

New Bedford and Wareham Mobile Markets begin next week

United Way of Greater New Bedford's Mobile Market will begin distributing free, fresh produce to low-income working families on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting July 12.

Now in its eighth season, Mobile Market aims to remove the barriers families often face in getting fresh produce. By offering free produce after traditional work hours, United Way gives families access to fruits, vegetables, and other items they might not otherwise be able to obtain due to financial restraints or the hours traditional food pantries are open.

"We've all been feeling the impact of inflation due to the pandemic, and this is causing families to forgo healthy options," said Victoria Grasela, VP of Marketing & Community Engagement. "Mobile Market pushes barriers like this aside and allows families the access to produce that will improve their overall health and wellness. We are committed to easing some of the stress families are feeling right now."

Markets are held each week in Wareham and New Bedford and run from 5:30 to 7 pm or until all food is distributed. In Wareham, markets are held on Tuesdays at Wareham Middle School, located at 4 Viking Drive. In New Bedford, markets alternate between BankFive locations in the North and South ends of the city – located at 1724 Acushnet Ave. and 160 County St. on Thursday evenings. To view the full schedule, visit www.unitedwayofgnb.org/mobile-market.

The produce is grown locally at Sharing the Harvest Community Farm at the YMCA Southcoast Dartmouth. Produce varies from week to week depending on the growing season. Mobile Market New Bedford is sponsored by BankFive, and Mobile Market

Wareham is sponsored by Southcoast Health – both of whose employees also volunteer at many of the Mobile Markets throughout the season.

Qualifying families and individuals are invited to visit the Mobile Market every other week. Pre-registration is encouraged electronically to reduce both wait times and the spread of germs, but registration may also be done on site. Pre-registration does NOT guarantee produce, we serve on a first come, first served basis. Anyone not vaccinated is required to wear a mask.

Families and individuals who are able to visit a food pantry during traditional hours are encouraged to do so – pantries distribute fresh produce from Sharing the Harvest, in addition to bread, meat, dairy, and other food items.

To learn more about the Mobile Market, the Hunger Commission or United Way of Greater New Bedford, please visit unitedwayofgnb.org.

Massachusetts and Connecticut officials arrest man for alleged human smuggling

“A Connecticut man was arrested on charges that he allegedly attempted to smuggle an individual from Brazil into the United States.

Fagner Chaves De Lima, 41, of East Hartford, Conn., was charged with one count of attempted human smuggling. De Lima will appear in federal court in Worcester today before U.S.

District Court Magistrate Judge David H. Hennessy.

"It is alleged that Mr. De Lima orchestrated an elaborate and manipulative human smuggling operation. For a steep price, Mr. De Lima allegedly made arrangements for victims to travel from Brazil to the United States, and then extorted the vulnerable victims and their families for more money, even threatening harm," said United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins. "As we all know, smuggling operations abuse, exploit and endanger defenseless victims. Combating human smuggling and trafficking networks is a top priority of our office. This alleged crime is an affront to human dignity and a danger to national security."

"What Fagner Chaves De Lima is accused of doing is disgraceful. In attempting to smuggle human beings into the United States for his own financial profit and then allegedly extorting them for more money, under the fear of harm, he has demonstrated a deliberate disregard for the safety of their lives, and our country's laws that are in place to ensure the public's safety," said Joseph R. Bonavolonta, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Boston Division. "It's important for anyone who is a victim of human smuggling to know that we prioritize the safety of victims when working with our law enforcement partners to bring international human smugglers to justice."

According to charging documents, De Lima ran a business that illegally smuggled individuals from Brazil into the United States. It is alleged that, in exchange for payments of thousands of dollars, De Lima made travel arrangements for clients to illegally enter the United States from Brazil by plane or bus and arranged lodging accommodations for clients during their travel. In addition, De Lima allegedly extorted clients while their journey to the United States was underway by threatening to harm them and/or their family if they did not pay additional money.

In May and June 2022, an undercover agent initiated

communications with De Lima over WhatsApp under the guise that the agent sought to have his sister and niece smuggled into the United States. The undercover agent offered to pay \$15,000 for De Lima's services, and De Lima allegedly agreed to the arrangement. According to the charging documents, De Lima stated during these communications (translated from Portuguese) that he had been engaged in human smuggling "for 20 years," and that he will smuggle individuals "whether you have a visa, no visa, or if . . . [they] are wanted by the police." De Lima also allegedly acknowledged in later messages that human smuggling is "dangerous." On June 16, 2022, De Lima traveled to Worcester to meet with the undercover agent, during which De Lima allegedly accepted two checks for the agreed upon total of \$15,000 in exchange for his smuggling services and requested the sister's passport and Social Security number.

The charge of attempted human smuggling provides for a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, up to three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

U.S. Attorney Rollins and FBI Boston SAC Bonavolonta made the announcement.

Valuable assistance was provided by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Yuma Field Office; Homeland Security Investigations in Yuma; U.S. Postal Inspection Service, Boston Division; and the Marlborough, Worcester, Hartford (Conn.) and East Hartford (Conn.) Police Departments; Assistant U.S. Attorney John T. Mulcahy of Rollins' Civil Rights Enforcement Team is prosecuting the case.

The Civil Rights Enforcement Team (CRET) was created in 2010 to coordinate the efforts of the U.S. Attorney's Office in enforcing federal criminal civil rights laws. CRET is composed

of Assistant U.S. Attorneys and professional staff from the criminal and civil divisions of the office. The primary goals of the CRET is to develop a comprehensive enforcement strategy to address civil rights issues that arise in the District of Massachusetts; to uphold the constitutional rights of all residents, particularly some of the most vulnerable members of society; and to enforce federal statutes prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, disability, religion, familial status, and national origin.

If you believe that you or someone you know may be a victim of human smuggling/trafficking, please contact the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline at 1-888-373-7888, or Text 233733.

The details contained in the charging documents are allegations. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law." -Massachusetts Department Of Justice.

New Bedford Fire Department responds to large, involved fire at Bob's Tire

"On Thursday at 11:49AM multiple 911 calls were received reporting a fire at Bob's Tire located at 79 Brook Street.

First arriving fire apparatus reported a well-involved fire extending out of the building and igniting nearby piles of shredded tires. Crews initially made entry into the large warehouse building where tire shredding is conducted. Due to rapidly declining conditions, crews were removed from the

building and transitioned to an exterior attack. A general alarm response was called for soon after.

The NBFD received assistance from the NBPD, NBEMS, NBEMA, the Department of Fire Services, State Hazardous Materials Team, the MA Department of Environmental Protection, and the Special Signal Fire Association / Providence Canteen. MA State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey was also on scene. No firefighter or civilian injuries were reported. The cause of the fire was investigated by the NBFD Fire Investigation Unit and determined to be accidental. The fire originated in a tire shredder located inside the building.

Crews are remaining on scene throughout the evening to ensure there are no smoldering fires. This was a manpower intensive operation involving the use of heavy machinery to relocate piles of shredded tires for extinguishment. Fire crews also used cutting torches to access smoldering fires in shredding machines.

Mutual aid was provided by Dartmouth Fire Districts 1, 2, & 3, along with the Acushnet, Freetown, and Fairhaven Fire Departments.

Great work was done today by our members along with all of our public safety partners from the city, state, and surrounding departments. Thanks to all of you!" -New Bedford Fire Department.

All photos by the New Bedford Fire Department:



Video by Shad Samagaio:

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Video by Ryan DeCosta:

Dartmouth Fire Department responds to structure fire on Woodcock Road

“On June 6, 2022, at 3:42 pm, Dartmouth Fire District 2 was dispatched for a structure fire at 7 Woodcock Rd.

The on-duty crew responded in Engine 6 and arrived within 2 minutes of being dispatched. The crew found heavy smoke coming from a 24 x 24 detached garage within close proximity to a

residential structure. Mutual aid engines were requested from Fire District 1 & 3 to respond to the scene.

The crew stretched a crosslay to the "B" side door, forced entry and initiated an interior fire attack. One of the garage doors was removed to facilitate easy access for mutual aid crews.

The bulk of the fire was knocked down quickly with no resulting damage to the adjacent residential structure. Crews began salvage and overhaul operations.

It was determined that a portable generator was being run inside the garage with the exhaust pipe in close proximity to the wall. This resulted in the ignition of combustible materials.

No civilians or firefighters were injured during this incident.

I would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to Dartmouth Fire District 1, Dartmouth Fire District 3 and the Dartmouth Police Department for their assistance at this incident.

Respectfully,

Greg Edgcomb

Acting Fire Chief

Dartmouth Fire District 2." -Dartmouth Fire Department.



Dartmouth Fire Department photo.

Massachusetts State Police charge four for drug trafficking, seize six illegally owned guns, drugs

"The execution of several warrants this morning by Chelsea Police and State Police resulted in the arrests of a suspected drug trafficker and three other men on firearms charges, as well as the seizure of six illegally-owned guns.

Chelsea Officers and MSP Troopers made court-authorized entry into two apartments at 78 Washington Ave., Chelsea, and also into a residence at 20 Cary Ave., Chelsea. At the latter

address, the entry team also had an arrest warrant for resident TIMOTHY RAMOS, 27, a suspected associate of the targets in the narcotics investigation, charging him with a June home invasion on Orange Street in Chelsea.

The investigation leading to the arrests began several months ago when Chelsea Police began conducting undercover purchases of crack cocaine and fentanyl from targets dealing out of a 78 Washington Ave. apartment, including ELIJAH ACEVEDO, 26, of that address.

During the same period of time, on, April 21, members of the State Police Detective Unit for Suffolk County and Chelsea Police responded to a non-fatal daylight shooting in the area of 78 Washington Ave. An innocent by-stander was shot in that incident and transported to a hospital for treatment. Troopers from the detective unit and the Revere Barracks developed information indicating that ELIJAH ACEVEDO was the intended target of that shooting.

Meanwhile, on June 11, Chelsea Police responded to a home invasion at 36 Orange St., Apt. #1, Chelsea. Their investigation identified TIMOTHY RAMOS as one of the suspects in that crime. The State Police Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section began searching for RAMOS.

Based on the aforementioned investigations, detectives obtained search warrants from Chelsea District Court for Apartments 1 and 7 at 78 Washington Ave. and for 20 Cary Ave., as well as an arrest warrant charging RAMOS with the June home invasion.

The operation resulted in the arrest of four suspects and the recovery of six illegally-owned firearms (five pistols and a revolver), 58 grams of crack cocaine, 30 grams of heroin, an undetermined amount of marijuana, \$2,000 in U.S. currency, and a quantity of ammunition.

Arrested were:

1. **TIMOTHY RAMOS**, 27, of Chelsea, charged with the home invasion warrant and two counts of unlawful possession of a firearm;

2. **ELIJAH ACEVEDO**, 26, of Chelsea, charged with trafficking fentanyl, trafficking cocaine, unlawful possession of ammunition, receiving stolen property, and multiple counts of unlawful possession of a firearm, possession of a large capacity firearm, and possession of a firearm with a defaced serial number.

3. **GEOVANNIEL GOMEZ**, 29, of Chelsea, charged with multiple counts of possession of a large capacity firearm, possession of a large capacity feeding device, and improper storage of a firearm as well as with possession of a firearm with a defaced serial number and unlawful possession of ammunition; and

4. **JAVIER DeJESUS JR.**, 30, of Revere, charged with multiple counts of possession of a large capacity firearm, possession of a large capacity feeding device, and improper storage of a firearm, as well as illegal possession of ammunition and possession of a firearm with a defaced serial number.

The defendants were booked at the Chelsea Police Department and were expected to be arraigned today. The cases are being prosecuted by Suffolk District Attorney Kevin Hayden's office."

Massachusetts man who worked for DoD pleads guilty in

conspiracy to defraud the government

"Defendant took numerous government-funded trips, including 31 trips to Orlando.

An Uxbridge man has agreed to plead guilty to his role in a conspiracy to defraud the government of thousands of dollars from 2014 to 2018.

Thomas Bouchard, 59, of Uxbridge, Mass, has agreed to plead guilty to one count of conspiracy and 10 counts of theft of government funds. A plea hearing has not yet been scheduled by the Court. Bouchard was arrested and charged in July 2020 along with co-defendant Chantelle Boyd.

Bouchard was the Contracting Officer in charge of the U.S. Army Natick Contracting Division, a full-service contracting organization for the Department of Defense. According to the charging documents, in 2014, Bouchard used his long-standing relationship with Evolution Enterprise, Inc., a government contractor, to allegedly have Boyd hired for a "no show" job as an assistant that specifically supported Bouchard. Boyd's position cost the Department of Defense more than \$490,000 during her time at Evolution from 2014 to 2018, during which Boyd allegedly performed little if any useful function.

Bouchard and, allegedly, Boyd took numerous government-funded trips, ranging in duration from two to 15 days, under the guise that they were work related. This included 31 trips to Orlando, Fla., among other locations such as Clearwater Beach, Fla., and Stafford, Va., during which Boyd allegedly performed little if any work. For many of the trips, Bouchard and, allegedly, Boyd stayed in the same hotel room and spent time at the pool and Disney parks – all during business hours. In order to conceal the personal nature of the trips, Bouchard

altered, created and approved false travel to reimburse the Boyd for out-of-pocket expenses.

The charge of conspiracy provides a sentence of up to five years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. The charges of theft of government funds each provide for a sentence of up to 10 years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of \$250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins; Joseph Dattoria, Special Agent in Charge of the General Services Administration Office of Inspector General; Patrick Hegarty, Special Agent in Charge of the Defense Criminal Investigative Service; and Michael Connor, Resident Agent in Charge of the Army Criminal Investigations Command, Major Procurement Fraud Unit made the announcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Evan Gotlob of Rollins' Major Crimes Unit is prosecuting the case.

The details contained in the charging documents are allegations. The defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law." -Massachusetts Department of Justice.

Massachusetts Senate approves bill to expand access to early education and care

Today, Senator Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford) voted in favor of legislation that will expand access to early education and

care across Massachusetts. S2973 will improve access and affordability for families, stabilize providers while expanding capacity, and increase support for the workforce to recruit and retain highly qualified staff. Measures contained within the bill were formulated following the final recommendations from the Special Legislative Early Education and Care Economic Review Commission in March 2022.

“Improving access to high quality, affordable childcare and education is paramount to the healthy development of our kids and the ability of working families to make ends meet. This bill will finally help put quality childcare within reach,” said Senator Montigny. “For far too long, families have been penalized by the exorbitant and inexcusable inequities in our economy that hurts households everyday while imposing significant barriers upon the next generation. We all witnessed how the wealthy got even wealthier during the pandemic while most Americans struggled. It is not right, but this bill is a small and meaningful step toward restoring economic security and dignity for our hardworking families.”

High-quality, accessible early education and childcare promotes the appropriate development, school readiness, and long-term success of children. It also improves economic well-being and mobility for working families. Quality programs also help employers retain employees and boost economic productivity.

However, many children in Massachusetts are not enrolled in formal programs and relatively few receive subsidized care. The Bay State is currently one of the most expensive states in the country for early education and care where the average annual cost for infant care is more than \$20,000 and the average annual cost for a four-year old is nearly \$15,000. Approximately 16,000 children are currently on the waitlist for subsidized care and many more families do not even attempt to access the limited subsidies. Additional burdens for families include non-financial factors such as the location of

facilities, hours of operation, and transportation options. Programs also struggle to recruit and retain quality staff because early educators with a bachelor's degree are paid 35% less than comparable teachers in public schools and the average annual salary prior to the pandemic was just \$30,000 without benefits.

S2973 will address many of these challenges by improving access and affordability for families, provisions to help stabilize providers, and implement measures to support a high-quality workforce. The bill will increase the subsidy eligibility threshold from 50% of the state median income to 125%. This equates to a \$164,065 annual household income for a family of four from just \$65,626. The bill also makes it easier for subsidized providers to offer scholarships or discounted tuition and directs the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) to annually evaluate and eliminate barriers to subsidy access for families.

Furthermore, the legislation makes operational grants to providers permanent and directs EEC to update its methodology and calculations for determining subsidy rates and grants. EEC will also be required to develop a career ladder that links educational attainment and work experience to compensation and benefits while seeking to set compensation levels commensurate with public school teachers. The bill also establishes an educator scholarship and loan forgiveness program to provide greater access to higher education and professional development. Subsidized providers will also be able to offer free or discounted seats for children of their own staff.

S2973 will proceed to the House of Representatives for further consideration.

New Bedford's new tourism & marketing director hits ground running amid busy summer season

The City of New Bedford has hired Ashley Payne as its new Director of Tourism & Marketing, Mayor Jon Mitchell announced today.

Payne is an experienced marketing professional who served as director of marketing for Bask, Inc., since 2018. She built and led the start-up's marketing department during that time, with duties including creation of digital and print campaigns, coordination of events, and collaboration with local businesses. Payne's billboard design won a national award from New York-based Outfront Media in September 2021.

As a freelance digital marketer, Payne also has worked with Howe Allen Realty, a locally owned real estate company in Fairhaven, providing social media content, campaign analytics, and marketing consulting.

"Ashley's professionalism, creativity, and strong connections with local businesses stood out in her application process," Mayor Jon Mitchell said. "We're excited to bring her on board and utilize her skills and experience to promote New Bedford and all that it has to offer."

Payne joins the City at the height of summer tourism season and ahead of iconic local events such as this weekend's New Bedford Folk Festival – returning after a two-year hiatus and celebrating 25 years since its founding in 1996 – the Summer Sound Series and its Friday evening block parties downtown, and the Feast of the Blessed Sacrament from Aug. 4-7. All those events are buoyed by New Bedford's growing arts

community, small businesses, and restaurant scene, making the City a hub of attractions for residents and visitors alike.

“On behalf of New Bedford Creative, we enthusiastically welcome Ashley Payne as the Director of Tourism & Marketing,” said Margo Saulnier, creative strategist for New Bedford Creative. “Cultural tourism is one of our city’s best assets, and Ms. Payne’s marketing expertise, performing arts experience, and collaborative spirit will enhance our future as a destination city.”

Learn more about local tourism and attractions at: destinationnewbedford.org

New Bedford roadwork sites for the upcoming week of July 11, 2022 – July 15, 2022

The City of New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of July 11, 2022 – July 15, 2022, and they are as follows

Eversource will be working on the street milling from gas main relays on:

- West Rodney French Blvd (Calumet St to Lucas St)
- Lucas Street (Brock Ave to W. Rodney French Blvd)
- Calumet Street (Brock Ave to W. Rodney French Blvd)
- Oaklawn Street (Brock Ave to W. Rodney French Blvd)
- County Street (Scott St to #1130 Cove Rd)
- Nelson Street (Bonney St to Crapo St)
- Scott Street (County St to Crapo St)
- Cove Road (County St to Crapo St)

- Independent Street (County St to Crapo St)

Other:

- Contractor (Highway Rehab. Corp.) will be completing roadway improvements along Mt. Pleasant Street from Nash Road to New Plainville Road and along Rockdale Avenue from Grape Street to Cove Road, weather permitting.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on various roadway and sidewalk repairs on East Rodney French Blvd from Abbott Street to Butler Street.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working at the MassDOT project, Kings Highway, new traffic signal operations and sign installations.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on sidewalk reconstruction along a portion of Cove Road from Padanaram Avenue to Orchard Street.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on various streets, citywide, completing minor repairs and installations.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on full depth road reconstruction on Cedar Street from Maxfield Street to Mill Street.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on granite curb installation and sidewalk reconstruction along Phillips Rd from 1884 Phillips Rd to Holly Tree Lane.
- 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
- Contractor (C. Naughton Corp) will begin water main installation along West St, north of Allen St. West St will be closed at times between Allen St and Bedford St and detoured via Allen St to Brigham St to Bedford St and returning to West St. Work scheduled Wednesday, June 13th and Thursday June 14th. Signage will be posted and police details will be on site to assist with traffic management.

- Contractor (C. Naughton Corp) will begin installing temporary water main by-pass piping along Clifford St between Ashley Blvd and Acushnet Ave traffic will be delayed at times along Clifford St local access will be maintained at all times. Work scheduled from Monday, June 11th to Thursday, June 14th. There will be construction signage and police details to assist with traffic management.
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Dartmouth Police Department arrest cement truck driver after road spill

“On Thursday, July 7, 2022 at approximately 10:46 a.m., Dartmouth Police responded to the area of State Road at Arcadia Avenue after receiving reports of a substantial amount of wet cement in the roadway.

Upon arrival, it was learned that the vehicle responsible for the spill had left the scene, and continued on to UMass Dartmouth, where it was ultimately located, and the operator was identified as Joseph RUIZ, 33, of Cranston, RI.

As RUIZ had two (2) outstanding warrants associated with motor vehicle infractions, he was placed under arrest.

As a result of the spill, traffic on State Road was detoured for approximately two (2) hours until cleanup could be completed.” -Dartmouth Police Department.

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