Post* and *The Herald News* among many other daily newspapers. Before joining *The Post*, he wrote for *The New York Times* as a foreign correspondent in Rome, Paris and Beirut.

Dionne has written five books and is a frequent guest on ABC's "This Week" and NBC's "Meet the Press," as well as on National Public Radio.



(Source: "Cream of the Crop—Fall River's Best and Brightest" by John B. Cummings Jr.)



Mission statement of the Fall River Office of Economic Development:

Incorporated in 1978 as a 501(c)(4) corporation to promote the prosperity and general welfare of the citizens of Fall River through the stimulation of economic strength and expansion of new and existing business.

For more information please
visit our website:
www.froed.org