

Hundreds of Roosevelt Middle School students to participate in South End volunteer cleanup

Nearly all students and staff at Roosevelt Middle School will participate in a volunteer clean up, picking up litter in the south end of the city on Wednesday, May 23. The event is a partnership between Roosevelt Middle School, Operation Clean Sweep and the City of New Bedford.

“This is an opportunity for students to realize the power of giving back in service to others and to their community,” said Principal Daniel Bossolt.

To make it more interesting, the students compete to see which grade picks up the most trash. Each of the three grades is assigned different colored trash bags. The City’s Department of Public Infrastructure will collect the bags of trash and weigh each of the colors separately. The students will also pick up and separate any recyclable material as they go along. Over the last few years, Roosevelt Middle School students collected have collected thousands of pounds of trash.

“The Operation Clean Sweep team is proud to be involved in Roosevelt Middle School’s annual cleanup,” said Diane Altman Berube, team member.

Operation Clean Sweep’s next cleanup will also focus on the south end of the city. The cleanup will take place on Saturday, June 16 from 8:30 to 12 noon. This south end cleanup is being hosted by Me & Ed’s Family Restaurant. For more information, visit www.operationcleansweep.net or like us on Facebook.

Massachusetts Troopers Charge Man with Assault, OUI after Road Rage Incident, Crash

The Massachusetts State Police early this morning arrested a Beverly man who was operating under the influence and pointed a gun at another motorist on Route 95 in Woburn.

At approximately 2:30 a.m., Trooper Patrick Shea responded to a report of a motor vehicle crash on the southbound side of 95, prior to Exit 36. Trooper Shea located an SUV that had been struck by a black 2014 Jeep Cherokee, which was stopped about 100 yards further down the highway.

The operator of the Jeep, identified as JASON ROOT, 37, was standing outside the Jeep. ROOT told Trooper Shea that he had a firearm on the seat of his vehicle and that he was licensed to carry. Trooper Shea recovered the firearm from the Cherokee and secured it in his cruiser.

Trooper Shea and Trooper David Hanafin, who arrived as backup, made observations of ROOT consistent with impairment by alcohol. Troopers also administer several field sobriety tests. As a result of their observations and the tests, Troopers formed the opinion that ROOT had been driving while intoxicated.

Troopers placed ROOT into custody, despite his initial attempts to resist being put into the cruiser. The suspect was transported to the Danvers Barracks to be booked.

A short time prior to the crash, just before 2 a.m., an adult male called State Police to report a road rage incident that

carried from Route 93 southbound to Route 95 in Reading.

That motorist said his car was rear-ended by a black Jeep Cherokee that was being operated in a very aggressive manner. The motorist said the Cherokee tried to run him off the road several times. In fear for his safety, that motorist exited Route 93 and entered Route 95 southbound. The black Cherokee followed him onto Route 95.

Just prior to Exit 36, the black Cherokee pulled in front of the victim's car and forced the vehicle to come to a full stop in the middle lane.

The suspect exited the Cherokee and approached the victim's vehicle. According to the victim, the suspect screamed at the victim and pointed a handgun at him. Fearing he was about to get shot, the victim ducked for cover and then accelerated away and subsequently reported the incident.

The road rage victim provided the license plate number of the suspect's black Cherokee to Troopers. The plate matched that is the black Cherokee involved in the crash on Route 95 a short time later.

Troopers determined that R00T, the OUI suspect arrested in the Woburn crash, was the same motorist who struck the road rage victim's car and pointed a gun at him. Troopers Louis Williams, David Nicastro, and Peter Cherry also assisted in the investigation.

R00T was charged with the following offenses:

- 1.) Operating under the influence of liquor;
- 2.) Assault with a dangerous weapon;
- 3.) Carrying a firearm while intoxicated;
- 4.) Reckless operation of a motor vehicle; and
- 5.) Resisting arrest.

R00T was expected to be arraigned today in the Woburn District

Court.

Veteran's movie "Almost Sunrise." FREE screening at Zeiterion Theater, June 1

By Sean McCarthy for The Zeiterion Performing Arts Center

Description: *The film follows two Iraq veterans, Tom Voss and Anthony Anderson, who struggle with depression upon returning home from service. Fearful of succumbing to the epidemic of veteran suicide, they seek a lifeline and embark on a 2,700-mile walk across America as a way to confront their inner pain. The film captures an intimate portrait of two friends suffering from the unseen wounds of war as they discover an unlikely treatment: the restorative power of silence and meditation.*

It began as a quest to resolve their inner demons, but what also transpired was a greater faith in humanity and a significant perpetuation of a movement that is becoming part of a national conversation – "Moral Injury."

"Moral Injury" is the main idea being highlighted in the documentary, "Almost Sunrise," the story of two Iraq War veterans who walked 2,700 miles from their homes in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Santa Monica, California – a trip that took 155 days. The trek featured Tom Voss and Anthony Anderson, a pair of veterans sensing that they were perilously close to ending their lives because of their combat experiences. The journey

was a “last ditch effort” to help themselves, and it became a testament to the healing and restorative power of silence and meditation.

“Almost Sunrise” will be shown at the Zeiterion Performing Arts Center on Friday, June 1st at 7 p.m. It will be followed by a panel discussion and will culminate with a walking meditation. All of the events are free of charge.

1. <https://zeiterion.org/almost-sunrise-tickets/>

The event is one part of the Zeiterion’s Veterans Experience series which uses the arts to highlight the veterans’ experience. The aim is communicating to citizens what it means to serve our country in war, instill a sense of empathy and appreciation throughout our community and provide pathways for both healing and understanding.

Through the power of the performing arts, the Zeiterion aims to convey the veterans’ experience to an audience of civilians and to demonstrate how the arts can help trauma for an audience of veterans.

“Moral Injury” is an affliction that affects people from all elements of society. Although it is foremostly associated with military veterans, “MI” has come to be recognized by many other social communities, affecting an array of victims who must deal with their personal behavior that has gone against their moral code, regardless of their position in society.

Largely because of social media, the two were welcomed and assisted throughout their trip by numerous strangers who offered emotional support as well as a roof over their heads, a warm meal and a warm shower. The trip also served as a fundraiser for a veterans service organization in Milwaukee, raising more than \$100,000. Dry Hootch of America is devoted to creating safe and sober social situations for veterans to be together such as coffee houses.

“The walk was done out of necessity,” Voss says. “We were

really in a position where we hadn't dealt with what we experienced in war in over 10 years. The veterans' experience is usually that you get out of the service and then you try to carry on with your life, get back into school and get a job – do all those things that you're supposed to do but you don't have the time to reflect and really process 'What did I just experience?'

"Over 10 years I just got to the point where I was seriously considering taking my life. I didn't know how to manage it or get back into my community – I didn't have someone to connect with and share these experiences with. It was all on my shoulders. This was a last ditch effort – I had to give it a shot before I go down that path of taking my life."

The documentary was filmed by Michael Collins.

"I didn't want to perpetuate the stereotypes of the wounded soldier or even the homecoming hero," Collins says. "Those portrayals aren't doing anyone any favors. I wanted people to hear from the soldiers themselves and their families to understand the complexities. We need to see them as humans when they come back. What I wanted to portray was that these are complex human beings like the rest of us and you can't describe them by one dimension of their character and that's where the healing takes place."

"This film is not just a focus on PTSD – there are already many films about that. I wanted to take the conversation a little further and talk about "Moral Injury" and how it is associated with guilt and shame as opposed to trauma and shock to the nervous system."

"This is the first film that really tackles the subject of "MI," Voss says. "It's getting the concept out there. All sorts of people are drawing connections from the concept of having a wounded soul participating in something that goes against their moral code. This is really starting to resonate

in a bunch of different communities giving depth to trauma. This film shows that vets are not the only ones going through this thing – a lot of vets isolate themselves because they don't have anyone to share their experience with. I think it shows that there are men and women going through the same thing they are."

Collins talks about making human connections with others.

"When you feel a connection to someone from a different community there's suddenly a feeling that they become part of your community, that there isn't a separation anymore, there's a feeling that we're all from the same community. As much as they're taking care of us it's our responsibility to do the same for them when they get home. That's why I love making character-driven films because it gives us a very human perspective of an experience we might not normally have access to in your daily lives."

Collins says that the film proves that we have more bonds than barriers.

"For me the opportunity to go across the country and connect with people from different ends of the political spectrum and realizing that we all have so much in common – especially these days when the common narrative is that there's such distinct camps that people fit into – I experienced meeting people from all different walks of life from this country and that we have a lot more in common than we do differences. I saw all of these people come out and open their homes and communities to Tom and Anthony to help them was further proof that when people are given the opportunity to do something good we'll all come together to do it."

A large lesson that Voss experienced from the walk was that nature can help in ways that chemical medications cannot.

"This film shows that there are ways other than pharmaceutical medications to treat trauma. Focusing on meditation, yoga and

other holistic practices and nature-based therapies can have a positive impact in life without having to be on a cocktail of prescription medications and just end up numbing and keeping all of these things down. There's a lot of value immersing yourself in nature that most people don't put too much stock into. Being out in nature and being exposed to the elements, slowing down and taking your time being in the environment has a really positive effect on your mental health.

"This walk allowed me the space to process a lot of the things that I had experienced while deployed. It was invaluable," Voss says.

"This has been one of the richest experiences of my life," Collins says. "I was able to witness two men who were really seeking to take responsibility for their lives and for their healing who were not willing to give up even when they were running into what felt like dead ends with the Veterans Association and other groups.

"I knew that I wanted this film to be hopeful," Collins says. "I wanted it to end in a place that would inspire progress – to move towards solutions. It was such a blessing that we saw such a transformation take place. I think it's important to highlight problems in society – something that would inspire action, not only for vets and their families but there were other paths for healing that maybe people weren't aware of before, that there is always hope."

The final installment of The Zeiterion Performing Arts Center's

VETERANS EXPERIENCE PROGRAM

Almost Sunrise

Friday, June 1, 7:00 p.m.

FREE but tickets encouraged – [Click Here](#)

Funded by Mass Humanities

Post-show panel discussion with Dr. Bob Meagher featuring Tom Voss, the documentary subject, and Michael Collins, the film's director.

Contemplative Walk and Guided Meditation

Saturday, June 2, 10:00 a.m.

FREE

Location: Friends Academy (1088 Tucker Road, North Dartmouth, MA 02747)

All are invited on a contemplative walk and guided meditation led by Tom Voss and Michael Collins of Almost Sunrise. Experience the restorative, soul-nourishing benefits of expending time in nature, concluding with a guided meditation and breath work. All ages welcome.

Good New Bedford police work leads to arrest of man w/ lengthy cocaine trafficking record

Observant police work by patrol officers led to the arrest of a man with a lengthy criminal record after he was found in possession of more than 25 grams of cocaine.

Police responded to the 100-block of Division Street on a 911 hang-up call at about 5:41 a.m. Sunday, May 20, when they observed a male in the driver's seat of a vehicle parked in the area with the ignition, turned on.

He was found in possession of more than 25 grams of cocaine, a scale and more than \$2,500.00 in cash.

Russell S. Andrews, 36, of 15 Bonney St. Apt. 3, New Bedford, was charged with cocaine trafficking, distribution of cocaine, subsequent offense, and OUI drugs.

Andrews has a lengthy criminal record, with 34 adult arraignments, including an open case for possession of cocaine and 12 default warrants for failing to show up to court. He was sentenced to three to five years in prison in 2002 for assault with a dangerous weapon and firearms possession.

He was held without bail on his probation violation. Bail was set at \$2,000.00 on the current charge.

Accused New Bedford Arsonist Released on Low Bail, Defaults and Flees

A 25-year-old New Bedford man with extensive ties to Puerto Rico, who was released on just \$500 cash bail after being arrested for setting a multi-family dwelling on fire this past February, did not show up for his recent Superior Court arraignment is now a fugitive from justice.

On February 28th at 1:54 PM New Bedford Fire responded to an active blaze at 330 North Front Street, a multifamily dwelling with several occupied apartments, including one rented by the defendant, Xavier Betancourt Echevarria. During the ensuing investigation into the fire, investigators located a Sunny Delight container with gasoline in it inside the defendant's bathroom. The Arson K-9 on scene alerted on the rear hallway

as the fire's point of origin and also alerted on the Sunny Delight container.

The defendant, who resided at the apartment with his wife and children, was interviewed by police. During that first interview, the defendant told investigators the container was used by his wife to clean. However, upon speaking with the wife, investigators learned his story was fabricated. During a second interview with police, the defendant admitted he set the building on fire because he was mad at the landlord, who had begun eviction proceedings against the defendant. He told police he bought the gas at a gas station that day, and put it in the Sunny Delight container. He then brought it back to 330 North Front, poured it in the hallway, and started the fire with a lighter he had on his person, he told police. Video surveillance obtained by investigators shows the defendant leave his house, get the gas at the gas station and return to his house.

As a result of the arson, all apartment units had to be evacuated, and the damage from the fire caused 13 people to be displaced at least for that day. It was further learned during the investigation that the defendant recently came from Puerto Rico to live in New Bedford. And, during his district court bail hearing, his defense counsel informed the court that the defendant suffered from various mental health issues which required medication.

Despite prosecutors' efforts to have the defendant held without bail for up to 120 days as a danger to the community in New Bedford District Court, Judge Franco Gobourne ruled the defendant was not a danger to the public and also refused to set appropriate bail. Instead, the judge released the defendant on \$500 cash bail.

The defendant was subsequently indicted for arson of a dwelling and was to appear for his arraignment on the indictment in Fall River Superior Court earlier this month.

A default warrant for the defendant's arrest was issued in Fall River Superior Court, and it is believed he may have fled back to Puerto Rico.

"This is an example of a case where the low bail set by the court was totally inadequate and an abuse of judicial discretion. The defendant set fire to an occupied multi-family home, has no strong ties to our area, has mental health issues and confessed to the crime. It is clear that this defendant should've been held as a danger to community. Not many crimes are more dangerous than setting fire to an occupied building. At the very least, much higher bail should have been set because of his strong ties to Puerto Rico. It is no surprise that he did not appear for his Superior Court arraignment," Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III said. "This is clearly an individual who doesn't belong out on the streets. Based on the facts of this case, there is a strong likelihood this defendant would have been facing a prison sentence. Bail decisions like the one in this case undermines confidence in the administration of justice, and serves no one's interest but the defendant's."

Man charged with armed robbery of 5 local business' delivery drivers

On 5/21/18, the Taunton Police Department Detective Division completed an extensive investigation, involving the robbery of food delivery drivers in the City of Taunton.

As a result of the investigation, the Taunton Police Detective Division has charged 32 year old, Brian Nunes of Middleboro,

with three counts of armed robbery with a knife and two counts of unarmed robbery.



The detective division began to follow up on robbery reports filed by patrol officers and realized that there was a specific similar pattern. The robberies the detective division

investigated were committed against the following businesses:

1. China Kitchen delivery driver on April 30, 2018
2. Pizza Hut delivery driver on May 7, 2018
3. Domino's delivery driver on May 9, 2018
4. Papa Gino's delivery driver on May 12, 2018
5. Papa Gino's delivery driver on May 16, 2018

The detective division was able to identify Brian Nunes, based on telephone calls made to the businesses and a common description given by the victims at the time of the incidents. As a result, the detective division was able to arrest and charge Mr. Nunes with the robberies

New Bedford Community Preservation Committee selects projects for funding; Projects in all six wards of the City selected

The City of New Bedford's Community Preservation Committee (CPC) has selected a total of 17 projects for funding out of the 28 proposal submitted under their first selection process, which will be funded in Fiscal Year 2019.

Projects in all six wards of New Bedford were selected for FY 2019 funding, in three categories that Community Preservation Act funds can be applied to: open space, historic preservation, and recreation.

Under open space, the CPC selected:

- Acushnet Sawmill New Bedford expansion and community garden.

Under historic preservation, the CPC selected the following projects:

- Schooner Ernestina Morrissey rehabilitation
- Veterans Transitional Housing expansion at 1060 Pleasant Street
- Seamen's Bethel continued restoration
- First Baptist Community Theatre
- Sgt. William H. Carney House restoration
- Rotch-Jones-Duff House restoration
- 305-307 Pleasant Street foreclosure restoration
- Strand Theatre restoration as Cape Verdean Cultural Center
- Zeiterion Theatre Marquee project
- James Arnold Mansion restoration

Under recreation, the CPC selected the following projects:

- Hazelwood Park rehabilitation
- Abolition Row Park
- Buttonwood Diamond 1 field lighting
- Dias Field rehabilitation
- Brooklawn Basketball Court upgrades
- Buttonwood Brook trail and bridges project

"The Community Preservation Committee received 28 applications totaling \$3.6 million from every ward within New Bedford. All the applications deserved funding, but with a budget of \$2.6 million, the Committee recommended projects with the greatest potential to make New Bedford a place for all citizens to enjoy, with excellent open spaces, historic character, and recreational opportunities," said Janine da Silva, Chair of the CPC. "The Committee looks forward to seeing the results in the community."

The projects were selected by the Community Preservation

Committee and will go before the City Council for appropriation.

About the Community Preservation Act in Massachusetts

The Community Preservation Act (CPA) is a Massachusetts state law (MGL Ch. 44B) designed to help Massachusetts towns and cities plan for sustainable growth and provide funds to achieve their community preservation goals. CPA allows participating cities and towns to adopt a real estate tax surcharge of up to 3% to raise funds and create a local dedicated fund for preserving open space and historic resources and expanding community housing and outdoor recreational activities. The CPA stipulates that decisions regarding the allocation of CPA funds in cities and towns that adopt the initiative are to be made by a local community preservation committee (CPC) whose task is to receive and review applications and to make recommendations to the City Council, which in turn makes the final allocations.

In addition to the community tax surcharge, the state provides matching funds that are not less than 5% and not more than 100% of the funds raised by the community. The actual percentage varies from year-to-year dependent on the health of the state's Community Preservation Trust Fund, which is funded by a surcharge on Registry of Deeds transactions.

About the Community Preservation Act in New Bedford

New Bedford voters adopted the CPA program through a ballot question in November 2014. New Bedford elected to fund the CPA account through a 1.5% surcharge on annual tax assessments and established a Community Preservation Committee in 2016. The city began collecting surcharge revenue on the 2016 tax bills and will continue collection on a quarterly basis. There are two surcharge exemptions available:

- The first \$100,000 of taxable value of residential and commercial properties.
 - Residential property owned and occupied by any person who qualifies for low income housing or low to moderate income senior housing.
-

HELP WANTED: New Bedford Police Department is hiring for a Dispatcher position

PAY: \$17.91hr – \$21.52hr

Answers telephone calls promptly and courteously, and expeditiously routes calls to their proper destination. Immediately dispatches patrol cars, ambulances, fire apparatus, rescue squads or other personnel and equipment as may be needed to handle all complaints and requests for assistance.

Monitors the status of all units displayed on the CAD (Computer Aided Dispatching) status screens to determine their availability to respond to calls for service and is always aware of assignments of all units. Immediately notifies appropriate authority regarding any unusual occurrence or situation that may adversely affect the delivery of emergency services or any services required of the dispatch center.

Thoroughly familiar with all the various pieces of equipment within the Communications Unit and immediately initiates action when they need repairs. Exercises care in the operation of the unit and the use of all equipment, supplies and utilities. Acquires and/or maintains such computer skills

necessary for the proper performance of dispatch and record keeping duties. Conducts testing of emergency systems and makes minor repairs as training allows.

Thoroughly familiar with, and strictly adheres to, all policies, procedures, rules, regulations and laws regulating the duties. Will not divulge, or permit any personnel to divulge, any information relative to any matter or person, without the permission of appropriate authority in accordance with the provisions of all applicable policies, procedures, rules, regulations and laws.

High school graduate or GED equivalent. One to three years' experience in general office procedures, dealing with the public, computer knowledge and public safety preferred. Basic knowledge of the principles involved in the operation of radio telephone, computers and related communication equipment. Preference will be given to applicants who have certification on NCC/LEAPS (National Communications Center/Law Enforcement Agencies Processing Systems) computer, Telecommunication certification, CPR (Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation) and EMD (Emergency Medical Dispatching). Ability to communicate clearly and concisely under emergency conditions orally and in writing. Must pass an in-depth police background check. Ability to handle highly confidential and sensitive information with discretion and good judgment.

For more information, please visit:

Employment Opportunities

Applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is found. EEO

New Bedford has a residency requirement.

PACE still accepting MASS health and Connector applications

The PACE HEALTH ACCESS PROGRAM is a year-round program and as such accepts applications for Mass Health and the Massachusetts Health Connector Programs.

Persons applying for Mass Health can apply any time of the year. Persons applying for the Connector Program need to apply during Open Enrollment which is held the first week in November each year unless they have had any life-changing events during the year. Examples of life-changing events would be loss of job and or income, loss of Spouse, Birth of a Child and other events.

Persons not sure if they can apply can call the PACE Health Access Office for an appointment and will meet with a Navigator who will assist them through the process. Computerization has made the application process much easier and faster. Before leaving the Office the Applicant will know what they are eligible for.

In addition, the Health Access Office provides application assistance to persons over age 65 who are interested in applying to Medicare or who have Medicare questions. The Senior Intake Specialist is available on Fridays from 10am-4pm by appointment.

Anyone interested in applying for either program can call PACE for an appointment at 508-999-9920.

Raynham Man Who Stole From Widow Convicted

A 44-year-old Raynham man who stole nearly \$9,000 from his parents' widowed friend was convicted in Taunton District Court and ordered to pay full restitution to the victim, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Christos Karageorgos pleaded guilty in Taunton District Court to a charge of larceny over \$250 of a person over 60 years old.

The victim in the case had moved into the defendant's parents' house after her husband passed away in April 2016. In November 2016 the defendant also moved into the household after losing his job. The defendant, his girlfriend and their child resided in the bedroom next to the victim, which allowed him access to her personal information. A police investigation revealed the defendant had made changes to the victim's bank account to allow for online and telephone transfers. This change was made without the victim's knowledge or permission.

The defendant made 12 transfers totaling \$8,910 into his account.

During a sentencing hearing held before Judge Kevan Cunningham, Assistant District Attorney Madalyn Fairbanks of DA Quinn's Financial Crimes Unit, argued for a guilty finding and a one year term in the house of corrections with 60 days to serve. ADA Fairbanks also argued that the defendant should make full financial restitution to the victim.

The defendant, however, recommended that the case be continued

without a finding for six months.

Judge Cunningham found the defendant guilty of the charge, ordered him to pay full restitution and sentenced him to jail for one year, with 40 days to serve. The remainder of the jail sentence was suspended for one year, meaning if the defendant is charged with new crimes during that time period, he could be forced to serve the entire one year jail term.