

# Trending Developments



FALL RIVER OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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## Blount Fine Foods Expansion Celebrates “Topping Off” as Project Nears Completion

On Monday, August 3, 2015 at 9:30 AM Blount Fine Foods celebrated the progress of their 50,000 square foot addition to its current soup plant with a “Topping Off” ceremony at their headquarters located at 630 Currant Road in the Fall River Industrial Park. Blount Fine Foods, a leading manufacturer of premium soups, sauces, entrees, side dishes for retail and foodservice. During the “Topping Off” ceremony, at which local officials, customers and employees signed one of the main I-beams used at the top of the structure.

part of a two-phased strategic expansion plan at its headquarters, which the company built and moved into in 2004, and where its continued expansion and evolution have created additional manufacturing employment opportunities within the community.

This past March, Blount went through the approval and permitting process with both local and state agencies, and broke ground in April. Blount’s plans call for the project to be completed by the end of September, 2015.

Blount’s current addition is

*(Continued on Page 2)*



Above: Todd Blount, President of Blount Fine Foods (left) is joined by Fall River Mayor C. Samuel Sutter, Senator Michael Rodrigues, and State Representative Carole Fiola for the Blount “Topping Off Ceremony”

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## 1,198 Jobs Available

Looking for a job?

Visit [froed.org](http://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 **1,198** employment opportunities within a 5 mile radius of Fall River.



## Blount Fine Foods Expansion

The investment for the first phase is expected to exceed \$10 million.

There are also plans for a second phase expansion of 40,000 square feet over the next three years.

The new facility will house additional packaging innovations and add logistical capacity, including freeing up production space that will allow Blount to expand its product offering beyond its current gourmet soups and side dishes.

In addition to the 30 construction jobs the project will create, it is anticipated that the expansion project will create 50 permanent full time jobs and 25 seasonal positions over its first five years. This is in addition to Blount's employment of 300 fulltime positions at this

location, all of which will be retained.

Blount Fine Foods is a family owned and operated company that has been processing food since 1946. Blount produces more than 700 premium products for restaurants, institutions, retailers and club stores in all 50 states. Blount manufactures more than 500 proprietary soup recipes, including 75 varieties of clam chowder alone. The company is the largest manufacturer of lobster bisque in America, was the first brand to launch restaurant-quality, single-serve grab-n-go fresh soups at retail, and has full lines of organic and gluten-free soups and sides.



## Fall River Grand Prix

Borden Light Marina located at 1 Ferry Street here in Fall River will serve as the Race Village for the Off-shore Powerboat Association's (OPA) Fall River Grand Prix during the weekend of August 14-16, 2015.

While pre-race events will take place all weekend, the races are slated to take place on Sunday, August 16, 2015 beginning at noon.

Borden Light Marina will act as the starting and finish point for the race. The course will include turns near the Cove Restaurant as well as points south in the vicinity of Slade Street.

OPA race courses are typically 4 mile ovals located near the shore to optimize spectator viewing.

Boats are broken down into different classes and often times boats from different

classes are out on the water at the same time. The best way to decipher the racing class of each boat is the number on the front of the boat. As a rule of thumb, all boats within the same "100" are in the same class. For example boats 205, 234, 287 and 295 are all in the same class.

An official start time begins when the bow of the boat crosses the start line. All boats must cross the start line to be scored for that event. The boat is then scored by completed laps/distance completed.

The Fall River Grand Prix award ceremony will take place at Borden Light Marina at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday August 16, 2015.

For additional information about the Fall River Grand Prix or OPA visit [oparacing.org](http://oparacing.org).



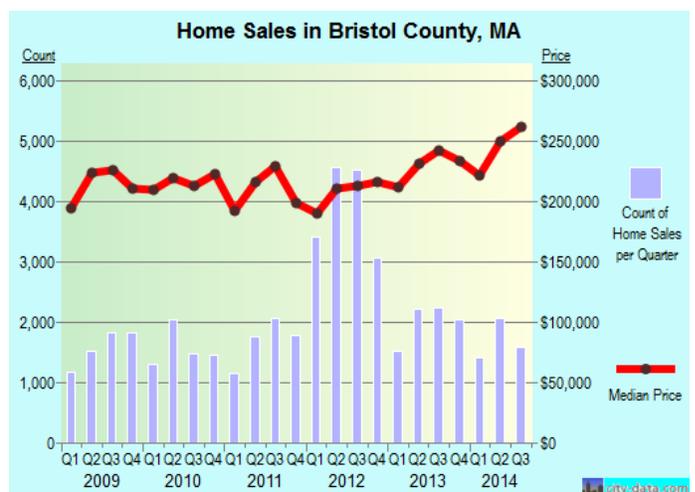
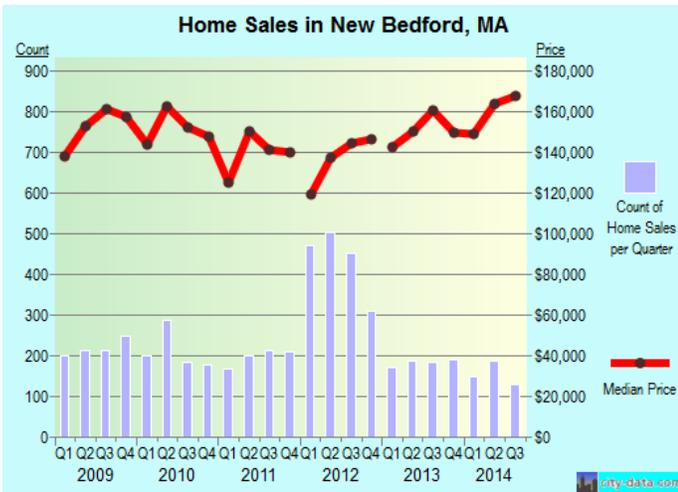
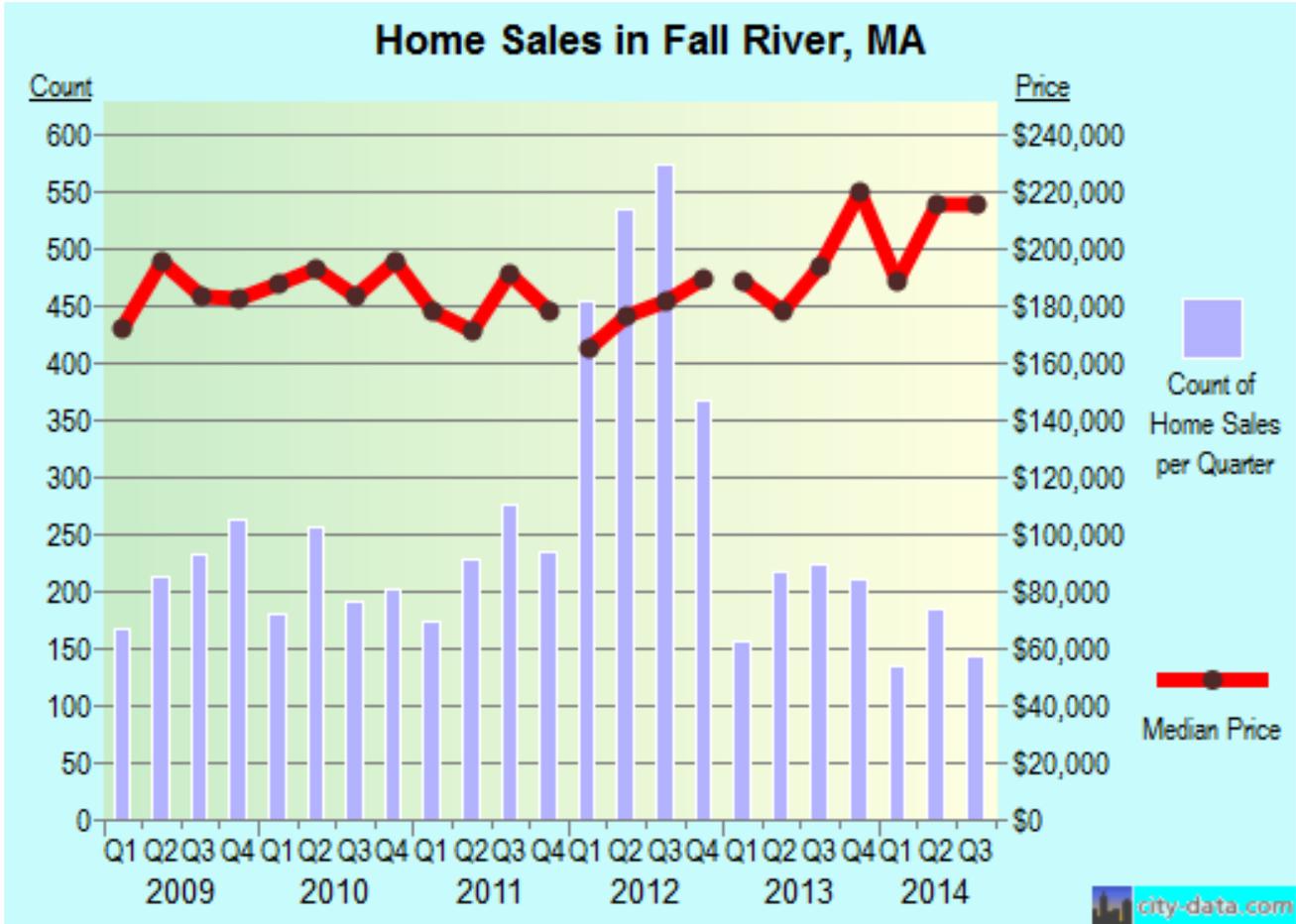
Above: Kenneth Fiola, Jr., Executive Vice President of the Fall River Office of Economic Development signs a beam at Blount's "Topping Off"



# Trending Developments



## Fall River by the Numbers...



## Interested in Working for FROED?

The Fall River Office of Economic Development is currently accepting applications for the positions of Commercial Loan Credit Officer and Micro-Loan Technical Assistance Specialist. Additional information is available on our website at [froed.org](http://froed.org) under the "Current Employment Opportunities" tab.

Keeping Fall River working in Fall River.

FALL RIVER OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Battleship Cove is Celebrating 50 Years!

The weekend of August 13-15, 2015 will be full of family friendly events and celebrations as the *USS Massachusetts* celebrates 50 years in Fall River.

In 1964, the citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, including over 6,000 school children, banded together to save the battleship, *USS Massachusetts*, from being scrapped, and bring her to the waterfront of historic Fall River on June 12, 1965. More than 500,000 people lined the shores of Narragansett Bay and the Taunton River that day to welcome their ship to the South Coast with cheers of jubilation and well wishes.

During her dedication on August 14, 1965, the battleship's historic significance was further recognized as she was made the official World War II Memorial for the Commonwealth and opened as a

public museum. Over the years, she has been joined by the destroyer, *Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.*, the submarine *Lionfish, PT 617* and *PT 796*, and the Soviet built missile corvette, *Hidensee* to form the largest collection of historic naval ships in the world, America's Fleet Museum at Battleship Cove. Now celebrating 50 years, Battleship Cove has planned a week of family fun events and programs to honor the history of these historic National Landmarks and the brave individuals who served aboard them.

Battleship Cove is located at 5 Water Street in Fall River and open daily from 9am to 5pm.

For a list of events visit [battleshipcove.org](http://battleshipcove.org).

*(Article contributions from battleshipcove.org)*



For more information please visit our website: [www.froed.org](http://www.froed.org)

## Fall River's Finest: Fred Buda

Fred Buda was born in Fall River in 1935 to Carl and Julia Croatia Buda. He married Miriam Juda, a Holocaust survivor, and they have two sons.

Buda was first employed as a percussionist for a wedding band called Rhythm Makers. His idol was Gene Krupa but his motivational force, besides his parents, was Durfee High School teacher Faust Fiore. Buda played in the Durfee Jazz Band and spent a lot of his time listening to live jazz music.

Buda applied for and was selected to be a member of the Boston Pops in 1967 and played with the Pops at Boston's Symphony Hall for thirty-six years.

Buda was a member of and set drummer for the Boston Pops and timpanist for the Boston Ballet Orchestra until retiring about ten years ago.

Called a drumming legend, he has performed under most major conductors. He played with the Herb Pomeroy Big Band among others. Buda was Chair of Percussion at Berklee College of Music and a member of the faculty of University of Massachusetts Lowell.

Buda honed his skills while serving in the Navy where he had extra time to practice. There is a music room named for Buda and fellow graduate Joe Raposo at Durfee High School.

Buda was educated at Watson School, BMC Durfee High School and Boston University.



### 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.*