

Fairhaven Animal Control and Shelter announces loss of beloved, dedicated volunteer

"It is with great sadness that we tell you that we lost one of our volunteers this past week.

Lance Gunberg passed away after a tragic accident last week. He was a dedicated volunteer for many years. He loved coming in every week but especially enjoyed our haunted shelter in the fall.

He will be missed by all of us. Rest easy Lance."-Fairhaven Animal Control and Shelter.



Fairhaven Animal Control and Shelter photo.



Fairhaven Animal Control and Shelter photo.

Rochester Police ROC recruits freeze their butts off to benefit Massachusetts Special Olympics

“On Saturday, March 16, 2024, the 76th ROC academy recruits participated in a polar plunge to benefit Massachusetts Special Olympics.

Pictured is our very own Student Officer Mattos. Great work!

If you want to learn more about donating to the Massachusetts Special Olympics go here: <https://www.specialolympicsma.org/ways-to-give/donate>.”-Rochester Police Department.



Rochester Police Department photo.

Massachusetts Environmental Police respond to “Charles” the cat, trapped on seawall in the Little Mystic River

“Massachusetts Environmental Police were contacted by Boston Animal Control Officers and asking for Massachusetts Environmental Police assistance with a domestic cat that was trapped on a seawall in the Little Mystic River.

Massachusetts Environmental Police officer responded by boat

in somewhat challenging conditions and the feline was safely gathered after several attempts and a fall into the water.

“Charles” was safely transported to shore and is with Boston AC. Charles was estimated to have been stranded for over 24 hours. Thanks to Massachusetts Environmental Police and Boston ACO’s.”-Massachusetts Environmental Police.



Massachusetts State Trooper exemplifies “protect and to serve” motto with simple act of kindness

“On Saturday, a resident of Adams was driving through town when they captured this image of one of our members from SP Cheshire assisting an elderly gentleman cross a busy street.

The resident who shared the image on social media posted, “There was a line of traffic both ways and the elderly gentleman looked nervous to cross...”

She went on to say our Trooper noticed, “that it was taking him a long time just to move an inch or two”. Without hesitation, our member, “got out of his vehicle and stayed/walked with this man probably for a good 3 minutes while he crossed the street and kept reassuring him it was okay.”

Ending her post she said, “I think everybody was so touched by this moment that for once Nobody cared about being late or where they were headed. Thank you sir...for being so kind in a busy crazy world.”-State Police Association of Massachusetts.

Lakeville Fire Dept. new tower ladder provides way to further serve community

“Lakeville’s new Tower Ladder is home and it fits!

We knew there was some concern out there, so we made sure it would fit before the vehicle was ever built. Still, Chief O’Brien refused to watch the first time backing her into the building. He said the stress was just too much!

The men and women of the Lakeville Fire Department are grateful for this resource and the opportunity to serve our community at a higher level. Thank you to all who supported this project!

The Lakeville Firefighters want to recognize our Select Board for their support of this project! Brian Day, Lorraine Carboni, Lia Fabian. Our elected leadership will own a piece of all the value provided back to our Town for the decades of service to come.

Thank you to the vehicle committee who dedicated countless hours to get this right. Thank you to Lt Ryan Silvia for taking the lead on coordinating the design, build, and delivery.

Thank you to Dave Farrell Nefea for helping us navigate the process from start to finish. We need to complete some in-service training and then the truck will be in service.”



Lakeville Fire Department photo.



Lakeville Fire Department photo.



Lakeville Fire Department photo.



Lakeville Fire Department photo.



Lakeville Fire Department photo.

New Bedford Police Department visit Media Tech class at GNBRVT High School

“Earlier this week, Assistant Deputy Chief Scott Carola and Media Relations Specialist Holly Huntoon stopped by Ms. Gaspar & Ms. Alexander’s Media Technology class at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School to talk about the power of media and the effect it has on perceptions.

We will also be collaborating with the students to develop content for the New Bedford Police Department as an assignment for school.

Thank you for being such a great audience. We can't wait to see what you all come up with! ☺☺"-New Bedford Police Department.



New Bedford Police Department photo.

U.S. CPSC warns that narcotics, water beads, in nation's water, a growing threat to children

“WASHINGTON, D.C. – During National Poison Prevention Week, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is highlighting serious, growing hazards facing young children, including a surge in unintentional poisoning from narcotics, and additional hazards identified with water bead products.

CPSC's just-released report on unintentional pediatric poisonings found that 98 children under the age of 5 died from poisonings in 2022, a 66% increase from 2021. This increase

was largely linked to narcotics and psychodysleptics. Deaths in this category nearly doubled in one year, from 33 in 2021 to 59 in 2022.

The report underscored the growing risks associated with these substances, with pediatric poisoning deaths in the U.S. rising steadily since 2019 from a low of 17 deaths in 2018; the lowest since CPSC was created in 1972.

Additionally, the report found that there were 68,600 emergency department-treated (ED-treated) injuries in children under 5 in 2022, a nearly 10% increase from the estimated 62,600 injuries in 2021.

Notably, the estimated injuries from pediatric poisonings involving acetaminophen, ibuprofen, and narcotics medications increased from 2021 to 2022:

- Acetaminophen incidents increased from an estimated 4,700 related ED-treated injuries to 5,700;
- Ibuprofen incidents increased from an estimated 2,000 related ED-treated injuries to 3,600; and
- Narcotic medication incidents increased from an estimated 1,200 related ED-treated injuries to 2,500.

“The recent rise in pediatric poisonings is heartbreaking,” said CPSC Chair Alex Hoehn-Saric. “Keeping drugs, as well as cleaning supplies, laundry packets, and button batteries safely out of reach is vital to protecting children. The CPSC is committed to preventing such tragedies by enforcing laws requiring safe packaging of poisonous substances, holding companies accountable for selling deadly products, and arming caregivers with information on how to keep their little ones safe.”

CPSC Issues Product Safety Warnings for Water Bead Products:

CPSC also today issued two product safety warnings related to

new evidence pointing to toxicity in some water bead products, which may lead to adverse health effects in children.

In separate warnings, CPSC urged consumers to throw away water bead products from Jangostor and Tuladuo due to acrylamide levels that present the risk of toxicity. Neither Chinese company has agreed to an acceptable recall

The product warnings highlight that water bead hazards can go beyond ingestion, expansion and obstruction inside a child. Acrylamide is a known carcinogen. The large water beads in CPSC's warnings contain levels of acrylamide in violation of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act.

CPSC data show that nearly 7,000 water bead-related ingestion injuries were treated in emergency departments in the U.S. from 2018 through 2022. CPSC is also aware of the death of a 10-month-old girl in 2023.

Protect young children from poisoning dangers following a few safety tips:

Drugs or Medications:

- Keep drugs and medications safely stored in a locked cabinet or box and out of the reach of children.
- Keep drugs and medicines in their original child-resistant containers and never in unsecured containers.
- Properly discard unfinished or unused drugs and medicines.

Water Beads:

- CPSC Recommendation: Remove water beads from any environment where young children may be present.
- Store water beads in a secure container and location where young children cannot easily access them.
- Do not allow children to play with water beads unsupervised.

Laundry Packets:

- Store laundry packets in their original containers and out of a child's sight and reach.
- Do not let children handle laundry detergent packets.

Household Cleaning Supplies:

- Keep chemicals and cleaning supplies safely stored in a locked cabinet or box and out of the reach of children.
- Keep household chemicals in their original child-resistant containers.

Button Cell or Coin Batteries:

- Keep products with accessible batteries away from children if the battery compartments do not have a screw closure or if the compartment is damaged.
- Check the toys in your home to make sure battery compartments are secured.
- Do not allow children to play with or be in contact with button cell or coin batteries.

In Case of Emergency: Call National Poison Help Line at 800-222-1222, 24 hours a day.”-Consumer Product Safety Commission.

CPSC's Annual Report on Pediatric Poisoning Fatalities and Injuries

**Southcoast Health's New
Bedford facility the most**

comprehensive pediatric rehab program in region

“NEW BEDFORD, Mass. – Southcoast Health patients, providers, staff, donors and leadership gathered at a ribbon-cutting ceremony this morning to celebrate the completion of the brand new state-of-the-art Southcoast Health Pediatric Rehabilitation location at 4543 Acushnet Ave. in New Bedford.

This new location will begin seeing patients on Monday, March 25, 2024, and will accommodate over 31,000 patient visits each year as the most comprehensive pediatric rehabilitation program in the region.

“Today marks the culmination of a vision and a collaborative effort unmatched in our community,” said David O. McCready, President & CEO of Southcoast Health at the event. “Last fall, when we learned this program would need to vacate our leased location, we acted immediately and made the commitment to ensure these critical services would continue, without interruption, for thousands of children in the South Coast region. I want to thank the Board of Trustees, our design and construction team, the city of New Bedford and most importantly our pediatric rehabilitation care team for their unwavering support and ongoing efforts to ensure there was not critical service gap for our patients who depend on this service.”



Southcoast Health photo.

Since October 2023, Southcoast Health expediently invested more than \$4 million to build and renovate a state-of-the-art 5,500 sq. ft. facility that includes treatment rooms, three physical therapy rooms and ample clinical support space.

Averaging more than 80 patients per day, the program staffs 34 professional therapists from a variety of disciplines including physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology delivering services to families six days per week.

“This is an incredible achievement for our community to be able to open a dedicated and specialized space for pediatric rehabilitation,” said Tonya Johnson, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for Southcoast Hospitals Group. “These services are life changing and we know how much it means for families and patients to be able to receive care where they live without having to travel to Boston or Providence.”

“And as wonderful as the physical space is, it is the expert and caring staff and clinicians who care for this patient population who make the biggest difference. Now, because of this rehabilitation program, they have even more resources to offer,” Johnson added.

Patricia Krowel, the mother of a pediatric rehabilitation patient spoke at the event, sharing how these services have greatly benefited her family.



Southcoast Health photo.

“My daughter, Arianna, has been coming to this program at Southcoast since she was about one and a half years old. She survived a stroke in utero, and when we first found out, I didn’t know where to turn. At that time 9 years ago, I was referred to Southcoast Health. Because of this amazing program, she is able to walk, jump, use both of her hands together, and I am so thankful for all of her therapists who have been with her since she was a baby,” said Patricia.

“Now she still continues to do her best and is so proud to come to therapy and show them all of the things she can do. Each member of this team is so caring and they constantly

think about the kids even when they are not here. I am so grateful for them and the services they provide for Arianna and many other children in our community.”

This new facility will serve patients from newborns up to young adults 22 years of age from throughout Southeastern Massachusetts and Southern Rhode Island.

“This program is a shining example of Southcoast Health’s commitment to our community,” said Donald Giumetti, Chair of the Board of Trustees for Southcoast Health. “Today we’re here to celebrate this ambitious project coming to fruition – and I, for one, couldn’t be prouder of how everyone came together to ensure we provide the best care for our patients close to home.”

To learn more about Southcoast Health’s Pediatric Rehabilitation Program please visit www.southcoast.org/locations/pediatric-rehab.

About Southcoast Health

Founded in 1996, Southcoast Health serves communities across southeastern Massachusetts and Rhode Island as the largest provider of primary and specialty care in the region. The not-for-profit, charitable system includes three acute care hospitals – Charlton Memorial in Fall River, St. Luke’s in New Bedford (a Level II Trauma Center), and Tobey in Wareham, Massachusetts with a physician network of more than 675 providers.

The system has established more than 55 service locations across the South Coast of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, including six urgent care locations, a Visiting Nurse Association, the Southcoast Health Cancer Center, the region’s only Level II Adult Trauma Center and numerous ancillary facilities.

Southcoast Health has been recognized consecutively for six years in a row as a Newsweek's World's Best Hospital from 2019-2024 and named a Maternity Care Access Hospital for 2023-2024 by U.S. News & World Report. The organization was recognized as the best place to work for the sixth consecutive year by Southcoast Media Group's community choice awards.

With upward of 7,500 employees, Southcoast Health is the largest employer in southeastern Massachusetts, and one of the largest employers in the Commonwealth, according to the Boston Business Journal. More information is available online at www.southcoast.org.

New Bedford CPA recommends 21 projects to City Council for funding

“NEW BEDFORD – The City of New Bedford’s Community Preservation Committee has voted to recommend 21 projects to the New Bedford City Council for a total of \$2.2 million in FY24 funding through the Community Preservation Act.

The recommended CPA funding supports projects in areas including community housing, recreation and open space, and historic resources.

The Committee received applications for 22 projects during the FY24 CPA application cycle, seeking almost \$3 million. In deciding how to allocate the \$2.2 million in available CPA funds, the Committee weighed priorities in the FY24 Community Preservation Plan, whether the proposals could achieve full or partial funding through CPA support, and which proposals best

met CPA criteria.

The Committee recently submitted the FY24 CPA Funding Recommendations to the City Council, which has the final authority to award CPA funds and approve projects as recommended, approve projects at reduced funding levels, or reject projects. Should the City Council vote to reject or reduce funding for a recommended project, the Committee will have an opportunity to respond and/or adjust the project's scope or terms prior to a final decision by the City Council.

Below are the projects recommended for FY24 CPA Funding:

Recreation/Open Space

- Boys & Girls Club Playground Expansion – \$35,000
- City Wide Signage for Parks – \$275,000
- Riverside Park Heat Island Relief Project – \$50,800
- Roberto Clemente Park Improvements – \$185,000
- YMCA Renovation – \$40,000

Historic Resources

- Cape Verdean Ultramarine Band and Club – \$25,000
- City Clerk Record Restoration Phase III – \$50,000
- Digitization of Maritime Records Phase III – \$13,200
- First Baptist/Steeple Playhouse Exterior – \$60,000
- Howland Family Portrait Conservation – \$65,000
- JAMI Mansard, Dormers, Cornice Restoration – \$95,000
- Johnson House Electrical System – \$85,000
- NB Fishing Heritage Center Archives Phase II – \$30,000
- NB Superior Court Façade Restoration – \$285,000
- Rotch-Jones-Duff House Securing History – \$23,500
- Strand Theater Restoration – \$225,000
- Underground Railroad Café and Gallery – \$25,000
- William H. Carney Lodge #200 – \$25,000

Community Housing

- Capitol Theater Interior Restoration – \$250,000
- Talbot Apartments – \$255,000
- YWCA Residential Services – \$102,500

For more information on the CPA program and the FY24 projects, visit www.newbedford-ma.gov/planning/community-preservation.

About the Community Preservation Act

New Bedford voters adopted the CPA 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.

Since FY18, the Committee has recommended, and the City Council has approved, 101 grants totaling more than \$10.3 million in CPA funding for projects that have preserved historic resources and open space, created community housing opportunities, and improved and created recreational facilities throughout the City. In addition, these grants have enabled organizations to leverage an additional \$12.4 million in funding from private foundations, state and federal governments, and other sources.” -City of New Bedford.

New Bedford Firefighters

raise most funds for MDA's 'Fill the Boot' in ALL of Massachusetts

"We did it, New Bedford! Local 841 raised the most funds for MDA's Fill the Boot in ALL of Massachusetts!

A huge thank you to our MDA fundraising committee members and Local 841 members for your tireless dedication to this past year's Fill the Boot fundraiser! Together, we've made a significant impact on the lives of families affected by muscle dystrophy.

Also, we couldn't have done it without the generosity of the amazing Greater New Bedford community. Together, with your support, we were able to raise an incredible \$31,500.00."-IAFF Local 841 New Bedford Firefighters.



IAFF Local 841 New Bedford Firefighters photo.

Massachusetts Fill the Boot

2023 Honor Roll

\$31,500.00 L0841 - New Bedford	\$6,695.31 L1840 - Ludlow	\$3,050.00 L2804 - Cohasset
\$28,779.13 L1714 - Marlborough	\$6,687.45 L1658 - Andover	\$2,663.95 L2313 - Burlington
\$17,000.00 L1011 - Haverhill	\$6,661.57 L0144 - Brockton	\$2,528.14 L2080 - Abington
\$16,246.67 L3128 - Fitchburg	\$6,500.00 L0648 - Springfield	\$2,518.00 L1347 - Watertown
\$15,641.94 L1009 - Worcester	\$6,000.00 L1637 - Belmont	\$2,500.00 L2043 - Marblehead
\$13,480.00 L0030 - Cambridge	\$5,855.00 L0076 - Somerville	\$2,138.15 L1580 - Canton
\$12,228.00 L0937 - Chelsea	\$5,459.00 L1913 - Ipswich	\$2,100.00 L1751 - Athol
\$11,498.00 L0718 - Boston	\$5,300.15 S0002 - MA Port Authority	\$2,063.30 L1707 - Natick
\$10,680.45 L1841 - Leominster	\$5,300.00 L2212 - West Springfield	\$2,060.45 L3188 - Lakeville
\$9,200.00 L1713 - Hudson	\$5,176.25 L0792 - Quincy	\$2,059.00 L1706 - Needham
\$9,000.00 L2035 - North Andover	\$5,106.00 L0926 - Revere	\$1,259.00 L1297 - Arlington
\$8,677.93 L0827 - Newburyport	\$5,000.00 L2583 - Dennis	\$1,246.01 L1555 - Fairhaven
\$8,000.00 L2124 - Harwich	\$4,924.28 L1781 - North Adams	\$1,000.00 L0902 - Malden
\$7,893.61 L4613 - Shrewsbury	\$4,664.55 L1710 - Chicopee	\$500.00 L2586 - Dracut
\$7,857.00 L2610 - W. Bridgewater	\$4,500.00 L3415 - Plainville	\$500.00 L0920 - Braintree
\$7,854.00 L1691 - Methuen	\$4,421.41 L0925 - Peabody	\$250.50 L2548 - Greenfield
\$7,817.19 L1459 - Swampscott	\$4,300.00 L4704 - Millis	\$230.00 L2568 - Marshfield
\$7,761.84 L0950 - Brookline	\$4,000.00 L1973 - Agawam	\$52.50 L2637 - Franklin
\$7,513.56 L4332 - Dighton	\$4,000.00 L1795 - Wellesley	\$50.00 L1652 - Framingham
\$7,400.00 L0739 - Lynn	\$3,730.81 L2649 - Somerset	\$26.25 L1669 - Beverly
\$7,098.10 L1768 - Plymouth	\$3,716.08 L1631 - Norwood	

2023 Total Funds Raised

\$396,000

Income History

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
\$1,027,483	\$627,005	\$8,500	\$377,473	\$459,172

IAFF Local 841 New Bedford Firefighters photo.



IAFF Local 841 New Bedford Firefighters photo.

Thank you!

L841 New Bedford MA

Thank you for your partnership and leading the way with MDA to empower the people we serve to live longer, more independent lives.

#1 Local in Massachusetts

2023

IAFF Local 841 New Bedford Firefighters photo.