

Trending Developments



FALL RIVER OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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1,136 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 **1,136** employment opportunities within a 5 mile radius of Fall River.

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FRRRA to Select Consultant for Downtown Urban Renewal Planning

Earlier this summer the Fall River Redevelopment Authority (FRRRA) issued an RFP seeking a company to assist in the creation of a Downtown Urban Renewal Plan. Two companies responded to the RFP: BSC Group and the Cecil Group.

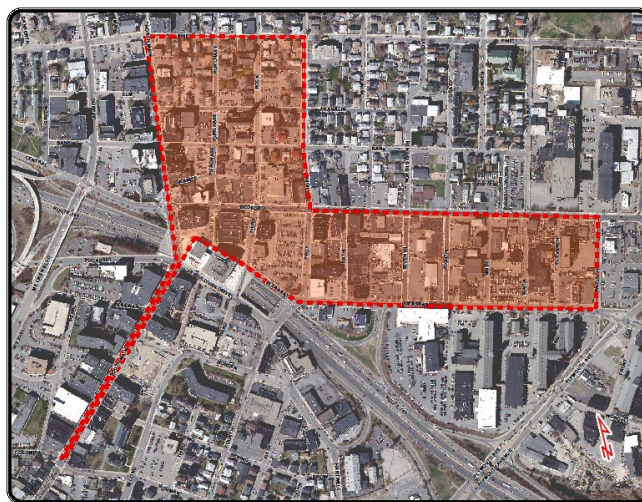
On August 4, 2016 the FRRRA heard presentations from both applicants and anticipate selecting with one of the two qualified companies by the end of the month.

The creation of an Urban Renewal Plan in the City's downtown will assist the City in stimulating development and redevelopment in

underutilized and underperforming properties, eliminate blighted conditions and enhance economic development opportunities in an area of the City that is in dire need of attention.

The company selected to create the Urban Renewal Plan will be required to analyze the location and create definitive boundaries for the plan, perform community outreach and engage public participation, and create a cohesive Urban Renewal Plan to be submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community

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Above: Proposed Downtown Urban Renewal Plan Area



Urban Renewal Planning

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Development for approval.

Earlier this year the FRRA issued an RFP for a company to create an urban renewal plan for the City's waterfront. The Cecil Group and BSC both submitted proposals and ultimately the Cecil Group was selected. The waterfront urban renewal planning process is expected to begin in August.

Urban renewal planning is a process that values community input, so public forums for both urban renewal plans will be scheduled during the planning process.



Above: Proposed Waterfront Urban Renewal Plan

The Fall River Grand Prix is Back for a Second Year!

After the tremendous success of the first ever Off-shore Powerboat Association Fall River Grand Prix, the Borden Light Marina will host the event again this year!

The Fall River Grand Prix is a weekend full of family friendly events with the races taking place on Sunday, August 28, 2016.

Race boats will arrive at Borden Light Marina located at 1 Ferry Street on Friday, August 26, 2016 with a Racer Meet & Greet taking place at 7pm at the Tippy Toboggan located at 75 Ferry Street. There will also be live music at both the Tippy Seagull located

at 1 Ferry Street as well as the Tippy Toboggan.

On Saturday, August 27, 2016 a boat parade will take place along the waterfront followed by a block party at Borden Light Marina. There will also be live music at the Tippy Toboggan and Tippy Seagull.

On Sunday, August 28, 2016 the races will begin at noon with the award ceremony taking place at 6:30pm at the Borden Light Marina.

Offshore racing began in the 1970s and became popular in large part

because of the Benihana Offshore Grand Prix. At that time races were over 200 miles and the boats could only be seen a few times during the course of the race. Since this time the course has gotten smaller and shorter making the races more accessible and enjoyable for spectators. Today the racecourses are typically small 4 mile ovals as close to the beach as possible.

We encourage you to come out for this exciting event. For additional information, please visit www.oparacing.com.



Fall River by the Numbers...

Fun Fall River Facts:

- 1803 - Fall River was separated from Freetown and became its own village
- 1804 - Fall River's name was changed to Troy, which remained the City's name for 30 years before it was changed back to Fall River
 - 1811 - first postal service started, with free delivery starting in 1863
 - 1814 - Troy Mills spanned the Quequechan river directly behind city hall
- 1843 - The Andrew Robeson House, home of the Fall River Historical Society, was originally built on Columbia Street. It was moved, piece-by-piece, to its present location in 1870
 - 1862 - the border between Fall River, MA and Fall River, RI was settled
- 1877 - Robert McWhirr and Sarah Ramsay opened the first McWhirr store near Charity Lane. It was later moved to South Main Street
- 1880 - the Borden Flats Lighthouse was built and a lighthouse keeper tended the lighthouse until 1937 when the lighthouse was automated
 - 1880 - the first streetcar rails were laid, they operated until 1936
- 1880's - Fall River boasted of modern conveniences including street cars, telephones and electric service. The City also provided free textbooks to school children before it was required by law
- 1885 - the Fall River Daily Globe, a Democratic newspaper, was established. In 1929 it became part of the Fall River Herald News
- 1891 - the Fall River stop on the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad was built at the intersection of North Main Street and President Ave
- 1908 - the Brightman Street Bridge was opened. It was 922 feet long, 60 feet wide and cost a little over a million dollars to construct



*Source: atgerrys.com



Keeping Fall River working in Fall River.

FALL RIVER OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Fiola Testifies Before MBTA Fiscal Management and Control Board

In late June, Attorney Kenneth Fiola, Jr., Executive Vice President of the Fall River Office of Economic Development testified before the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's (MBTA) Fiscal Management and Control Board to voice his strong support for a Fall River/New Bedford Middleboro railway extension to Boston.

During his testimony he recounted standing with Governor Weld in February of 1992 when the Governor offered his "sue me if it doesn't happen" Southcoast rail quote. Since that time Fiola has worked with six Governors, eight Fall River mayors and numerous state elected and non-elected officials to make the project become a reality.

He went on to note that throughout this time frame, the cities of Fall River and New Bedford have expended precious political capital in constantly prioritizing this project at the expense of other important projects so as to enable this project to move forward and allow the Southcoast region affordable, dependable and safe transit to Boston on a daily basis.

Fiola pointed out that the project cost has skyrocketed from an estimated \$300-\$400 million in 1992 to the \$3.4 billion figure that is being used today.

Fiola also highlighted key roadblocks to the current Southcoast rail plan including: lack of funding mechanism, lack of all necessary permits, lack of implementation schedule

and the significant litigation from communities north of Taunton that would further stall the Southcoast rail project. Fiola makes the realization that even in the best case scenario the project will not take shape for 10-15 years.

In light of these significant challenges, Fiola wanted to offer support for the proposed Middleboro extension which offers a quicker implementation because the rail line is already in place and is a significantly less expensive alternative. Therefore, Fiola asked the board to consider utilizing the \$148 million approved for Southcoast Rail for the Middleboro route extension and fast track the project for completion within twenty four months.

Fiola also expressed this viewpoint in an open letter to the Herald News Editor, which was published.

Fall River's Finest: Robert Hargraves

Robert Hargraves was born to Charles and Marion Hargraves. He married Mary Elizabeth McDonald and they have four children and six grandchildren.

Hargraves attended Greene School, Henry Lord Junior High School and BMC Durfee High School. He graduated from College of the Holy Cross and studied at the graduate level at Brown University.

Hargraves was a supervisory Special Agent for the FBI. He spent most of his career in the Organized Crime and Drugs division. He spent fourteen years in the Midwest and returned to the New England area in 1978. Hargraves was a Supervisory Special Agent and was involved in the arrest and successful prosecution of Raymond L.S. Patriarca, head of the New England La Cosa Nostra.

(Profile from "Cream of the Crop—Fall River's Best and Brightest")



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