

Search St

Fall River 54° e-edition | subscribe | find and save | newsletter

The Herald News



Onsite Mortgage Company
Onsite Real Estate Attorney



HOME NEWS SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT LIFE OPINION OBITUARIES CLASSIFIEDS JOBS CARS HOMES

FEATURED » CONTACT US CALENDAR SUBMIT YOUR NEWS BLOGS VIDEOS PHOTOS BRANDED CONTENT GAMES TV GUIDE PINK

NEWS NOW pects to hire new treasurer Nov. 20 ... House of the Week: 200 New Meadow Road, Barrington, RI ... Our View: Suzanne B

Community Voices: Help First Step Inn help Fall River's homeless

As winter approaches, Fall River's volunteer community is once again making preparations to shelter the homeless from freezing temperatures. The city's rising homeless population has outpaced shelter capacity in recent years, and local church volunteers have picked up the slack by setting up makeshift shelters in their facili...



COMMENT 1 0



Herald News File Photo | Jack Foley |

The former Haddad Electronic Supply Co. at 138 Durfee St. has been targeted as the site for a 50-person homeless shelter.



By Kathleen Schedler-Clark
Steppingstone, Incorporated
Posted Oct. 24, 2014 @ 3:17 pm
Updated Oct 24, 2014 at 4:09 PM

As winter approaches, Fall River's volunteer community is once again making preparations to shelter the homeless from freezing temperatures. The city's rising homeless population has outpaced shelter capacity in recent years, and local church volunteers have picked up the slack by setting up makeshift shelters in their facilities during the cold weather months. Last winter, approximately 30 homeless individuals stayed in these temporary shelters each night.

» RELATED CONTENT

LINKS

- Guest Opinion: Join Saturday's Parade of Dollars from Dur...

However, significant progress has been made in an effort to overhaul this system by doubling the



15 Celebrities Who Attacked The Paparazzi

ADVERTISEMENT

» STAY INFORMED

Email Newsletter

Sign Up Today

- Charles Krauthammer: Barack Obama, bewildered bystander
- Eugene Robinson: Going into the morass?

city's shelter capacity. After several years of research, a plan was developed by the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness to renovate the former Haddad Electronic Supply building at 138

Durfee St. in downtown Fall River to serve as the new location of the First Step Inn, the city's only professionally staffed shelter for homeless individuals.

The First Step Inn, operated by Steppingstone, will increase its current 20 bed capacity to 50 beds, thereby eliminating the need for the makeshift shelter system. Not only will this plan remove a burden from the city's volunteer community, it will enhance the city's ability to make long-term reductions in homelessness.

In addition to increasing its capacity, the First Step Inn will increase its scope of services through several partnerships with local providers, such as HealthFirst, SSTAR and Bristol Community College. Each guest of the inn will be provided with case management, substance abuse and mental health treatment, primary healthcare, and a variety of educational groups and resources ranging from GED preparation courses to lessons in household budgeting.

This programming is designed to help guests avoid future episodes of homelessness by helping them build vital skills and support networks. Perhaps most importantly, guests will be provided with permanent housing placement assistance and access to Steppingstone's network of supportive permanent housing units in Fall River.

Over the past year, Steppingstone has undertaken a vigorous fundraising campaign in close collaboration with BayCoast Bank, which has already committed a \$350,000 grant to the project. The president and CEO of BayCoast Bank, Nicholas Christ, also serves as chair of the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness.

Through this unique partnership, the project has already made substantial progress towards reaching its fundraising goal of \$1.8 million for the acquisition and renovation of the Haddad building. The Robert F. Stoico/FIRSTFED Charitable Foundation has committed a \$150,000 grant to the project, and additional commitments have been received by St. Anne's Credit Union, Bristol County Savings Bank, BankFive, Notre Dame Federal Credit Union, Mechanics Cooperative Bank and some individual donations.

Our goal is to meet the \$1.8 million mark over the next year and we are asking members of our community to donate as well as spread the word. We've already had so much support and are excited to get more people involved to help make this project a success.

[» Comment or view comments](#)

[Prev](#) [1](#) [2](#) [Next](#)

» SUGGESTED STORIES

Mike Moran: Flanagan's bizarre lie detector spectacle
Herald News, MA News - Fall River, MA - The Herald News

Swansea police: Man pulled over after driving erratically arrested after officers find 14...
Herald News, MA News - Fall River, MA - The Herald News

Wal-Mart Workers Are Furious That The Company Is Cutting Health Benefits And Raising...
Herald News, MA News - Fall River, MA - The Herald News

Fall River police arrest 6 men in prostitution sting on North Main Street
Herald News, MA News - Fall River, MA - The Herald News

This Matters To Me: To tell the truth, Fall River style
Herald News, MA News - Fall River, MA - The Herald News

» FROM AROUND THE WEB

17 Actors Who Are Gay in Real Life But Play Straight Characters
POPNHOP

10 Things You Should Never Do On a Cruise
Conde Nast Traveler

Starbucks denies pregnant woman use of bathroom
Fox News

Goodbye Granite, Hello To Fresh High-End Countertop Alternatives
HGTV

Parents Were Told Son Died In A Car Crash But When They Went To His House, He Opened The...
Reshareable.org

Recommended by

>> Popular Articles and Offers



40 Hottest Female Celebrity Bodies of All Time



New Site Exposes Anyone! So addicting



Massachusetts: Here's a little known way to pay down your mortgage.....



Westport - New rule allows many Massachusetts residents to get car insurance at half-price.

ADVERTISEMENT

Sign up for our newsletter and have the top headlines from your community delivered right to your inbox.



Richest Women by Region: Wal-Mart Heiress Tops Global List

Michael Jordan: Obama's a 'Hack' on the Golf Course

Medicare Bought Meds for Dead People

Experts: Christie Hurt 2016 Chances With Heckler Attack

Do You Back Gun Control? Vote Here

Local Rule to Get Car Insurance As Low As \$29 Per Month

E-Cigarettes Can be a Healthy Alternative to Smoking

How Drivers Get Really Cheap Auto Insurance

[What's This?](#)

TOP CLICKS

POPULAR EMAILED COMMENTED

OBITUARIES: 10-26-14 [Oct. 26, 2014](#)

OBITUARIES: 10-27-14 [Oct. 26, 2014](#)

OBITUARIES: 10-29-14 [Oct. 28, 2014](#)

OBITUARIES: 10-30-14 [Oct. 29, 2014](#)

OBITUARIES: 10-28-14 [Oct. 27, 2014](#)

Watson Elementary cafeteria worker saves boy's life [Oct. 27, 2014](#)

» EVENTS CALENDAR

Fri Sat Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu

10/31 12:00 am Newton Camera Club Exhibit

10/31 12:00 am Registration for Newton Community

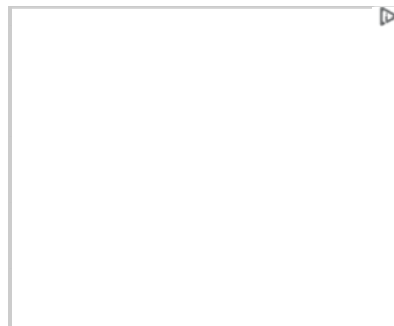
10/31 12:00 am Entertainment at North End Tavern

10/31 12:00 am Newton Camera Club exhibit

[More Events »](#) [Add Events »](#)

Events Venues Dining All

Events by [eetesays.com](#)



TV GUIDE



Chelsea Handler Goes Topless on Horseback to Battle "Sexist" Instagram



Vampire Diaries Midseason Finale Scoop: Who's Returning to Mystic F...

Login with:

1 Comment powered by:



Write your comment here

- Record video Upload video Upload image Submit

Follow

Newest



Mark Tosi Rank 771

There's is no reason for people to be forced to sleep on the street during the winter. Aside from the myriad of issues which plague Fall River, being homeless & freezing to death is cruel & should not be one of them.

5 days ago 0 Likes

Like Reply Share

Advertisement for Plymouth Rock insurance with text: Sky-high savings on auto insurance. Free Quote

Connect with The Herald News, Fall River, MA

- Facebook Twitter RSS Back to top

Site Services

- Work for Us Contact Us Submit your news Subscribe E-Edition Advertise with us

Community Info

- Town of Somerset City of Fall River Town of Swansea Town of Westport Town of Tiverton Town of Little Compton

Market Place

- Classifieds Find Fall River Jobs Cars For Sale Real Estate

Resources

- Wicked Local Somerset Wicked Local Swansea Wicked Local Westport O Jornal Taunton Daily Gazette Enterprise News Patriot Ledger

Stay Informed

Email newsletter Sign Up Today

Sign up for our newsletter and have the top headlines from your community delivered right to your inbox.

Your privacy is important, read our privacy policy.

Wicked Local Media Solutions Propel Marketing More Content Now Cars For Sale Find&Save

© Copyright 2006-2014 Gatehouse Media, Inc. Some rights reserved Privacy Policy | Terms of Service | Gatehouse Media Publications Original content available for non-commercial use under a Creative Commons license, except where noted. The Herald News, Fall River, MA | 207 Pocasset St., Fall River, MA 02722