

# Operation Clean Sweep seeks volunteers to clean up New Bedford's historic Palmer's island

Operation Clean Sweep Anti-Litter Campaign is working to improve the quality of life in New Bedford through organized cleanups, education and advocacy.

**WHEN:** Saturday, Sept 24th from 11:00am-3:00pm

**WHAT:** Volunteers will be cleaning up historic Palmers Island, please meet at the end of Gifford St.

You can pre-register online [here](#).

- FREE t-shirts to all volunteers
- Gloves and tools provided
- Wear closed-toe shoes
- Review the safety notes
- Walk-ins Welcome
- FREE pizza provided by Dominos



*Operation Clean Sweep photo.*

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## **New Bedford Police Department recognizes female staff on National Police Woman Day**

“In recognition of National Police Women’s Day, we are so proud to post this photo which depicts some great history.

From Left to right:

Officer Sandy Grace, and Detective Barbara Lipsett, were among the first female police officers in our department and the first female school resource officers. Officer Grace was also the first female K9 officer!

Officer Pauline Garcelon, was the first female New Bedford police officer AND the first female detective.

Sergeant Rita Ribeiro, the first woman of color to be promoted to Sergeant, the first commander of our domestic violence unit AND the first commander of our school resource division.

Please leave a message for all four of these groundbreaking women in law enforcement who are currently enjoying a well-deserved retirement!!

Thank you for your service!!

#NationalPoliceWomanDay.” -City of New Bedford Police Department.

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## U.S. Department of Food Safety Issues Public Health Alert for HelloFresh Meal Kits

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is issuing a public health alert due to concerns that ground beef products in HelloFresh meal kits may be associated with *Escherichia coli* (E. coli) 0157:H7 illness. **A recall was not requested because the products are no longer available for purchase.**

The meal kits containing ground beef for this public health alert were shipped to consumers from July 2-21, 2022. The following products are subject to the public health alert [view label]:

10-oz. plastic vacuum-packed packages containing “GROUND BEEF 85% LEAN/15% FAT” with codes “EST#46841 L1 22 155” or

“EST#46841 L5 22 155” on the side of the packaging.

**The ground beef packages bear “EST.46841” inside the USDA mark of inspection and on the plastic ground beef package.**

FSIS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and state public health partners are investigating an outbreak of E. coli 0157:H7 and raw ground beef is the probable source of the reported illnesses. Traceback information identified that multiple case-patients received ground beef produced at establishment M46841 and distributed by HelloFresh in meal kits from July 2-21, 2022. Traceback of materials used to produce the ground beef is ongoing and FSIS continues to work with suppliers and public health partners on the investigation.

**FSIS is concerned that some product may be in consumers' freezers. Consumers who have purchased these products are urged not to consume them. These products should be thrown away.**

FSIS advises all consumers to safely prepare their raw meat products, including fresh and frozen, and only consume ground beef that has been cooked to a temperature of 160 F. The only way to confirm that ground beef is cooked to a temperature high enough to kill harmful bacteria is to use a food thermometer that measures internal temperature, <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/safetempchart>.

*Media and consumers with questions regarding the public health alert can contact [hello@hellofresh.com](mailto:hello@hellofresh.com) or by live chat.*

Consumers with food safety questions can call the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 888-MPHotline (888-674-6854) or live chat via Ask USDA from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Eastern Time) Monday through Friday. Consumers can also browse food safety messages at Ask USDA or send a question via email to [MPHotline@usda.gov](mailto:MPHotline@usda.gov). For consumers that need to report a problem with a meat, poultry, or egg product, the online

Electronic Consumer Complaint Monitoring System can be accessed 24 hours a day at <https://foodcomplaint.fsis.usda.gov/eCCF/>.

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## **UMass Dartmouth awarded \$750,000 Massachusetts Life Science grant to diversify the field**

*"The grant will create opportunities for students to access cutting-edge equipment for in-demand careers in life sciences industries."*

UMass Dartmouth recently received a \$750,000 grant from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center to connect students in one of the University's most diverse science programs, Medical Laboratory Science (MLS), to resources that will further their careers in the life sciences. The grant was part of the Baker-Polito Administration and the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center (MLSC) announcement of 39 grants totaling more than \$14.6 million.

"Stepping Stones: Achieving Greater Diversity in Life Sciences through Laboratory Science" focuses on UMass Dartmouth and the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center's shared commitment to increase diversity in the life sciences. Funding will be used to add advanced technologies to the University's laboratory spaces, including microbiology testing stations, blood testing equipment, and cell manipulation hardware. Students in the program will utilize these new pieces of equipment and methodologies that are the same as employers use in

Massachusetts's burgeoning life sciences sector.

"By making investments in STEM workforce and educational opportunities, we can sustain and strengthen Massachusetts' leadership in the life sciences and other STEM industries," said Governor Charlie Baker in a press release. "We are grateful to partners across the Commonwealth for working with our administration to create more career pathways for students in these growing fields."

"UMass Dartmouth is committed to growing our learning and research opportunities in the life sciences," said Chancellor Mark A. Fuller. "This generous grant from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center will help our diverse student body enter the workforce prepared to continue the Commonwealth's worldwide leadership in these crucial industries."

"Growing the life sciences is a critical focus of our university and region," said Ramprasad Balasubramanian, vice chancellor for research and innovation at UMass Dartmouth. "With a highly-skilled workforce and lab space a fraction of the cost of Boston area facilities, the SouthCoast is only expected to grow its impact in the life sciences industry."

With a 100% employment rate and a 100% pass rate on MLS professional certification, UMass Dartmouth's MLS program is ranked as one of the top programs in the country. While traditionally employed in health care facilities, students in the MLS program increasing focus on careers in life science.

"The College of Nursing & Health Sciences is very excited and appreciative of this grant from the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center," said Dean of the College of Nursing & Health Sciences Kimberly Christopher. "The funding provides the opportunity to update student learning laboratory facilities and expand our capacity to address current and future medical laboratory and life sciences workforce needs."

Students in the MLS program analyze blood, body fluids, cells,

tissues, and other specimens to determine diseases' causes and their appropriate treatments. The skills acquired by students are highly translatable to life sciences labs. The UMassD program, one of the largest in the nation, is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences, which makes students eligible for national certification from the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

"We are incredibly grateful to Mass Life Sciences Center for their support of Stepping Stones," said Professor Frank Scarano, chair of the Medical Laboratory Science department. "The demand for skilled laboratory scientists in both the life sciences and health sciences continues to grow, and our highly-motivated, hard-working, diverse students need to learn on the same equipment used in modern labs.""

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## **The Pasta House to Close for Renovations and Re-brand with New Name & Updated Menu**

Earlier today on their Facebook page, 'The Pasta House' shared the following:

"Our crew is ready for the last Sunday at The Pasta House! Be sure to join us this week before we close for renovations starting Sunday, September 18th.

"Just to clarify for everyone asking – YES, we will still honor all Pasta House gift cards! We are the same restaurant you know & love with the same amazing owners, staff, and menu. We will just be operating as the new brand, BOCCA. We can't

wait for everyone to see this amazing vision come to life!”

What say you, readers? Are you excited about the change? What favorites do you hope they keep on the new menu? Feel free to chime in!





# **Lakeville Fire Department shares data on dangers of grills, hibachis, barbecues on balconies**

“Did you know??? Between 2016 and 2020 Massachusetts fire departments responded to 427 fires involving grills, hibachis, and barbecues.

These fires caused 15 civilian injuries, 6 firefighter injuries, and \$4 million in property damage. The Lakeville Fire Department often encounters gas and charcoal grills on balconies at our apartment buildings.

Just a reminder...grills can only be used on open first-floor porches, decks, or patios if there is an outdoor stairway to the ground, or if the porch is at ground level.

Click this link for more information!”-Lakeville Fire Department.

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# **Massachusetts launches online resource, map tool for sexual assault, domestic violence survivors**

The Baker-Polito Administration announced the launch of a new comprehensive, user-friendly website designed to provide

survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence and their families with information on resources available to them in a variety of critical issue areas, as well as an interactive map tool for locating services throughout the Commonwealth.

Building on the Baker-Polito Administration's efforts since taking office in 2015 to bolster supports for survivors across Massachusetts, this new tool ensures that aggregated, important information is readily available and easily accessible on mass.gov. The website provides information on major service categories, including housing, legal resources and employment assistance, as well as more immediate support such as the SafeLink Hotline and area Rape Crisis Centers. In order to further protect survivors seeking resources, the page also has an escape link located at the top of the page so that survivors may quickly exit the page and be redirected to the mass.gov homepage. Additionally, the website and interactive map tool are both accessible on mobile devices.

"This new tool is another way to support survivors in Massachusetts and let them know that they are not alone, and that there are resources available to them," said Governor Charlie Baker. "Our administration is committed to partnering with survivors and advocates to facilitate the delivery of these critical services, and I am grateful to the Lt. Governor, who Chairs the Governor's Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, for her continued leadership and advocacy for survivors."

"Too often for survivors, navigating available resources proves to be challenging, with lifesaving information difficult to find. This new website aims to deliver critically important services in a streamlined, easy-to-use way for survivors and their families to support them in leading safe and successful lives, free of abuse," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "These brave men, women and children have endured so much, and we remain committed to providing them with every possible tool in our toolbox."

“Navigating life after sexual assault or domestic violence can be frightening and overwhelming for survivors,” said Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders “This centralized directory of resources will help survivors across the Commonwealth to find and access a network of critical supports with a single click. The Commonwealth is committed to protecting and supporting survivors and ensuring that they have access to the resources and support they need.”

“This website demonstrates the powerful role that digital tools can play in improving the lives of the residents of the Commonwealth,” said Secretary of Technology Services and Security Curt Wood. “I am grateful for the opportunity to collaborate on this important initiative that will empower survivors with easy access to vital resources while maintaining their privacy.”

“We must continue to find innovative ways to ensure survivors have access to information and resources,” said Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA) Executive Director Liam Lowney. “This tool provides access to resources that will empower victims and survivors in their decision making and ensures they have access to quality support in the wake of trauma.”

This website is the result of collaboration between the Governor’s Office, the Governor’s Council to Address Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence, the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security, and the Department of Public Health.

The Council is chaired by the Lt. Governor and membership consists of up to 40 individuals appointed by the Governor and Lt. Governor, plus more than 80 subcommittee members. Council members represent advocacy organizations, direct service providers, criminal justice agencies, and reflect the state’s geographic and cultural diversity. The Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Housing and Economic Development, Public

Safety and Security, Education, Labor and Workforce Development, Transportation, and Veterans' Services each appoint staff members to the Council. The Governor and Lt. Governor appointed an Executive Director, who is responsible for the administrative functions of the Council, organizing subcommittees and executing the Council's responsibilities. To learn more about the Council, [click here](#).

To visit the Resources for Survivors of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence website, [click here](#).

To visit the interactive services map, [click here](#).

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## MA Dept. of Revenue Reports Record Tax Haul in August

*As the state of MA reaps another cash windfall will the taxpayers finally see a refund?*

The Department of Revenue collected more than \$2.6 billion in taxes last month, an increase of \$108 million or 4.3 percent over actual collections in August 2021 as fiscal year 2023 continued its strong start for the state's coffers.

August collections increased in most major tax types in comparison to August 2021, including increases in non-withheld income tax, sales and use tax, corporate and business tax and the 'all other taxes' category. Withholding decreased relative to August 2021 collections. However, FY2023 year-to-date withholding collections are more than collections in the same period of FY2022," Commissioner Geoffrey Snyder said. "The sales and use tax increase reflects continued strength in retail sales.

**Through two months of fiscal year 2023, DOR has collected just more than \$5 billion, and Massachusetts is running about \$250 million or more than 5 percent ahead of the fiscal year 2022 tax collection pace that led to a multibillion-dollar surplus.**

Last week, MA Department of Revenue reported to Auditor Suzanne Bump that it believes \$2.94 billion from fiscal 2022 tax collections will be required to be returned to taxpayers under the Chapter 62F revenue cap law.

Typically August is generally one of the least significant months for state tax receipts (average of 6.7 percent of annual revenue) and DOR cautioned against drawing conclusions based on the monthly results. But so far, the continued strong pace of tax collections makes fiscal year 2023 appear likely to generate more than the \$39.576 billion revenue expectation that the administration and lawmakers agreed to bake into the annual budget.

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## **New Bedford roadwork sites for the upcoming week of September 12, 2022 – September 16, 2022**

The City of New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of September 12, 2022 – September 16, 2022, and they are as follows:

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

- Main Relay on Phillips Rd. from Holly Tree Lane to Route 140
- Main Relay on Rockdale Ave & Allen St

### **Other:**

• Contractor (Indus, Inc.) will be microsurfacing multiple streets beginning on Wednesday August 31st. There will be NO PARKING on the street to be treated that day- tow zone signs to be mounted on barrels and posted accordingly. While the microsurface is being placed and cured, no vehicle access to or from driveways or dead ends abutting the street will be allowed. The following roads are scheduled for night work (8:00pm to 6:00am) on the following dates. This work is weather dependent and may result in delays of the schedule. Please plan accordingly.

- Rockdale Avenue (Matthew St to Cove Road) – 09/11 to 9/13
- Acushnet Avenue (Victoria St to Monmouth St) -09/9 to 9/13
- Mt. Pleasant St (Rt 140 to New Plainville Rd) – 9/9 to 9/13
- Contractor (PA Landers) will continue curb installation and sidewalk reconstruction along a portion of Phillips Rd from Holly Tree Ln to approximately 550' north of Birchwood Dr.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will begin roadway work on Pricilla Street and West Street in the vicinity of St. Luke's Hospital.
- Contractor (Eversource Energy) will be working at the MassDOT project, Kings Highway, new traffic signal operations and sign installations.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on various streets, citywide, completing minor repairs and installations.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be working on sidewalk reconstruction on Union St from Sixth St to County St.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be line painting on Hathaway Rd from Rockdale Ave to the Dartmouth town line. Line painting will also begin at Acushnet Ave and Ashley Blvd if time allows.
- 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](mailto:SouthCoastRail@dot.state.ma.us)

- Contractor (C. Naughton Corp) will continue connecting house services to the new water main along Clifford St between Concord St and Ashley Blvd. Traffic along this section of Clifford St will be restricted to local access during working hours. Signage will be posted and police details will be onsite to assist with traffic management.

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## **Massachusetts public health officials confirm 30 new monkeypox cases, release data dashboard**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced 30 additional cases of monkeypox within the past seven days, bringing the total number of monkeypox cases in the Commonwealth to 347 residents since the state's first case was announced May 18.

The 30 cases announced today had their diagnoses between September 1 and September 7. DPH is working with local health officials, the patients, and healthcare providers to identify individuals who may have been in contact with the patients while they were infectious. Individuals with monkeypox are advised to isolate and avoid contact with others until they are no longer infectious.

DPH's weekly public update on monkeypox in Massachusetts is being replaced today by a dashboard detailing demographic data on monkeypox cases and vaccine recipients. The dashboard will

be updated late afternoon on Thursdays beginning today and available on [www.mass.gov/MonkeypoxData](http://www.mass.gov/MonkeypoxData).

View this week's dashboard here.

There are currently 14 health care providers offering vaccination across the state. The list of health care provider sites is updated on a rolling basis on the Commonwealth's monkeypox vaccine website. Additionally, the state has activated mobile providers to assist in vaccine administration. As of September 7, 19,998 doses of JYNNEOS vaccine have been administered in the Commonwealth. JYNNEOS vaccine allocation data by jurisdiction are updated on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) website JYNNEOS Monkeypox Vaccine Distribution by Jurisdiction.

To ensure the maximum number of individuals eligible for monkeypox vaccination receive protection, DPH issued an updated advisory effective Aug. 18 for Massachusetts JYNNEOS vaccine providers to begin administering the vaccine intradermally (into the skin) in most people aged 18 years and older using an alternative lower dose regimen that results in an equivalent immune response. The advisory follows the Aug. 9 Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) released by the CDC and FDA.

Due to extremely limited national availability of vaccine, the JYNNEOS vaccine in Massachusetts still remains limited at this time. Vaccination is available to individuals who meet the CDC's eligibility criteria and who live or work in Massachusetts. Vaccine is prioritized for individuals at greatest risk of exposure to someone with monkeypox. If an individual believes they qualify for a monkeypox vaccine, they should contact their healthcare provider or one of the state's designated provider locations.

Current data from CDC indicate that there have been 21,274 cases of monkeypox virus this year in US residents as of September 7. Regularly updated case counts can be obtained on



the CDC's website: 2022 U.S. Map and Case Count. Patients generally recover fully from monkeypox in 2-4 weeks.

The World Health Organization on July 23 declared the global monkeypox outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern and on August 4, the Biden administration declared monkeypox a national health emergency. Gay and bisexual men and other men who have sex with men continue to make up a significant proportion of the cases identified to date. However, the risk is not limited to the LGBTQ+ community, and anyone who has been in close contact with someone who has monkeypox is at risk.

While the virus does not spread easily between people, individuals can spread the infection once they develop symptoms. Transmission occurs through direct contact with body fluids and monkeypox sores, by touching items that have been contaminated with fluids or sores (clothing, bedding, etc.), or less commonly, through respiratory droplets following prolonged face-to-face contact. In many of the recent cases, the locations of the rash lesions suggest transmission during sexual contact. Examples where monkeypox can spread and where it does not:

**Monkeypox can spread through:**

- Direct skin-to-skin contact with rash lesions. Sexual/intimate contact, including kissing while a person is infected.
- Living in a house and sharing a bed with someone. Sharing towels or unwashed clothing.
- Respiratory secretions through face-to-face interactions (the type that mainly happen when living with someone or caring for someone who has monkeypox)

**Monkeypox does not spread through:**

- Casual conversations. Walking by someone with monkeypox in a grocery store, for instance. Touching items like doorknobs. Clinicians are asked to be alert to the possibility of

monkeypox virus infection in individuals who have rash illnesses consistent with monkeypox. Early symptoms of monkeypox can include fever, headache, sore throat, and swollen lymph nodes, but rash may be the first symptom. Rash lesions start flat, become raised, fill with clear fluid (vesicles), and then become pustules (filled with pus). A person with monkeypox can have many lesions or only a few. Learn more about how to recognize monkeypox. Providers should also test for other more common causes of rash illness as well as sexually transmitted infections (as appropriate); coinfections are not uncommon.

**Actions for people to consider if they want to reduce their risk from monkeypox include:**

- Avoiding large gatherings like raves and dance parties where you may have lots of close body contact with others
- Asking any partner, especially new partners whose health status and recent travel history you are not familiar with, if they have any symptoms of monkeypox
- Staying informed by reading information available on the DPH and CDC websites

As the CDC advises, if you believe you may have monkeypox, you should contact your health care provider. If you need to leave your home, wear a mask, and cover your rash or lesions when around others. Those who live with or care for someone who may have monkeypox should wear a mask and disposable gloves if they need to have any direct contact with lesions and when handling any clothes or bedding if the person cannot do it themselves. They should also wash their hands regularly, especially after contact with the person who is infected or with their clothes, bed sheets, towels, and other items or surfaces they may have touched.