

Rochester Firefighters participate in “Team Hero’s Walk” in name of one of their own

“On April 16th, we will walk for our Hero, Deputy Chief Jeff Eldridge. He has been battling Multiple Sclerosis for 10 years now, and we are beyond grateful that the medication he is on is helping him in so many ways!

As the Rochester Highway Surveyor and Deputy Chief of the Rochester Fire Department, Jeff selflessly gives so much to others. This walk is how we give back to him.

Team Hero’s Walk is made up of our family, both blood and badge. Our fire family chooses to walk in our turnout gear in honor of our Hero. It is not easy to walk in our gear, and neither is living with MS!

Click [here](#) if you would like to donate to our team! Thank you in advance for your support; We appreciate it.”-Rochester Fire Department.



Rochester Fire Department photo.



Rochester Fire Department photo.

City of New Bedford announces

official fund for individuals displaced by rooming house fire

“The City of New Bedford along with non-profit partners including the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford have announced Rise Up For Homes as the official relief fund for individuals displaced by Tuesday’s rooming house fire on Acushnet Avenue.

“The fire has abruptly displaced dozens of residents and turned their lives upside down. I appreciate the partnership of the Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford and all of the partners involved in Rise Up For Homes to help meet the challenge,” said Mayor Mitchell.

Rise Up For Homes is a collaborative campaign established by the City of New Bedford’s Homeless Service Providers Network (HSPN). The Inter-Church Council of Greater New Bedford, a non-profit 501(c)3 serves as the fiscal conduit of the funds.

To donate, checks made out to Rise Up For Homes can be dropped off or mailed to the Inter-Church Council, 128 Union Street Suite 100, New Bedford, MA 02740. The Inter-Church Council can be reached at (508) 993-6242.

To donate online, please visit <https://riseupforhomes.com/donate>.”

Fall River's "Forever Paws" to host Easter Egg Hunt, Brunch, Hypnotist Show to help out the animals

There will be three special, fun events to help out the Forever Paws Animal Shelter and all of the adorable cats, dogs, bunnies, and other little guys and gals that will soon brighten up someone's life and household.

Outdoor Easter Egg Hunt

When: April 1, 2023 from 10:00am-12:00pm

Where: 300 Lynwoos St. Fall River

Cost: \$10 per child

There will be 2 egg hunts with 20 spots per age group available: ages 6 and under and Ages 7-11. In addition there will be face painting and a bake sale with yummys.

Forever Paws Fundraiser

When: Saturday, April 29 at 7:00pm

Come out for this great fundraiser, my show plus mentalist Mike Miozza, two great shows in one night. Doors open at 6:00 P.M. Mentalist at 7:00 P.M. There will be an intermission. \$30 Admission Table of 8 for \$240. Feel free to bring your snacks! All beverages must be bought at the bar. Visit the Facebook Event Page [here](#).

About Forever Paws Animal Shelter

Forever Paws Animal Shelter gives animals a renewed leash on life by assisting them while homeless, in danger, or generally in need. We work in collaboration with our Law Enforcement Agencies, members of the public, and other organizations to improve the lives of animals. Our mission is to re-home

animals in an ethically positive way that is beneficial to the overall well-being of the animal and our community.

Forever Paws works to give animals the gift of time through managed intake. This allows us to offer comprehensive treatment and care to stray, abused, or abandoned animals. Forever Paws continues to operate under no-kill practices, offering care for all treatable conditions with no restrictions on length of stay. We will always place the quality of life of an animal as our most paramount charge. Forever Paws is devoted to educating future generations to foster compassionate and humane attitudes towards all species of animal.

□

We are a non-profit organization, relying on donations, fundraising, and dedicated benefactors and supporters.



Forever Paws photo.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A BRUNCH
SUPPORTING FOREVER PAWS ANIMAL SHELTER

Saturday | April 22, 2023 | 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Top Shelf Bar and Grill
1825 Acushnet Ave. New Bedford, MA 02746

Forever Paws photo.

FURRY FRIENDS NEED YOUR HELP

APRIL 29TH

DOORS OPEN @ 6PM

7PM SHOWTIME

LIBERAL CLUB

GOLD ROOM

20 STAR ST.

FALL RIVER MA

eventbrite.com

ONE NIGHT, TWO GREAT SHOWS

\$30 ADMISSION

TABLES OF 8 AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

eventbrite.com

COMIC HYPNOTIST
FRANK SANTOS JR

MENTALIST
MIKE MIOZZA



BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS, BEVERAGES TO BE PURCHASED AT THE BAR

Forever Paws Animal Shelter

300 Lynwood St,

Fall River, MA

Phone: (508) 677-9154

Email: fpas1@ForeverPaws.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ForeverPawsAnimalShelter>

Website: foreverpaws.com/

Compost bin sale for New Bedford and Dartmouth residents

“On Compost Bin Day, Saturday, April 8, 2023, the first 10 residents from each community – New Bedford and Dartmouth – who purchase a backyard compost bin at the Crapo Hill Landfill, will receive a free 1-gallon stainless steel kitchen counter bin to collect compostable material. The sale starts at 8:00 am, no early birds! Compost bins are sold on Saturdays until 10:45 a.m. The 1-gallon bin can be used to collect food waste in your kitchen and is then emptied into your backyard compost bin.

The Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District offers two types of backyard compost bins for sale to New Bedford and Dartmouth residents year-round. The Earth Machine and the New Age Composter are available at the discounted rate of \$25 each (including tax). The cost of each compost bin is being subsidized by the two communities to encourage backyard composting.

“Food waste makes up approximately 20% of the waste that residents generate in their homes. Composting fruit and vegetable scraps saves space in your trash bags and the landfill, while providing nutrient rich material for gardening,” notes Marissa Perez-Dormitzer, Waste Reduction Manager.

Benefits of composting include:

- materials such as fruit and vegetable scraps, coffee grounds, eggshells, leaves, grass, hay, and twigs placed in a compost bin turn into free compost (that you do not have to buy in a plastic bag).
- returns nutrients to the soil to grow nutritious food, and

healthy plants, flowers, and shrubs.

- reduces greenhouse gases such as methane.
- reduces trash and reduces plastic bag use – material that was going in your trash now becomes nutrient-rich soil amendment.

To purchase a compost bin, go to the scale house at the Crapo Hill Landfill located at 300 Samuel Barnet Blvd., New Bedford. Enter through the New Bedford Business Park. The scale house is open Monday through Friday 7:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 to 10:45 a.m. Cash or check only. Proof of residency required.

Which compost bin is best for you?

The Earth Machine:

- 80-gallon capacity, great for smaller families, gardens, or yards.
- Made of rigid recycled plastic – twist lid to lock, unlock, and allow for ventilation.
- Comes with two halves for the body, a lid, and a perforated base plate. Easy to assemble in a few steps.
- The sliding door at the base allows for compost removal. Or the entire bin can be picked up to harvest the finished compost at the bottom.
- Rodent prevention: keep meat, bones, fats, oil & dairy out of the bin. Comes with a perforated base plate that helps keep rodents out.
- Add water to keep the contents as damp as a wrung-out sponge (leftover cooking water can be used). It is possible to drill holes in the lid and body to allow in rainwater.

The New Age Composter (made in New Bedford):

- Capacity up to 180-gallons, great for larger families, bigger gardens, yards with more leaves.
- Made of flexible recycled plastic so the diameter can be adjusted during setup.

- Cone-shaped base continually aerates contents from below, turning is not necessary.
- Comes with the body, a base, a lid, and clips to hold it together. Easy to assemble in a few steps. Video with instructions for assembly: <https://youtu.be/08qDLLv1Hgc>
- To access the finished compost, push aside fresh material on top and shovel out compost underneath. Or pick up the entire bin to access the finished compost. Using 2 or 3 bins in rotation makes harvesting compost easy from the oldest bin.
- Rodent prevention: keep meat, bones, fats, oil & dairy out of the bin. The sides and bottom cone may be secured to the ground with stakes to keep rodents out.
- Holes in the lid allow rainwater in. During dry spells, add water to keep contents as damp as a wrung-out sponge.

If you have questions about how to compost, visit <http://gnbrrmdistrict.org/about-us/> or contact the Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management District by phone at (508) 979-1493 or by email at Marissa@gnbrrmdistrict.org. For additional tips, visit the New Bedford Recycling or the Dartmouth Recycling Facebook page or follow New Bedford Recycling on Instagram and Nextdoor or @NBRecycling on Twitter.”-Greater New Bedford Regional Refuse Management.

FDA approves first over-the-counter Naloxone nasal spray

“Agency Continues to Take Critical Steps to Reduce Drug Overdose Deaths Being Driven Primarily by Illicit Opioids.”

Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Narcan, 4 milligram (mg) naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray for over-

the-counter (OTC), nonprescription, use – the first naloxone product approved for use without a prescription. Naloxone is a medication that rapidly reverses the effects of opioid overdose and is the standard treatment for opioid overdose. Today's action paves the way for the life-saving medication to reverse an opioid overdose to be sold directly to consumers in places like drug stores, convenience stores, grocery stores and gas stations, as well as online.

The timeline for availability and price of this OTC product is determined by the manufacturer. The FDA will work with all stakeholders to help facilitate the continued availability of naloxone nasal spray products during the time needed to implement the Narcan switch from prescription to OTC status, which may take months. Other formulations and dosages of naloxone will remain available by prescription only.

Drug overdose persists as a major public health issue in the United States, with more than 101,750 reported fatal overdoses occurring in the 12-month period ending in October 2022, primarily driven by synthetic opioids like illicit fentanyl.

"The FDA remains committed to addressing the evolving complexities of the overdose crisis. As part of this work, the agency has used its regulatory authority to facilitate greater access to naloxone by encouraging the development of and approving an over-the-counter naloxone product to address the dire public health need," said FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf, M.D. "Today's approval of OTC naloxone nasal spray will help improve access to naloxone, increase the number of locations where it's available and help reduce opioid overdose deaths throughout the country. We encourage the manufacturer to make accessibility to the product a priority by making it available as soon as possible and at an affordable price."

Narcan nasal spray was first approved by the FDA in 2015 as a prescription drug. In accordance with a process to change the status of a drug from prescription to nonprescription, the

manufacturer provided data demonstrating that the drug is safe and effective for use as directed in its proposed labeling. The manufacturer also showed that consumers can understand how to use the drug safely and effectively without the supervision of a healthcare professional. The application to approve Narcan nasal spray for OTC use was granted priority review status and was the subject of an advisory committee meeting in February 2023, where committee members voted unanimously to recommend it be approved for marketing without a prescription.

The approval of OTC Narcan nasal spray will require a change in the labeling for the currently approved 4 mg generic naloxone nasal spray products that rely on Narcan as their reference listed drug product. Manufacturers of these products will be required to submit a supplement to their applications to effectively switch their products to OTC status. The approval may also affect the status of other brand-name naloxone nasal spray products of 4 mg or less, but determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis and the FDA may contact other firms as needed.

The use of Narcan nasal spray in individuals who are opioid dependent may result in severe opioid withdrawal characterized by body aches, diarrhea, increased heart rate (tachycardia), fever, runny nose, sneezing, goose bumps, sweating, yawning, nausea or vomiting, nervousness, restlessness or irritability, shivering or trembling, abdominal cramps, weakness and increased blood pressure.

“Naloxone is a critical tool in addressing opioid overdoses and today’s approval underscores the extensive efforts the agency has undertaken to combat the overdose crisis,” said Patrizia Cavazzoni, M.D., director of the FDA’s Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. “The FDA is working with our federal partners to help ensure continued access to all forms of naloxone during the transition of this product from prescription status to nonprescription/OTC status. Further, we will work with any sponsor seeking to market a nonprescription

naloxone product, including through an Rx to OTC switch, and encourage manufacturers to contact the agency as early as possible to initiate discussions.”

The FDA has taken a series of measures to help facilitate access to naloxone products. In November 2022, the agency announced its preliminary assessment that certain naloxone products, such as the one ultimately approved today, have the potential to be safe and effective for over-the-counter use and encouraged sponsors to submit applications for approval of OTC naloxone products. The agency previously announced in 2019 that it had designed, tested, and validated a model naloxone Drug Facts Label (DFL) with easy-to-understand pictograms on how to use the drug to encourage manufacturers to pursue approval of OTC naloxone products. The model DFL was used to support the approved application along with the results of a simulated use Human Factors validation study designed to assess whether all the components of the product with which a user would interact could be used safely and effectively as intended.

Through the FDA Overdose Prevention Framework, the agency remains focused on responding to all facets of substance use, misuse, substance use disorders, overdose and death in the U.S. The framework’s priorities include: supporting primary prevention by eliminating unnecessary initial prescription drug exposure and inappropriate prolonged prescribing; encouraging harm reduction through innovation and education; advancing development of evidence-based treatments for substance use disorders; and protecting the public from unapproved, diverted or counterfeit drugs presenting overdose risks.

The FDA granted the OTC approval of Narcan to Emergent BioSolutions.”

New Bedford Councillor Burgo responds to Mayor Mitchell's veto regarding rent stabilization

"Now is the time for listening and discussions, not for lectures on public policy and governance. It has been over two weeks since the ballot question regarding rent stabilizations was passed. In that time, discussions around rising rents – and our housing crisis in general – have finally been given the heightened attention they deserve.

Dialogue is good. Lectures benefit no one while rising rents are at a crisis level in our city. Ask the residents.

It is surprising and disappointing that our Mayor apparently hasn't received their messages, as they continue to suffer through this housing crisis. Then, ask why, in his last State of the City address, did the Mayor omit any proposals for or solutions to housing affordability.

There is no "one solution" to ending homelessness. Nor is there one solution to guaranteeing affordable housing for everyone. New Bedford is changing daily. We need to do our best to make sure that all New Bedford's residents share in the new City that is evolving around them. Rent stabilization alone will not solve our housing crisis.

I never claimed that and never will, but it can bring much-needed relief to the severely cost-burdened families in our community. Specifically, many City residents that are at a greater risk of being priced out of a City they've always

called home and forced into homelessness.

Contrary to what has been purported, rent control and rent stabilization, have been on the minds of many throughout not only New Bedford but the entire Commonwealth. Boston is leading the way with its own stabilization initiatives. We can discuss the differences between rent control and rent stabilization and sort out how best to rise above this challenge. We can engage all the stakeholders in seeking solutions best for everyone, solutions that support new housing development and ensure that housing is affordable.

As we have seen in two short weeks, a ballot question inspires conversation. It focuses issues. It stimulates debate. For elected officials to go forward with proposals without first gauging the will of the citizens on such a unique concept and important issue would be irresponsible. This is not an issue that should be determined from the top down but rather from the bottom up.

I encourage the Administration to meet with our many local non-profit groups or even our monthly neighborhood community groups, to understand and know that the people of New Bedford can no longer afford to be price gouged. We need to plan for sustainability. New Bedford is a quilt of many communities. Each of those quilted threads is being destroyed by rising rents.

My colleagues and I will continue to facilitate the discussions surrounding this ballot question and look forward to working with the Administration, developers, and everyone that will be impacted by a potential rent stabilization Ordinance."

Massachusetts Environmental Police rescue beaver building dam...in a dam

“I think he was trying to dam the damn dam...

I don't know how he got trapped in there or how long he was in there but I am thankful we were able to rescue him today. His tail and feet are showing signs of frostbite so he will be with us for a few days while we sort out his injuries, but this beaver is certainly feeling better now!

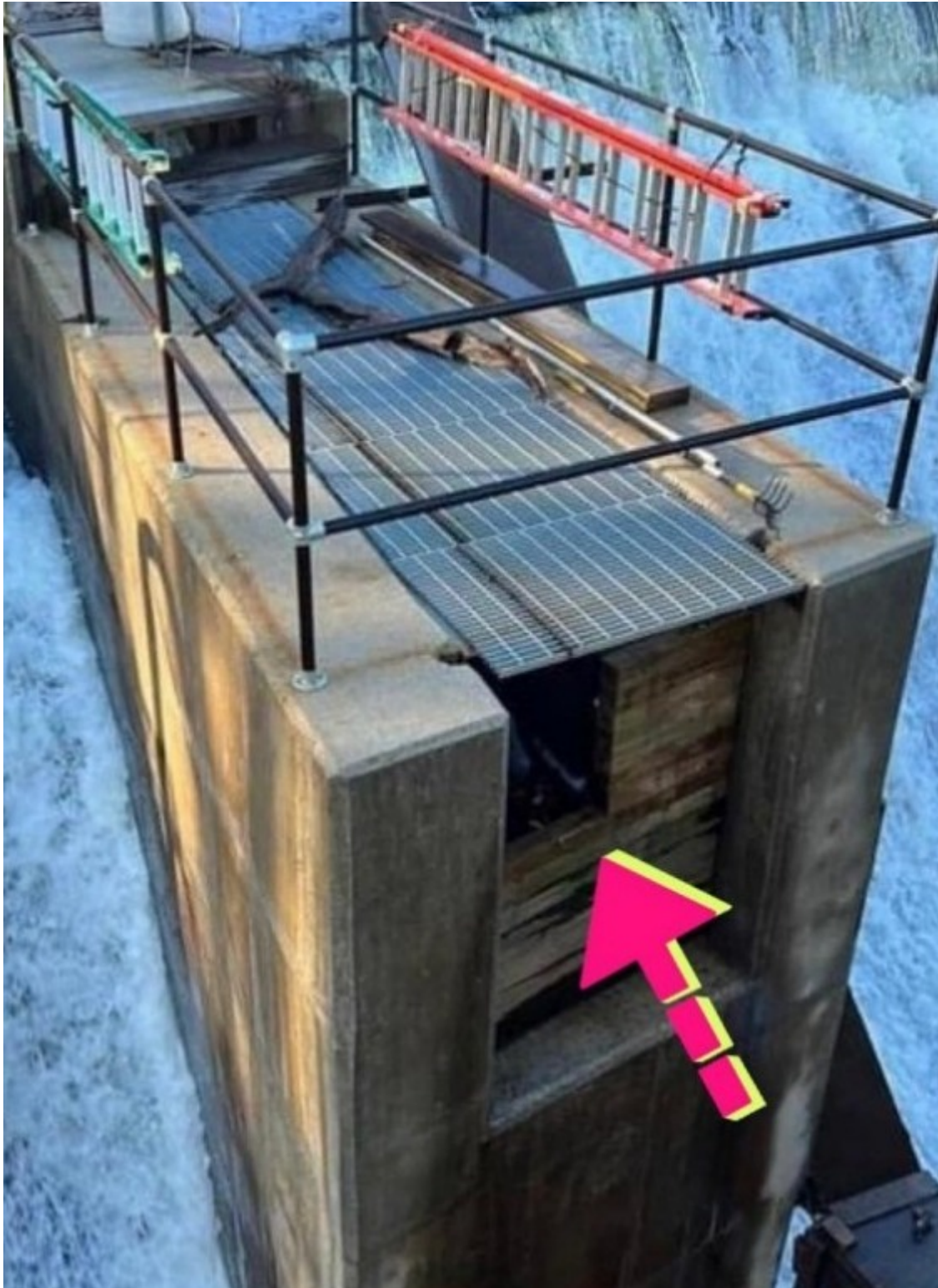
A big thank you to the Massachusetts Environmental Police, Rehabbers Danielle Michaud and Avery Adams for helping us save his life today! ♥️?♥️”-Newhouse Wildlife Rescue.



Newhouse Wildlife Rescue photo.



Newhouse Wildlife Rescue photo.



Newhouse Wildlife Rescue photo.

Fatal fire that claims life of two in East Dennis under investigation

"A residential fire in Dennis claimed two people's lives yesterday morning, said Dennis Fire Chief Robert Brown, Dennis Police Chief John Brady, State Fire Marshal Peter Ostroskey, and Cape & Islands District Attorney Robert Galibois.

The fire at 3 Niblick Rd. was reported at about 6:52 am. On arrival, Dennis firefighters observed smoke showing from the two-story duplex. Crews worked quickly to make entry, extinguish the fire, and search the residence. They located two adult occupants, one male and one female, inside. Both parties were transported to Cape Cod hospital but succumbed to their injuries. Their names are not being released at this time. One dog also perished in the fire.

The origin and cause of this morning's fire are under investigation by the Dennis Fire Department, Dennis Police Department, and State police investigators assigned to the offices of the Cape & Islands District Attorney and State Fire Marshal.

"It's too early to say how the fire started, but we know there were no working smoke alarms in the unit where it began," said Chief Brown. "Please check your smoke alarms today to be sure they're working properly on every level of your home."

Firefighters were able to contain the fire to the unit of origin. The Yarmouth Fire Department provided mutual aid at the scene and the Harwich Fire Department provided station coverage."-Dennis Fire Department.

New Bedford grandmom of autistic child shares “faith in humanity” restored moment in Dartmouth

“On 3/23/23, a very special woman come up to me at Chuck E. Cheese in Dartmouth about 5:40pm and asked if it was OK to share a cupcake with my granddaughter Amariannah. My granddaughters and I were there with BCL (Family Support Center) for our Autism families to have fun.

She asked because earlier we walked by her table and she and her daughter were eating and Amariannah was amazed by a Unicorn ? Cupcake on their table. This woman saw the look in my granddaughter’s eyes and knew that it meant a great deal to my granddaughter. She came up to me and asked if it was OK to share the ? cupcake. She had cut it in half to share with my granddaughter.

This beautiful Momma has no idea how much her action meant to my granddaughter just by simply sharing with her. She also took a picture with my granddaughter, We came home and Amariannah just kept talking about her new best friend at Chuck E Cheese.

The moral of this story is that you should never judge anyone just by looking at them as we all have our story and no one is the same. I appreciate how much you made my granddaughter’s face lit up and how happy you made her, Thank you and we hope to meet you again.”-Jennifer Lee Staples-Villegas.



Jennifer Lee Staples-Villegas photo.

Use caution, be mindful of

Massachusetts amphibians as they emerge from their winter retreats

“For many Massachusetts residents, spring rain is a reminder of the changing seasons. For smaller Massachusetts natives, like amphibians, spring rains signal it’s time to emerge from winter retreats and migrate to breeding sites or disperse to new areas.

Unfortunately, many of those animals will face the daunting task of having to cross roads to reach their destinations. Spotted salamanders, wood frogs, blue-spotted salamanders, Jefferson salamanders, American toads, spring peepers, four-toed salamanders, northern leopard frogs, and eastern red-backed salamanders are frequently encountered on roads during early spring rains.

With little to no snow cover and the ground thawed in many areas, we expect migrations in milder, lower-elevation parts of Massachusetts to commence with the next warm, rainy night.



Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife photo.

These animals can be difficult to see, as they are generally small-bodied and move under the cover of dark. This spring, please be mindful of our amphibians and our natural heritage.

How you can help:

- Please drive cautiously and carefully.
 - Whenever possible over the next 2 months, please consider not driving on rainy nights when air temperatures are 40°F or higher. If you must travel during such conditions, delaying beyond the first 2 hours after sunset is recommended.
 - Travel on larger highways rather than small, wooded roads if possible. Plan routes that minimize the number of wetlands or vernal pools passed.
- Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
- If observing amphibian migrations, consider arriving at your destination prior to sunset, and then conduct your monitoring on foot.
 - If assisting amphibians across roadways or handling them for other reasons, be sure your hands are free of lotions, bug

repellent, or other chemicals.

- Report high levels of amphibian activity or mortality to the Linking Landscapes for Massachusetts Wildlife initiative, which compiles data to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions on problem roadways.
- If you encounter any of our state-listed rare amphibian species (eastern spadefoot, blue-spotted salamander, Jefferson salamander, and marbled salamander), please take a clear photograph of the animal, carefully record the location, and submit an observation report to MassWildlife's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program.
- Go the extra mile to help preserve amphibian habitat by certifying vernal pools on your property. The data you collect is used to help MassWildlife and local conservation organizations better understand habitat resources for our native amphibians."-Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife.