

# **Live interview with Sheriff Hodgson to address drinking at the Feast**

Live with Sheriff Thomas Hodgson to discuss the viral photo taken at the 103rd Feast of the Blessed Sacrament.

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## **Wanted fugitive crashes stolen car, loses arm near Route 18 in New Bedford**

New Bedford Police are investigating a late night crash involving a stolen motor vehicle from the town of Fairhaven. On Thursday evening at approximately 10:30PM, Detectives spotted a Honda Civic operating the wrong way on Acushnet Avenue near Beetle Street. As detectives attempted to pull over the vehicle it sped off and eventually got onto Rte 18 south bound. As Detectives got onto Rte 18 they later discovered the vehicle had crashed at the Purchase Street exit.

The vehicle rolled over upon impact of the guard rail and the single male operator was partially ejected from the vehicle. The male operator sustained serious injuries including his left arm being severed at the elbow and was transported to Rhode Island Hospital where he is listed in serious condition.

The vehicle he was operating was stolen near Paul's Sports Corner in Fairhaven shortly before being spotted by

Detectives. The male operator had no identification on him and his identity was unknown until this morning when New Bedford Police Detectives were able to fingerprint him and submit the prints to the Mass State Police in Lakeville where his prints were put through the AFIS system and identified. He has been identified as a 56 year old male from Dorchester. His identity is being held pending notification to next of kin.

This male has an extensive record in Massachusetts, New York, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. It has been learned that there is a full extradition warrant from Atlanta Georgia for parole violations and also an outstanding warrant from Brookline Mass district court for him. The New Bedford Police Department's accident reconstruction team is also assisting in the investigation. He will be facing several charges.

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## **New Bedford Seaport Chowder Festival is recruiting restaurants for the 12 annual event**

The SouthCoast Chamber is pleased to announce that once again BayCoast Bank will take the lead in sponsoring the Twelfth Annual New Bedford Seaport Chowder Festival on October 8th, from 12 noon to 5 pm on City Pier 3 in the Port of New Bedford. The SouthCoast Chamber took execution of the event under an arrangement with DNB, Inc., which hosted the event for the previous 11 years. Rick Kidder, President/CEO of the SouthCoast Chamber said, "We are so pleased to see BayCoast Bank step up once again to support an event that for so many

years has been a family favorite and an integral part of the fall season in New Bedford.”

With your admission ticket, you are able to sample and taste the offerings from approximately 25 area food vendors until 3:00, with live music and awards until 5:00 pm. We are recruiting restaurants and food vendors and the participant list will be available soon. Applications to participate are available by calling the Chamber office or can be downloaded from our website ([southcoastchamber.com/chowderfest](http://southcoastchamber.com/chowderfest)).

The Chowder Festival has two “friendly competitions” culminating in awards at the end of the event. The People’s Choice Awards are decided by the votes of the attendees for “Best Of” in all the food categories and for Best Booth Presentation.

The Judge’s Choice Awards will be decided by a blind taste test conducted by a panel of 3 area “foodies”. The winner in the Clam Chowder category will receive a \$1000 cash prize and the winners in the Seafood Chowder and Stuffed Quahog categories will each receive \$500. The First place winners in the categories of Kale Soup and Specialty Soups will each receive \$250.

Outside the main tent will be smaller tents set up for food and drink vending that includes soft drinks, beers and wine from Moby Dick Brewing Co. and L. Knife, and Cocktail Guru mixed drinks. Acushnet Creamery will also offer coffee, cookies and homemade ice cream. Adding to the festive atmosphere throughout the afternoon are the annual YMCA Lobster Races. Young children will be entertained with craft activities organized by volunteers from the Global Charter School, fire truck rides on the antique engine courtesy of the New Bedford Fire Museum, and free photo booth pictures from Ensemble Events.

Live music by Business Time will add to the fun. They will be

performing all afternoon with plenty of room to sit and relax or get up and dance.

TICKETS are \$15 in advance, \$18 day of, \$5 for children 6-12, free for 5 and younger. Tickets will be available at the Chamber office, on-line through our website [www.southcoastchamber.com](http://www.southcoastchamber.com) and at many locations including all the Cardoza and Douglas Wine and Spirits locations beginning in September. For more information call 508-990-2777 or e-mail [deven@southcoastchamber.com](mailto:deven@southcoastchamber.com).

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## **New Bedford Police narcotics and gang units make 14 arrests in Wednesday sweep**

New Bedford Police narcotics and gang units made 14 arrests Wednesday and took a gun and narcotics off the street as part of a citywide sweep targeting narcotics use and other illegal activity.

As part of the sweep, police executed a search warrant at 311 Coggeshall St. Apt. 1 as part of an investigation into a cocaine distribution service out of that address.

Police seized a loaded 9mm Taurus Slim semi-automatic pistol and an additional magazine containing 9mm ammunition. A small amount of crack cocaine, digital scales and packaging materials were also located along with a small amount of cash.

As a result, four people were arrested:

Khaylon Cruz, 22, 311 Coggeshall St. Apt. 1, New Bedford, was charged with possession of a firearm with serial numbers

obliterated, defacing a firearm, possession of a firearm without a license, improper storage of a firearm, two counts of unlawful possession of ammunition and possession of crack cocaine with intent to distribute.

Angel Mejia, 21, 27 Hicks St. Apt. 1 E, New Bedford, was charged with two counts of unlawful possession of ammunition, improper storage of a firearm, possession of a firearm with serial numbers obliterated, possession of a firearm without a license and a warrant arrest.

A 17-year-old male juvenile from Fall River was charged with possession of a firearm with serial numbers obliterated, possession of a firearm without a license, improper storage of a firearm and two counts of unlawful possession of ammunition.

Jamareh Alphoso Allen, 22, of 311 Coggeshall St. Apt. 1, New Bedford, was charged with possession of a firearm with serial numbers obliterated, possession of a firearm without a license, improper storage of a firearm, two counts of unlawful possession of ammunition and possession of cocaine.

The sweep also led to the following arrests:

- Jonathan S. Lopes, 31, of New Bedford, warrant arrest.
- Elebren Perez, 30, of New Bedford, possession of an open container of alcohol.
- Steven Galipeau, 36, of New Bedford, warrant arrest.
- Billieleigh Galipeau, 46, of New Bedford, warrant arrest.
- Kristine MacDonald, 26, of Newberry, warrant arrest.
- Noel A Lopez, 27, of New Bedford, having no inspection sticker, operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license.
- Brian B. Monteiro, 30, of Dartmouth, warrant arrest.
- Bryan Nunez-Raldiris, 31, of New Bedford, warrant arrest.

- Lyrik Vernosky Caraballo, 20, of New Bedford, warrant arrest.
  - Manuel Enrique Torres, 25, of New Bedford, warrant arrest.
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## **Faces Of New Bedford #115: Roger DaSilva**

Meet Roger DaSilva, 32-year-old Real Estate Agent.



Roger grew up in the cities south end, where he faced many adversities in his youth. He has a vivid memory of having the new house they were moving into robbed before they had officially moved in. Seeing all of the activity that was going on in his neighborhood, he involved himself in everything musically that he could in school, being involved in every drama production, choir, and band.

After high school, Roger began attending UMass Dartmouth, where he majored in Biology with a minor in music. Allowing his love for music to overcome him, he focused so much on producing that his grades suffered and was forced to leave the

school at the end of his first year. He began working several odd jobs and got to a point in his life where he questioned how long it would take to become successful and not worry about the necessities.

This is where his love for people helped him find a career in nursing and after two years in an associate program he was able to do just that. Although his love for taking care of others didn't change, long 12-14 hour shifts had him burnt out and left him no time for his other passion for music.

After investing in a rental property and seeing the equity he was able to generate from the house, it finally clicked for Roger. He began attending real estate seminars and studied to become a licensed real estate agent. Under the tutelage of great leadership at Century 21 Signature properties, he has successfully tackled his first year as a real estate agent winning Rookie of the Year within his company.

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Faces of New Bedford is a project by Colton Simmons. If you are interested in booking a shoot or getting prints from the series email all inquiries to [colton@coltonsimmons.com](mailto:colton@coltonsimmons.com).

Follow Colton on Instagram:  
<https://instagram.com/simmonscolton>

Read more of the Faces of New Bedford series [here](#).

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## GotChew provides New Bedford

# with service that brings your favorite restaurants' menus to your door

by Jonathan Comey

The food scene in New Bedford is as dynamic and delicious as it's ever been. Thai, Mexican, Portuguese, American, Indian, Italian, Lebanese: we've got it all.

Kind of like a mini-New York City, right? Except, in New York City, if you've got a craving for shrimp mozambique delivered to your house after a long day, no problem: dial the number, pay the driver when he shows, instant feast in your living room.

Enter GotChew, the new restaurant delivery service founded by three New Bedford natives who want to bring the city's best flavors to your door.

"There are so many amazing and diverse restaurants within our reach," says Ryan Caton, founder of GotChew along with William Gilmour and Justin Baker. "Seeing other major cities with these types of services but not having it at home, really pushed us to make it happen."



The process is simple – like, amazingly simple. Don't have to make a phone call, or browse a bunch of websites, or even leave your couch if you don't want to.

From the nifty GotChew phone app (free to download onto your smartphone) or website, just pick a restaurant, choose what you want off the menu, pay with your credit card or debit card and ... well, and nothing. Just wait for the food to arrive, hot and fresh, from your friendly delivery driver, and it's restaurant time in your living room. Optionally, you can contact us after you order something to go and we'll pick up it and deliver it to you.

Even better, if you create an account and input your information once, it's locked in (and secure), ready to go whenever you are.

GotChew has been open for four months and any early kinks have been ironed out thanks to hard work and the energy from happy customers (4.9 out of 5 rating on Facebook from 50+ reviewers).

“A few weeks back we had our first elderly customer,” Ryan Caton recalls. “She had no form of transportation, but she heard about us and decided to use our service – we were able to bring her a cacoila sandwich, which is her favorite! That was really cool.

“Numerous times we have delivered to people who are smiling ear to ear and tell us how much they love what we are doing and how much they enjoy our service,” he says. “This is very gratifying for us and pushes us to want to continue to keep improving.”



They currently deliver for nine different restaurants, including downtown favorites like Freestone’s, Greasy Luck and DNB Burgers, along with good-old-reliable Subway. They project to represent 20 restaurants by the end of the year, and are meeting with new local restaurant owners every day to help convert them to the delivery revolution.

The GotChew idea went from dream to reality thanks in large

part to the support and inspiration from the EforAll business incubator program in New Bedford.

“It’s an amazing program,” Caton says. “They can help turn an idea into a tangible business. You’re given mentors that help you with the building process and are there for insight and advice along the way.

“We couldn’t have done it without them – if you have an idea or a product in mind, nothing gets accomplished by just thinking about it. Sometimes the best way to learn is by doing.”

In addition to the concept, one of GotChew’s unique attributes is its soon-to-be-iconic logo, featuring green script reminiscent of alternative comics with a happy, hungry mouth making the “C” of the Chew.

“We’ve had a lot of fun with that,” says Caton, noting that Gilmour is the designer and media mogul, and creating the right logo was of high importance. Working off a sketch by Gilmour and working it into shape with help from Just Your Way Screen Printing of Westport, they came up with something memorable.



“At first it was a little delivery car with catering tray,” Gilmour said. “Then it was like ‘Let’s use the name,’ and I started sketching it up. First it looked like a face, then we got rid of the eyeballs and the nose, and focused on that mouth, ready to eat. At first, we were like, ‘I don’t know,’ but as it got better and better we really fell in love with it.”

“People love the logo, we’ve gotten a lot of feedback, it’s kind of warm and inviting.”

And, Caton emphasizes, GotChew expects that logo to become more and more well-known with every month that passes.

“We want it to be everywhere,” he says. Magnets on the cars, all over social media, we are really working to make this happen for the people of New Bedford.”

In addition, GotChew is excited to create jobs in the city.

“Creating the opportunity for a flexible, secondary form of income for people in the city is a major benefit,” says Baker, the team’s technical guru. “This service brings in an entire new type of employment to the city, allowing drivers to be able to choose their own schedule that works for them.”

Enter promo code NBGUIDE for \$5 of your first order.

As their slogan goes ... Hungry? Don't worry. They GotChew!

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## **GotChew**

69 Taber St

New Bedford, Massachusetts

*GotChew delivers from 10 a.m to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday (extended to 10:30 on Friday), 8 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Sunday.*

**App** **on** **itunes!**

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/got-chew/id1184050336?mt=8>

**Website:** [gotchew.co/](http://gotchew.co/)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/gotchewco/](https://www.facebook.com/gotchewco/)

**Email:** [contact@gotchew.co](mailto:contact@gotchew.co)

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## **17 Things To Do This Weekend (Aug. 11 – Aug-13)**

The theme these past few weekends has been about humidity, clouds and occasional rain. While this weekend will have less precipitation than the past few, the clouds will persist. Temperatures will still hover around 80 degrees which is very comfortable. So, head out on the road and enjoy the many happenings across the SouthCoast and beyond.

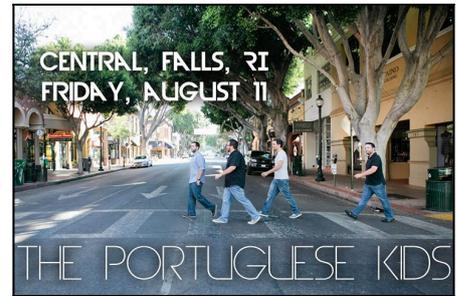
<p><b>FRIDAY</b> AUG 11</p>  <p><b>78°/62°</b></p> <p>Mostly cloudy</p>	<p><b>SATURDAY</b> AUG 12</p>  <p><b>76°/65°</b></p> <p>Mostly cloudy, showers around</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY</b> AUG 13</p>  <p><b>81°/63°</b></p> <p>Humid with sun and clouds</p>
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As always, click on the title for more or detailed information on the event. Most of the events were pulled from our [event calendar](#) where you can find hundreds of local area events each month. The event calendar is FREE, so if you are a local business, and not taking advantage of FREE publicity, shame on you! Are you a local business and want to sponsor this high traffic, weekend guide? Contact [info@newbedfordguide.com](mailto:info@newbedfordguide.com) for more details. Have an event to add? Add it [here](#). Know of another event this weekend? Post a reply!

## Friday, August 11th

### **Boston Comic Con 2017 (4:00pm-9:00pm)**

From Comics, Graphic novels, Anime, Manga, Sci-fi and Fantasy to Cosplay, Horror, Gaming, Toys, Movies and Television – BOSTON COMIC CON celebrates pop-culture fandom. Meet your heroes, attend celebrity guest panels and autograph sessions, and so much more. Join us August 11th to 13th at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in Boston for three days of family-friendly programming. There's something for everyone at New England's largest Comic Con. Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, 415 Summer Street, Boston, MA.



*Don't miss The Portuguese Kids in Central Falls on Friday evening!*

**Summer Sound Series: Whiskey Affair (6:00pm-8:00pm)**

Mayor Jon Mitchell presents the 2017 Summer Sound Series with FREE Concerts on the Pier Fridays! Bring your own chair, sit back and relax, or get up and dance! On August 11, Whiskey Affair covers acoustic and electric rock from then and now. Port of New Bedford, 52 Fisherman's Wharf, New Bedford.

**Downtown Concert: Beatles Night 4EverFab (7:00pm-9:00pm)**

Head to Downtown Taunton to enjoy Beatles Night with one of the greatest Beatles cover bands around! The DTF Food Truck will be serving dinner and snacks and the Downtown restaurants will be open before, during, and after the show. A limited number of chairs will be provided. Attendees are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets as well as bug spray. Taunton Green Historic District, 4 Court St., Taunton, MA.

**The Portuguese Kids (9:30pm-10:0pm)**

Don't miss The Portuguese Kids in Central Falls for the Madeira Club Festa! Come early and grab some delicious food! Show starts around 9:30pm. (Time slot subject to change). Club Sport Uniao Madeirense, 46 Madeira Ave., Central Falls, RI.

## **Saturday, August 12th**

**Visit A Museum On The Cape Cod Museum Trail (All Day)**

One of the great challenges of summer – especially for parents

– is figuring out what to do to keep the family happy and entertained. Visiting a museum is a great way to fill up those weekend hours. There are dozens of museums in the Cape Cod area, offering experiences to interest virtually anyone. Click on event title to see six reasons why you should check out a museum or two on the Cape this weekend.



*Get your mind and  
body in shape on  
Sunday!!*

### **Rise And Shine Yoga At Fort Phoenix (8:30am-9:30am)**

Join South Coast Yoga every Saturday morning at Fort Phoenix to start your weekend with an energizing yoga practice! Class is only a \$5 drop in, or you can purchase a class card (info below). Class incorporates movement, meditation, balance and strength. This is open to all levels, newbies to advanced. Please bring a mat/towel and water. The beginning of the season can be chilly, so layers are good! Children are welcome, as long as they can sit quietly for the hour (10 and up usually). Class passes are \$25 for 5 classes and can be used at Fort Taber and Fort Phoenix classes all summer.

### **AG Day at the Acushnet Farmer's Market (9:00am-1:00pm)**

Join us in celebrating local agriculture during MA Farmers Market Week. In addition to our weekly line up of vendors, we are happy to present The Future Farmers of America, 4H Association, Bristol County Beekeepers, The Acushnet Grange, Acushnet Ag Commission, Bristol County Ag School and Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association. There will be children's

activities, live animals, honey bee observation hive, and a “create your own salad in a jar”. Free “I ♥ Farmers Markets” temporary tattoos while they last. Acushnet Farmers Market at Stone Bridge Farm, 186 Leonard St., Acushnet, MA.

#### **14th Annual Allens Pond Duck Derby Race (9:30am-11:00am)**

The ducks will race at 10am, followed by the Festival – with our amazing \$5 BBQ, live music, amazing silent auction, live plant auction and ecological exhibits, starting at 11am. It’s quite impressive to see approximately 6000 rubber ducks race on the incoming tide at Barney’s Joy! Meet at the Allens Pond field station for a \*prompt\* 9:30am departure to the race site. The walk is guided, as we traverse private property and you must be registered to walk with us and view the race. The walk is over rugged terrain and approximately 1-1/2 miles each way. Appropriate for kids age 6 and older who can walk 3 miles round-trip. Be sure to wear sturdy shoes, sunscreen and insect repellent. Mass Audubon Allens Pond, 1280 Horseneck Rd., Westport, MA.

#### **Sand Sculpture Festival at Horseneck Beach (MOVED TO SUNDAY DO TO RAIN) (10:00am-3:00pm)**

Returning sculptors and children with pails alike will converge to create and compete for fun, glory and prizes. For the seventh year in a row, the Sand Sculpture Festival will showcase casual family fun at Horseneck Beach. There are four age categories applicable; Sand Fleas (ages 6-12), Sand Hoppers (ages 13-17), Sand Shapers (adults 18+), and Family (any ages). All children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Local community organizations and businesses have shown incredible support for this event by generously donating fantastic prizes. Full details can be read [here](#).



*Head to the sand sculpture festival at Horseneck Beach this weekend.*

**Boston Comic Con 2017 (10:00am-7:00pm)**

From Comics, Graphic novels, Anime, Manga, Sci-fi and Fantasy to Cosplay, Horror, Gaming, Toys, Movies and Television – BOSTON COMIC CON celebrates pop-culture fandom. Meet your heroes, attend celebrity guest panels and autograph sessions, and so much more. Join us August 11th to 13th at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in Boston for three days of family-friendly programming. There's something for everyone at New England's largest Comic Con. Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, 415 Summer Street, Boston, MA.

**11th Annual Poker Run (11:00am-2:00pm)**

Every participant gets free dockage and travel lift service throughout the weekend. It's no wonder why we continue to attract more & more boats from all over the Northeast. The best part of all the fun is last year we raised \$15,000 dollars for the Fall River Boys & Girls Club. A tremendous thanks to all that made last year possible. The Crew at BLM is looking forward to seeing friends of old and new while ripping thru the Majestic waters of Narragansett Bay & Party After!! The Topsy Seagull, 1 Ferry St., Fall River, MA.

**New Bedford Antiques Center at Wamsutta Place (11:00am-6:00pm)**

Antiques, collectibles, and history all in one place! The Center is home to over 200 dealers and consignors featuring

antiques and collectibles from early Americana to Mid-Century to today's treasures. With specialty stores within the Center which include a flower shoppe boutique, an ephemera store, the cast-iron store and vintage clothing. The Center is also the largest antique consignment venues in the Southcoast Region. So if you have one piece or an estate full of treasures , the Center will preview your items and consign them. The staff has over 100 years of collective knowledge in the antique trade from buying to selling to refinishing to retailing. There are public bathrooms, the center is handicap accessible and, pet-friendly! Phone: (508) 991-8700. Wamsutta Place, 61 Wamsutta St., New Bedford.

## Sunday, August 13th

### Visit A Museum On The Cape Cod Museum Trail (All Day)

One of the great challenges of summer – especially for parents – is figuring out what to do to keep the family happy and entertained. Visiting a museum is a great way to fill up those weekend hours. There are dozens of museums in the Cape Cod area, offering experiences to interest virtually anyone. Click on event title to see six reasons why you should check out a museum or two on the Cape this weekend.



*The official Feast of the Blessed Sacrament Parade starts at noon.*

### New Bedford Wellness Program For Adults (10:00am)

Always something healthy for body, mind and spirit. From Qigong, Tai Chi and Basketball, to Yoga, Nutrition and

Hypnotism to quit smoking. Boys and Girls Club of New Bedford, 166 Jenney St, New Bedford.

**Boston Comic Con 2017 (10:00am-5:00pm)**

From Comics, Graphic novels, Anime, Manga, Sci-fi and Fantasy to Cosplay, Horror, Gaming, Toys, Movies and Television – BOSTON COMIC CON celebrates pop-culture fandom. Meet your heroes, attend celebrity guest panels and autograph sessions, and so much more. Join us August 11th to 13th at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center in Boston for three days of family-friendly programming. There's something for everyone at New England's largest Comic Con. Boston Convention & Exhibition Center, 415 Summer Street, Boston, MA.

**6th Annual Boston Seafood Festival (11:00pa-7:00pm)**

This family-friendly event will be taking place from 11:00 AM until 7:00 PM. It will be a day of sensational seafood tastings, clambakes and chef demos, educational events, and family fun. Come enjoy the food and festivities and learn about the oldest industry in the United States while supporting your local economy! Boston Seafood Festival, 212 Northern Ave., Boston, MA.

**The Vault Gallery presents "Creature Feature" (3:00pm-6:00pm)**

Starring Artists Chuck Hauck and David Mello showing now thru the Summer. Come and Experience this wonderful imaginative works of Art in ceramic wall sculpture by David Mello and wildly imaginative sculpture by Chuck Hauck. The Vault Gallery of Fine Arts, 169 Rockdale Avenue, South Dartmouth.

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*Want to sponsor this weekend guide? Contact [info@newbedfordguide.com](mailto:info@newbedfordguide.com) for more details.*

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# Seekonk Home Invasion Defendant Sentenced to State Prison

A 24-year-old Attleboro man who broke into a Seekonk home last August and assaulted the homeowner was sentenced to serve four to five years in state prison last week, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

David Allard pleaded guilty in Fall River Superior Court to a five-count indictment charging him with breaking and entering during the daytime-person in fear, armed robbery, assault and battery, larceny over \$250, and armed assault in a dwelling.

On Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at approximately 3pm, Seekonk Police received a frantic 911 call from a homeowner on Apple Orchard Lane. The homeowners, both in their mid-60's, came home to an intruder. The victims noted a door open in the sunroom, which is always closed. The male victim went upstairs to the bedroom area to investigate. While walking up the stairs, the male victim confronted the intruder on the stairs between the two floors. The defendant grabbed the male victim by the throat and pushed him out of the way. The struggle resulted in an injury to the male victim's neck area.

The female victim was on the first floor. As the defendant tried to pass her while carrying a green bag (which contained their personal items), she attempted to grab for it. The defendant yelled, "I'll stab you", while reaching toward his pocket area. She was petrified and yelled for her husband to let the defendant out of the house.

While the female victim called 911, the male victim followed the defendant down the street as he fled with a bag of stolen property. Police arrived within moments and saw the defendant with the green bag and confronted him, at which point he fled

on foot into the woods. After setting up a perimeter of the surrounding area, the defendant was located and placed under arrest. Recovered was the green bag with the victims' personal property, including, among other things, \$300 cash, a watch, and assorted jewelry. A screwdriver was also recovered. The defendant was also carrying a knife with a 4 ½ inch blade.

Both victims addressed the court during the defendant's sentencing hearing last week, telling Judge Raffi Yessayan that the defendant's actions have made them both fearful in their own home in the year since the incident occurred. "The entire incident goes beyond upsetting. It is life altering. Our family will never feel the same in our own home," the male victim told the judge. His wife concurred, telling Judge Yessayan, "I was innocent enough to believe that when I locked my windows and doors at night, I was safe. That security was all taken away in one afternoon. At night, I sat up in our family room, because I could not bear to go upstairs to bed. I was also afraid to come home to an empty house."

During the sentencing hearing, Assistant District Attorney Jeanne Veenstra argued for four to eight year state prison term, with an additional probationary period upon the defendant's release from prison. Judge Yessayan sentenced the defendant to serve four to five years in state prison, to be followed by three years of supervised probation.

"The violent assault on the homeowner while trying to flee is simply unacceptable," District Attorney Quinn said. "People have a right to the quiet enjoyment of their home and should never have to be subjected to thefts and assaults from thieves inside their own home."

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# **New Bedford firefighters respond to car fire on Jouvette Street**

New Bedford firefighters responded to a car fire at 100 Jouvette Street in the south end of New Bedford around 2am on Thursday. The fire was likely started around 1:30am.

While the timing is similar to the recent spike in suspicious fires in the north end of New Bedford, the location is not. At the time of this writing, neither New Bedford police or fire have confirmed if today's fire is considered arson or if they think the fire is connected to the previous suspicious fires over the past few weeks.

New Bedford Police and Fire Departments are investigating **at least six suspected fires since July 22, two of them late Tuesday.**

Here's a look at the suspicious fires since July 22.

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# **Amber Alert suspect being charged with attempted murder**

LEEANN RICKHEIT, 38, the suspect arrested in last night's AMBER Alert, is expected to be arraigned this morning in Dudley District Court on several charges, including attempted murder.

When state troopers from the MSP's Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section located RICKHEIT's car in the woods early this morning, RICKHEIT and her daughter were in the car, the car was running, and the tailpipe had been stuffed with clothing, blocking the exhaust. Troopers observed the mother and daughter Ella either sleeping or unconscious in the car.

VFAS Trooper Keller Williams smashed a window to the vehicle and troopers removed the child and RICKHEIT from the car. Two

ambulances were called to the scene and Ella was transported to UMASS Medical Center and Rickheit to St. Vincent's in Worcester.

The child is reported to be doing well and RICKHEIT, who was kept under police guard, was held at the State Police Barracks in Sturbridge and will be arraigned today on charges of attempted murder, assault and battery on a child, and reckless endangerment of a child.

The location where VFAS Troopers found the suspect and victim in the car was on the backside of a pond located through the woods behind the Country Store, 131 Stafford Street, Charlton.

VFAS Troopers learned that RICKHEIT frequented that area and often slept in her car there. The troopers had focused on the area after intelligence that was developed led them to check various addresses in Sturbridge and Charlton for RICKHEIT. The troopers conducted numerous interviews of people who might have information about her whereabouts.

VFAS Troopers who worked the case throughout the night were Sgt David Skelly and Troopers Keller, Amy Waterman, and Thiago Miranda. They were assisted during the recovery and arrest by troopers from the Sturbridge Barracks and Charlton Police. Troopers from the State Police Detective Unit for Worcester County assisted in the followup investigation.