

Buttonwood Park Zoo Elephant Ruth Receiving Medical Care for Health Complications

A Statement from Buttonwood Park Zoo Director, Keith Lovett:

“A team of veterinarians is monitoring and treating one of the Buttonwood Park Zoo’s elephants, Ruth, a 58-year-old Asian Elephant, for health complications. Ruth’s keepers monitor her health status daily and on Sunday, July 17, found signs of gastrointestinal difficulties. A veterinary care team, which includes national experts in elephant care, has been assembled to conduct a full medical exam to develop the best treatment approach.

At 58-years-old, Ruth is the third oldest living Asian Elephant in the United States and has lived well beyond the average life expectancy for Asian Elephants. In their advanced years, elephants often experience many of the same health challenges that aging humans face including infections and cancer.

Ruth came to the Buttonwood Park Zoo in 1986 after she was found abandoned in Danvers, Massachusetts. Ruth’s private owner had used her as an elephant for hire at regional parades, birthday parties and other community events. He came under investigation for improper animal care in 1986 and while attempting to flee abandoned his trailer with Ruth in it. Ruth has been lovingly cared for by Buttonwood Park Zoo keepers and staff ever since.

In the 30 years since Ruth arrived at Buttonwood Park Zoo she has captivated the hearts of visitors of all ages including her keepers, some of whom have cared for her for decades.

The Buttonwood Park Zoo will share further information on

Ruth's condition as it becomes available."

Fire Chief warns of sky lantern hazards

The Acushnet Fire & EMS Department is advising residents that the use of "sky lanterns" is prohibited by the Massachusetts Comprehensive Fire Safety Code without a permit from the local fire chief.

Acushnet Fire Chief Kevin Gallagher was recently contacted by a town resident who expressed concern after finding two spent lanterns on the outer edge of his hay field. The resident was concerned that, given the drought like conditions in the south coast, his fields could have easily caught fire.

"The fire code gives the local fire chief the discretion to permit the use of sky lanterns. With these lanterns there are no safety features and for that reason I have not authorized any use of sky lanterns in Acushnet," stated Chief Gallagher.

"Once released the flame is beyond anyone's control and can land on a roof, power line or as we saw in the north end of Acushnet, a very dry hayfield," added Chief Gallagher, "It was extremely fortunate that the hayfield did not catch fire."

Sky lanterns are balloon shaped lanterns typically made of oiled rice paper over a frame that contains a candle or wax fuel cell. Once the wick is lit, warm air fills the lantern which allows the lantern to rise into the air.

"These lanterns are commonly released during celebrations and, I have learned, are often used when honoring a deceased family

member or friend,” stated Chief Gallagher. “This summer I have seen numerous lanterns released at local beaches. However, once sent adrift the device is out of the control of the responsible party. The lanterns can drift for miles and are subjected to air currents that can easily force them down toward the ground.”

State Fire Marshal Ostroskey said, “The National Association of State Fire Marshals has been on record since 2013 wishing to ban the use of sky lanterns since they pose an uncontrollable fire danger. In our current drought conditions, the fire danger is heightened.”

Southcoast Wellness Van announces August schedule for community screenings and vaccinations

The Southcoast Wellness Van announces its August schedule for community screenings and vaccinations.

The Southcoast Wellness Van upholds Southcoast Health’s mission to promote the optimal health and well-being of individuals in the communities it serves. Southcoast Health focuses its attention on increasing access to services and caring for the entire population through wellness initiatives and disease management that are designed to limit – and preferably prevent – the patient’s need for acute care.

The Southcoast Wellness Van travels across the region bringing health screenings into the communities of Southeastern

Massachusetts. Free mobile health services available by the staff include:

Cancer screenings and education.

Blood pressure screening.

Cholesterol screening

Teen resource information

Glucose (diabetes) screenings.

Nutritional information and education.

Health education services.

Medical physician referral.

Vaccinations.

Please note that screenings sponsored by the Southcoast Wellness Van are sometimes held at community locations and not always on the van. Look for signs when arriving at a location if you do not see the van outside.

For more information and to schedule free screenings, please call Susan Oliveira, RN, at 508-973-8740 or email [**oliveiras@southcoast.org**](mailto:oliveiras@southcoast.org). You can also check the schedule online or subscribe to daily notices on Twitter, Facebook and RSS feeds.

WAREHAM

Wednesday, August 3

Woods of Wareham

36 Swift's Beach Road, Wareham

Health Screenings & Vaccines

12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

FALL RIVER

Friday, August 5

Bristol Community College

777 Elsbree St., Fall River

Health Screenings & Vaccines

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

FALL RIVER

Tuesday, August 9

Seabra Supermarket

440 Stafford Rd, Fall River

Health Screenings & Vaccines

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

NEW BEDFORD

Thursday, August 11

Ben Rose Gardens

662 South First Street, New Bedford

Health Screenings & Vaccines

11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WAREHAM

Friday, August 12

Health Center

135 Marion Road, Wareham

Health Screenings & Vaccines

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

NEW BEDFORD

Saturday, August 13

Buttonwood Park

1 Buttonwood St. and Rockdale Ave., New Bedford

Health Screenings & Vaccines

12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

NEW BEDFORD

Monday, August 15

Brooklawn Park

1997 Acushnet Ave., New Bedford

Health Screenings & Vaccines

2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

FALL RIVER

Tuesday, August 16

Walmart

638 Quequechan St., Fall River
Health Screenings & Vaccines
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

NEW BEDFORD

Wednesday, August 17
Temple Landing
370 Middle Street, New Bedford
Health Screenings & Vaccines
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

NEW BEDFORD

Friday, August 19
Fort Taber
1000 Rodney French Blvd., New Bedford
Health Screenings & Vaccines
10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

NEW BEDFORD

Sunday, August 21
Boys And Girls Club of New Bedford
166 Jenny Street, New Bedford
Health Screenings & Vaccines
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

NEW BEDFORD

Tuesday, August 23
Brickenwood
Harvard St, New Bedford
Health Screenings & Vaccines
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

FAIRHAVEN

Wednesday, August 24
Walmart
42 Fairhaven Cmns., Fairhaven
Health Screenings & Vaccines
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

NEW BEDFORD

Thursday, August 25

Presidential Heights

Community Room Filmore Street, New Bedford

Health Screenings & Vaccines

11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ONSET

Friday, August 26

Onset Pier

184 Onset Ave., Onset

Health Screenings & Vaccines

10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Senate Approves State Pier Mixed-Use and Governance Proposal

The Senate has formerly adopted two proposals filed by Senate Assistant Majority Leader Mark Montigny (D-New Bedford) to implement his longtime vision to transform New Bedford State Pier into “a multi-use facility for water-dependent cargo, commercial fishing improvements, commercial marine transportation improvements, marine educational facilities, a fresh produce and fish market and capital improvements related to tourism, public recreation and other economic development within the port of New Bedford.” The measure also seeks to address governance and management concerns at the property while providing a future funding source for harbor development. Currently, State Pier is owned and operated by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation,

which has been the subject of severe criticism due to poor conditions at the pier including failed pilings and deck structures. As a longtime advocate of redevelopment at the State Pier, Senator Montigny filed the successful amendments to the Senate Economic Development bill that will reinvigorate his mixed-use language and \$25 bond authorization for the pier.

Since at least 2008, Senator Montigny has consistently advocated for the redevelopment of State Pier by securing bond authorizations and further legislation in the Senate. In 2008, and again in 2014, the Rules Chairman secured a \$25 million bond authorization for capital improvements fostering commercial fishing, marine improvements, tourism and recreation. In 2014, he also passed legislation directing the Secretaries of Transportation and Environmental Affairs to report on the needs of the facility, including a full analysis of its management structure and future mixed-use development. Following this effort, the Senator filed a FY16 budget amendment that directed MassDevelopment, Seaport Advisory Council, New Bedford Harbor Development Commission and the Secretaries of Transportation and Energy and Environmental Affairs to submit a detailed report for expanding the use of the State Pier to include potential mixed-uses such as restaurants and retail.

The Senator's latest effort authorizes DCR to lease State Pier to MassDevelopment for up to 25 years. MassDevelopment can in turn sublease the property, or portions thereof, to an entity seeking to create a mixed-use development that may include increased capacity for commercial fishing, cargo, tourism, retail, restaurants and public waterfront access. As MassDevelopment has experience managing the capital and daily operating needs of Jodrey State Pier in Gloucester, it is an entity better suited than DCR to manage New Bedford's facility. Furthermore, it allows subleases to foster an array of development proposals that can focus on traditional

maritime uses as well as innovative public uses like restaurants, retail and public event space in close proximity to the vibrant downtown cultural scene.

To further support development along the harbor, Senator Montigny also included a provision that would provide \$200,000 to facilitate commercial, industrial or mixed-use development at the former MacArthur Drive power plant now operated by Eversource. Earlier this month, Eversource announced that it would be relocating its operations to the New Bedford industrial park, leaving the waterfront property available for future sale. Environmental conditions on the site, however, require further remediation before the site may be utilized for future development. This provision in the economic development bill would help facilitate site preparation and development efforts.

The Assistant Majority Leader also filed an amendment to provide \$25 million for improvements within Designated Port Areas outside of Boston, including New Bedford. The Senate passed this measure unanimously by a vote of 39-0.

“Our waterfront is ripe with enormous economic potential ranging from commercial fishing and offshore wind to mixed-use development at State Pier to connect the vibrant downtown cultural scene with maritime industries. By filing these two amendments I sought to build upon years of persistent advocacy to build a strong case for New Bedford’s future. To be competitive in today’s economy and to make New Bedford an attractive location for residents and tourists alike, we must make the much needed investments in State Pier, the harbor and the waterfront more generally,” said Senator Montigny.

Seeking Miss Apple Peach Contestants

On Friday, September 9th , Acushnet will be selecting its 37th Apple Peach Queen. Initiated in 1980, the Apple Peach Pageant has given Acushnet girls the opportunity to represent the Town for one year while having many experiences during that time.

While the pageant has been a Town tradition for almost three decades, organizers made some changes a few years back to allow more girls to participate. Any Acushnet girl in grades one through eight is eligible to be part of the pageant. The youngest contestants (grades 1-4) will participate as Little Miss Apple Peach contestants and will all receive a crown and banner. Girls in grades 5-8 will compete for the title of Junior Miss Apple Peach and one winner will be selected. Girls in grades 9-12 will compete for the title of Miss Apple Peach and one winner will be selected.

Miss Apple Peach and Jr. Miss Apple Peach will each receive a prize package including a crown, banner, cash award, photos, gift cards and other potential prizes. They will also begin a year filled with opportunities, appearances, meeting many new people and creating memories that same weekend when they appear in the Apple Peach Parade and Festival.

The current Miss Apple Peach, Kelsey Pereira, is 15 years old will be a junior at Fairhaven High School in the fall. She plays volleyball for Coastal Volleyball, is an Honor Society Student and a competitive dancer with Center Stage Dance Studio.

Junior Miss Apple Peach, Victoria Kalisz, is 14 years old and will be a freshman at Fairhaven High School in the fall. She is part of the pop girl group, Sequence, a member of Voices in Time and the Cheryl McCormack competition dance team.

Both Kelsey and Victoria have had a busy year as the town's titleholders and were part of events such as the Halloween Parade, Christmas Lighting and, of course, the Apple Peach Festival and Parade as well as various other community events.

Pageant Director, Holly Raposa, notes "girls should get involved in the pageant because it is a good way to get involved in the town and go to different events and broaden their horizons". The pageant is also a wonderful learning experience for girls who may want to participate in other pageants. Several former Miss Apple Peach winners have gone on to hold local and state titles within the Miss America Program such as Miss New Bedford and Miss Rhode Island.

There will be an orientation for contestants in August as well as a photo shoot and rehearsals leading up to the pageant on September 9th. Deadline for contestants is July 22nd and Pageant Director, Holly Raposa, can be contacted at (508) 742-7905, via email at pageant02743@gmail.com or via the pageant's Facebook page.

Police Department Welcomes Public to Meet Commander of the North End Police Station-3

On Tuesday, July 26, 2016 between the hours of 10:00 and 12:00 noon, the New Bedford Police Department invites the public to meet Lieutenant. Paul Demers at station #3 located at 781 Tarklin Hill Road in the north end of New Bedford. Lieutenant Demers is in charge of the north end station in the absence of

Captain Thomas Flood.

Lieutenant Demers is a 21 year veteran of the department with experience in many of the department's divisions. Lieutenant Demers is looking forward to the opportunity to meet citizens, business owners, and anyone who wants to stop by. Lieutenant Demers may be reached at Station #3 at (508) 991-6360 or at paul.demers@newbedfordpd.com.

Last month, the public was invited to similar meet and greets with the commanders of both Station One and Station Two.

"These meet and greet opportunities are an important first step in our efforts to further develop the community policing philosophy throughout the New Bedford Police Department. We are committed to growing the Department's relationship with the community so that ultimately, residents and police officers perceive each other as the same, and work collaboratively as a city of one," said New Bedford Police Chief Joseph Cordeiro.

Targeted Ground Spraying for Mosquitoes Planned in New Bedford

The New Bedford Health Department—working closely with the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health—is again this year conducting an annual monitoring program to track the potential threat from EEE and WNV carrying mosquitoes. Under the program, mosquito traps are put in place to collect pools of mosquitoes and mosquito populations are monitored throughout the summer

months.

As part of the mosquito tracking program, the New Bedford Health Department will request that the BCMCP target key areas of the New Bedford for spraying, including public parks and locations that host large public events.

As such, the Bristol County Mosquito Control Project will conduct targeted ground spraying for mosquitoes early on the morning of Thursday, July 21, 2016. This round of spraying will target areas including Buttonwood Park, Brooklawn Park, Fort Tabor, Hazelwood Park, Riverside Park, Clasky Park, Ashley Park, the Poor Farm area, Custom House Square and Downtown area. Spraying will take place between 2:00 am and sunrise on Thursday morning, weather permitting. Residents in the vicinity of the targeted areas may wish to close their windows this evening prior to the spraying.

In addition, residents may request a ground spray in their area by calling the Bristol County Mosquito Control project at (508) 823-5253, between 8:00am – 2:00pm (June – September), or contacting them by E-mail at RequestBristolMCP@comcast.net.

Like EEE and West Nile, the New Bedford Health Department works closely with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to track other emerging mosquito-borne diseases such as the Zika virus. While Zika-carrying mosquitoes have not been identified in the New Bedford area, and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health reports that the likelihood of becoming infected with Zika virus from a mosquito bite in Massachusetts is very low, residents are urged to take the general precautionary measures to prevent mosquito bites. In addition, travelers to areas where the Zika virus has been detected in mosquitoes or humans should take extra precaution to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes during their trip. This includes both females and males who travel to areas where the Zika virus is occurring. If you or your partner is planning on traveling, you should check the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention website for information about where Zika virus is occurring:
<http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/zika-information>.

The same precautionary measures are advised for EEE, WNV, and the Zika virus. These include the following:

Avoid Mosquito Bites

- **Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours** – While mosquitoes are out at all hours of the day, their peak biting times are from dusk to dawn. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning. Otherwise, take extra care to use repellent and protective clothing, especially if you work or spend a lot of time outdoors.
- **Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites**. Although it may be difficult to do when it's hot, wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your skin.
- **Apply Insect Repellent** when you go outdoors. Use a repellent with DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), IR3535 or oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] according to the instructions on the product label. DEET products should not be used on infants under two months of age and should be used in concentrations of 30% or less on older children. Oil of lemon eucalyptus should not be used on children under three years of age. Permethrin products are intended for use on items such as clothing, shoes, bed nets and camping gear and should not be applied to skin.

Mosquito-Proof Your Home

- **Drain Standing Water** – Mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing water. Limit the number of places around your home for mosquitoes to breed by either draining or getting rid of items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change water in

birdbaths frequently.

- Install or Repair Screens – Some mosquitoes like to come indoors. Keep them outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

Missing Boater's Body Found in South Watuppa Pond in Fall River

After more than two days of searching, the body of missing boater, Emerson Belirio, was discovered early this morning in South Watuppa Pond in Fall River. The deceased was located by Fall River Harbor Master Robert Smith shortly before 7 a.m. today in the pond.

The body is now in the custody of the state Medical Examiner's Office.

Fall River Police received a call around 4:45 pm Saturday regarding a man overboard in the pond. Rescue personnel responded to the Dave's Beach boat ramp and began searching for Mr. Belirio in the pond. The search continued until nightfall, and was then suspended until this morning. The search continued all day Sunday and for most of the day Monday before being found early this morning.

District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn would like to specifically thank the Fall River Police, Fall River Fire, the Environmental Police, Fall River Emergency Management, the Fall River Harbor Master, Massachusetts State Police Air Wing, Massachusetts State Police trooper Ann Marie Robertson who is

assigned to this office and Bob Anderson of Ocean Server Technology for their tireless efforts to search for Mr. Belirio and bring closure to his loved ones.

The preliminary investigation has determined Mr. Belirio was a passenger on a 20-foot Sea King Cabin Cruiser. He, along with his fiancée, their two children, and another married couple who own the boat were all on the vessel at the time of the incident.

The boat was somewhere near the center of the lake when Mr. Belirio jumped into the water while wearing an unsecured life jacket. Mr. Belirio quickly went underwater and did not re-emerge.

Foul play is not suspected at this time, nor does it appear that alcohol had any role in the incident.

South Watuppa Pond Search Concluded for the Day; Missing Man Identified

The search for a 35-year-old Fall River man who went overboard from a boat Saturday afternoon in South Watuppa Pond has concluded for the evening. The search will continue Monday morning.

The missing man has been identified as Emerson Belirio, 35, of Fall River.

Fall River Police received a call around 4:45 pm Saturday regarding a man overboard in the pond. Rescue personnel responded to the Dave's Beach boat ramp and began searching

for the missing man in the pond. The search continued until nightfall, and was then suspended until this morning. The search continued today until 7 p.m..

The search is being conducted by Fall River Police, Fall River Fire, the Environmental Police, Fall River Emergency Management, Massachusetts State Police Air Wing, Massachusetts State Police troopers assigned to this office and a Sonar Boat being operated by Bob Anderson of Ocean Server.

The missing boater is a 35-year-old Fall River man. The man was a passenger on a 20-foot Sea King Cabin Cruiser. He, along with his wife, their two children, and another married couple who own the boat were all on the vessel at the time of the incident. Foul play is not suspected at this time, nor does it appear that alcohol had any role in the incident.

Search continues for missing man In South Wattupa Pond in Fall River

Multiple agencies continue to search South Watuppa Pond in Fall River for a missing boat passenger who went overboard yesterday.

Fall River Police received a call around 4:45 pm Saturday regarding a man overboard in the pond. Rescue personnel responded to the Dave's Beach boat ramp and began searching for the missing man in the pond. The search continued until nightfall, and was then suspended until early this morning.

The search is being conducted by Fall River Police, Fall River

Fire, the Environmental Police, Fall River Emergency Management, Massachusetts State Police Air Wing, Massachusetts State Police troopers assigned to this office and a Sonar Boat being operated by Bob Anderson of Ocean Server.

The missing boater is a 35-year-old Fall River man. The man was a passenger on a 20-foot Sea King Cabin Cruiser. He, along with his wife, their two children, and another married couple who own the boat were all on the vessel at the time of the incident. Foul play is not suspected at this time, nor does it appear that alcohol had any role in the incident.

The search will continue throughout the day today, and if the missing man is found, this office will send out a follow up release.