

New Bedford 2024 Summer Sound Series Kicks Off June 28

The City's popular Summer Sound Series is returning for 2024, bringing a wide variety of musicians and genres to the annual series of free concerts Downtown.

Presented by Mayor Jon Mitchell, the Summer Sound Series plays its opening notes on June 28 and continues every Friday from 6:30-8:30 p.m. through Sept. 6, with the exception of Aug. 2 due to the Feast of the Blessed Sacrament. The free concerts alternate between lower Union Street (between N. Water Street and Route 18) and Purchase Street (between Union and William streets), and feature participation from local organizations and restaurants.

"Summer Sound Series is one of highlights of the City's busy summer event calendar," Mayor Mitchell said. "These block parties help support small businesses and bring family and friends together to enjoy Downtown."

"The City is excited to host Summer Sound Series for another year. Nothing beats an evening of local entertainment in our beautiful Downtown," said City Council President Naomi Carney. "People come Downtown from across the City and beyond for these celebrations, so we're looking forward to some fun evenings with our neighbors while also providing an economic boost to Downtown businesses."

Attendees can purchase a beverage from participating establishments and watch the concerts on the street. Adding to the fun will be performances from Dr. Finnegan's Circus before the concerts, artisan pop-ups, and a community art project with 3rd Eye Youth Unlimited.

"The Summer Sound Series has been a phenomenal success with growing crowds each year, invigorating our local economy and

bringing joy to our residents,” said Explore New Bedford Director Ashley Payne, who helms the City’s tourism and marketing department. “Explore New Bedford is thrilled to see our city come alive with music, culture, and fun each Friday night thanks to the generous support of our sponsors.”

All concerts are weather permitting.

The 2024 Summer Sound Series

June 28: Felix Brown Band (R&B/Funk) – Purchase Street

July 5: Johnny Hoy and the Bluefish (Americana/Blues) – Union Street

July 12: Sugarbabies (Top 40/Dance) – Purchase Street

July 19: Pearly Baker (Grateful Dead/Roots) – Union Street

July 26: East Coast Soul (Soul/R&B) – Purchase Street

Aug. 8: Colby James and the Ramblers (Roots/Rock) – Union Street

Aug. 16: Gina and the Red Eye Flight Crew (R&B/Soul) – Purchase Street

Aug. 23: Fast Times 80’s Music (80’s) – Union Street

Aug. 30: JAMMIN’ A Tribute to Bob Marley (Reggae) – Purchase Street

Sept. 6: Neal Vitullo Band (Rock) – Union Street

Sponsors: WPRI-12 (Lead Sponsor), Moby Dick Brewing Company, ServedWell Hospitality, New Bedford Light, Vibra Hospital

Participating Restaurants for Purchase Street: No Problemo, The Pour Farm Tavern, DNB Craft Kitchen, The Vault

Participating Restaurants for Union Street: Play, Cultivator Shoals, Moby Dick Brewing Company, New Beige, Whaler’s Tavern, Rose Alley Ale House, Cork

Pollen peaks bring tree, grass pollens to greater New Bedford covering everything in sight

If you are sensitive to pollen you know full well that Monday pollen announced its arrival and with it congestion, sneezing, coughing and the tell-tale signs of cars being slathered with the yellow stuff.

We are presently amid two pollen peaks brought to us care of tree and grass pollens. This current peak will last approximately another dozen days or so before another irritant arrives in late July: ragweed.

The yellow stuff we are seeing on our cars is pine pollen and despite most people not being allergic to it, the grains are relatively large – 60-to-100 microns in size – and they can clog up our nasal cavities and lungs making it difficult to breath without congestion.

We will have a few more days of the messy covering before we get respite courtesy of significant rainfall on Thursday which will wash away the nasty stuff.

New Bedford Firefighters squelch fire on fishing

vessel on Homer's Wharf

"On Monday at 4:30pm, 911 calls were received reporting a fishing vessel fire on Homers Wharf.

The location was amended to the end of Leonards Wharf. The fire was located inside the F/V Gulf Stream. The Gulf Stream was moored as the third vessel out from the pier. The fire was located on the starboard side of the vessel. Crew members were on board at the time of the fire performing gear work.

Members of the crew attempted to extinguish the fire and one member was evaluated at the scene by NBEMS Paramedics for smoke inhalation. Fire crews extinguished the fire with one hose line, ventilated the interior of the vessel, and conducted air monitoring prior to crew members reentering the vessel.

The fire was investigated by the NBFD Fire Investigation Unit and determined this to be an accidental fire. The NBPD also assisted on scene."-New Bedford Fire Department.



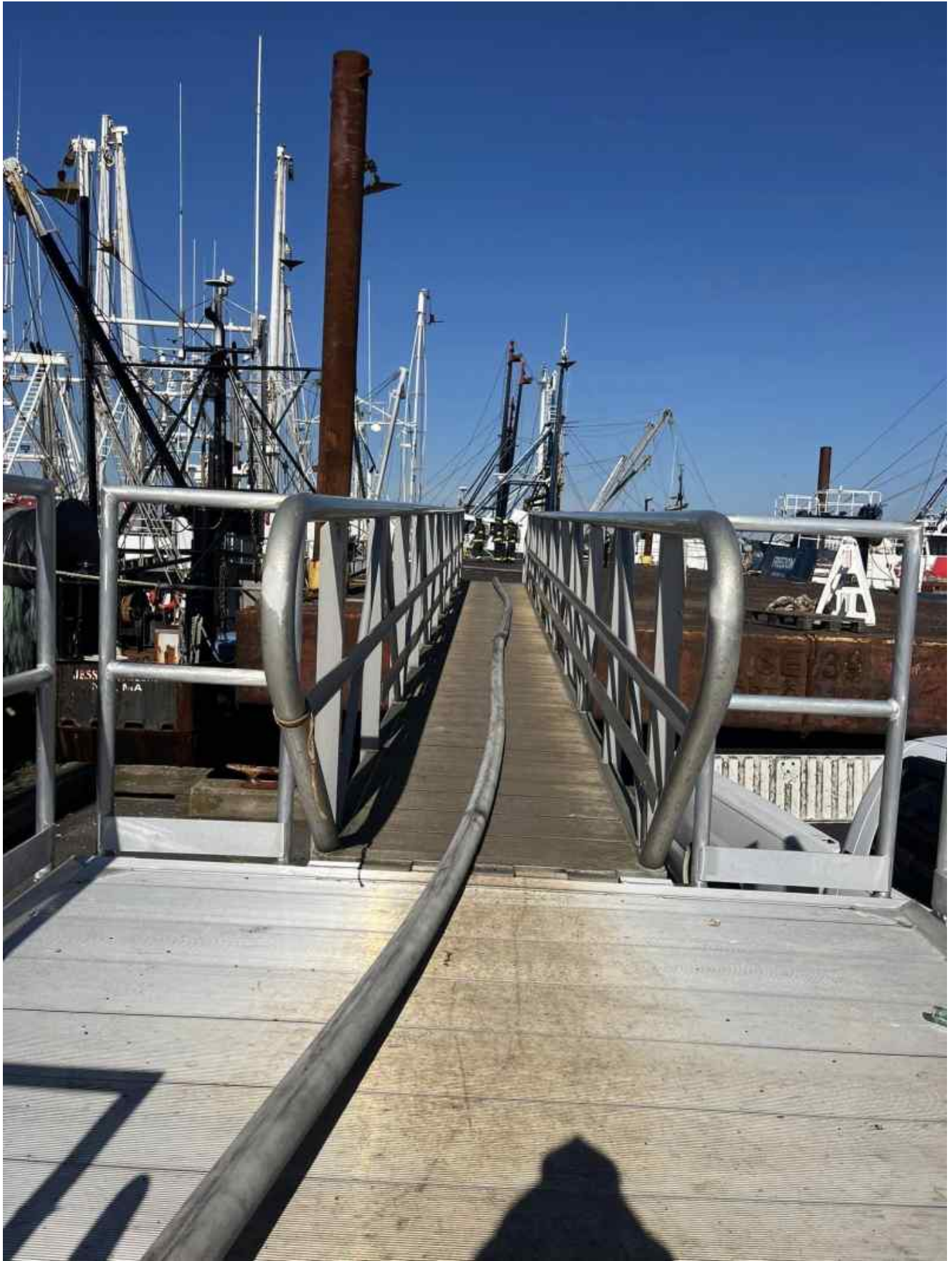
New Bedford Fire Department photo.



New Bedford Fire Department photo.



New Bedford Fire Department photo.



New Bedford Fire Department photo.

New Bedford motor home, exposed garage, catch fire from propane gas grill

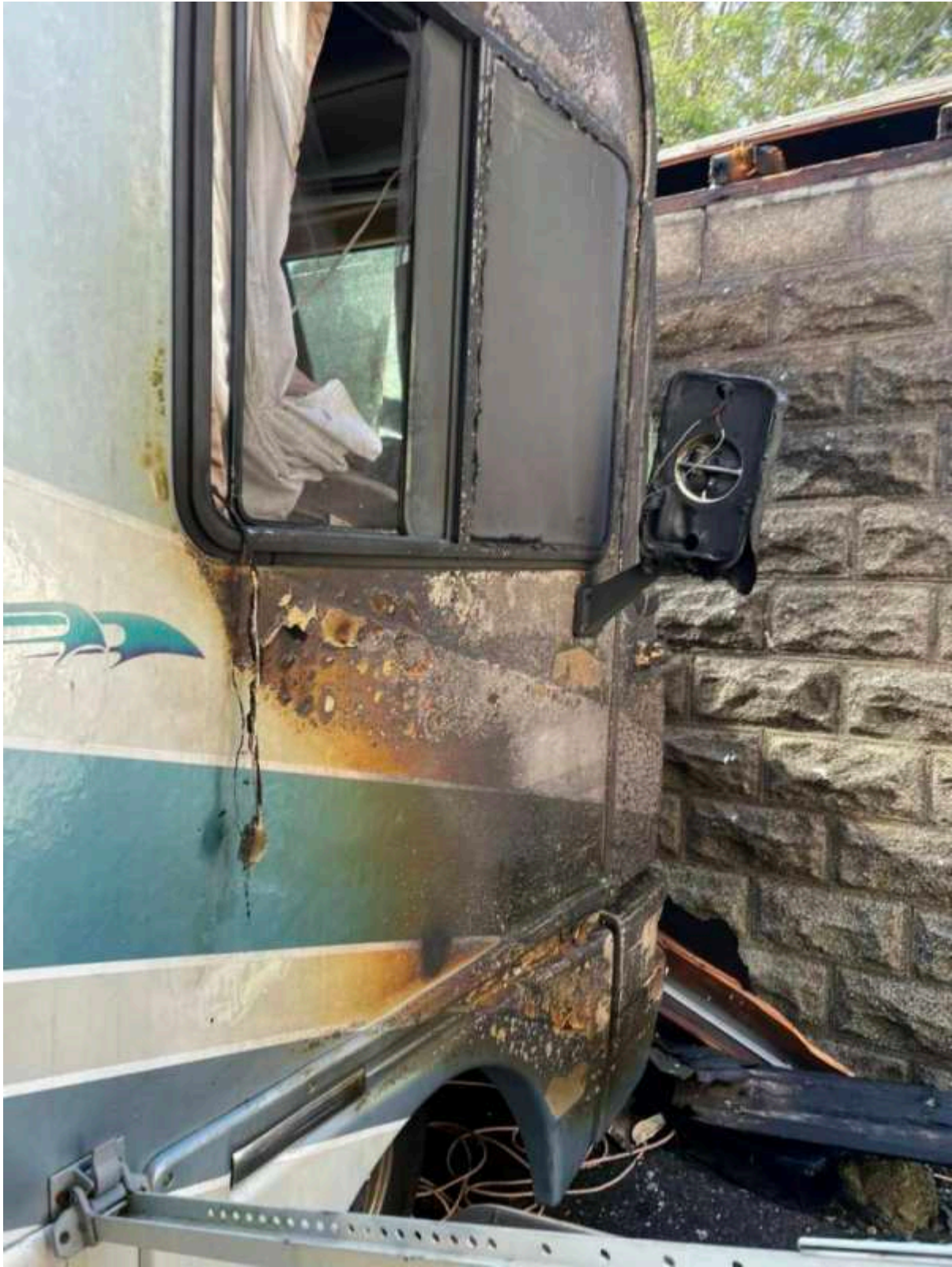
“This past Saturday at 3:46pm, 911 calls were received reporting an exterior fire at 233 Mt. Pleasant Street which had spread from a propane gas grill to a nearby motor home and exposed garage.

The fire was quickly extinguished with one hose line. The garage roof was opened to check for fire extension. A resident sustained a minor burn to his hand and was evaluated on scene by NBEMS Paramedics.

The fire was investigated by the NBFD Fire Investigation Unit and determined to be accidental.”-New Bedford Fire Department.



New Bedford Fire Department photo.



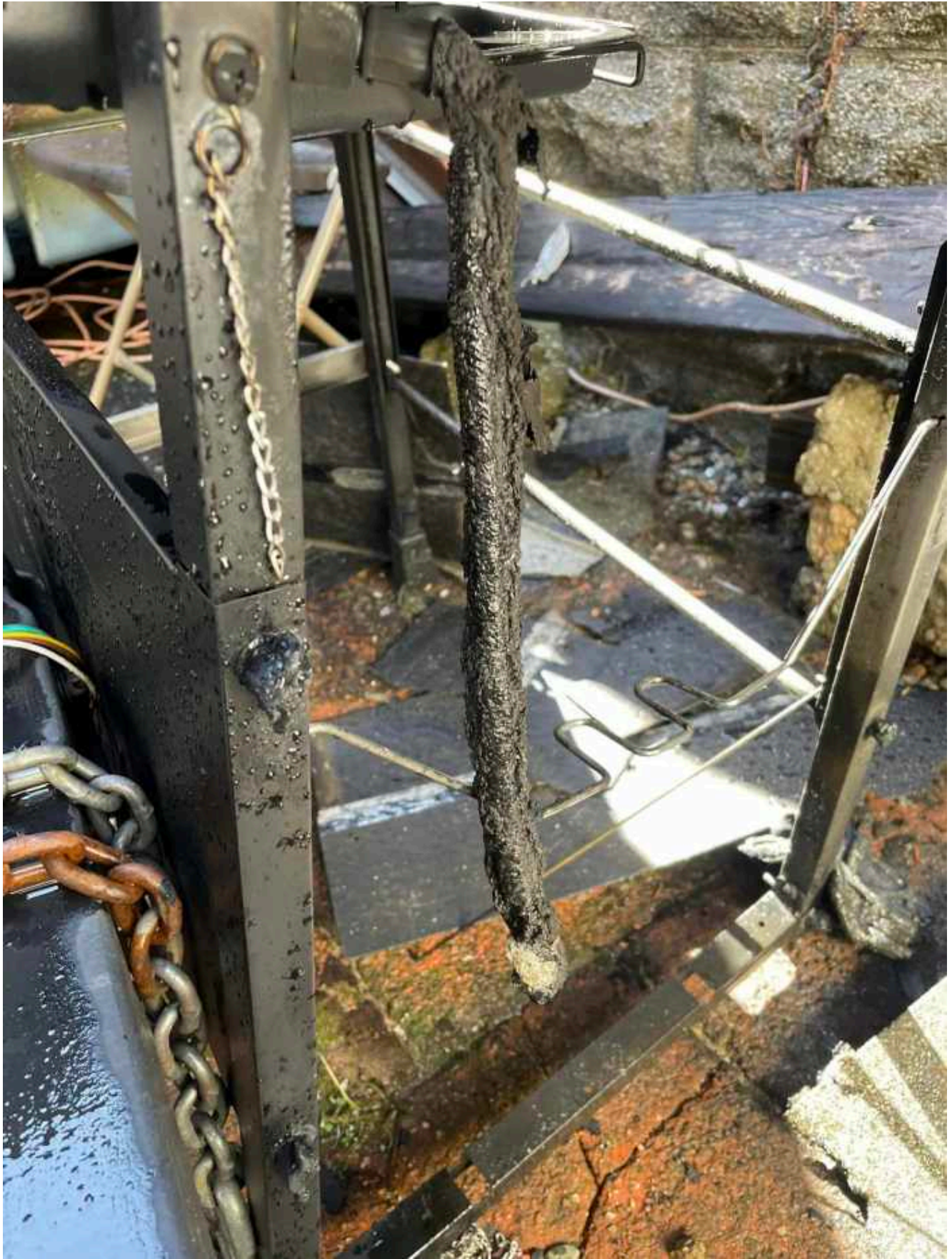
New Bedford Fire Department photo.



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New Bedford Fire Department photo.



New Bedford Fire Department photo.

New Bedford man, juvenile exposed to refrigerant leaking from 1940s refrigerator

“This past Thursday evening at 6:15pm, the Nbfd responded to 341 Davis Street for an unknown chemical leaking inside this one family home.

Fire crews found an adult male and a juvenile male who had been exposed to a refrigerant leaking from a 1940s era refrigerator in the basement.

The Nbfd Hazardous Materials Coordinator responded and called for a Tier 1 hazmat response from the District 1 MA Hazardous Materials Team. A Tier 1 response provides assistance in identifying the chemical and provides information to health care providers at the scene or at the Emergency Department. Both residents were transported to St. Luke’s Hospital via NBEMS ambulance.



New Bedford Fire Department photo.

The Nbfd Hazmat Coordinator and state hazmat techs were able to identify the leaking refrigerant as sulfur dioxide, which was commonly used in refrigerators from that time. Both residents were released from St. Luke's Hospital later the same evening.

Fire crews and hazmat technicians were able to remove the refrigerator from the basement while on breathing air (SCBAs) and ventilate the home with positive pressure fans which took an extended time due to the gas being heavier than air. Monitoring was conducted inside and outside of the residence.

There were no further hazards once the chemical was released inside the home.

The New Bedford Health Department also provided assistance and along with hazmat personnel determined the home was safe to enter the following day.”-New Bedford Fire Department.



New Bedford Fire Department photo.



New Bedford Fire Department photo.

City of New Bedford announces weekly targeted ground spraying for mosquitoes

Sprays between 2 a.m. and sunrise will target City's parks, event spaces.

“NEW BEDFORD – The New Bedford Health Department is partnering

with the Bristol County Mosquito Project and the Mass. Department of Public Health on the annual mosquito monitoring program, which includes weekly ground spraying starting June 6.

The weekly ground spraying by the Bristol County Mosquito Project will target parks and other locations that host large public events. Starting June 6 and continuing every Thursday through September between 2 a.m. and sunrise, ground sprayings will take place around Buttonwood Park, Brooklawn Park, Fort Taber, Hazelwood Park, Riverside Park, Clasky Common Park, Ashley Park, Wing's Court, Custom House Square, and other areas Downtown.

Residents near targeted areas may want to close their windows in the evenings prior to spraying. In the event of inclement weather, the spraying will be moved to early Friday morning.

The annual monitoring program sees crews place traps and collect specimens to monitor the mosquito population through the summer months. It also helps track whether any mosquitoes are carrying Eastern equine encephalitis or West Nile virus.”

Massachusetts House Outlines \$6.2 Billion Housing Plan

Sam Drysdale
State House News Service

House Democrats will seek a vote this week on a bill that combines \$6.2 billion in state borrowing and tax credits with policy reforms designed to unlock new housing production, including development of units on single-family lots.

With sky-high sale prices and rents suffocating residents, the House will try to shift the tide by pumping more money into existing housing programs and rolling out a few new strategies, but not the local-option transfer tax Gov. Maura Healey proposed.

The House Ways and Means Committee bulked up the five-year, \$4.1 billion bill Healey filed in October (H 4138), calling for \$2 billion to fix the state's aging public housing stock and \$1 billion to expand the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's service area into more suburbs with the goal of spurring housing production.

Top Democrats sought to portray the proposal as a landmark – Housing Committee Co-chair Rep. James Arciero called it “the largest housing investment in state history” – and as merely one step toward untangling a thicket that for years has generated dire warnings.

Some estimates have suggested Massachusetts needs to generate 200,000 more units of housing to keep up with population growth and prevent workers from departing for other states.

“You don't have the capacity to build all those units all at once anyway, so it's ridiculous to think that you're going to solve this with one bond issue. I think it's the beginning of a process,” Mariano said Monday.

“We hear all the time about people not staying, college grads looking for more affordable housing, and I think that's something we have to be aware of and we have to begin the process right away,” he added. “We can't wait.”

The House plans to take up the redrafted bill (H 4707) on Wednesday.

Housing challenges were at the forefront of public concern at the outset of the 2023-2024 session, but lawmakers are only now about to embark on deliberations about concrete policy

reforms, more than seven months after Healey filed her own proposal.

Healey has suggested her bill could lead to more than 40,000 new housing units, and House Democrats said Monday they're unable to put an estimate on the number of new units Massachusetts could expect from the major funding commitment.

Much of the bond authorization in the bill would recapitalize existing programs, typically at higher levels.

Close to half of the House bill's bottom line covers just two provisions. It would direct \$1 billion toward the MWRA expansion efforts, and make \$2 billion – \$500 million more than Healey proposed – available for repairs, rehabilitation and modernization to the roughly 43,000 public housing units in Massachusetts.

Many of those homes are in a state of disrepair, and WBUR and ProPublica reported last year that about 2,300 units were vacant.

"We were unaware of the number until we got hit in the head with it, and it's a real need," Mariano said Monday. "Cities and towns have put off putting people in units because they can't get them up into a livable standard."

One-quarter of the public housing funding in the House bill would be reserved for preserving housing for residents who earn less than 30 percent of the area median income.

Another \$800 million in the bill would flow to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which works to create or preserve homes for families who earn about the median area income or less.

One idea House Democrats added to the mix would make \$150 million available to help cities and towns convert commercial properties into multifamily residences or mixed-use options. Project sponsors could also qualify for tax credits worth up

to 10 percent of development costs.

House Ways and Means Committee Chair Aaron Michlewitz said that proposal would “tackl[e] two different issues at the same time” by helping to create a path forward for vacant commercial properties, which have become more common since the COVID-19 pandemic rewired work patterns.

The bill also embraces Healey’s proposal to allow for accessory dwelling units, or ADUs, by right in single-family zones across the state. Supporters say those homes offer a viable option for larger families who want to keep adult children or aging parents close by, and the Healey administration previously estimated the reforms could lead to production of up to 10,000 ADUs in five years.

House Democrats did not, however, go along with one of the most controversial ideas in Healey’s bill: allowing cities and towns to impose new taxes on pricey real estate transactions and steer the revenue toward housing.

Several communities, including Boston and those on Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket, for years have sought state permission to roll out transfer fees, arguing that the policy change could drum up much-needed money for affordable housing. Boston Mayor Michelle Wu told lawmakers last year that if a 2 percent tax on the portion of any real estate sale over \$2 million were in place in Boston, it would have generated up to \$100 million from only 700 transactions out of more than 10,000 that took place.

Healey gave Wu and other supporters a jolt of optimism by backing a statewide local option in her housing bond bill. The measure drew opposition from real estate industry groups such as the Greater Boston Real Estate Board, who argued that it would increase prices.

Mariano hinted earlier this spring that he was at least open to the idea, telling business leaders that “we must explore

all options that have the potential to make a real difference.” But he said Monday that he found the measure “was not as universally appealing as I thought it might be” among representatives.

“It’s so inequitable. You’d raise a ton of money in Nantucket and you’d raise next to nothing in Lawrence,” Mariano said. “It’s hard to have an effective housing policy that is going to spur development when there’s that much of a difference.”

A reporter asked what the harm would be in approving the measure as a local option, which would greenlight it only in communities that actively want to impose the higher fees.

“The harm is that you get a scattered policy that doesn’t help anyone. It only helps the folks with the money,” Mariano replied.

“Piecemealing it one by one by city and town is just not effective real housing policy, and it doesn’t solve the housing crisis that we’re in across the commonwealth,” Michlewitz added.

The Healey administration estimated that, if half of municipalities adopted the local option with a 1 percent tax and put revenue toward subsidizing housing at about \$350,000 per unit, it could add 3,210 affordable homes over five years.

Asked Monday if she felt the bill would be watered down without the transfer tax, Healey replied that she had not yet seen the House bill but was glad that it had been released.

Representatives rejected an earlier version of the idea in 2020. At the time, Cambridge Rep. Mike Connolly sought to add a local option real estate transfer fee to an economic development bill, but the House shot down the idea 29-130.

Virtually all of the major changes to Healey’s bill – one of the most impactful proposals of the two-year term – occurred

in the final stage of review, the step controlled by Mariano's top deputies.

The Housing Committee spent more than four months reviewing Healey's proposal before advancing it without altering a single word, and the Bonding Committee also left the original bill intact. The House Ways and Means Committee, which unlike the other two comprises only representatives and no senators, then substantially raised the bill's bottom line and spiked the transfer tax language.

Bond bills authorize capital spending but annual state borrowing amounts across a wide range of priority areas are limited by how much debt service the state can afford in its annual budget.

Michlewitz said he wants to take advantage of the April 2023 rating upgrade Standard & Poor's Global Ratings awarded to Massachusetts.

"We're trying to take advantage of our most recent bond rating increase. Now's the time to go higher on that, to take advantage of it, as high as we can," he said.

[Alison Kuznitz and Sam Drysdale contributed reporting.]

Fall River woman shot in chest outside of Brockton residence, stray bullets hit

another home

At approximately 1:45 am on Sunday, Brockton Police and EMS received 911 calls for a report of a person shot outside a residence in the city.

Upon arrival to 31 Falconer Ave. first responders discovered a woman who had suffered a gunshot wound to the chest. Brockton Fire Department and Brewster Ambulance personnel immediately treated the victim at the scene before racing her to a Boston hospital.

Brockton Police took a 27-year-old Brockton man into custody.

One eyewitness stated that he was woken up by the gunshots and that a stray bullet had come through a wall below his sons' bedroom leaving 2 bullet holes as it ricocheted.



Marc Vasconcellos Facebook photo.



Marc Vasconcellos Facebook photo.



Marc Vasconcellos Facebook photo.

Wareham Police undergoing rigorous training for active shooter and mass casualty events

“The Wareham Police Department has taken a proactive approach regarding training and tactics around active shooter and mass casualty events.

Over the past several months, a team of Wareham Police officers along with firefighters from the Wareham and Onset Fire Departments have hosted a multi-agency active shooter training program. The training program is A.L.E.R.R.T (Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training), an Active Attack Integrated Response Training Program (AAIR) www.alerrt.org. The Municipal Police Training Committee of Massachusetts (MPTC) has now adopted this training curriculum and it will be implemented in upcoming recruit academy classes across the Commonwealth.



Wareham Police Department photo.

Police, Fire, and EMS agencies including major cities and universities from across Massachusetts have attended this training hosted by the Town of Wareham. There are currently two (2) training sessions remaining in June. The training has included civilian role players from Wareham District Court and Water Wizz Water Park, all of whom will attend our CRASE (Civilian Response Active Shooter Event) course.

The Wareham Police Department would like to cordially invite the media to one of our scenario days either on June 6, 2024, from 4p-12a, or June 14, 2024, from 8a-4p. Attendees will be able to participate as role player(s) and be able to get a first-hand experience of this training. You will be able to video and photograph portions of the “live” scenarios.

If anyone is interested in attending or would like more information regarding this training please contact the lead instructor, Officer Calib LaRue: calib_larue@warehampolice.com or Sergeant Bryan Whalen: bmw@warehampolice.com.”-Wareham Police Department.



Wareham Police Department photo.

Massachusetts police investigating 200 LGBTQ Pride flags stolen from rotary

“CARLISLE – Chief Andrew Amendola reports that the Carlisle Police Department is investigating the theft of over 200 LGBTQ Pride flags from the area of the rotary in Carlisle Center.

On Monday, May 27, the Carlisle Police Department was notified that over 200 LGBTQ Pride flags that had been placed in the rotary at the intersection of Lowell Street, Bedford Road and Westford Road, were stolen overnight.

The flags were last seen on Sunday night, and were stolen sometime overnight.

The Carlisle Police Department is actively investigating the theft, and is asking the public for assistance.

“We are taking this very seriously,” said Chief Amendola. “It is unfortunate, as Carlisle is an inclusive community, and we want everyone to feel safe and welcomed here.”

Anyone with information on the thefts is asked to call the Carlisle Police Department at 978-369-1155.”-Carlisle Police Department.