

Lakeville residents approve funding for next phase of proposed fire station

"Message from Chief O'Brien:

The Lakeville Fire Department leadership team would like to express our gratitude to the Lakeville residents who attended the town meeting last night. We respect and appreciate all those who take on the burden of providing direction and oversight for our community.

Thank you for authorizing the funding required for the next phase of the fire station project. This Town of Lakeville initiative is intended to deliver improvements to fire / EMS services, with the goal of providing high value, efficiency, and fiscal responsibility.

Leadership would like to thank the members of the Fire Station Building Committee who have dedicated numerous hours in service to our community.

All of the members of the various boards and committees deserve our gratitude for their public service, I will single out our Select Board for their scrutiny and continued support.

Lastly, we wish to thank our firefighters... We thank the members who are out there representing the Department, serving our residents, and building our reputation. We thank the members who attended last night, dragging their families along for the excitement!

We have more hurdles ahead for the new station to become a reality. We will keep the faith that TOGETHER we can build something to be proud of, something that will make our community safer!"-Lakeville, MA Fire Department.



Proposed Lakeville Fire Station



Scan QR code for project information

[Fire Station Building Committee](#)



5-2-2024



Lakeville, MA Fire Department photo.

Family, friends watch Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech Class of '24 Artisans graduate!

“New Bedford – On June 7, 2024, Jeffery E. Riley Stadium at Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech was filled with family, friends, and members of our school community as the Class of 2024 Artisans crossed the stage at our annual graduation ceremony.

The ceremony was opened with a beautiful rendition of the national anthem performed by Jasmyn Duarte, a member of the class of 2024.

The Mistress of Ceremonies was the valedictorian, Faiza Rahaman, and the salutatorian was Kylie Lourenco.

The keynote address was delivered by Mayor Jon Mitchell from the City of New Bedford. He began by acknowledging the efforts and achievements of the graduates, stating, "Your diploma represents a real accomplishment. You had to keep your grades up, you had to choose studying over going out with friends, you had to deal with peer pressure, and lest anyone forgets, having spent your freshman year enduring the disruption of the pandemic, you had to make certain individual and collective sacrifices." He further encouraged the graduates to "choose not to be spectators in your world, but to be active participants in it," and emphasized the importance of striving valiantly despite potential criticism, quoting Theodore Roosevelt: "The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood."



Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School photo.

In his welcome remarks, Superintendent Watson applauded the class of 2024 for their resilience in the face of adversity. He stated, "The past few years have been a testament to your strength and adaptability. The pandemic challenged us all, altering the very fabric of our educational experience. Yet, amidst the uncertainty and change, you not only survived—you thrived. You embraced virtual classrooms, hybrid learning, and the ever-evolving demands of a world in flux. Through it all, you demonstrated that education is not confined to the walls of a classroom; it is a dynamic, ever-changing journey that prepares you for the unpredictable currents of life."

The presentation of diplomas was conducted by District School Committee Chair, Wayne Oliveira, who congratulated each graduate as they crossed the stage.

Senior Class President Annalise Applebee, Vice President Nia Rodrigues, Secretary Ava Silva, and the other senior class officers played significant roles in organizing the event, ensuring a memorable evening for all.

The evening concluded on a high note, with the graduates and their families celebrating under clear skies. The Class of 2024 leaves Greater New Bedford Voc-Tech with the skills and knowledge to embark on their next journey, ready to make a positive impact on the world.

Congratulations to all our graduates!"-Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School.



Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School photo.

Dartmouth's Bishop Stang High School appoints new principal

"Bishop Stang High School is pleased to announce Mr. Daniel Dias, with the support of Bishop Da Cunha and Superintendent Dan Roy, will be the next principal of Bishop Stang High School. Dan brings extensive experience and a passion for excellence to this new role. From teaching to counseling, directing student services, and most recently taking on the role of Vice Principal for Academics, Dan has been an integral part of the Bishop Stang family for the last ten years of his service with us. Dan was unanimously recommended as a finalist by the search committee made up of teachers and administrators.

Dan shared, "I am humbled and honored to serve the Bishop Stang High School community as the next principal. I believe so very deeply in the school's mission and the value of

Catholic education in society, and I consider myself fortunate to come to work each day and be surrounded by such kind, dedicated, and gifted professionals who pour into their students each day. I believe there is no place like Bishop Stang High School, and that is a testament to the teachers, faculty, and staff – it truly is a family. It is an honor to serve the community, and I am so grateful to the students and families, faculty, and staff, who make this community special. I am ready and excited to get to work with my colleagues, and believe the future is bright in Spartan Village.”

“I am excited that Dan has accepted this invitation to lead Bishop Stang towards 2030. Dan has shown an unwavering commitment towards bringing the best out of every student and educator that is part of the Bishop Stang community. The academic program in particular will grow in innovative ways under his direction. This is a very exciting time for our school,” shared President James Benson.



Jen Lima Photography photo.

Campus Minister, Amanda Tarantelli, who was part of the hiring committee, shared “[Dan] not only believes in the mission of Bishop Stang High School, but more importantly, he lives the

mission inside and outside of the school. He will continue to lead the faculty, staff and students in making sure that Christ is first.” While Dr. William Butler, Chair of the Science Department, added “[his] amazing leadership and dedication to our students and staff will continue to foster a culture of excellence and inclusivity, making sure every student gets the chance to thrive academically.”

In taking the leap to become a school administrator while completing his Masters in Educational Leadership from Boston College, Dan has shown true dedication to our school community. He also holds a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies from the University of New England in Educational Leadership as well as a Masters in Education with a concentration in Psychology and School Counseling. Dan’s thirst for knowledge, dedication to Catholic Education, and support of all students and educators will allow him to continue to be a strong leader for Bishop Stang for many years to come.”-Bishop Stang High School.

New Bedford neighbors, city officials celebrate the \$1.7 million reimagining of Ashley Park

“NEW BEDFORD – Mayor Jon Mitchell and other City officials joined Goulart Square neighbors Monday morning to celebrate the renovation of Ashley Park. The ribbon-cutting ceremony capped the year-long \$1.7 million project to reimagine the key public space in the heart of one of the City’s most historic

and diverse neighborhoods.

From a new entrance area at the corner of Rivet and Orchard streets to new pathways and enhanced green space, the renovation project is the latest example of the Mitchell administration's focus on providing safe, well-maintained, and aesthetically pleasing parks, playgrounds, and recreational facilities.

The City secured \$1.7 million in Community Development Block Grant funding through the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development to finance the project.



City of New Bedford photo.

“The reimagined Ashley Park exemplifies our commitment to high design standards for public spaces in every neighborhood,” Mayor Jon Mitchell said. “I want to thank our federal delegation for supporting the CDBG program, which helped fund the project.”

Park upgrades include reworked pathways around and within the park, a new prominent entrance at the corner of Rivet and Orchard streets, and new lighting, benches, and landscaping

throughout. The underutilized softball field along Orchard Street was replaced with new green space for passive and active recreation.



City of New Bedford photo.

The completed park will be managed by the City's Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches, and maintained by the Department of Public Infrastructure.

The City's Office of Housing & Community Development partnered with the Department of Parks, Recreation and Beaches to plan the renovation. Crowley Cottrell, a renowned landscape architecture firm, engaged with neighborhood stakeholders in designing the new park, and local contractor P.A. Landers did the construction work over the last year.

The improved Ashley Park is one of many significant developments in the Goulart Square neighborhood recently. A new elementary school will be built in the coming years to replace the Congdon and DeValles schools, and NorthStar Learning has already broken ground on a new early education center. Additionally, the playground at Ashley Park at the corner of Swift and Orchard streets will be completely remodeled from the ground up over the next year.



City of New Bedford photo.

“Our team is thrilled to breathe new life into Ashley Park and the beloved Goulart Square neighborhood,” Director of the City’s Office of Housing & Community Development Joshua Amaral said. “This first-rate park raises the quality of life for area residents and will usher in additional community-focused developments in educational, housing, and commercial facilities.”

“Ashley Park is well-loved by the Goulart Square neighbors and residents throughout the South End,” Director of the City’s Parks, Recreation & Beaches Department Mary Rapoza said. “The department is excited to showcase the improvements during our Summer Eats program in the park, and with the activation of the Ashley Park Community Center for youth programming.” -City of New Bedford.



City of New Bedford photo.

Massachusetts Peregrine Falcon cam allows you to watch just hatched chicks grow up

“Can you believe these fluffy little chicks will grow up to be the fastest bird on Earth and fierce predators?”

Yesterday, our biologists banded three recently hatched peregrine falcon chicks from a nesting box on MassDOT’s Gillis Bridge.

During the banding, biologists assessed the health of the falcon chicks and placed identifying bands on their legs. These bands provide useful information about the birds’

movements, lifespan, and injury recovery.

MassWildlife and MassDOT partner to provide nest boxes to protect both wildlife and infrastructure. Peregrine falcons are excellent at hunting pigeons, who are known for leaving acidic and corrosive droppings that wear away at our bridges and increase needed maintenance. When nesting peregrine falcons are near, the pigeons stay away and the bridges have a longer lifespan – a win for everyone!

Learn more about peregrine falcons, our efforts to conserve them, and a link to a nest cam at bit.ly/MA-peregrine.”- Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife.



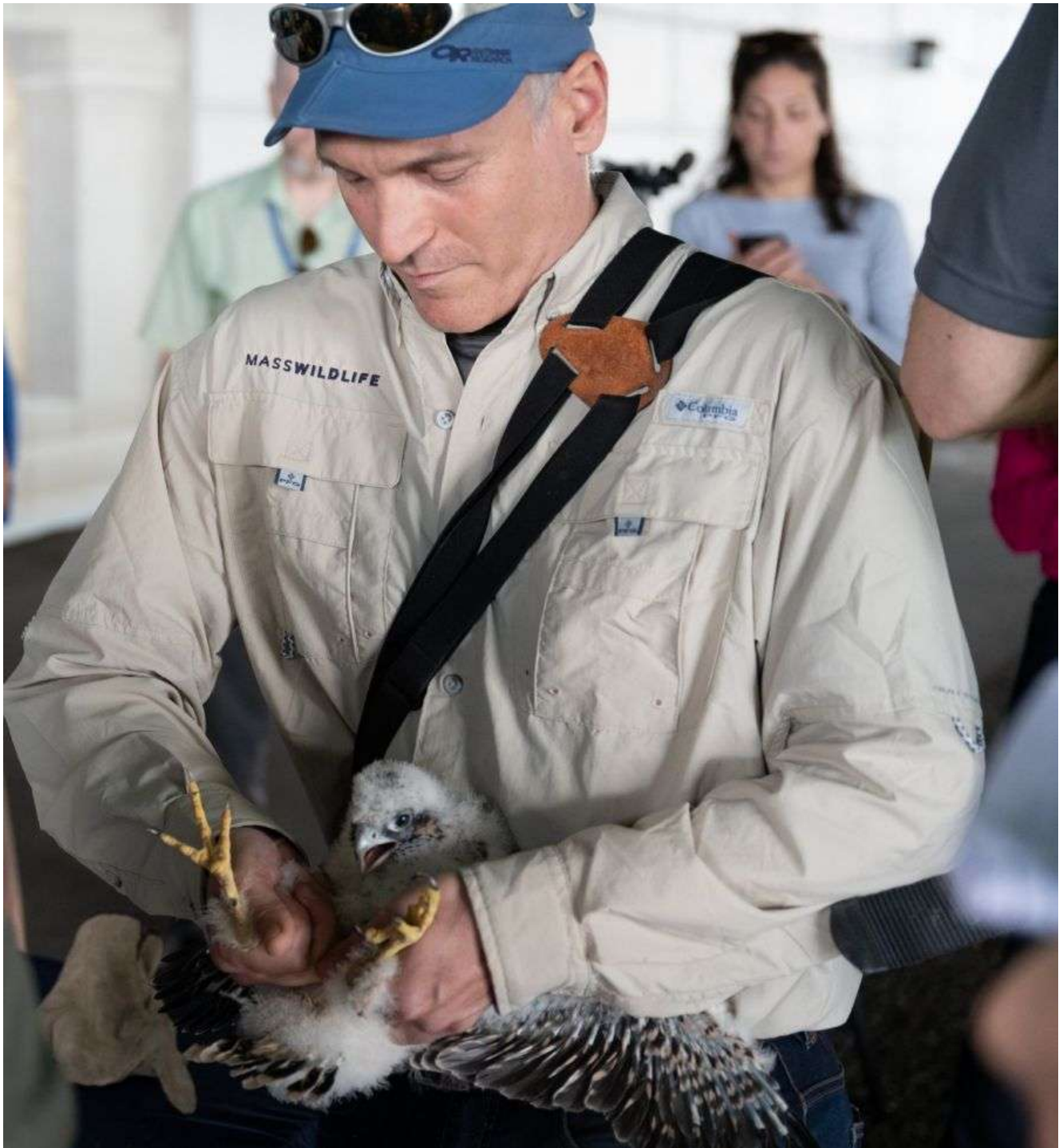
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife photo.



Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife photo.



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Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife photo.



Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife photo.



Nest box on the Gillis Bridge

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife photo.

New Bedford Fire Dept. HazMat Techs drill for cold storage ammonia leaks to prevent fatalities

“The City of New Bedford is home to a large number of cold storage facilities, utilizing anhydrous ammonia as a refrigerant, along its working waterfront and in other areas of the City.

Anhydrous ammonia leaks occur several times a year in these

large refrigeration systems. A fatality from an ammonia leak in Needham, MA that occurred in late 2022, shows the need for the ability to make rapid rescues at these incidents.

Today, New Bedford Fire Department Hazardous Materials Technicians received training in the equipment and techniques necessary to conduct rescues in an ammonia rich environment. The training was paid for with an HMEP (Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness) Grant and conducted by The Hazmat Guys. The training suits were loaned to us for use by the FDNY.

We would like to thank our Hazmat Coordinator FF Travis Rebello and EMA Director Brian Nobrega for applying for and successfully obtaining the grant funding and Safeware Inc. for their assistance in setting up the training class.”-New Bedford Fire Department.

All photos by the New Bedford Fire Department:



Marion Police Department, Sippican Elementary School welcome new comfort dog, “Norman”

“MARION – Chief Richard Nighelli and Superintendent Michael S. Nelson are pleased to welcome a new comfort dog to the Marion Police Department and Sippican Elementary School.

Norman is a 13-week-old Labrador Retriever. He officially joined the department on Friday, June 7.

Sippican Elementary School students voted between a total of three names, with Norman receiving the most votes. Murray came in second and Franklin came in third.

“I am extremely grateful to District Attorney Timothy Cruz who helped identify grant funding that made this programming a possibility for the Marion community,” said Superintendent Nelson. “I’m also very appreciative of Chief Nighelli and SRO Tracy for their leadership and commitment on this initiative as well. Additionally, I’d like to thank Geoff Gorman, Marion’s Town Administrator who has been supportive each step of the way as we worked towards bringing a comfort dog to our school community. Sippican Elementary School is very fortunate to have such strong partnerships supporting education. To be blunt, the faculty, staff members, and students are absolutely ecstatic and I am too!”



Marion Police Department photo.

Norman will spend most of his time on shift in the school district with School Resource Officer Jonathan Tracy. He will help with de-escalation, and provide comfort to children and staff in need who may be experiencing or have experienced trauma.

Once old enough, Norman and Officer Tracy will attend an 80-hour 10-day training course which will consist of lessons in obedience, socialization, environmental training, auditory training, proprioceptive (motion) and unexpected stimulus training. The training will take place at Professional Canine Services in Middleborough.

At the conclusion of the program, dogs should be confident, socialized and environmentally sound. All dogs must pass the American Kennel Club C.G.C. (Canine Good Citizen) and the

A.K.C Temperament Test.

A comfort dog is intended to help connect police with community members to spark conversation and build awareness. People who may be unsure of or uncomfortable with police may be more apt to approach a friendly comfort dog which will open up opportunities to make connections.

Norman will also assist with difficult police calls, especially those involving children. He will also make routine visits to senior centers, nursing homes and community events.



Marion Police Department photo.

"We have been eagerly awaiting this day for some time now and I am beyond thrilled that Norman has joined us," said Marion School Committee Chair April G. Nye. "We know that research has shown that there are many benefits of having comfort dogs in elementary schools with children, like helping teach empathy, helping with developing stronger social skills, as well as helping build stronger bonds between students and the

school community, just to name a few. This new addition will have ways to have a positive presence and I can't wait for our students to have this opportunity."

"We are very excited about this initiative," said Chief Richard Nighelli. "There were several moving parts to this and so many people to thank including our town officials, Superintendent Nelson, Sippican School faculty and students, DA Cruz, Marion Animal Hospital, and of course Officer Tracy. Our department continues to look for ways to have a positive presence in the community and this initiative is an example of that commitment."-Marion Police Department.

New Bedford District Probation Dept. hosts block party with local radio DJ, food, community resources

"New Bedford District Court Probation staff—First Assistant Chief Probation Officer Dave Branco and Specialty Court Coordinator Eric Dorman—grilled hot dogs and hamburgers as DJ Gazelle of radio station Fun 107 served up contemporary hit music during a festive Block Party that featured more than a dozen community organizations.

The organizations provided information about services available to court-users and their families at the event which took place in the court parking lot. The Block Party was one of dozens of community engagement efforts taking place at courts across the state. Community engagement is one of the top priorities of Probation Commissioner Pamerson Ifill and

his executive team.



Mass.gov photo.

Donald Chausse, New Bedford Probation Chief Probation Officer, estimates that he and his staff served more than 200 meals at the event where local businesses donated pizza, clam chowder, specialty grilled cheese sandwiches, coffee, donuts, and soft drinks.

Pretrial Services Operations Coordinators Jameson Dorrine and Shawnta Reid were on-hand to enroll clients into MassHealth. New Bedford Probation also distributed toiletries in drawstring bags “to those who needed one,” said Chief Chausse.

“This event was all about connecting our most marginalized

population with services. We wanted to show our community that we are not only here to help – we are also a valuable resource. I am so fortunate to have a staff that takes pride in giving back – we are hoping to do this again,” said Chief Chausse.”-Mass.gov.



Mass.gov photo.

New Bedford CPC holding public hearing to allocate funds on Housing, Open Space/Recreation, Historic

Resources

Written Comments Will Be Accepted Through July 5.

“NEW BEDFORD – The Community Preservation Committee is hosting a public hearing on Tuesday, June 11, at 6 p.m. to gather input from the public that will help update the Community Preservation Plan for the new fiscal year. The hearing will take place at the New Bedford Free Public Library, 613 Pleasant St., in the 3rd floor meeting room.

The Community Preservation Plan identifies and establishes the City’s priorities in each of the CPA categories – Open Space/Recreation, Historic Resources, and Community Housing – through an open and transparent process involving public input. The annual plan guides the allocation of funds by the CPC to projects that improve and benefit the community.

The draft Community Plan will be available for review beginning June 11 at <http://www.newbedford-ma.gov/planning/community-preservation/>. Written comments will be accepted through Friday, July 5, via email to CPA@newbedford-ma.gov or by mail to CPC – Department of City Planning, 133 William St., Room 303, New Bedford, MA 02740.

Upon completion of the new fiscal year Community Preservation Plan update and approval by the Community Preservation Committee, the FY25 application cycle will begin with the Application Technical Workshop scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 5. The CPC highly recommends all interested in applying for CPA funding attend the September workshop.

CPC PUBLIC HEARING DETAILS:

*Tuesday, June 11, 6 p.m.
New Bedford Free Public Library
3rd floor meeting room*

613 Pleasant St.

New Bedford

Translation services in both Spanish and Portuguese for the meeting are available by request only. Please contact the Community Preservation Act Manager at least 48 hours prior to the meeting if you require these services.

For more information about CPA in New Bedford, visit the City's website at <http://www.newbedford-ma.gov/planning/community-preservation/>. Questions about the public meeting or the Community Preservation Plan can be directed to the Community Preservation Act Manager at 508-979-1488 or CPA@NewBedford-MA.gov.

About the Community Preservation Act

New Bedford voters adopted the Community Preservation Act through a ballot question in November 2014. The statewide enabling legislation allows communities to create dedicated funding for projects that support open space, outdoor recreational facilities, historic preservation, and affordable housing activities in the city.

Oversight of this process rests with the Community Preservation Committee, the body established by the City to oversee the CPA program in New Bedford.

CPA funding is derived through two sources: a 1.5% surcharge on local property taxes and a state match on local revenue. For the FY24 application cycle, the CPC recommended, and City Council approved, \$2.2 million in CPA funds to 21 projects.

Since FY18, the committee has recommended, and the City Council has approved, 122 grants totaling more than \$12.5 million in CPA funding for projects that have preserved historic resources and open space, created community housing

opportunities, and both improved and created recreational facilities throughout the city. In addition, these grants have enabled organizations to leverage an additional \$12.3 million in funding from other sources, such as state and federal funds, and private foundations.”-City of New Bedford.

Fairhaven to celebrate Independence Day in grand style: antique car cruise, cannons, parade

“On Thursday, July 4, 2024, Fairhaven will be celebrating Independence day in Grand Style. We will begin with the raising of the Big Flag at F.H.S at 8:30 a.m. Watch the antique cars cruise through town and arriving at Cushman Park to meet up with the start of the Parade.

The parade will begin at 9:00 a.m. from Cushman Park (Green Street side) and continue down Green Street to Fort Phoenix.

At the conclusion of the parade the town will hold the annual Independence Day ceremony and the traditional cannon firing by the Fairhaven Village Militia. The ceremony at Fort Phoenix will begin approximately at 10 a.m.

For those traveling to Fort Phoenix during the parade, traffic will be blocked starting at Church Street traveling south on Fort Street. Parking and traffic along Green Street will be restricted until the conclusion of the parade.”-Town of Fairhaven.