

# Westport Police seek public assistance in near fatal hit and run

Police are actively seeking the public's assistance in locating witnesses to a hit and run which occurred Tuesday evening on Old Bedford Road in Westport and left a 30-year-old Fall River woman in critical condition.

Westport Police received a 911 call around 8:15 pm Tuesday evening to report a crash and a severely injured woman in the area of 288 Old Bedford Road. When first responders arrived, they located the victim, Stephanie Tripp, face down in the breakdown lane suffering from serious injuries. The victim was rushed to Rhode Island Hospital, where she remains in critical condition.

A preliminary investigation has revealed the victim was walking along the side of the roadway when she was struck by a sedan-style vehicle. The male operator of the vehicle exited the car and apparently told a witness he was sorry and didn't mean to hit the victim. A witness told the driver to stay on the scene, but as the witness was providing aid to the victim, the driver sped off in an easterly direction on Old Bedford Road. Another witness attempted to follow the suspect's vehicle, which, according to the witness, was traveling at high rates of speed and passing vehicles by swerving into the opposite travel lane. The witness lost the suspect's vehicle in the area of Faunce Corner Road in Dartmouth.

The vehicle's last known location was at the corner of Old Fall River Road and Faunce Corner Road in Dartmouth at around 8:30 pm. The vehicle may have sustained minor front end damage.

Although officers spoke with several witnesses who remained on

scene, there is reason to believe that other witnesses may have seen the crash, the vehicle that struck the victim or may have information about the driver.

If anyone was in the area and saw anything, or have information about this case, they are urged to contact Massachusetts State Police Trooper Phil Giardino at 508-993-1928 or Westport Police at 508-636-1122. Residents can also submit a tip about this case anonymously by utilizing our anonymous text a tip program. To anonymously text a tip to us, text the word "Bristol" to the phone number CRIMES (274637). Then just text us your tip. You can also submit a web-based anonymous tip by going to <https://new.tipsubmit.com/en/create-report/anonymous/da.bristol.ma.us>.

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## **OPINION: Brooklawn Park visitors litter and park in resident parking spots**

"Are there any other residents living in the Brooklawn Park area that are getting a little irritated with a not being to park in front of their own homes with the baseball game going on?

I could understand if there were no parking spots available but as a resident that has to park at the park – in front of my house – I often can't because non-residents are in my spot.

I would like to know why North end residents do not have the same courtesy as the South and beach residents, they have signs clearly posted that the parking is for **residents only**.

Why are we not given that same courtesy?

Also, there are a lot of residents in this area that agree we don't need to pick up park trash all over our lawns on a daily basis!!

Sorry about the venting! I do think it's a great program for the children I just wish the parents/visitors would be more respectful of the residents." – [Cathy Poirier-Henriques]

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the children I just wish the parents/visitors would be more respectful of the residents.” – [Cathy Poirier-Henriques]

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## **Narcotics investigation leads to multi-town high-speed chase**

“On Wednesday, May 8 at approximately 1:45PM, our department was notified of a high-speed pursuit entering our town from Rochester. The pursuit began in the city of New Bedford as a result of a narcotics investigation.

Once in town, the suspect attempted to evade capture by parking in the St. Francis Xavier Elementary School parking lot.

A member of the APD was able to locate the suspect and with the assistance of the City of New Bedford Police Department (Official), Fairhaven Police Department, Mattapoissett Police Department, Bristol County Sheriff’s Office and the Massachusetts State Police they were able to quickly and safely place the suspect in custody without endangering the safety of children and staff of the St. Francis Xavier Elementary School.

We would also like to send a huge thank you to the Administration and staff at the St Francis Xavier Elementary School. Also and even more impressive was the great listening skills of the students!

The suspect will be facing a slew of charges in various jurisdictions throughout the South Coast.

Again, a big thank you and GREAT JOB to all the agencies involved!!!!!!” -Acushnet Police Department

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## **Two of the Southcoast’s most beloved residents, Emily and Ruth, will receive new enrichment items through the “Toys for Elephants” program**

The program was introduced by Rick Brown of Handhouse Studio as a collaboration between the studio, Buttonwood Park Zoo and Massachusetts College of Art and Design.

Past enrichment items created by the students at Mass Art include Emily and Ruth’s favorite steel toys, trough swing, and tire tower. In 2018, new wooden pinwheel toys, with special openings to hold the elephants’ favorite snacks, were designed to mimic elephants’ natural behavior of foraging for food using their trunks and feet. The pinwheels toys were designed to fit their personalities; Emily loves removing nuts and bolts, and Ruth likes manipulating and drumming on objects.

Most toys designed by the students result in the elephants receiving fun treats as a reward for their manipulation efforts.

The Buttonwood Park Zoo is dedicated to ensuring the highest level of welfare for all of its animals and this includes presenting novel ways for them to forage for their diets. One

of the goals of managing animals in a zoo is to strive to “keep them engaged and stimulated by giving them unique and innovative items to experience,” says Shara Crook Martin, Buttonwood Park Zoo’s Assistant Director. “Having these talented students create these interactive enrichment items makes a tangible impact by positively increasing the activity levels of the elephants.”

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## **Mayor Jon Mitchell presents Fiscal Year 2020 budget proposal**

Mayor Jon Mitchell presented his Fiscal Year 2020 City Budget before the New Bedford City Council on Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

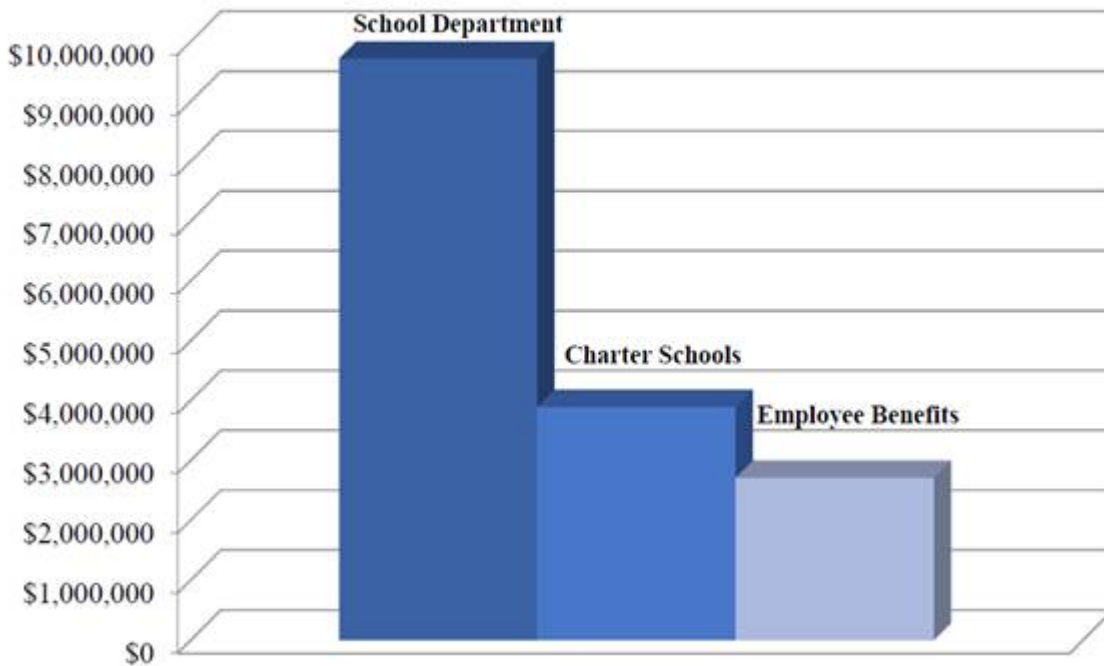
The \$356.5 million General Fund spending proposal continues to reflect pressure in nondiscretionary areas, including state mandated school spending, pension costs, employee healthcare, and public safety payroll obligations subject to binding arbitration. In all, 86.5 percent (\$308.4 million) of the \$356.5 million budget is predetermined by nondiscretionary costs; 13.5 percent (\$48.1 million) remains to fund City government operations outside these areas.

City finances remain tight despite New Bedford’s modest but steady economic growth and marked improvement in business activity, property values and employment. According to the Massachusetts Office of Labor and Workforce Development, employment in the City increased by 2,357 jobs, or 5.4 percent, between 2017 and 2018, and by 5,809 jobs, or 14.4 percent, since the beginning of 2012.

Mayor Mitchell noted in his accompanying letter to the City Council: "As you know, I have resisted raises in collective bargaining agreements that I believed were unaffordable, even when the state's binding arbitration law put the City at a disadvantage. The Commonwealth has complicated this process by not meeting its statutory funding obligations and continuing to impose requirements that serve as roadblocks to effective reform. In addition to the binding arbitration process, some significant examples include limitations placed on pension and health care management, as well as the state's failure to meet its commitments to fund the school system foundation budget and to provide its legally-established levels of support for charter schools."

"These constraints have made it more difficult to ensure that the City remains on a fiscally-sustainable path while providing the reliable and effective services that our residents expect," the Mayor wrote. "Our ongoing efforts to improve efficiency and operational readiness have produced a lean organization where the most advantageous efficiencies have already been implemented. Nevertheless, we must continue on this path in order to move New Bedford forward."

## FY 2020 Significant Budget Drivers



The Mayor elaborated on the key factors driving the City's FY 2020 budget:

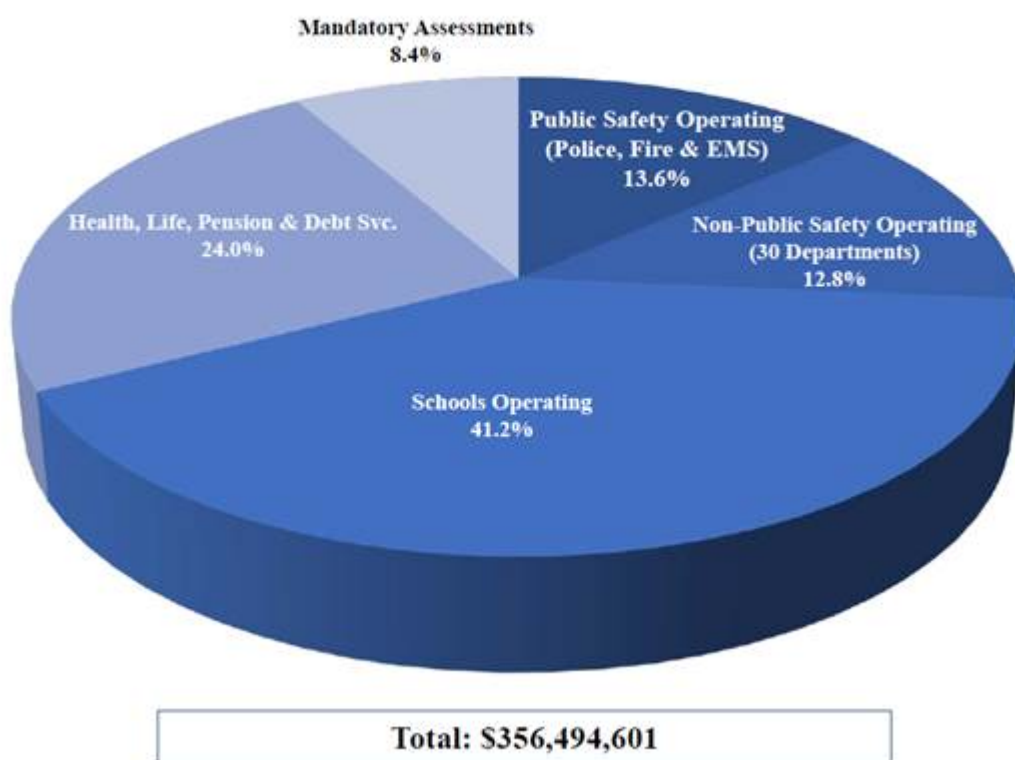
- **Modest Revenue Growth Has Not Kept Pace with Costs:** Despite a growing local economy, baseline revenue growth remains insufficient to maintain pace with increases in the prices of goods and services, as well as the various other costs of doing business. For example, completion of the transfer of firefighter positions from the expired federal SAFER grant will cost the General Fund an additional \$500,000 in FY 2020. Collective bargaining agreements with the City's four bargaining units will be up for renewal in FY 2020.
- **Mandated Education Costs:** The FY 2020 budget under consideration by the Massachusetts Legislature takes some welcome steps to alleviate pressure placed on New Bedford taxpayers to meet the mandated funding requirements for education. Nevertheless, the State-mandated level of net local support to operate the City's school system will continue to rise: the local share of School Department operating expenses required to meet Net School Spending requirements will



increase by about \$1.3 million from FY 2019 to 2020. At the same time, the City's net obligation toward charter schools will total \$15.7 million, an increase of nearly \$1.7 million.

- **Healthcare and Pension Costs:** Employee benefits costs will continue to place an increasing strain on overall finances. Projected increases in medical claims and the City's pension assessment will require \$2.7 million in additional support.

## FY 2020 General Fund Appropriations by Category



Mayor Mitchell also noted in his letter that the City recently received its third consecutive Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers' Association, and has advanced fiscal transparency efforts through the City's Open Checkbook initiative, the development of the first-ever Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), and the implementation of NB Compass, the City's new online dashboard.

The Mayor concluded, "The development of the FY 2020 budget

has been greatly aided by the active engagement of the City Council, utilizing the mechanisms that we have built together to ensure that everyone's priorities are heard, and that the City's core needs are addressed. The City Council has consistently demonstrated its commitment toward effective fiscal oversight, and I look forward to continuing our partnership in the weeks ahead."

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## **New Bedford Police's Narcotics Division arrest 9 males during an undercover prostitution sting**

On Tuesday, May 7, members of the New Bedford Police Department's Narcotic Unit conducted an undercover sting Tuesday evening, targeting prostitution in the North End of the city.

The sting was coordinated because of concerned neighbors notifying police of increased prostitution activity in the area. An undercover female officer posed as a prostitute and was approached by 9 men who agreed to engage in sex for a fee. The sting concentrated on the 1300 block of Acushnet Avenue and the surrounding area. Detectives acted on complaints from area residents, which prompted a quick response to their complaints.

Arrested as part of the sting were; William Lanna, 39, 176 Eliza Street, Providence, R.I.; Santos Chach-Lopez, 34, 1416 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford; Juan Garcia, 33, 181 Ashley Blvd., New Bedford; Carlos Mendes, 37, 422 Shaw St., New Bedford;

Willie Ayers, 34, 50 Tallman St., New Bedford; Jonathan Rivera, 31, 37 Yale St., New Bedford; Sabino Barrera-Grave, 23, 109 Tallman St., New Bedford; Miguel Pacheco, 44, 1406 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford; and Domingo Choc, 63, 45 Tallman St., New Bedford.

All were due to be arraigned at Third District Court on Wednesday, May 8, 2019.

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## **New Bedford High School celebrates groundbreaking of state-of-the-art High Tech Finance Lab**

New Bedford High School officially began construction of its High Tech Finance Lab with a celebratory groundbreaking ceremony this morning. Attended by school and district stakeholders, city officials, and industry partners, the event kicks off the building of the laboratory, made possible by the school's grant award of \$125,000 by the Baker-Polito administration's Massachusetts Workforce Skills Cabinet in January.

Superintendent Thomas Anderson noted the Finance Lab project is an example of New Bedford High School's ongoing improvement initiatives and also expressed appreciation to the many partners involved. "Today's beginning is the latest example of our intensified focus on capacity building across the district. This high-tech facility will enhance the high

school's accelerated course offerings emphasizing Chapter 74-approved vocational technical education programs. It is being made a reality thanks to our dedicated finance industry partners who serve on NBHS' Education and Industry Coordinating Council. We thank them for their expertise, time and support at every point in this process."

The laboratory, which will be located in the high school main core across from the school store, will feature high definition stock tickers, market data walls, advanced technology, and collaboration stations. The laboratory will provide project-based finance and business experiences for students in the Finance Academy, as well as the new Chapter 74 Vocational program in Business Technology, anticipated to begin in the fall.

Headmaster Bernadette Coelho observed "The Finance Lab will expand our ability to provide students the most up-to-date learning environment for the business finance and investing industries. This lab comes on the heels of our new Biotech Lab, which provides students interested in the life sciences industry with a university caliber facility to study and practice the newest laboratory techniques. We want to ensure our graduates are career-ready and have had opportunities for hands-on experience in their chosen fields of interest as they enter college or the workplace."

New Bedford High School has enhanced its existing Career Vocational program with new programs and equipment over the past year. School officials have identified the construction of the finance lab as a hallmark of this initiative.

"Today's ceremony is another example of our new program offerings affiliated with Career Vocational Technical Education, said Christopher Cummings, Manager of Career Vocational Technical Education. "Our lab will support our commitment to providing realistic workplace experiences and will provide exceptional preparation for careers in finance

and business. We intend the lab to serve as the flagship financial training center for high school students.

The planning for the laboratory involved school staff and industry and civic partners from advisory committees that support the integration of instruction for vocational education at the school. Notably, the school's general advisory committee, the finance advisory committee, and the finance lab construction subcommittee all provided guidance on equipment and curriculum that will serve as the foundation of the activities.

Berta Varao, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer of New Bedford Credit Union expressed appreciation for the unique project. "We are honored to be part of the soon to be constructed Finance Lab at New Bedford High School. Students will benefit greatly from this state-of-the-art-facility. We join the community in celebrating this important accomplishment for New Bedford High School."

The event was facilitated by students from New Bedford High School's new Hospitality program, who planned the celebration and served breakfast to attendees. The Hospitality program previously facilitated the Mayor's State of the City address, also hosted at the high school, in March.

New Bedford High School's Business, Finance and Hospitality program is part of the school's offerings of Career Vocational Technical Education programming and is affiliated with the National Academy Foundation's Academy of Finance. In addition to Finance, the school offers career pathway programs in Instructional Technology, Health Sciences, Engineering, Early Childhood Education, and Criminal Justice. For more information about Career and Technical Education at New Bedford High School, please contact Christopher Cummings, Manager of CVTE at 508 997 4511, ext. 20799

Photo:

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# Kilburn Comedy Cove presents “Comedy Night” featuring Anthony Brooks, Sarah Martin and Brian Beaudoin, May 17

Like to laugh so hard that you can't breathe and have tears running down your face? Well, here's your chance to have a blast while doing exactly that. On Friday, May 17 from 8:00pm-11:00pm Kilburn Mill at Clarks Cove (127 W Rodney French Blvd.) will be hosting a special comedy night featuring the world-class talent of Anthony Brooks, Sarah Martin and Brian Beaudoin.

## About Anthony Brooks

Hailing from Coventry Rhode Island, Anthony performs stand-up comedy all over New England, using his real-life experiences as a stutterer. Anthony also runs Anthony's Comedy Showcase, which allows him to produce and host his own comedy shows. Anthony has also been a successful professional DJ for the last 15 years and always leaves people laughing. **Facebook Page:** [facebook.com/djanthonystjames](https://facebook.com/djanthonystjames)

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## About Sarah Martin

Sarah gives her sardonic perspective on life with extra sass. Using her vitality and dry wit she has been building a name for herself in the comedy world by being real, and a riot. She aspires to be the next character on 'Orange is the New Black,' so if anyone has any contacts let her know! She has been on Sirius XM's Raw Dog Radio, featured on Twitch. **Facebook Page:** [facebook.com/djanthonystjamesSarah MartinTV](https://facebook.com/djanthonystjamesSarahMartinTV)

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### **About Brian Beaudoin**

Coming from small Rhode Island, Brian Beaudoin is probably the only comedian who is bigger than his State. Brian is an aggressively lovable hippie, who performs his act fueled by his intense ADHD, so nobody, ( including himself) never really knows what he's going to say next. Brian's unique ability to work with a crowd leaves every in earshot for a one of a kind night they'll never forget. In any event, this guy has got talent and is building an impressive following and resume to match.

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Ready for a night of fun and laughs? Grab your tickets here!

### **Kilburn Mill at Clarks Cove**

127 W Rodney French Blvd.

New Bedford, MA

Friday, May 17, 2019

8:00PM–11:00PM

KILBURN COMEDY COVE PRESENTS

# COMEDY NIGHT



**ANTHONY BROOKS**  
**SARAH MARTIN**



**BRIAN BEAUDOIN**

WICKED FUNNY  
PODCAST

WINNER OF LAST  
COMIX STANDING  
COMPETITION

NAMED BEST  
COMIC IN RI 2  
YEARS IN A ROW



**MAY 17TH 8 PM**

**TICKETS \$20 / FREE PARKING**

**KILBURN EVENT CENTER**

**127 W RODNEY FRENCH BLVD NEW BEDFORD**

**KILBURNCOMEDYCOVE.COM**



# **HELP WANTED: City of New Bedford is seeking to fill a Computer Operations Support Specialist position**

**PAY: \$18.25hr – \$25.54hr**

Responsibilities include, but not limited to, data processing and data entry using GIS, databases and Lucity; trains department employees in the use of systems; supports department employees in use of systems; assists in troubleshooting computer systems; diagnoses and resolves minor computer hardware/software problems.

Experience with general computer operating systems such as Windows 7 and/or 10, Microsoft Office, and database management systems, including but not limited to, Microsoft Access. Experience with personal computer hardware, software and peripherals.

Communication skills including listening and writing.

The following qualifications are preferred but not required: Experience with GIS. Experience with computer operations support in a network environment. Experience/exposure with end user support and training. Experience with computer programming, Adobe, AutoCad, asset management systems (e.g. Lucity, City Works, Maximo, etc.) Experience in reading and interpreting engineering plans. ESRI certifications, AP certifications and training.

For more information, please visit:

*Employment Opportunities*

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

New Bedford has a residency requirement.