

# **SRTA announces upcoming Sunday service for Greater New Bedford and beyond**

"SRTA is excited to announce that service will be available on all routes on Sundays starting this Sunday, January 28, 2024.

Sunday will follow the same schedule as Saturday and is listed as "Weekend" on all schedules."-Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA).



## **Sunday Service Begins January 28, 2024**

Beginning Sunday, January 28, 2024 all routes will operate on Sundays until further notice.

Sunday will share the same times as Saturday and is listed on the schedules as "Weekend"

*Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SRTA) photo.*

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## **Governor Healey bill would allow increased taxes for**

# food, hotels and vehicles in New Bedford, Fall River and other Massachusetts communities

Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey filed a bill on Monday that would allow cities and towns to increase taxes on meals, lodging, and vehicles.

Per **Boston.com**:

“The bill gives municipalities the option to increase their hotel, motel, and other rental tax from 6% to 7% (or half a percentage higher for Boston), and their meal tax from the set .75% to 1%. The bill would also let cities and towns increase their motor vehicle excise tax by 5%.”

As Massachusetts residents see their rents/mortgages and other necessity costs almost double since 2020, 2024 is likely to see higher property taxes and increased taxes on their vehicles, hotels, and eating out. Higher home values, increased interest rates since 2020, and a surge in migrants to Massachusetts in 2023 are mostly responsible. The Governor Healy administration estimates **the cost of the state's emergency shelter system fueled in part by new migrant arrivals will cost more than \$900 million annually in fiscal 2024 and in fiscal 2025.**

This higher shelter cost is due to Massachusetts having a ‘Right to Shelter’ law that provides hotels, health care, and other social services and a record surge of illegal immigration due to President Biden’s weak border policy. Per **CBS News**: “Border Patrol has processed more migrants who entered the U.S. illegally in December than in any other month in the agency’s history.”

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# Six New Bedford firefighters totaling 160 years of service head off to retirement

“During the month of January New Bedford Fire had six retirements:

- Firefighter Victor Dumas retired with 30 years of service,
- Lieutenant Jeffrey Peckham retired with 28 years of service,
- Firefighter Peter Poulin retired with 30 years of service,
- Firefighter Carlos Costa retired with 30 years of service,
- Firefighter Shawn Foley retired with 23 years of service,
- Firefighter Kevin Verville retired with 28 years of service.

Lt. Peckham, FF Costa, and FF Foley were also members of the armed forces.

We thank you for all you have done for the department as well as the community; congratulations, wishing you a healthy retirement!”-New Bedford Fire Department.



Firefighter Victor Dumas

Lieutenant Jeffrey Peckham

Firefighter Peter Poulin



Firefighter Carlos Costa

Firefighter Shawn Foley

Firefighter Kevin Verville

*New Bedford Fire Department photo.*

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## Help Bald Eagles sending nest locations to Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

"It's the season of the sticks for bald eagles! From December-February, they are collecting building materials for their

nests, including large sticks.

In the mating pair, the male will collect the nesting materials and bring them to the female who will construct the nest.

You can help us identify new nest locations by letting us know if you see an eagle carrying sticks at this time of year! Send an email to [mass.wildlife@mass.gov](mailto:mass.wildlife@mass.gov) with where and when your observation took place.”-Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife.

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## **73-year-old man facing serious charges after fatal Lakeville accident**

David Delorenzo, 73, of Lakeville is facing multiple charges after his involvement in a multi-car accident in Lakeville leaving one dead.

DeLorenzo pleaded not guilty to one count of motor vehicle homicide, one count of operating under the influence of liquor, one count of operating under the influence of liquor causing serious bodily injury, one count of negligent operation of a motor vehicle, one count of speeding, and one count of a marked lanes violation.

The crash occurred Friday, the 19th around 5:30pm on Main Street in the area of Elliot Farm. Officers discovered four vehicles had been involved in the crash including a Toyota Camry where the passenger, Richard Reed, 75, of Lakeville, was declared dead at the scene.



Delorenzo was arraigned in Wareham District Court on Monday where he pleaded not guilty. This case is ongoing and we will update with new details as new information is released.



*Lakeville Police Department photo.*



*Lakeville Police Department photo.*

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# **NBPD's Ofc. Fonseca: giving to the New Bedford community by coaching kid's basketball for 25 years**

"Ofc. Fonseca (left) has been coaching basketball at the Dennison Memorial Community Center for nearly 25 years! When we asked him about his two decades of coaching, he said "I love to give back to the community that pretty much raised me – I spent all of my time there as a kid."

What is "Coach" Fonseca's favorite part? "I love seeing them all grown up when they reach high school and college still playing the sport that I taught them. Seeing them develop is the best part, because I'm big on discipline and respect, and so when I see them still implement the same respect that I helped teach them at a young age, it makes me proud to do what I do."

The league has two basketball divisions – pee-wee and little league. The season starts in December and lasts until March. All admission proceeds go towards the Bay State Basketball League.

Ofc. Fonseca started his career with the NBPD in September of 1998 (26 years!). During his time at the department, he has worked in the Juvenile Family Services division and as a School Resource Officer. He currently works in the Management Information System (MIS) division.

You can catch Coach Fonseca and his team at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater New Bedford Monday through Thursday night."



City of New Bedford Police Department.



*City of New Bedford Police Department photo.*



*City of New Bedford Police Department photo.*

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# Former Chicopee Superintendent of Schools Admits to Lying About Threatening Messages She Sent to Chief of Police Candidate

The Superintendent of the Chicopee Public Schools pleaded guilty today to making false statements in connection with her sending 99 threatening messages to a candidate for Chicopee Police Chief.

Lynn Clark, 53, of Belchertown, pleaded guilty to two counts

of making false statements. U.S. District Court Judge Mark G. Mastroianni scheduled sentencing for April 30, 2024. Clark was arrested and charged by criminal complaint on April 6, 2022 and subsequently indicted by a federal grand jury on April 21, 2022.

In December 2021, the City of Chicopee was in the process of hiring a new Police Chief. On Dec. 3, 2021, law enforcement received a report that a candidate for the position was receiving threats intended to force the victim to withdraw their application for Chicopee Police Chief. In November 2021, after submitting their application for Police Chief, the victim received numerous text messages from unknown numbers containing threats to expose information that would cause the victim reputational harm. As a result, the victim withdrew their application and the City delayed the selection process.

The investigation revealed that a total of approximately 99 threatening messages were sent from fictitious phone numbers purchased through a mobile app. Phone and internet records revealed that these numbers were purchased by Clark and that these accounts sent each of the threatening messages.

On or about Dec. 6, 2021, Clark falsely claimed to be a victim and stated to agents that she received threatening text messages from unknown phone numbers, when, in fact she sent the messages to herself. Clark also falsely named other City employees who she felt may be responsible for sending the messages. On or about Feb. 7, 2022, Clark again falsely stated that she did not know who sent the messages in addition to denying that she had downloaded a mobile app with which she purchased the fictitious phone numbers to send the messages. Clark later admitted that she did indeed send the messages and downloaded the app.

The charges of making false statements each provide for a sentence of up to five years in prison, up to one of supervised release and a fine of up to \$10,000. Sentences are

imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and statutes which govern the determination of a sentence in a criminal case.

Acting United States Attorney Joshua S. Levy and Jodi Cohen, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Boston Office made the announcement today. Assistant U.S. Attorney Neil L. Desroches of the Springfield Branch Office is prosecuting the case.

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## **Massachusetts Governor Healey, Eight Other Democrat Governors Push D.C. On Immigration**

Chris Lisinski  
State House News Service

Gov. Maura Healey joined eight counterparts from other states in a new plea for federal immigration action, including funding to support states that have spent billions of dollars placing new migrant arrivals into emergency shelters.

Nine governors, all Democrats who collectively represent more than 100 million Americans, wrote to President Joe Biden and Congressional leaders from both parties Monday urging them to “work together to solve what has become a humanitarian crisis.”

The governors said global migration is at a “historic high,” driving sharp increases in new arrivals to cities and states

that “lack the vast coordinated infrastructure needed to respond to the humanitarian and public safety concerns of those seeking lawful entry into the United States.”

They said a \$106 billion supplemental funding request Biden proposed last year would offer “a minimum level of funding and actions” needed to address the issues.

“While political motivations continue to delay the negotiations, our economy, states and localities are bearing the brunt of the shortcomings of the existing immigration system,” the governors wrote. “Therefore, as you return to Washington to resume work on critical federal funding measures, we strongly urge Congress and the Administration to quickly negotiate an agreement on a border security legislative package that includes federal coordination and decompression at the southern and northern borders; federal funding for both border and interior states and cities receiving new arrivals; and a serious commitment to modernizing our immigration system in the United States.”

In Massachusetts, the Healey administration estimates a record level of demand on the state’s emergency shelter system fueled in part by new migrant arrivals will cost more than \$900 million annually in fiscal 2024 and in fiscal 2025.

Healey said in her State of the Commonwealth speech last week she would “continue to demand that Congress take action to fix the border, to get us funding.” Asked last week to elaborate on what border fixes Healey supports, a spokesperson said the governor backs Biden’s supplemental budget request and linked to a fact sheet the White House produced in October.

Healey and fellow governors then doubled down on their support of the supplemental funding proposal in their new letter Monday.

“This is not a problem that Massachusetts created. However, it’s a problem that we’re having to deal with right now,”

Healey said Monday, echoing a line that she used in her State of the Commonwealth speech last week.

House Ways and Means Committee Chair Aaron Michlewitz suggested in a television interview that aired Sunday that Massachusetts might only receive \$40 million to \$50 million in migrant-related funding under Biden's proposal, a small amount compared to the projected amount of state spending on shelter.

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# Massachusetts Ballot Law Commission Tosses Trump Primary Ballot Challenge

By Alison Kuznitz  
State House News Service

A Massachusetts panel on Monday unanimously denied an effort to remove former President Donald Trump's name from the Republican presidential primary ballot.

The State Ballot Law Commission dismissed a challenge that alleged Trump is ineligible for office due to his role in the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol, ruling that it does not have jurisdiction over the case.

Four days after an attorney for Trump contended that the former president has not yet been nominated under Massachusetts law and that the objectors failed to comply with notice requirements, the panel made similar points in a 10-page decision that turned away the challenge.

"The Commission, having reviewed the materials submitted, has determined that the State Ballot Law Commission does not have

jurisdiction over the matters presented,” the panel wrote.

In a footnote, commissioners added that even if they had determined they had jurisdiction, the challenges filed by parties including Free Speech for People and civil rights firm Lichten & Liss-Riordan failed to notify other Republican presidential candidates on the ballot or the state Republican Party, “thereby subjecting them to dismissal.”

The groups, who were represented last week by former Democratic U.S. Senate and attorney general candidate Shannon Liss-Riordan, had argued that Trump is ineligible to appear on the ballot because the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution bans anyone who under an oath of office has “engaged in insurrection or rebellion.”

Commissioners said their ability to address challenges about presidential candidates is “limited in scope.”

“Donald Trump’s name will not be appearing on the presidential primary ballot as a result [sic] the submission of nomination papers or a certificate of nomination over which the Commission does have jurisdiction,” they wrote in their decision. “Rather, Donald Trump’s name will appear on the presidential primary ballot as a result of the Republican State Committee’s submission of his name to the Secretary of the Commonwealth on September 29, 2023 pursuant section 70E of chapter 53 of the General Laws. This submission from the state party should not be confused with a ‘certificate of nomination’ referenced in sections 4 and 5 of chapter 55B.”

All three current members of the panel – retired Judge Francis T. Crimmins Jr., Joseph Eisenstadt and former Sen. Joe Boncore – signed the decision.

Secretary of State William Galvin oversaw a drawing on Jan. 2 setting the order of names appearing on the March 5 presidential primary ballot, including Trump’s. Galvin’s office has said that ballots went to print immediately after



the drawing.

Elections officials in other states have also been pressed to consider Trump's eligibility in the light of the attack that sought to overturn Joe Biden's victory in the 2020 presidential election.

The Colorado Supreme Court ruled last month that the Fourteenth Amendment deems Trump ineligible, and the case will soon go before the U.S. Supreme Court with oral arguments scheduled for Feb. 8.

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## **New Bedford Schools attacked by thousands over claims of 7th grade sexual homework assignment**

New Bedford Public Schools is taking an insane amount of hate on social media when, in fact, it appears they are innocent in this situation. A woman made a post in the Facebook group named "Massachusetts Informed Parents" sharing a picture of a homework assignment given to her 7th grade daughter.

This assignment contains bizarre tasks such as *"Do an internet search on phrases like 'songs about sex.'"* She stated "I am in the New Bedford district and the school is a low income tuition free, non-sectarian middle school."

An account with over 2.8 million followers named "Libs of Tik Tok" posted a photo of the assignment on Twitter while tagging New Bedford Public Schools, resulting in thousands of people

across the country to begin attacking our city's school system.

*Middle school in @NBPublicSchools gave students an assignment to do an internet search for "songs about s\*x" and songs about being LGBTQ.*

*Another ad for homeschooling.*

*Source: @Nicoletta0602 pic.twitter.com/cfIXiVsaDt*

*– Libs of TikTok (@libsoftiktok) January 22, 2024*

The massive influx of people tagging and commenting New Bedford Public Schools page caused them to temporarily close down their account.

*UPDATE: @nbpublicschools just deleted their account. They need to answer why they're giving kids s\*x research assignments! pic.twitter.com/EIodrKp0CN*

*– Libs of TikTok (@libsoftiktok) January 22, 2024*

Once New Bedford Public Schools reactivated their account, they posted this message:

*A post circulating today about middle school students' assignments re. certain song lyrics has been investigated by NBPS and found to be FALSE. No such assignment exists or been given to students; nor does it exist in any curriculum followed by NBPS.*

*– New Bedford Public Schools (@NBPublicSchools) January 22, 2024*

The City of New Bedford then chimed in highlighting the fact that the original post has since been updated to clarify that the school is private.

*Hi all: We looked into this and it did NOT come from the NBPublicSchools. Also, the orig poster has updated to say it was a private school. There are several private schools in NB and we have no control over any aspect of them. Pls stop messaging NBPS. Have a good day everyone.  
[pic.twitter.com/85wsAY9Nvy](https://pic.twitter.com/85wsAY9Nvy)*

*– City of New Bedford (@NewBedford\_MA) January 22, 2024*

We have reached out to the parent asking her the name of the school and if she has any further proof of these claims. We are currently waiting for a response.