

The Downtown Beat

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Historic District festive with laurel, red bows and lights

Early in the morning on November 27th, a record number of fifty volunteers organized by DNB, Inc. fanned out across the streets of the historic district to decorate the 198 lampposts with laurel and bright red bows. As soon as the laurel was up, the city public works department strung lights over the laurel on every other pole. This year the weather cooperated—warm with a strong breeze.

In just a little more than an hour, the historic district started looking like a living holiday card.

Decorating the lampposts is a longtime tradition, and like snowflakes, no two laurel

mornings are just alike. This year, Dennis Galvam, in the picture below, gave the lesson on how to decorate the lampposts so the laurel is secured, and the ribbons face in the right direction. A worthy successor to longtime laurel instructor Arhur Bennett, who was busy with other projects, he received a round of applause.

It was warm enough to enjoy the camaraderie of the historic district as people arrived at work saying "Hello" and "Good morning" to each other. Downtown New



Bedford really is more like a village than a city, and some days, especially around the holidays, it is nice to take a few minutes to enjoy this very special atmosphere.

There were a number of people working outside on construction projects and building maintenance. The renovation of Downtown New Bedford continues at a very satisfying rate, even as the lampposts are decorated with laurel and bows.

Happy Holidays to all from Downtown New Bedford, Inc.

A Letter from DNB, Inc. President Kevin Pelland

It seems appropriate at this time of year, with Thanksgiving just past, Christmas around the corner, and a brand new year in sight, to give thanks for all that we have achieved, and for all of the improvements and accomplishments Downtown has seen over the past year or so. I know that I am personally blessed with a wonderful family that supports me, both personally and in my role as Chairman of the Board, as well as all of the DNB, Inc. events. If you've been to the Chowder Festival, you know what I'm talking about. On that note I would also like to say thank you to the organization that I work for, Citizens-Union Savings Bank as they also support DNB, Inc. both financially and in the amount of time they allow me in my role at DNB, Inc.

I'm also very thankful for just how far this organization has come over the last couple of years. I'm very thankful for the many people (staff, board members, volunteers, sponsors, membership, etc.) who make this organization and its events so successful. It wasn't that long ago that we regrouped and set out to change our direction somewhat by tweaking our mission statement and goals to make more positive changes in the downtown.

Since that time, we have been busy tackling parking issues, public safety issues, marketing and business recruitment efforts,

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From Mayor Scott Lang

*Best Wishes for a Joyous
Holiday Season and a Peaceful
New Year*



David Tatlock, Tatlock Gallery

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Executive Director's Corner



By: **Donna Motta** Executive Director

If you have time to do some volunteer work that will not overwhelm or tax you, think about doing so at Downtown New Bedford, Inc.

We are always looking for a few good individuals who can help us in a myriad of ways. For example, sometimes all we need is help stuffing envelopes to complete a mailing. Bring a friend or two for a couple of hours one week, and help us get a mailing out while having some fun interacting with others. If you're a really social person, you can answer the phones or make follow-up phone calls necessary to get our work done. Or you can help us input information into our computer system and not feel that you have to talk to anyone, although not talking is hard in our friendly office.

If you have more time and feel ambitious, then you may consider helping us market one of our major and successful festivals, either *Taste Our SouthCoast* and/or *the Annual New Bedford Seaport Chowder Festival*. We can always find you something to do.

We are talking only a few hours a month of your time. Multiply a few hours a month by ten or fifteen people, and we will be able to get a lot more done. You will meet new people and feel a sense of accomplishment as you help DNB, Inc. reach its mission and goals, namely to make downtown New Bedford a better place in which to live, work and visit.

So after the holidays, when you're looking for something to do to fill up your day, give us a call at (508) 990-2777 or email dnb@downtownnewbedford.org. to set up an appointment to meet. We'll be glad to

tell you how you can help us out and will appreciate any amount of time you can afford to give us.

Happy holidays!
Donna

Thinking ahead to 2008

Folks are busy preparing for the festive holiday season, but many of them are also thinking ahead to the New Year. Have you thought about your New Year's resolution yet? If not, it's never too early to make plans to improve the quality of your life.

For example, if you've been thinking you would like to go into business for yourself, but never quite got around to doing anything about it, then make that goal a New Year's resolution for 2008. DNB, Inc. can help get you started on the road to business success. We're only an email or phone call away, so why not take advantage of what we have to offer?

For those of you who may not be fully aware, part of DNB, Inc.'s role is to help new start-up businesses get settled into the downtown area in a number of ways. DNB, Inc. administers the Business Loan Program for downtown New Bedford. You can apply for a loan of up to \$100,000 at below market rates to help you get financially started in your business venture or expand an existing one. We also assist in business plan development and finding appropriate downtown rental space for you to house your business. There's plenty of reasonably priced space in the downtown area, so a good location won't be hard to find, at least not right now.

These are only a few of the services we offer. Depending on your business needs, we tailor our services and suggestions to meet your needs.

So, if you've even considered opening a new business or expanding an existing one, do it in the year 2008.

Call DNB, Inc. at (508) 990-2777 or email us at dnb@downtownnewbedford.org. Make an appointment to come in and talk with us about your business plans.

We would like to help you turn your business dreams into business realities.

Charitable Giving

This also the time of year when people plan their tax deductible charitable giving, either by making direct donations or giving bequests in the names of others.

Downtown New Bedford, Inc. is a 501(c)3 corporation, and your donations are tax deductible. So when you are planning your giving, think of DNB, Inc.

Shop downtown first: Jena Holt takes us on an all day Downtown shopping trip

by Jena Holt

My best friend met me at the **Green Bean** in downtown New Bedford so we could fortify ourselves with crepes and lattes while we planned our holiday shopping strategy. She came organized with a list, complete with people's sizes, while I prefer to shop on the fly, buying things I like and then figuring out later who's getting what.

Our first stop was in **Calico, Sixth Street**, second floor over **Tip-Top Nails** next to Ira Cohen's **Upstair** book shop. There we found the most adorable, reconstructed hoodies and pullovers by **AC Clothing** that have incorporated vintage fabric in ways that make them look as though they were always like that. My newly graduated art school niece will be getting one! A couple of leather bracelets with art embossed on them by **Laralu** made it onto my friend's list as stocking stuffers.

Next up was on Purchase Street, to **Elaine's Home of the Black Whale** where I scored big with matching Black Whale logo T-shirts for my sister's hubby and four boys. The girl friend swept up the softest imaginable chenille pullover, also with the distinctive Black Whale logo.

We popped into the **Doll's Closet, Crystal Garden** and **Green Lantern**, a three business cooperative and found the best selection of clothes to fit the American Girl Doll, so of course my friend's eight year old daughter will be outfitting her doll in a whole new wardrobe.

Celia's Boutique is tucked in the Cherry Building across the way from **Cafe Arpeggio** (a great spot for coffee and pastry or homemade ice cream), so Girl Friend and I both found cocktail attire to get us through the usual round of holiday parties. I'll be coming back here to fill out my working wardrobe as well.

Mosaic, a new gallery next to the **Green Bean** was filled with handmade, reasonably priced artful gifts. I fell for the felted wool handwarmers in luscious colors, trimmed with a beautiful button by Jane Parhialaj. Best Friend couldn't resist the one-of-a-kind cigar box handbags by Marianne Stebbins. When you're not carrying your essentials in them, they look fabulous displayed.

Union Street is the new home to **Attia**, which has a good selection of such hip brands as True Religion jeans, as well as Chip and Pepper and English Laundry. Girl Friend thought her younger sister would adore the dress from Paul Frank. Then she could borrow it!

Salon Lola, next to Attia on Union, was a great place to stock up on stocking stuffers like super luscious colors of OPI nail polish and Bed Head hair products. Sasha, the owner, is a cutting edge hairstylist, and gallery owner. Check out the art on her walls—it's a salon and an art gallery in one!

William Street is a shopper's delight, but first we had to stop and refresh ourselves with a plate of piping hot chicken quesadillas at the popular **No Problemo** on the corner of Purchase and William.

Simmons Brothers Motion Picture Company has a fantastic collection of the good stuff ranging from videos of seventies television series to more obscure movies. My son, the movie buff, will be getting a membership so he can go in anytime and see films that made history in the entertainment world.

Continuing our stroll up William Street brought us to **The Artificial Marketplace**, home to the vintage, the retro and the fun in home furnishings and decor. Chances are good you'll find that long lost lava lamp here, or the Depression glass champagne flutes your mother gave away without asking if you wanted them. In the back is a large collection of vinyl records.

My brother-in-law is getting that first Doors album to play on his resurrected record player.

White Knight Gallery has an exclusive on beautiful handmade Maruca handbags from Colorado. The fabrics are to die for, the bags range from tiny zippered cosmetic bags to a great looking messenger style. I went ahead and bought one for myself. Girlfriend couldn't resist the handblown paperweights from **Glass Eye Studios** which appear to contain the entire solar system inside. How do they do that??

Next door, **Solstice** is a skateboarder's dream store. My sixteen year old nephew is getting one of their limited edition T-Shirts and a gift certificate to get his board tuned up—or whatever.

A quick stop at "**Joe Piper**" yielded a gift certificate for bagpipe lessons for my brother-in-law who fancies himself descended from ancient Highland chieftains.

Pegasus Artisans sits on the corner of William and Acushnet Ave and my girl friend wanted to order a custom made necklace for her mother who just happens to have a birthday on Christmas Eve. Don Hoagland also does state-of-the-art repairs, in case

you snag those heirloom pearls getting out of the limo on New Year's Eve.

Continuing down the hill towards the waterfront, we pop into **Carter's Clothing**, in business since 1947, and pick up some cozy sweatshirts with our favorite team logos—the Red Sox, naturally!

Crossing the street, we cruise into the **Bedford Merchant** because my mother is in love with the lotions from Crabtree & Evelyn, and my best friend wanted to pick up a new Yankee Candle to make her house smell like gingerbread—without actually baking, of course!

For my really special aunt, it had to be a Sailor's Valentine from the **Moniz Gallery**. It was a tough choice, because Arthur Moniz's lovely prints of the New Bedford area are always a popular gift, too.

Around the corner on North Water Street, we discovered the **Tatlock Gallery** where Girl Friend somehow managed to choose a variety of wonderful teas and accessories from their line of Tea Forte to give to her friends—I hope I make that gift list!! I found a handtooled leather journal and check book cover from Oberon Design for my other best friend in Florida.

Turning on to Centre Street, with its wonderful view of the harbor, we first headed into **Blush Beauty Bar**, where owner Larissa McLaughlin gave us both a quick tour of the many great make-up lines she carries. Girl Friend stocked up on several items from Bare Minerals for her buddies and I fell for the beautiful lipsticks from Paula Dorf.

The **Wilson Gallery** is the place to buy that really special photograph to enhance your home or office workspace. Ron Wilson's camera has captured the splendor of nature in places ranging from the South Coast to Iceland.

As the day wound down, we perked up upon entering **be jeweled**, Centre Street's location for fun and fabulous jewelry. So much to choose from and for every budget. Best Friend couldn't get enough of the interesting silver bracelets, but I came away with my own special gift—a shimmering necklace by Alexis Bittar. I'll be wrapping it and putting it under the tree from "Santa".

The sun was setting over the harbor, and it was time to finish up a very successful day of shopping with a celebratory glass of wine and perhaps a plate of tapas at **Cork**, the wine and tapas bar on Front St.

Happy Holidays, and remember, shop downtown first, all year round.



The 198 lampposts DNB, Inc. decorates with laurel and bright red bows bring holiday spirit to the city.



A Letter from DNB, Inc. President Kevin Pelland

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and producing events that have brought thousands of people into our downtown. We continue to work collaboratively with the Mayor and all of City Hall, the New Bedford Police Department, and all of our economic development partners in our efforts to take on the true leadership role as the unified voice for all Stakeholders. We are in the midst again of redefining our mission to truly become *the* Downtown Development Coordinator.

Downtown has and continues to see a historic and tremendous transformation and rebirth that is unparalleled. Think back just a couple of years ago, and you won't have any difficulty seeing the progress that has been accomplished. Buildings that are more occupied, increased student population, increased residential population, a new police station, a handful of new and creative businesses, etc. And by this time next year we will be talking about a completed Corson Building, a fantastic new development on Acushnet Ave between William and Union St.'s, a new Ocean Explorium, etc. The pos-

sibilities are endless but there continues to be a lot more work to be done.

I hope this article finds you enjoying the holiday season and looking forward to the New Year. I hope this article spurs you to believe in the bright future of downtown New Bedford as we do, as the future regional hub that it has the potential to be.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

More downtown gift suggestions:

As if Jena Holt didn't cover enough places to find gifts in her comprehensive article, here are a couple of other ideas:

The **Whaling Museum** gift store, free to the public, has books, interesting nautical items and inexpensive toys that can appeal to adults too. While you're there, you can consider becoming a museum member or giving a museum membership, which gives you a discount at the gift shop. Think also of the **Art Museum**, the **Rotch Jones Duff House**, the **Fire Museum**, **Art Works** and the **Zeiterion**. How fortunate we are to have so many places to shop, eat and visit in our historic city.

The lampposts are red and green



Green as in energy efficient. Note the energy efficient bulbs that are in use in all of the light fixtures.