

Wareham Police Department hosts blood drive for Boston Children's Hospital

"On April 29th the Wareham Police Association hosted a blood drive for Boston Children's Hospital. Along with the blood donors, the association donated \$1,000.00 from the St. Patrick's Day patch fundraiser! We also had a little helper."- Wareham Police Department.

All photos by the Wareham Police Department:



New Bedford roadwork sites for the upcoming week of May 3, 2021 – May 7, 2021

The City of New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of May 3, 2021 – May 7, 2021 and they are as follows:

Eversource:

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

- Replacing gas services on Union St. from County St. to S. Sixth St.
- Replacing gas services on Hathaway Rd. from Nauset St. to Highland St.
- Replacing gas services on W. Rodney French Blvd. working from Calumet St. to Lucas St.
- Replacing gas services on Phillips Ave. working from Ashley Blvd. to Belleville Ave.
- Replacing gas services on County St. from Scott St. to Cove Rd.
- Relaying gas main on Phillips Rd. starting at Holly Tree Ln. to Lauren Dr.

Other:

- Contractor (PA Landers) will continue road reconstruction on Cottage St. from Parker St. to Sycamore St. On-street parking will be restricted from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday – Friday in the posted work zone area.
- Contractor (PA Landers) will be repaving various large roadway patches citywide.

- Contractor (PA Landers) will continue road reconstruction on Hatch St. from Acushnet Ave. to Belleville Ave. On-street parking will be restricted from 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM Monday – Friday in the posted work zone areas.
- Contractor (K.R. Rezendes, Inc.) to continue work at MassDOT Project #606718, roadway reconstruction and related work (including traffic signal installation) along a section of Hathaway Rd., Nauset St. and Mt. Pleasant St. Construction to take place during regular working hours (Monday – Friday), police details and traffic controls will be in place.
- Contractor (PA Landers) to continue MassDOT Project #606709 for roadway reconstruction and related work along a section of Kings Highway and Tarkiln Hill Rd. Construction to take place during regular working hours (Monday – Friday), police details and traffic controls will be in place.
- Contractor (North Turf) will be on site at Hazelwood Park continuing installation of the new bowling greens.
- DPI will be filling potholes city-wide on a continuous basis.
- DPI will be street sweeping all roadways city-wide on a weekly basis.
- Contractor (Baystate WinSupply) is scheduled to continue large water meter replacements at various locations throughout the city. There are no anticipated traffic controls for this work.
- Due to ongoing construction at the High Hill Reservoir residents may experience discolored water. The water is safe, and the discoloration will be temporary. We recommend allowing the water to settle for a few hours and then flushing your service line by letting the bathtub run for a few minutes until the water clears.
- Contractor (SCR Constructors) will continue site work at the future South Coast Rail station platform locations in the City. If you have questions, please email the project team at SouthCoastRail@dot.state.ma.us

*** Please note: Contractors will continue to follow guidelines*

and protocol regarding COVID-19 social distancing while conducting work in construction zone.

Due to the current COVID-19 situation the Department of Public Infrastructure will be closed to the public entry. Office staff is available to assist by email and telephone.

Baker-Polito administration launches summer learning programs, \$70 Million in funding across Massachusetts

The Baker-Polito Administration today announced the establishment of summer learning opportunities and the availability of more than \$70 million in funding for school districts and community organizations to offer summer learning and recreational programs that will help students, who have been impacted by a year of remote and hybrid learning, grow academically and socially.

Students at every grade level will have opportunities to take part in a mix of academic and recreational programs offered at schools, after-school providers, community colleges and recreation sites. Governor Charlie Baker, Lt. Governor Karyn Polito, Education Secretary James Peyser and Elementary and Secondary Education Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley made the announcement while visiting Galvin Middle School in Canton, where school officials are planning to boost learning opportunities for students this summer.

All middle schools in the Commonwealth were required to return

to full time in-person learning this week. Elementary schools returned on April 5, and high schools will be required to return by May 17.

“Our administration has long maintained that children are best served academically, socially and emotionally when learning in-person and in the classroom,” said Governor Baker. “After a challenging school year for students, teachers and staff, the focus must now shift to recouping any learning loss experienced remotely to ensure that our children are equipped for success in the classroom and beyond.”

“As students and teachers return to the routine of learning in classrooms, it is time to partner with schools and communities across the Commonwealth to provide opportunities to students in all grades to learn and have fun this summer,” said Lt. Governor Polito. “To support this effort, our administration has developed several options schools can choose from and will make funding available to cover the costs.”

“As important as this summer will be to jumpstarting educational recovery, we must all embrace the reality that this will not be a one-and-done project,” said Education Secretary James Peyser. “It will be a challenge we will continue work to resolve for both individual children and our public education system as a whole.”

“We are providing students access to academics as well as enrichment opportunities to help them grow and keep connected to school this summer,” said Education Commissioner Jeffrey C. Riley. “I hope all districts across the Commonwealth take advantage of these programs and this funding the Administration has made available.”

Acceleration Academies

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) will help school districts launch Acceleration Academies, which allow students to learn and build skills working

intensively on one subject in small, hands-on learning environments with excellent teachers.

Students benefit from small class sizes, longer uninterrupted instructional blocks, individualized attention, project-based lessons and teacher flexibility for learning time. The Baker-Polito Administration will commit up to \$25 million in grants for districts to operate Acceleration Academies using federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Response (ESSER) discretionary funds. This will be a multi-year program that the Department anticipates will impact more than 50,000 students statewide each year.

Acceleration Academies will include:

- Early Literacy Academies for incoming kindergarteners, rising 1st and 2nd graders; and
- Math Acceleration Academies for rising 3rd and 4th graders, as well as 8th and 10th graders.

Summer School Matching Grants

DESE will also offer summer school matching grants, up to \$15 million in federal ESSER funds, for school districts to offer 4-to-6-week, in-person programs with a mix of in-person academic and recreational activities. The Department is making these funds available to schools to enhance or expand their existing summer programs while also including mental health services and additional supports for students with individualized education plans and English learners.

Summer Acceleration to College

High school graduates from the Class of 2021 will be able to participate in Summer Acceleration to College, a new program that provides recent graduates access to credit-bearing math and English courses at no cost to them as they prepare for college.

Fourteen community colleges in the Commonwealth will

participate in this program, expected to be funded at \$1 million.

Summer Step Up

The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) will support school districts to offer Summer Step Up, a new program aimed at giving extra support to young learners entering school in the fall.

Young children, who have had limited in-school experiences due to the pandemic, will be able to take part in summer learning opportunities developed in conjunction with community partners to help prepare them for school. With pre-school and kindergarten enrollments down over the last year, Summer Step Up is an opportunity to engage young learners and accelerate learning while smoothing the transition to in-person learning for young children to provide them a stronger foundation for academic success. The Administration will commit up to \$10 million to this program.

In addition to these programs, the Baker-Polito Administration will:

- Provide early literacy tutoring grants this summer and during the 2021-22 school year, funded at \$10 million.
- Launch a new K-8 Math Acceleration program to help teachers increase student learning over the summer and throughout the school year.
- Expand the Biggest Winner Math Challenge – which was piloted last summer – to serve approximately 2,500 gifted math students, costing approximately \$2.5 million.
- Offer college courses over the summer for rising high school juniors and seniors who are enrolled in approved Early College programs, costing approximately \$1 million.
- Help camps and community organizations expand educational

enrichment as part of their existing summer programs by making at least \$3 million in funding available.

To learn more, please contact DESESummerProgramming@mass.gov.

Tank Exchange Will Take The Stress Out Of Your Backyard BBQ

We've all been there. You're stepping outside, a tray of burgers and brats in one hand, spatula and tongs in the other. You click on your gas grill and ... nothing? You lift up the tank. **Empty.**

The burgers and dogs are shoved back in the fridge and you're heading out in your car to get your propane tank refilled. You drive to a store, stand in line and wait for someone who can make the exchange and then drive home hoping no one rear-ends you at the next red light.

Jay DeMello wondered the same thing.

So he started his Bristol County business, Tank Exchange Inc, with a simple idea: **What if I could just order a tank of propane to be delivered with an app, and it could even show up the same day?**

Not only that, but he could do it cheaper. As opposed to the 15-pound tank that costs \$20+ to fill up at your neighborhood store, Jay offers 20 pounds for \$19.99, which includes delivery to your home and exchange of your old tank. doesn't that seem a heck of a lot easier?

Last November he opened up shop in Dartmouth and began

offering delivery throughout Bristol County. As with any new business owner, he was nervous at first. He had rented a building, bought a 1,000-gallon truck, developing an app, built a website, printing tank labels and more. "I just go all in with anything I do or believe in," he says, "and I really believe in this service."

His belief was validated last summer when families were stuck at home due to COVID-19. Wanting to get outside while also enjoying a different style of cooking, demand for at-home grilling grew quickly. *Plus, Jay and his cousin, Justin, who helps with deliveries, offer contact-less exchanges.*

With five years experience working with Co2 and training from AmeriGas in propane safety and a HazMat certification, Jay continues to build his business.

You can order propane tanks up to 100 pounds, as well as Co2, draft beer tanks and forklift tanks. If you know ahead of time when you'll need it, you can schedule your delivery. But there's also on-demand RUSH delivery available within an hour until 7 p.m. at night. (and 9 p.m. on holiday weekends, so the grill can always stay lit!)

"Ordering online was quick and easy," wrote customer Rob Dasilva online. "Way better than having to drag a tank to the store for an exchange."

To order from Tank Exchange, you can use their website, mobile app (Apple or Android) or call 1-818-MY-TANKS. Want to give it a try? **Use code nbgl5 for 15% off your first order!**



<https://www.facebook.com/trademytank>

Website: <https://www.trademytank.com/>

Phone: 818-MyTanks

App

Store:

<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/tank-exchange/id1527533480>

Google

Play:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.tankexchange.inc>

**Jacob Figueiredo of
Dartmouth's Bishop Stang High
School to play football at**

NCAA Division 3 Fitchburg State University

Bishop Stang Senior Jacob Figueiredo of New Bedford signed a Letter of Commitment to Fitchburg State University this week. The signing at Bishop Stang High School was attended by his parents, Doreen and Carl, brother, Corey, grandfather, Manuel, and coaches Dennis Golden, Stephen McGonigle and Joe Paulo. This coming Fall, Jacob will play NCAA Division III football at Fitchburg State University Falcons under Head Coach Scott Sperone.

Jacob is looking forward to playing ball for Fitchburg as well as studying Exercise Science. And while Coach Sperone is excited to be getting what he describes as a “physical runner with good agility” for this future running back, according to Stang Coach Dennis Golden, the Falcons will be getting much more from this player. “Jacob Figueiredo has been earnest in his efforts for four years of high school. He is a tough, hard-nosed player.



Figueiredo with coaches Stephen McGonicle and Joe Paulo. Bishop Stang High School photo.

He is unselfish, and he cares about team accomplishments. Jacob is a two-year starter for us at running back & on special teams. This year, he started at outside linebacker and did a tremendous job. He earned the designation of Catholic Central League All-Star this year. Fitchburg State is getting a tremendous football player and an even better young man. I have had the pleasure of seeing Jacob grow up at the YMCA, at the Boys & Girls Club, at South End (SEYAA) Baseball, at Whaler Youth Football, and at Our Lady of the Assumption Parish.

I had these opportunities even before getting to work with him at Stang. Jacob Figueiredo signifies all that is right with our young people. He is bright, he is positive, he is humble and he is respectful. Jacob gets it in school, in sports, and in life. We are thrilled for him and for his family.”

The entire Figueiredo family expressed great pride in Jacob’s accomplishments both on and off the field, with father Carl, BSHS Class of 75, saying “I am blessed to have my son follow

in my footsteps. I came to Bishop Stang for a great education and I left with friends for life. I wish that for my son as well”.



Jacob Figueiredo at the signing. Bishop Stang High School photo.

Jacob wished to especially thank his family for the opportunities they afforded him in getting to this point, and in enabling him to attend and play at Bishop Stang. Of his experience at Stang, Jacob said “my teammates are my brothers for life. We have always been by each others’ sides. I will never forget any one of them. We can laugh, we can be serious, we know how to motivate each other and lift each other up. The community and the teaching staff at Bishop Stang were kind, and it is a family-oriented environment. You really look forward to coming to school every day here.”

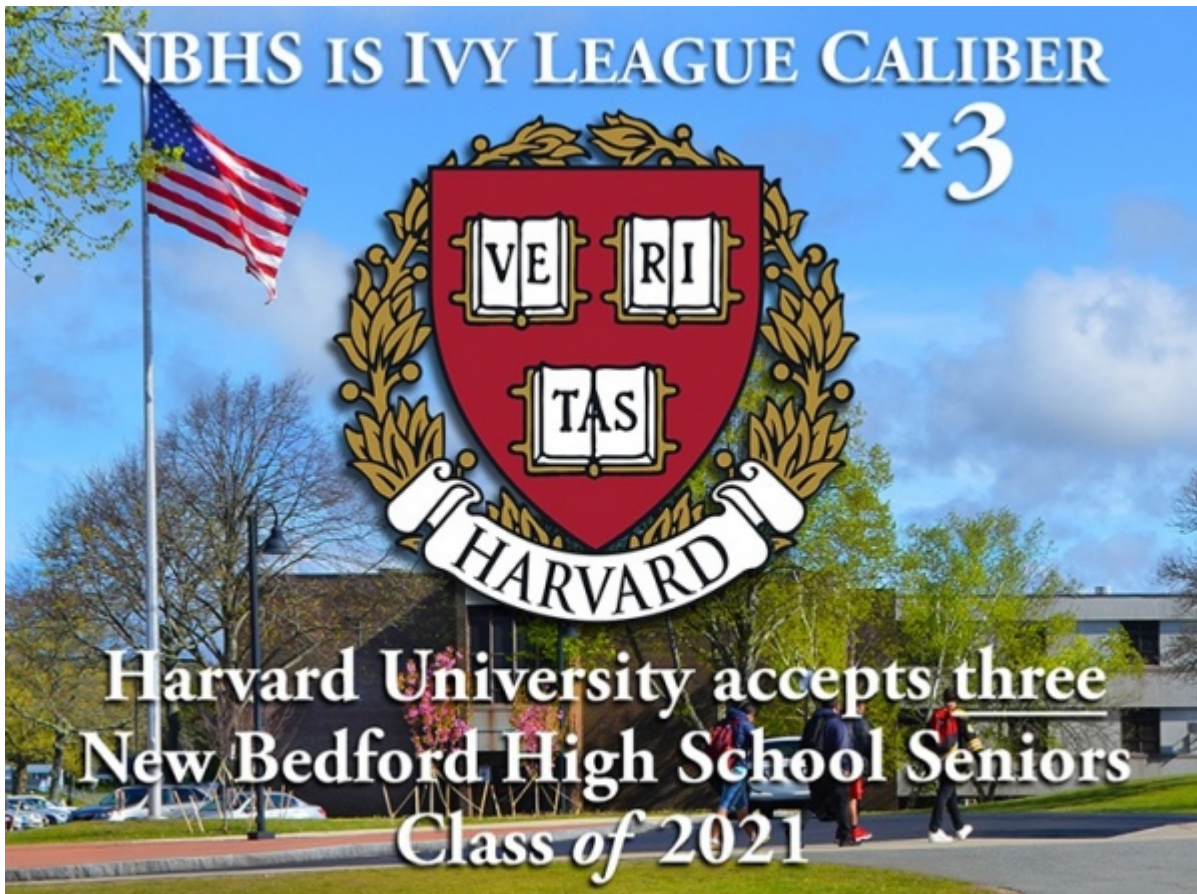
The Bishop Stang community wishes Jacob all the best in this next promising phase.

Three students from New Bedford High School have been accepted to Harvard University

"HARVARD BOUND! – Three (count them: 3) seniors of New Bedford High School Class of 2021 have been accepted to Harvard University.

Over the years many NBHS students have been accepted to Harvard and to the nation's top colleges and universities. In addition to Harvard, this year's seniors have been accepted at Stanford, Brown, Bryant, Clemson, Hoftstra, Lasell, Mass. College of Pharmacy, Michigan, Northeastern, Pace, Penn State, Quinnipiac, Regis, URI, Salem, Salve, Suffolk, UColorado, UConn, UMaine, UMaryland, UWisconsin, USC, Wentworth, and all campuses in the University of Massachusetts system (to name a few).

NEW BEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL DELIVERS A HIGH CALIBER EDUCATION as these top institutions attest. Congratulations, graduates! GO WHALERS!"-NBPS.



New Bedford Public School photo

New Bedford Education Coalition to hold MCAS “Opt-Out” rally

The New Bedford Coalition to Save Our Schools is urging families and students in public schools to opt out of the spring MCAS exams and is promoting that message with a rally and car caravan on Sunday, May 2.

“High-stakes standardized testing in general does a lot of damage to our public schools and to our students. This year in particular, administering MCAS exams is shameful, taking away precious time from educators and students to rebuild

relationships as more and more schools reopen to in-person learning,” said New Bedford resident Cynthia Roy, an educator at Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical School and co-chair of NBCSOS.

The rally will begin at 10 a.m. at New Bedford High School. In addition to having information available about opting out of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) exams, there will be family entertainment activities and refreshments. At 11:30, a car caravan will travel to Fall River to further spread the opt-out message.

Emily DeSousa, a student at Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School, said that she does not consider herself a conventional learner and that the MCAS is too narrow in its focus.

“It’s not motivating to remind students every year that the educational system views them as though they’re nothing more than a test score,” DeSousa said. “These tests can even damage students’ self-esteem.”

The state is required to administer the MCAS, but students in grades three to eight are not required to take the exam. High-school students do need to pass the MCAS as a graduation requirement, however that is waived until 2022.

NBCSOS points out that there are no consequences for students, schools or districts if students opt out of the exam.

NBCSOS is a coalition of students, parents, educators and community activists dedicated to fully funded, equitable and socially just public schools. The coalition opposes the use of high-stakes standardized tests, as they are an instrument of structural racism. Standardized tests are used to perpetuate a false narrative about failing schools, and the coalition supports progressive action to meet the diverse needs of students who deserve to be treated as individuals.

Those interested in joining the rally and caravan can visit the event page on Facebook or the NBCSOS website.

New Bedford Police Department mourns the death of Sergeant Michael Cassidy

In 2018, Sgt. Michael Cassidy was honored for his efforts with the life-saving award presented at a ceremony held at New Bedford Police headquarters after he responded to a call for a cashier slumped over her register at a Market Basket on Coggeshall Street. Sgt. Cassidy raced to the scene, determined she had no pulse and immediately began life-saving efforts. He was soon joined by other first responders, including members of the New Bedford Fire Department. The cashier was revived and has since recovered.

It is with the heaviest of hearts and deepest of respect that Acting Chief Paul Oliveira mourns the passing of NBPD Sgt. Mike Cassidy after a valiant battle with COVID-19.

Sgt. Cassidy was a US Marine who served in Desert Storm before returning to New Bedford where he joined the NBPD in 1994. Throughout his career, he served in Uniform Patrol, Narcotics, Criminal Investigations and Firearms. Sgt. Cassidy received New Bedford Life Saving Awards in 2006 and 2018 along with numerous citations and commendations for his military and police service from the City, the Commonwealth of MA, and the US Senate and Congress/Recognition of American Red Cross Real

Hero's Award.

"This is a tremendous loss to our department and to the City of New Bedford as we all know Sgt. Cassidy was a proud Officer who served the people of this city with his whole heart," said Oliveira. "Sgt. Cassidy loved being a Police Officer and went above and beyond to impact the lives of others in a positive way."

Please take a moment to remember him and keep his family in your thoughts and prayers. Arrangements will be announced at a later date.

Sgt. Michael Cassidy



New Bedford Police Department photo.

Sobriety Checkpoint scheduled

in Bristol County from Friday, April 30, 2021 into Saturday, May 1, 2021

Colonel Christopher S. Mason, Superintendent of the Massachusetts State Police, announced that a “Sobriety Checkpoint” will be implemented by the Massachusetts State Police on a Public Way in Bristol County.

The purpose is to further educate the motoring public and strengthen the public’s awareness of the need of detecting and removing those motorists who operate under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs from our roadways.

It will be operated during varied hours, the selection of vehicles will not be arbitrary, safety will be assured, and any inconveniences to motorists will be minimized with advance notice to reduce fear and anxiety.

Bristol County Sheriff’s Office assist volunteers in delivering food boxes to New Bedford

Through the entire pandemic, the Bristol County Sheriff’s Office has volunteered several times to help various police and charity organizations distribute food boxes to those in need. In a first-world country no one should go hungry. You

can see more of what the BCSO has been doing here.

You can also find out more about the food boxes here.

"We want to send a big THANK YOU to the volunteers from the BCSO and other agencies who helped move 3,000 boxes of food over the weekend in New Bedford.

Food boxes have been, and continue to be, available in New Bedford for those in need. Great job everyone!"



Bristol County Sheriff's Office photo.