

# **Bristol County Sheriff's Office appoints 23-year veteran as new Superintendent**

"Please join me in congratulating Joe Oliver for being promoted to Superintendent. Eight people submitted resumes. Five were external candidates. Three people were interviewed yesterday, one was external from another correctional organization.

A three person interview panel interviewed the three candidates. The panel was General Counsel Gretchen Bennet, Chief of Staff and Special Sheriff Owen Bebeau, and former DOC Commissioner Luis Spencer. They recommended Joe Oliver.

Joe has 23 years of experience with the BCSO. He started as a Correctional Officer in 2000. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 2003, Captain in 2010, Major in 2012, and Colonel in 2019.

In addition to being a Correctional Officer, Joe was on the Special Response Team (SRT) eventually becoming the SRT Commander, was the Director of the BCSO Training Academy, was an Assistant Deputy Superintendent of Ash Street, an Assistant Superintendent (Colonel), and most recently Acting Superintendent.

Congratulations, Joe!"-Paul Heroux.

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## **New Bedford Police respond to**

# **volatile situation involving a man with a knife on Monday**

“Police were called to a north-end residence to serve a commitment order on an emotionally disturbed person. Officers were advised that the male had expressed both suicidal and homicidal ideation. The male was also known to the officers to have been violent in the past.

Upon arrival, the male was located seated in a parked vehicle. He was holding a kitchen knife which he gestured towards the police.

At this time, rather than proceeding forward and engaging a male who was only an immediate threat to himself, the officers stepped back and encouraged communication. Family members spoke to the male in an effort to calm him down, as did police officers. Eventually, the male surrendered his weapon, exited the vehicle, and accompanied the police peacefully to the hospital.

The officers on the scene were David Figueiredo, William Suave, Marc Felix, and Lt. Arthur Hegarty.

“I’m proud of the officers’ approach to this call and their commitment to de-escalation during an extremely volatile situation. In the past, police were conditioned to simply charge recklessly forward to resolve a perceived threat. Today, officers are taking the time to consider all their options. That’s exactly what happened here, and the result couldn’t have been better.” -Chief Paul Oliveira.

*If you or anyone you know is experiencing a mental health emergency, you can call or text the Behavioral Health Line at 988, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Also, the Crisis Center is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, by calling 508-996-3154. The New Bedford Police Department has a*

*clinician response during certain hours by calling 911.*

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# **U.S. National Weather Service Boston issues flood watch for the City of New Bedford, South Coast**

## **“[Flood Watch Expanded]**

A Flood Watch has been issued for City of New Bedford for most of the day tomorrow and well into Thursday. Residents should prepare for excessive rain in a short period of time.

A widespread 2-3” of rain is expected later Wednesday into Thursday. This coupled with the wet weather of the past few days will bring the potential for Urban/Small Stream & River Flooding.

Flood Watch has been expanded into central/northeast MA & northern CT.”-US National Weather Service Boston.

## Flood Watch Wednesday into Thursday

The Potential Exists for Urban And Small Stream River flooding.

Weather Forecast Office  
Boston/Norton, MA  
Issued Mar 05, 2024 1:51 PM EST



*US National Weather Service Boston photo.*

# City of New Bedford highlights “Cadillac” of vote counting machines as elections approach

“New Bedford is now home to the Cadillac of vote counting machines. The DS450 from Election Systems & Software will help make the process of counting mail-in, early and absentee ballots more efficient.

For example: In November, it took a dozen election workers

about two 12-hour days to hand-feed all the early ballots into a counting machine on the weekend before Election Day. The new high-speed tabulator can now process and count them much more quickly.

How quick? We'll find out on Saturday morning, starting at 9 a.m. at the Elections Office at City Hall, when the public is able to observe the new machine and how it works while we process the early ballots.

**Of note:** nothing is changing on Election Day itself, this new machine is only used for early ballots. **And a reminder:** Polls are open all day on Tuesday, March 5, for the Presidential Primary. Contact the Elections Office with any questions at 508-979-1420."-City of New Bedford.

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## **New Bedford Police Department kick off Women's History Month with photo of female pioneers**

"In honor of #WomensHistoryMonth, we thought we'd show off an early 2000s #throwback photo acknowledging some of the courageous women of the NBPD.

Happy #WHM, we celebrate the contributions and the sacrifices women have made not only in U.S. history, but every single day. Thank you to our officers, dispatchers, and civilian staff who have made the NBPD what it is today.

In no particular order: Former Officers Kelly Almeida,

AnneMarie Lefever, Barbara Lipsett, Carol O'Shea, and Marge Clayton – May 29, 2000.”-City of New Bedford Police Department.



*City of New Bedford Police Department photo.*

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**CVS, Walgreens to dispense  
abortion pill in  
Massachusetts, significant**

# move in reproductive healthcare

In a landmark development for reproductive healthcare access in Massachusetts, leading pharmacy chains CVS and Walgreens have announced plans to begin dispensing the abortion pill, mifepristone, this March. This decision comes amidst ongoing legal debates and reflects a significant step in ensuring accessibility to abortion services following the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

Both CVS and Walgreens have received certification to offer mifepristone, a medication approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for terminating pregnancies up to 10 weeks. This certification allows them to dispense the drug in compliance with federal and state laws, signaling a new phase in the availability of reproductive healthcare services.

Walgreens has indicated that it will initiate the dispensing of mifepristone within a week at selected locations in New York, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, California, and Illinois. CVS, on the other hand, plans to start offering the pill in Massachusetts and Rhode Island in the coming weeks, with intentions to expand to additional states where legally permissible.

CVS spokesperson Amy Thibault emphasized the pharmacy's commitment to filling prescriptions for mifepristone where it's legally allowed, highlighting the effort to work with manufacturers and suppliers to secure the medication. The company anticipates a gradual rollout to more states, adhering to legal guidelines.

Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey, has praised the move by CVS and Walgreens. The governor's office released a statement commending the pharmacies for their initiative to expand



access to mifepristone, underlining Massachusetts' dedication to safeguarding reproductive care, including medication abortion.

The introduction of mifepristone at pharmacy chains comes at a critical juncture, with the Supreme Court set to hear arguments regarding the drug's access this spring. The Biden Administration is hopeful for a ruling that will overturn previous appellate decisions potentially restricting access to the pill, including limitations on mail delivery. However, spokespeople from CVS and Walgreens have confirmed that their customers will not be able to receive the pill by mail.

This development is particularly significant as abortion pills have become the most common method for terminating pregnancies, especially in the wake of Roe v. Wade's overturn. Mifepristone, used in combination with misoprostol, has been a key component of medication abortion for decades, though its accessibility has faced challenges from legal disputes.

As CVS and Walgreens gear up to offer mifepristone, their actions represent a pivotal moment in the ongoing fight for reproductive healthcare access, reflecting broader efforts to ensure that individuals can make informed decisions about their bodies and futures.

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**New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of March 4, 2024 – March 8,**



# 2024,

“The City of New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of March 4, 2024 – March 8, 2024, and they are as follows:

**Eversource will be working on gas main relays and services on:**

- Main relay on Acushnet Ave from Phillips Rd to Fox St
- Main relay on Central Ave from Acushnet Ave to Ashley Blvd
- Main relay on Central Ave from Church St to Brook St
- Main relay on County St from Cove St to Rivet St
- Main relay on Hicks St from Acushnet Ave to N Front St
- Main relay on Jouvette St from County St to Crapo St
- Main relay on W Rodney French Blvd from Calumet St to Bayview St

**Other:**

- MassDOT will be staging installation and beam end cleaning and concrete encasements at I-195 East and West bound lanes over Purchase St, County St and State St work is scheduled during the overnight hours starting and is scheduled until May 31st of 2024. Work will take place Sundays to Thursdays. Police will be on site for detour and safety setups.
- Contractor (SCR Constructors) will continue site work at the future South Coast Rail station platform locations in the city. (Church St at Carlisle St and Wamsutta St at Acushnet Ave.) If you have questions, please email the project team at [SouthCoastRail@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:SouthCoastRail@dot.state.ma.us)
- Contractor (SCR Constructors) will continue site work at the future pedestrian bridge across Route 18 impacting parking along Purchase Street between Willis Street and Pearl Street and at the Division of Career Services on Acushnet Avenue. Temporary detours may be in place pending construction activities occurring. If you have questions, please email the project team at [SouthCoastRail@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:SouthCoastRail@dot.state.ma.us)

- New Bedford: Rt. 18 Overnight Closures and Detours for Pedestrian Bridge Work. Construction continues for the new pedestrian bridge across Route 18 and Acushnet Avenue connecting to the New Bedford Station. Crews are currently ahead of schedule with the erecting of temporary support steel structures (falsework) over Route 18 and will begin construction of the temporary bridge deck next week. The falsework and deck will be used to support the placement and construction of the new permanent bridge steel. To accommodate the construction of the west side plaza of the bridge, there will be no street parking on the east side of Purchase Street between Pearl Street and Willis Street.

**Project: Lead Service Line Replacement Program Phase II**  
**General Contractor: C. Naughton Corp. (Monday-Friday 7:00am -5:00pm)**

- The contractor will be working Lead Service Line Replacements. Monday the contractor will be on Plymouth Street, between Brigham Street and Brownell Street. Tuesday on Brigham Street, between Farm Street and Ryan Street. Wednesday on Priscilla Street, between Brigham Street and West Street., Elizabeth Street, between Brigham Street and West Street., Priscilla Street, between Gould Street and West Street. Thursday on Priscilla Street, between Gould Street and Brigham Street and Gould Street, between Hawthorn Street and Priscilla Street. Friday between Devoll Street, between Allen Street and Grape Street, Rural Street, between Allen Street and Grape Street. During working hours, these roads may be closed with signs posted to detour traffic around work areas. Police details will be on-site allowing access to residents only and assist with traffic management.

**Project: Grape Street Collector Rehabilitation General Contractor: Green Mountain Pipeline Services Subcontractor: Ribeiro Construction Inc (Friday 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM)**

- The Subcontractor is scheduled to replace a manhole at the SW side Buttonwood Park Pond and a manhole frame at Brownell

Ave and Gaywood St. There may be a brief lane reduction along Brownell Ave while work is being completed.

**Project: Phase 4 Transmission Main Reinforcement Project**  
**Contractor: C. Naughton Corp. (Monday-Friday 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM)**

- The Contractor will continue replacing a section of the existing 48-in water transmission main north of the railroad crossing at Chipaway Road in East Freetown.

**Project: Shawmut Avenue and Howland Street Pumping Station Improvements Project General Contractor: WES Construction Corp. (Monday-Friday 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM)**

- The Contractor will continue installing the new sewer force main along Nash Road and Shawmut Avenue and Mt Pleasant Street. Lane restrictions will be in place during working hours, with one lane of alternating traffic open. Police officers will be on-site to assist with traffic management.”

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## **Milton facing lawsuit by Massachusetts for refusing to add multi-family homes amid migrant crisis**

Massachusetts Attorney General Joy Campbell has filed a lawsuit against the town of Milton, alleging non-compliance with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) Communities Law. The lawsuit, announced on Tuesday, February 27th, has sparked controversy and highlighted the ongoing debate over housing regulations and enforcement in the state, against the backdrop of a migrant crisis and a housing

shortage.

Massachusetts is facing a dual crisis, with a surge in illegal immigration and a persistent shortage of affordable housing. The MBTA Communities Law, enacted to address the region-wide need for housing, requires that MBTA communities have at least one zoning district where multi-family housing is permitted as of right.

The law sets specific criteria for these zones, including a minimum gross density of 15 units per acre and proximity to public transportation hubs such as commuter rail stations, subway stations, ferry terminals, or bus stations. Additionally, the housing must be suitable for families with children and cannot have age restrictions.

In a statement posted on Twitter, Attorney General Campbell emphasized the importance of enforcing the law, stating, "The housing crisis is going to take all of us to solve, which is why we filed a suit today against Milton. Compliance with [the MBTA Communities Law] is mandatory. My Office will not hesitate to enforce the law."

The lawsuit comes at a critical time for Massachusetts, as the state grapples with the challenges of providing adequate housing for both its residents and the influx of migrants. The outcome of this lawsuit could have significant implications for housing policy and enforcement across the state, making it a topic of considerable interest and debate among policymakers, residents, and housing advocates.

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# **New Bedford's Buttonwood Park Zoo sadly announces passing of Nikki, beloved cougar**

"New Bedford, Massachusetts: The Buttonwood Park Zoo is sad to announce that Nikki, a fourteen-year-old female cougar, passed away on February 22nd, 2024, after a period of rapid decline due to end-stage chronic kidney disease.

Described by team members as willful and stubborn, with a strong sense of what she did and did not want, Nikki held a special place in the hearts of her Zookeepers.

"You knew when she trusted you," said Katie Harding, a member of the BPZOO's animal care staff who spent thirteen years working with Nikki. "It wasn't easy, but when you got there, you knew you were lucky to be part of her circle."

Being part of that circle meant getting a peek inside her fun, and sometimes quirky, personality through training exercises and enrichment items – finding something that truly amused her could feel like a huge win.



*Buttonwood Park Zoo photo.*

Steph Durette-Mederios smiled as she remembered watching Nikki explore various enrichment she provided.

“She had a love/hate relationship with large plastic items. She would go crazy for the blue plastic barrel that was in her habitat with her. She also loved the mirror that was in there, as well as the buoys we used for target training – it brought us a lot of joy to see those natural behaviors come out because of things we made for her.”

It was also special to see the deep bond between Nikki and Riley – BPZOO’s male cougar – who spent their time together either snuggling or playing. At the advanced age of fourteen, Riley also shows signs of kidney disease, but is continuing to participate in treatments.

BPZ00 veterinarian and animal care team noticed a change in Nikki over the past few weeks. Her appetite began to decrease, and she was noticeably lethargic. Once she began refusing food, medication was no longer an option. The decision was made to humanely euthanize Nikki, surrounded by those she carefully selected to be in her inner circle.





*Buttonwood Park Zoo photo.*

“These decisions are always difficult,” said Gary Lunsford, Director of Zoological Services. “The team does everything possible to provide the best lives for our animal residents, and it isn’t easy to let them go. Animals in professional care at accredited zoos often live well beyond their normal life expectancy with ongoing veterinary care. It is a challenging week for the team as we are engaged in similar discussions regarding our cow, Daisy, as she succumbs to a chronic uterine tumor.”

“I am truly honored to have gotten to work so closely with Nikki,” said Dr. Emmy Budas, BPZ00’s Veterinarian. “We have been doing daily training sessions with her for the past few months to improve her treatment plan. Nikki is normally very picky about the people she chooses to trust, and I am very grateful to have been considered one of those people.”

Dr. Emmy and her team will continue to monitor Riley’s health closely over the next few weeks and months. BPZ00 continues to be a sanctuary for non-releasable, rehabilitated wildlife and is prepared to answer the call if the opportunity to provide a home for a young cougar arises.

Nikki will be deeply missed by everyone at BPZ00.”





*Buttonwood Park Zoo photo.*



*Buttonwood Park Zoo photo.*

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# Wendy's Will Test Surge Pricing In Some Of Its Restaurants

Just imagine that you have been waiting in line at your local Wendy's during the lunch rush, but when you pull up to order everything on the menu is a dollar more than usual. That scenario may soon become real, because Wendy's plans on testing surge pricing that will increase the price of its spicy nuggets, burgers, Frostys, and other favorites during its busiest times. How do we feel about this? Uber does this for its rideshare app, but should is this a sustainable business practice in fast food?

Earlier this month, Wendy's CEO Kirk Tanner has this to say: "The fast food chain plans on investing \$20 million to roll out digital menu boards to US-based restaurants by the end of 2025. As part of the change, Wendy's will also introduce something called "dynamic prices" that will change the prices on the digital menu boards based on demand. It sounds similar to the surge pricing system implemented by Uber, which charges riders higher rates in busy areas."

"Beginning as early as 2025, we will begin testing more enhanced features like dynamic pricing and day-part offerings along with AI-enabled menu changes and suggestive selling," Tanner says. "As we continue to show the benefit of this technology in our company-operated restaurants, franchisee interest in digital menu boards should increase further supporting sales and profit growth across the system."

Won't this practice simply drive customers to their



competitors or can we expect other industry leaders to follow suit? This vintage Wendy's ad reminds of the good times...

