

UPDATED: Family seeks public's help locating missing Dartmouth man with special needs

UPDATED Tuesday @ 7:50am: Robert is now home safe and sound. Thank you to all who helped spread the word to get him home by liking, sharing, or commenting.

“Around this time last year my brother Robert went missing with a female that he met online from South Carolina. My mom got guardianship over him, yes he is 21 years old and special needs. He was deemed incompetent by a court appointed professional.

Not many people understand what that is but it's a real thing. Please don't hate on something you don't understand. There was a restraining order put into place so the girl could no longer contact Robert. She violated it anyway, multiple times.

Fast forward a couple of months, we thought it was over. Here we are a year later and apparently we were wrong. We have court tomorrow for the violation of the restraining order. Same girl is back from out of state, staying at the same hotel she did the first time. And yet again my brother is missing. No meds, no clothes, no money, and his phone is turned off.

If anyone has ever spent any amount of time with Robert you would know his electronics are his life. So for it to be off is unusual. I don't think it's a coincidence that she came back and he is missing again.

The Dartmouth Police Dept. is involved and actively

investigating. They have already spoken with her to no avail. I could posts my speculations on the multiple theories I have but that will unfortunate not help. Hoping the community could help by just keeping an eye out.

We are very concerned as my brother does not have any instincts of being in danger or when someone is taking advantage of him. He is autistic amongst other diagnosis and he does not function at a 21 year olds level. That's why he was deemed incompetent by the court.

If anyone has seen him anywhere please, please, please, reach out."-Becca Tinkham.



Becca Tinkham photo.

New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of October 23, 2023 – October 27, 2023

“The City of New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of October 23, 2023 – October 27, 2023, and they are as follows:

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

- Main relay on Church St from Shaw St to King St
- Main relay on Hudson St from Brock Ave east to end of main
- Main relay on Rockdale Ave from Allen St to Bluefield St
- Regulator work on Potter St at Rockdale Ave headed east towards Nashua St
- Services on Brownell Ave
- Services on Longwood St from Brownell Ave to end of road
- Services on Pauline St from Brownell Ave to end of road
- Services on Pinette St from Brownell Ave to end of road

Other:

- Nash Rd closure for rail crossing work scheduled for Friday, October 20th to Sunday October 22nd.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working at various locations throughout the city on roadway and sidewalk patches.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working at MassDOT project #609201, located at the intersection of Acushnet Ave & Peckham Rd/Sassaquin Ave.
- Contractors (PA Landers and various utility companies) will be working at MassDOT's Kings Highway project. Minor traffic

impacts and lane shifts required.

- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Acushnet Ave from Tarkiln Hill Road to Monmouth Street.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Wood Street from the town line to Church Street.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Irvington Street from Church Street to Maywood Street.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working at the intersection of Union Street and County Street. Minor traffic impacts are to be expected. Police details and lane closures will be required.
- Contractor (PA Landers and PJ Keating) will be paving the roadway at the intersection of Union Street and County Street on Thursday October 26, 2023. On-street parking will not be permitted during 7:00am to 6:00pm during paving operations, no parking signs will be posted as required. Work is weather dependent.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Van Buren Street from Mt. Pleasant Street to Myrtle Street. Police details and road closures will be required.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at West Rodney French Blvd from JFK Memorial Hwy/ Cove Street to Cove Road. Work will require lane and road closures.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Brooklawn Street from Landry Street to Ashley Blvd. Police details and road closures will be required.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Kilburn Street from Belleville Ave to end. Police details and road closures will be required.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Elm Street from Pleasant Street to

Purchase Street, Purchase Street from Elm Street to Middle Street, Middle Street from Purchase Street to Fredrick Douglas Way and Fredrick Douglas Way from Middle Street to Elm St. Police details and road closures will be required.

- Contractor (PA Landers and PJ Keating) will be paving the roadway at Elm Street from Pleasant Street to Purchase Street, Purchase Street from Elm Street to Middle Street, Middle Street from Purchase Street to Fredrick Douglas Way and Fredrick Douglas Way from Middle Street to Elm St on Thursday October 26, 2023. Police details and road closures will be required. Work is weather dependent.

- Contractor (PA Landers and PJ Keating) will be paving the roadway on Lawrence Street from Holyoke Street to Lynn Street. Work will require road closures. On-street parking will not be permitted during 7:00am to 6:00pm during paving operations. Work is weather dependent.

- Contractor (PA Landers and PJ Keating) will be paving the roadway on Lowell Street from Florida Street to end. Work will require road closures. On-street parking will not be permitted during 7:00am to 6:00pm during paving operations. Work is weather dependent.

- Contractor (PA Landers and PJ Keating) will be paving the roadway on Menton Street from Lowell Street to Ashley Blvd. Work will require road closures. On-street parking will not be permitted during 7:00am to 6:00pm during paving operations. Work is weather dependent.

- Contractor (PA Landers and PJ Keating) will be paving the roadway on Holyoke Street from Lowell Street to Hawes Street. Work will require road closures. On-street parking will not be permitted during 7:00am to 6:00pm during paving operations. Work is weather dependent.

- 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 (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

- Contractor (Middlesex Corp) will be working on Nash Rd between Church St and Mt. Pleasant St. Traffic will be reduced to one lane and will have police details on site to assist with traffic.

- Contractor (Newport) will be working on Nash Rd between Church St and Mt. Pleasant St. Traffic will be reduced to one lane and will have police details on site to assist with traffic.

- Contractor (LAL) will be performing sidewalk and roadway work on Cove Road at the intersection of Saint John Street. Lane closures may be required. Police details and road closures will be required. Work is weather dependent.”

New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of October 9, 2023 – October 13, 2023

“The City of New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of October 9, 2023 – October 13, 2023, and they are as follows: *City offices will be closed on Monday, October 9th in Observance of Columbus Day.*

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

- Main relay on Berkley St from Commonwealth Ave to end of road
- Main relay on Church St from Shaw St to King St
- Main relay on Hudson St from Brock Ave east to end of main
- Main relay on Longwood Ave from Commonwealth Ave to end of road
- Main relay on Rockdale Ave from Allen St to Bluefield St
- Regulator work on Potter St at Rockdale Ave headed east towards Nashua St
- Services on Gaywood St from Brownell Ave to end of road
- Services on Lynwood St from Brownell Ave to end of road
- Services on Pauline St from Brownell Ave to end of road
- Services on Sheldon St from Brownell Ave to end of road

Eversource will be working on milling and paving on:

- Phillips Rd from Charles McCombs Blvd to Holly Tree Ln
- Phillips Rd at 1884 Phillips Rd
- Hillcrest Rd from Phillips Rd to Ridgewood Rd

Other:

- Tarkiln Hill road closure for rail crossing work scheduled for Friday, October 13th to Sunday October 15th.
- Nash Rd closure for rail crossing work scheduled for Friday, October 20th to Sunday October 22nd.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working at various locations throughout the city on roadway and sidewalk patches.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working at MassDOT project #609201, located at the intersection of Acushnet Ave & Peckham Rd/Sassaquin Ave.
- Contractors (PA Landers and various utility companies) will be working at MassDOT's Kings Highway project. Minor traffic impacts and lane shifts required.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Acushnet Ave from Tarkiln Hill Road to Monmouth Street.
- Contractor (PA Landers and PJ Keating) will be paving the roadway on Acushnet Ave from Tarkiln Hill Road to Monmouth

Street. Work will take place Wednesday October 11, and Thursday October 12 and require road closures. On-street parking will not be permitted during 7:00am to 6:00pm during paving operations. Work is weather dependent.

- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Wood Street from the town line to Church Street.

- Contractor (PA Landers and PJ Keating) will be paving the roadway on Wood Street from Church Street to River Road. Work will take place Tuesday October 10, and Wednesday October 11 and require road closures. On-street parking will not be permitted during 7:00am to 6:00pm during paving operations. Work is weather dependent.

- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Irvington Street from Church Street to Maywood Street.

- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working at the intersection of Union Street and County Street. Minor traffic impacts are to be expected. Police details and lane closures will be required.

- Contractor (PA Landers and PJ Keating) will be paving the roadway at the intersection of Union Street and County Street. Work will take place Thursday October 19, and Friday October 20 and require road closures. On-street parking will not be permitted during 7:00am to 6:00pm during paving operations. Work is weather dependent.

- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Van Buren Street from Mt. Pleasant Street to Myrtle Street. Police details and road closures will be required.

- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Brooklawn Street from Landry Street to Ashley Blvd. Police details and road closures will be required.

- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Kilburn Street from Belleville Ave to end. Police details and road closures will be required.

- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Elm Street from Pleasant Street to Purchase Street, Purchase Street from Elm Street to Middle Street, Middle Street from Purchase Street to Fredrick Douglas Way and Fredrick Douglas Way from Middle Street to Elm St. Police details and road closures will be required.
- Contractor (PA Landers and PJ Keating) will be paving the roadway on Lawrence Street from Holyoke Street to Lynn Street. Work will require road closures. On-street parking will not be permitted during 7:00am to 6:00pm during paving operations. Work is weather dependent.
- Contractor (PA Landers and PJ Keating) will be paving the roadway on Lowell Street from Florida Street to end. Work will require road closures. On-street parking will not be permitted during 7:00am to 6:00pm during paving operations. Work is weather dependent.
- Contractor (PA Landers and PJ Keating) will be paving the roadway on Menton Street from Lowell Street to Ashley Blvd. Work will require road closures. On-street parking will not be permitted during 7:00am to 6:00pm during paving operations. Work is weather dependent.
- Contractor (PA Landers and PJ Keating) will be paving the roadway on Holyoke Street from Lowell Street to Hawes Street. Work will require road closures. On-street parking will not be permitted during 7:00am to 6:00pm during paving operations. Work is weather dependent.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on a road reconstruction project at Hazard Court from Hazard Street to Austin Street. Work will require road closures.
- 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 (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

- Contractor (Middlesex Corp) will be working on Nash Rd between Church St and Mt. Pleasant St. Traffic will be reduced to one lane and will have police details on site to assist with traffic.

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Massachusetts Door Dasher follows GPS...into a swamp

“On Friday, September 22, 2023, at approximately 1140 hours, a caller reported that the vehicle they were driving was disabled in a body of water located in the woods of Middleton.

The operator was able to exit the vehicle and walk out of the woods to a nearby home on Kenney Road in Middleton. Middleton Police Officers arrived on scene and found the operator panicked, claiming that their vehicle was underwater. The operator stated that they were following their GPS to an address in Middleton while trying to deliver Dunkin Donuts for DoorDash.

The operator had the delivery (Dunkin Donuts) in hand. The operator stated that while trying to make the delivery to an address on Mill Street in Middleton, same began driving down a dirt road, and then somehow ended up driving into a body of

water. Middleton Fire responded and evaluated the operator for any injuries.



Town of Middleton Police Dept photo.

Officers and MFD began searching for the vehicle on Kenney Rd, ultimately locating the vehicle down a dirt path behind 18 Kenney Rd. The vehicle was still running and partially submerged in the water. The operator then requested to be transported to the hospital, at which time MFD transported the operator to Beverly Hospital. The homeowner was notified and arrived on scene a few moments later. The vehicle was towed from the scene and there did not appear to be any leakage from the vehicle into the body of water.

The operator will be charged with negligent operation of a motor vehicle and a Request for Immediate Threat License Suspension was filed with the RMV.”-Town of Middleton Police Dept.

Massachusetts man convicted of sex trafficking 15-year old runaway

“A Randolph man has been convicted by a federal jury in Boston of sex trafficking a 15-year-old minor who ran away from home.

Admilson Gomes Pires, 26, was convicted on Sept. 22, 2023 following a five-day jury trial of one count of sex trafficking of a child and one count of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of a child. U.S. District Court Judge Leo T. Sorokin scheduled sentencing for Dec. 18, 2023. Pires was indicted by a federal grand jury in December 2020.

“Mr. Pires preyed on a vulnerable child, subjected her to unimaginable exploitation and pocketed the profits and now he will pay the price,” said Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy. “Sex traffickers like Mr. Pires inflict immeasurable trauma and harm. This conduct is despicable and has no place in a civilized society. This Office has created a dedicated team of prosecutors who are working tirelessly with our federal, state and local partners to hold sex traffickers accountable and bring justice to the brave survivors of these crimes.”

“Today’s conviction is yet another example of the FBI’s commitment to ensure that justice is served to predators who exploit and harm our children for their own financial gain,” said Jodi Cohen, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Division. “When human beings are treated as commodities, they are not only being abused physically, but emotionally and financially. We thank the

brave survivor in this case who worked with us to bring Mr. Pires to justice, and the jury for holding him accountable.”

According to evidence presented at trial, in February 2019, Pires met the minor victim who had run from her home in Western Massachusetts and began a sexual relationship with her. Pires groomed the minor victim and, in July 2019, began trafficking her in Boston and Norwood. He first sold the minor victim for sex to a family member of his in Dorchester and then created and posted a commercial sex advertisement online that contained explicit photographs and a video of the minor victim. Pires told the victim that she would have to engage in prostitution with strangers if she wanted to stay in a relationship with him.

Pires used drugs to manipulate an adult female into agreeing to harbor the minor victim at her apartment in Norwood for sex trafficking. He then arranged for sex buyers to have sex with the minor victim in exchange for money he kept.

On Aug. 1, 2019, local law enforcement located the minor victim in Norwood and returned her home.

If you or someone you know may be impacted or experiencing commercial sex trafficking, please contact USAMA.VictimAssistance@usdoj.gov.

The charge of sex trafficking of a child carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison, with a maximum sentence of up to life in prison, five 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.

Acting U.S. Attorney Levy and FBI SAC Cohen made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was provided by the Suffolk and Norfolk County District Attorney’s Offices; the Massachusetts State Police; and the Arlington, Boston, Fall

River, Norwood, Randolph and Springfield Police Departments. Assistant U.S. Attorney Timothy Moran, Chief of the Organized Crime and Gang Unit and Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Riley, Chief of the Civil Rights & Human Trafficking Unit prosecuted the case.”-Massachusetts Department of Justice.

New Bedford to benefit from MassDevelopment’s \$2,230,052 in grants to rehab businesses

BOSTON – MassDevelopment has awarded \$2,230,052 in grants to advance the rehabilitation of 22 properties in Gateway Cities across Massachusetts that will have significant economic impacts on commercial corridor revitalization goals. The grants represent the second and final tranche of awards from the Fiscal Year 2023 round of MassDevelopment’s Transformative Development Initiative (TDI) Equity Investment program. In May, the agency awarded \$714,893 in TDI Equity Investment grants to five properties.

Eight of the properties awarded grants today were funded by the Barr Foundation, which awarded \$1 million to MassDevelopment’s TDI in order to expand the number and scope of projects eligible to receive funding, particularly those with a focus on the cultural and creative economies and community empowerment.

“For generations, Gateway Cities have been welcoming places to live, start a business, and build community,” said Economic Development Secretary Yvonne Hao, who serves as chair of MassDevelopment’s Board of Directors. “MassDevelopment’s Transformative Development Initiative allows the state to work

hand-in-hand with local partners to ensure these cities remain places of opportunity for all and we are proud these TDI Equity Investment grants support that goal.”

“We are awarding \$2.2 million to support a diverse group of Gateway City business owners, entrepreneurs, and community leaders who are committed to strengthening our downtowns and commercial districts,” said MassDevelopment President and CEO Dan Rivera. “These projects will bring new life to highly visible properties, helping draw in new patrons, advance business growth and entrepreneurship, and improve the vibrancy of neighborhoods. We are grateful to the Barr Foundation, whose support has made many of these projects possible.”

MassDevelopment’s Transformative Development Initiative works with cross-sector partnerships in targeted commercial districts in Gateway Cities in order to engage community members, implement local economic development initiatives, and spur further public and private investment. Since 2015, MassDevelopment has invested \$20 million in TDI districts through tools such as technical assistance, real estate investments, grant programs, and fellows who work in the districts. That investment has directly influenced over \$100.2 million in public and private investments in the districts, and assisted an additional \$219.9 million.

Through TDI Equity Investment, MassDevelopment invests in near-term projects that activate ground-floor and commercial spaces that will have significant economic impacts within a TDI district; are consistent with Commonwealth and agency priorities; engage and build capacity in local communities and with partners; catalyze market demand and support TDI district goals; and lack other sufficient funding sources to proceed. In January 2023, MassDevelopment released a Fiscal Year 2023 Notice of Funding Availability for projects in or near TDI districts in Attleboro, Barnstable, Fall River, Holyoke, Lawrence, Lowell, Lynn, New Bedford, Pittsfield, Revere, Springfield, Taunton, and Worcester.

In addition to contributing \$1 million towards today's TDI Equity Investment awards, the Barr Foundation has awarded \$4.4 million to MassDevelopment since 2019 to create and administer arts-based programming that directly supports the expansion of cultural and creative industries in Gateway Cities.

The awards include:

\$30,000 to T and T Nail Salon in Attleboro to modernize the interior of its salon to make the space more attractive to a younger clientele and more efficient by adding additional stations for new employees.

\$40,000 to The Burgundian LLC in Attleboro to help the business grow its café by installing new fold-up windows to create a better customer experience and connection to Bank Street and by transforming a parking area in the back of the building into a patio and beer garden.

\$150,000 to Kharidi Realty LLC in Attleboro to open a new Indian American fusion restaurant in a vacant property at 19-31 Bank St. by building out a commercial kitchen and dining and takeout space.

\$125,000 to Primo Hospitality Solutions LLC in Fall River to fully renovate its building at 36-56 Water St. along the city's waterfront cultural corridor – which currently features a bartending school and catering company – by adding a full-service restaurant and bar. Renovations will include a new roof and windows, upgrades to the commercial kitchen, and the build-out of interior dining, educational, and bar spaces.

\$125,000 to RCSI Property LLC in Fall River to renovate and reconfigure its building at 10 Purchase St. The project will include providing new retail and service counters on the ground floor, allowing Thyme Blossom to expand into a larger space. Thyme Blossom's former space at 10 Purchase St. will be utilized for a new revolving kitchen concept. The project will also include adding new retail space to the building by

transforming a former bank drive-thru into an art gallery and retail shop and transforming the parking lot along Granite Street into an event space. Additionally, the project will address issues with the building envelope by repairing the brick and windows to stop water infiltration.

\$110,000 to Youth Musical Theater Corporation in Fall River to complete the fit-out of its practice and performance space at 64 Durfee St., the Creative Class building. The completion of this project will allow the organization to operate at full capacity, stage full productions, and explore new revenue streams by renting out its rehearsal space and theater. This grant is funded by the Barr Foundation.

\$38,550 to The ARTery in Holyoke to repair an elevator in its building at 289 High St. to make the upper floors accessible, usable, and ADA compliant. This will enable the project to expand within the building to provide studio, retail, and conference space to artists at an affordable price. This grant is funded by the Barr Foundation.

\$50,000 to Holyoke Real Estate, LLC in Holyoke to help the BIPOC majority owners of 642-646 High St., a one-story, highly visible set of storefronts, improve and further activate the property. The project will include building out a new restaurant in a vacant storefront, as well as refreshing the entire building's façade and signage.

\$47,450 to Paper City Fabrics in Holyoke to support the build-out of its sewing school and retail space at 330 High St. to grow a new community of makers in the district. Renovations will include new systems and finishes, plus restoration of the original mosaic tile floor and carpentry. This grant is funded by the Barr Foundation.

\$100,000 to Lawrence Partnership in Lawrence to support the build-out of food service kiosks at the Revolving Test Kitchen. This will allow the shared culinary workspace to

expand programming to multiple businesses at the same time, which will increase the number of businesses incubated in the space and will stagger opening times to create regular hours for customers from Northern Essex Community College and the wider community. MassDevelopment has previously supported the Revolving Test Kitchen; in 2019, the agency awarded a \$125,000 grant from the Commonwealth's Collaborative Workspace Program to build out the basement into a shared commercial kitchen.

\$225,000 to Food & Company LLC (d.b.a. Cafeteria) in Lawrence to create a micro food hall with international options, a grab-and-go store, cocktail bar, and pop-up stores on the first floor of a new mixed-use development at 125 Essex St. MassDevelopment has previously supported this project; in June 2023, the agency announced it had partnered with Reading Cooperative Bank to provide \$6,570,000 in loan financing to 115-125 Essex Street LLC, an affiliate of Jowamar Companies, to buy, renovate, and convert two vacant contiguous buildings at 115-123 Essex St. and 125 Essex St. in Lawrence into a new single five-story mixed-use building, where Cafeteria will be housed.

\$100,000 to Building Audacity in Lynn to build out the first floor of the prominent Daily Item building to house the headquarters of the organization's hydroponic agriculture program as well as a store for its produce and a fully operational café with items featuring produce grown by the program. MassDevelopment has previously supported this project; in April 2021 the agency announced it had partnered with Newburyport Bank to provide ARC Realty Management LLC, owner of the vacant former Daily Item building, with \$6,650,000 in loan financing to support conversion of the property into a mixed-use development featuring 31 market-rate rental housing units and retail space. Prior to that, MassDevelopment provided ARC with a \$130,000 Brownfields Redevelopment Fund loan to install a sub-slab depressurization system to eliminate indoor air-quality issues in order to

continue the building conversion.

\$28,000 to Lynn Music Foundation in Lynn to buy recording and broadcasting equipment in support of its plans to convert a space adjacent to the Neil Rantoul Vault Theatre in downtown, which it leases from LynnArts, into a music production studio. This grant is funded by the Barr Foundation. MassDevelopment has previously supported this project; in May 2023 the agency awarded a \$72,000 TDI Equity grant to Lynn Music Foundation to upgrade the Neil Rantoul Vault Theatre, which it also leases from LynnArts, by replacing existing permanent seating with telescoping stands and seating that will make the space flexible enough to accommodate more events and programming.

\$250,000 to **Community Economic Development Center (CEDC)** of Southeastern Massachusetts in New Bedford to redevelop the former Capitol Theater at 1418 Acushnet Ave. The project will include bringing all of CEDC's programming together in a new office space, adding six new units of affordable housing, a micro branch location for the Southcoast Credit Union, and three to four new storefronts, including space for health care outreach and access as well as immigrant legal services. The old theater space will be restored and transformed into an incubator for new food-based businesses and culturally relevant programming. This grant is funded by the Barr Foundation. MassDevelopment has previously supported this project; from 2022-2021, the agency awarded two grants totaling \$1,675,000 from the Commonwealth's Underutilized Properties Program to CEDC for the rehabilitation of the building.

\$100,000 to **Positive Action Against Chemical Addiction, Inc. (PAACA)** in New Bedford to help the nonprofit lease a highly visible vacant storefront at 353 Coggeshall St. and transform it into a commercial kitchen. The space will allow the organization to increase programming, including providing access for culinary job training for people in recovery, refugees, new immigrants, and other local vulnerable

populations. The storefront will also have a production space for local entrepreneurs coming out of PAACA's training programs and others, as well as a point-of-sale where products and food made in the space can be sold to the public.

\$31,000 to Marie's Eatery Pittsfield LLC (d.b.a. Marie's North Street Eatery & Gallery) in Pittsfield to renovate the interior of its existing space, which long housed Marie's European Delights, to offer sit-down dining and affordable grab-and-go options to cater to the city's downtown lunch crowd.

\$28,000 to Remedy & Culture LLC in Pittsfield to help the company make interior renovations to an 860-square-foot vacant storefront at 90 North St. in the Central Block. The renovated property will feature a wellness retail shop, yoga and meditation classroom, and private treatment room.

\$179,000 to Roots & Dreams and Mustard Seeds Inc. in Pittsfield to purchase the iconic King Kone soft serve ice cream shop at 133 Fenn St. and convert it into a worker cooperative. The nonprofit incubator will also expand its current arts programming through the creation of a community art gallery and exhibition space in the adjacent retail space in the same building. This grant is funded by the Barr Foundation.

\$120,000 to Y Not Bar and Lounge, LLC (d.b.a. Methuselah Bar and Lounge) in Pittsfield to help the company expand into an adjacent space to allow for increased dining capacity and the ability to host events, including those connected to the Latinx and LGBTQ communities. Specifically, this grant will help fund the installation of a required fire suppression system for the entire building to facilitate the expansion.

\$97,000 to Love Art Collective Inc. in Springfield to help the organization buy and convert a retail service property into Block Art Studio, a Black-owned and -operated art center

focused on neighborhood youth and entrepreneurs. The new facility will feature gallery space, youth enrichment programs, career training, community events, and crossover events with other local cultural institutions. This grant is funded by the Barr Foundation. MassDevelopment has previously supported this project; in May 2023 the agency awarded a \$229,000 TDI Equity grant to Love Art Collective Inc. for the property purchase and conversion.

\$250,000 to HB & B Corporation (d.b.a. Panache Banquet Hall) in Springfield to advance a full renovation of its community space in Mason Square. The renovation plan includes building a large commercial kitchen; upgrading the stage, dressing rooms, audio, and light system; adding an additional kitchen for the tenant restaurant; enlarging the facility; and renovating bathrooms. This grant is funded by the Barr Foundation.

\$6,052 to Eric Brunelle (d.b.a. Torn Veil Tattoo) in Taunton to build out a vacant commercial property that will house a new tattoo shop.

Defined by the Massachusetts General Laws, Gateway Cities are small to mid-sized cities in Massachusetts (population of between 35,000 and 250,000) that anchor regional economies around the state, with below state average household incomes and educational attainment rates. The Legislature defines 26 Gateway Cities in Massachusetts, including Attleboro, Barnstable, Brockton, Chelsea, Chicopee, Everett, Fall River, Fitchburg, Haverhill, Holyoke, Lawrence, Leominster, Lowell, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, New Bedford, Peabody, Pittsfield, Quincy, Revere, Salem, Springfield, Taunton, Westfield, and Worcester.

MassDevelopment, the state's development finance agency and land bank, works with businesses, nonprofits, banks, and communities to stimulate economic growth across the Commonwealth. During FY2023, MassDevelopment financed or managed 545 projects generating investment of more than \$2

billion in the Massachusetts economy. These projects are estimated to create or support 10,522 jobs and build or preserve 1,583 housing units.

Paper shredding day coming to New Bedford soon; prevent identity theft

A fall Paper Shredding Day is on Saturday, September 30, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to noon, or until the shred truck fills up. All are welcome; there is no residency requirement. Individuals may bring up to two boxes of paper. The event is at the New Bedford High School parking lot, 230 Hathaway Boulevard, New Bedford. Enter from Parker Street.

“Identity theft is a growing concern. Everyone must be vigilant in protecting personal information. Shredding your documents is an excellent way to protect yourself and your family, NBCU is proud to sponsor these community shredding days.” said Berta Varao, President & CEO at NBCU.

The shred truck can only hold a certain amount of paper, so the limit of two boxes allows Paper Shredding Day to serve more people. The event will end when the shred truck is full; it is possible it may be before noon. Each box should weigh no more than 30 to 40 pounds. Paper clips and staples do not need to be removed, but please remove paper from folders and binders.

When each participant reaches the shred truck, staff will remove boxes from the trunk of your vehicle, empty them into a recycle bin and return boxes to participants. The recycle bin

is emptied into the Shred-it truck. Shred-it is certified by the National Association for Information Destruction and adheres to their stringent security practices and procedures. For safety purposes, participants are not able to watch the destruction of their paper.

Shredding confidential documents helps to prevent identify theft, protect personal information, and prevent valuable resources from being sent to the landfill. The shredded paper will be recycled into new products such as paper towels.

The event is sponsored by NBCU and held in partnership with the City of New Bedford, the Town of Dartmouth, and the Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District.

For more information, please visit gnbrmdistrict.org, call the Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District at (508) 979-1493, or email Marissa@gnbrmdistrict.org."

Massachusetts Firefighters respond to crash of WWI era plane

"Police Chief Michael Sallese and Fire Chief John Benoit report that the Stow Police and Fire Departments responded to a plane crash this afternoon.

On Sunday, Sept. 17, at approximately 11:09 a.m., Stow Police and Fire received reports of a plane crash near Barton Road and the American Heritage Museum.

Upon arrival, crews located a World War I era Nieuport 28, a single engine plane, at the end of the runway that was upside

down on its roof.

The single occupant, the pilot of the aircraft, had removed himself from the plane before first responders arrived. The pilot did not report any injuries but was evaluated at the scene as a precaution.

A preliminary investigation determined that, while attempting to land at the American Heritage Museum, 568 Main St. Hudson, the aircraft's front landing gear failed causing the plane to flip over on its roof. Stow has several airports.

Hudson Police and Fire also responded to the scene to assist.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has been notified about the crash, and will investigate further.”-Stow Fire Department.



Stow Fire Department photo.

Massachusetts State Police Capt. Thomas Ryan retires after 3 decades of service to the Commonwealth

“Congratulations to Massachusetts State Police Captain Thomas Ryan, who retired yesterday after three decades of service to the MSP and the residents of the Commonwealth.

Captain Ryan most recently served at Troop A Headquarters in Danvers helping to oversee patrol operations. Previously, he was assigned to the State Police Detective Unit for Worcester County, where he investigated homicides and sexual assaults, and the Special Services Section, which investigates organized crime.

He also previously served as the sworn commanding officer of the Office of Media Relations and as the sworn assistant to the Department prosecutor. In brief, eloquent remarks to a group of colleagues gathered to wish him well, Captain Ryan reflected on how his service as a police officer shaped his character and spiritual development. Major James Bazzinotti, commanding officer of Troop A, presented Captain Ryan with certificate recognizing his service and noted that he was losing “his right hand man.”

We wish you the very best Tom!”-Massachusetts State Police .



Massachusetts State Police photo.

New Bedford men indicted in Fentanyl ring; \$1.2 million in cash, 800g of Fentanyl seized

“Two New Bedford men have been indicted by a federal grand jury in Boston in connection with a conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute fentanyl. One defendant

was also charged with misuse of a Social Security number and aggravated identity theft.

Yohenry Contreras-Lara, 29, and Vinicio DeJesus Marrero Arias, 39, were indicted on one count each of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute more than 400 grams of fentanyl. Contreras-Lara was also indicted on one count of misuse of a social security number and one count of aggravated identity theft.

"Fentanyl is devastating communities across Massachusetts. We will continue partner with local police departments like the New Bedford Police Department and the Bristol County DA's office to combat the distribution of this deadly drug on our streets," said Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy.

"Fentanyl is causing great damage to our communities," said Brian D. Boyle, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration, New England Field Office. "Those who distribute this drug are endangering the safety of the citizens of Massachusetts. Fentanyl continues to cause deaths in record numbers and DEA's top priority is to aggressively pursue anyone who distributes this poison. This investigation demonstrates the strength of collaborative local, county and state law enforcement efforts in Massachusetts and our strong partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office."

"We will continue to pursue those who misuse the Social Security number of others. This individual allegedly misused the identity of another, remaining in this country unlawfully for two decades. This type of behavior harms innocent lives and damages the integrity of the SSN," said Sharon MacDermott, Special Agent in Charge of the Social Security Administration Office of the Inspector General, Boston- New York Field Division. "I thank our law enforcement partners for working with us and the U.S. Attorney's Office for their efforts in this case."

According to court filings, after Contreras-Lara entered the United States in 2002 on a tourist visa, he allegedly purchased the identity of a United States citizen and posed as that citizen for several years including applying for two Massachusetts drivers' licenses under an identity that was not his in 2022.

It is further alleged that, following an investigation into fentanyl trafficking in and around the Lord Phillips Apartments in New Bedford, Contreras-Lara and Arias were identified as fentanyl distributors in the area. A search of Contreras Lara and Arias' residences, as well as an apartment that was being used as a stash location and two storage units, allegedly resulted in the recovery of more than 800 grams of fentanyl and \$1.2 million in cash in suspected drug proceeds.

The charge of conspiracy to distribute and possess with intent to distribute more than 400 grams of fentanyl provides for a sentence of up to life years in prison, at least five years of supervised release and a fine of up to \$10 million. The charge of misuse of a social security number provides for a sentence of up to five years in prison, three years of supervised release, and a fine of up to \$250,000. The charge of aggravated identity theft carries a sentence of two years to be served consecutively with any other sentence, up to one year of supervised release and a fine of up to \$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.

Acting U.S. Attorney Levy, DEA SAC Boyle and SSA-OIG SAC MacDermott made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was provided by the Bristol District Attorney's Office and the New Bedford Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney Evan Panich of the Narcotics & Money Laundering Unit is prosecuting the case.

The details contained in the indictment 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.