



News

## BUSINESSES ASKED TO WARM UP TO SUMMER JOBS

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By THOMAS GRILLO

LYNN — Despite this week's blizzard, the first day of summer is just three months away.

Savvy youth are already seeking jobs to fill their vacation months with work and pockets with cash. But they need employers to step up.

Now in its 13th year, **FirstJobs** is a community-wide effort to provide work experiences for youth in 19 local communities by the **North Shore Workforce Investment Board**. The **Salem**-based nonprofit is a one-stop career center with an office in Lynn. They are seeking private sector businesses and nonprofits that can employ youths.

"We are greatly concerned that young people are not working," said **Mary Sarris**, executive director. "At one time, the employment rate for teens was more than 50 percent, but it has dropped to below 30 percent."

The summer employment program is designed to provide first-time summer employment opportunities for youth between the ages of 14-21 for eight weeks during July and August.

Youth are recruited and trained by FirstJobs. They connect local businesses needing summer help with youth seeking employment.

The cost is **\$1,760** to hire a teen to work 20 hours per week in July and August at minimum wage, **\$11** an hour.

## Hibernian 5K just days away



By BILL BROTHERTON LYNN — The eighth annual Hibernian 5K is just a few days away and it's snowing like crazy. Race co-director Mike Mannion, working from home like so many of us on Tuesday, is nonetheless optimistic that all will be well come Sunday when more than 800 will lace up their running shoes ... [Continue reading](#) →



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For employers unable to hire a teen, they are asked to consider a tax-deductible contribution to the program. Donations allow them to place teens at nonprofits.

Job readiness workshops are required of participants applying to grant-funded positions and recommended for all youth. The job readiness workshops prepare them for skills needed to succeed once they gain employment.

"We teach them about dress codes, what to do if they're going to be late or absent, things important to know for their first job," Sarris said.

Last summer, the program provided 597 youth with jobs at 180 private sector and nonprofit employers. Among the companies to offer teens work were: **Dunkin' Donuts, North Shore Animal Hospital, Empire Loan, Hampton Inn and Starbucks.**

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