

# **New Bedford Police arrest Fall River man for trafficking \$140,000 worth of fentanyl**

On Oct. 17th, New Bedford police officers conducted a traffic stop at the Kempton Street/Oneida Street intersection. As a result of the stop and subsequent investigation, approximately 1,400 grams of fentanyl, with a street value of approximately \$140 thousand dollars, was seized.

The vehicle's operator, 33-year old Carlo Jimenez of 285 Sunset Hill in Fall River, was charged with operating with an expired license and trafficking in fentanyl in excess of 200 grams. □Detective Kevin Barbosa was the arresting officer.

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## **Westport cleanup by residents a smashing success**

"Thanks to the 50 Westport and area volunteers who took time out today to help clean Westport streets of litter.

We collected 150 trash bags of roadside litter and found everything from a standup steam vac to a toilet seat with most volunteers aghast at how many nip bottles and beer cans were on the streets. (one volunteer collected 250 nip bottles alone!).

We are hoping to get the high school students involved when we do this again. Hope more will join the effort to keep Westport

beautiful!”-Martin Costa.

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# Massachusetts unemployment rate drops to 9.6%

By Chris Lisinski

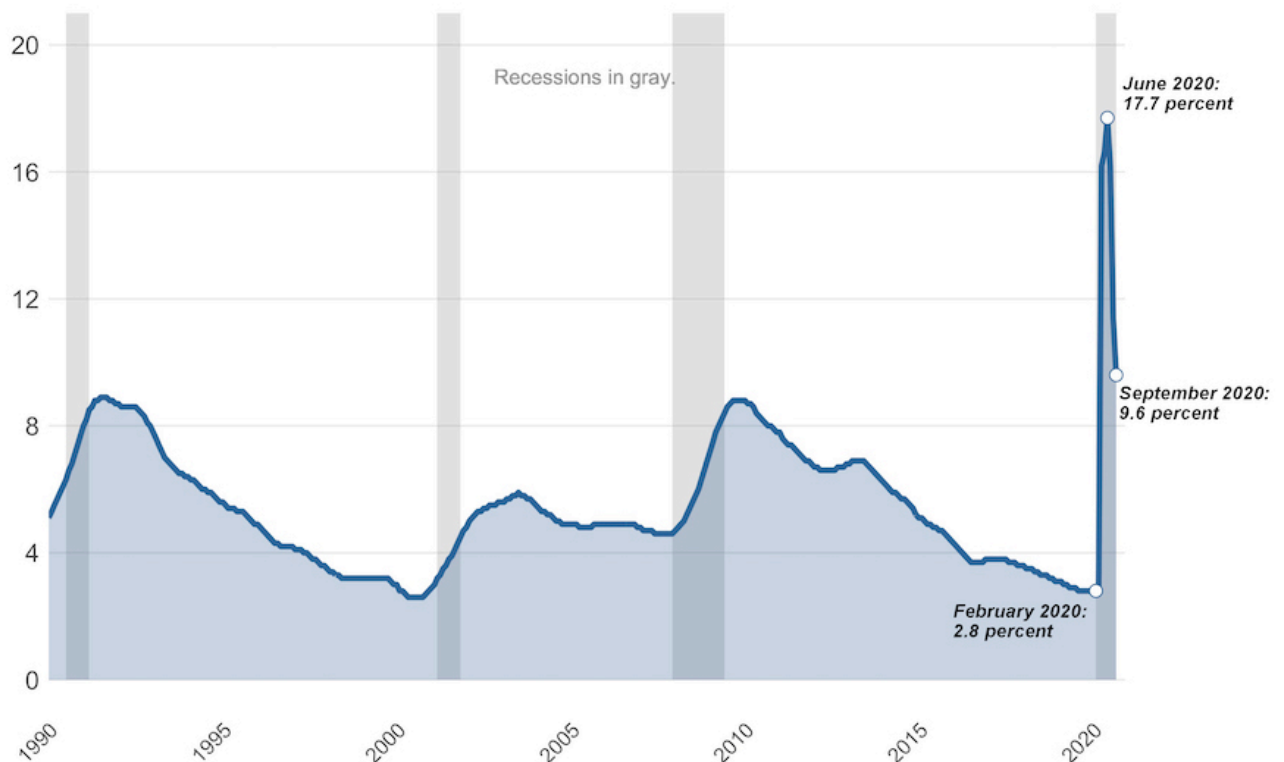
State House News Service

The state's unemployment rate dropped into single digits in September after spending five months above 10 percent, as employers reported adding 36,900 jobs and Massachusetts continued its economic recovery from the sudden COVID-inflicted recession.

The Massachusetts unemployment rate dropped into the single digits in September, though at 9.6 percent, it still remains higher than at any point since at least 1990.

## Massachusetts unemployment rate drops below 10 percent

September rate of 9.6 percent still above previous records



Source: Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development

[Graphic: Chris Lisinski/SHNS]

State labor officials announced Friday that the unemployment rate declined to 9.6 percent in September, 1.8 percentage points below the revised August rate of 11.4 percent.

The state unemployment rate is now the lowest it has been since March, the last month of data that did not fully reflect the massive layoffs prompted by government-mandated shutdowns and large-scale shifts in consumer behavior to avoid public health risks.

The previously reported U.S. unemployment rate checked in at 7.9 percent in September.

While still substantial, the pace of job growth slowed in September with 36,900 jobs added last month, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data based on a survey of

employers, comparing to the addition of 62,500 jobs in August.

The employer survey put September's total employment in Massachusetts at about 3.34 million. While businesses have reported five straight months of increasing jobs, the roughly 320,000 positions added since April represent slightly less than half of the 690,000 lost in March and April.

The largest job gains in September came in education and health services, which added 11,100 positions, and the leisure and hospitality industry, which added 10,800. Leisure and hospitality has faced the steepest cuts of the 10 categories counted: since September 2019, the industry has lost more than a third of its jobs.

Governments in Massachusetts shed 12,300 jobs in September, according to the state's Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development.

Weekly unemployment claims have fluctuated in recent months after sharply spiking during the spring, but those figures also remain elevated compared to pre-pandemic levels.

In the week ending Oct. 10, 39,038 people filed claims for traditional unemployment benefits – about 10,000 more than the previous week – while another 11,478 filed claims for the expanded eligibility Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, according to the Baker administration.

Announcement of the continued overall employment gains came two days after Gov. Charlie Baker unveiled a new \$45.5 billion fiscal year 2021 budget proposal, a plan that uses reserves and federal funds to increase spending even though state tax revenues are forecast to fall about \$3.6 billion below earlier expectations.

Lawmakers could still push to scale back public services or impose additional governmental layoffs to rein in spending amid that tax shortfall, but the Baker administration believes

its plan will avoid cuts by deploying a combination of federal funds and long-term savings.

Federal negotiations about another round of stimulus that could help mitigate the economic damage remain rocky.

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## **New Bedford's Buzzards Bay Coalition returns with new adventures for every age and interest**

*In-person programs resume with measures to promote social distancing.*

The Buzzards Bay Coalition has resumed its Bay Adventure activity series with more than a half-dozen free programs scheduled through the end of October. The programs aim to connect people to the resources of Buzzards Bay and the watershed, inspiring a sense of ownership of the local environment and a desire to explore further.

The upcoming Bay Adventures offerings are designed to appeal to a broad range of people—children to adults—covering a range of outdoor activities from art and astronomy to fishing and trail running, set in locations from Westport and Fall River to Bourne. Each program also will incorporate social distancing measures recommended by public health officials and required by state regulations.

Registration for all scheduled Bay Adventures is free, but registration is required as space is limited. The upcoming

programs include:

**Women on the Water**—Shove off from the Onset Pier for a women's fishing adventure on the Maureen Ann with Captain Kevin. Novice and experienced fisherwomen are welcome! We will provide life jackets if you need them. Thursday, Oct. 22 at 9 a.m.

**Forage Foray**—Mycologist Lawrence Millman will lead a mushroom walk in Myles Standish State Forest, focusing on ecology and identifying specimens rather than on edibility and medicinality. Saturday, Oct. 24 at 3 p.m.

**Plein Air Landscape Painting**—A painting class for all levels, whether a beginner or a seasoned artist. All equipment, supplies, and tools needed for outdoor acrylic painting will be included. The class will be held at Buttonwood Park in New Bedford. Sunday, Oct. 25 at 1 p.m.

**Mindfulness: Awake in Nature**—Enjoy the peace and beauty of nature with yoga instructor Jessica Webb and the Buzzards Bay Coalition during this mindfulness walk at Little Buttermilk Bay Woods in Bourne. Tuesday, Oct. 27 at 9 a.m.

**Spooky Stargazing**—We will be taking a journey from The Bogs in Mattapoisett through our solar system. Our craft will be a Celestron 8-inch SCT telescope with attached camera and monitor, making this a safe and socially distanced exploration. Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 7 p.m.

**Watershed Runners**—Join us at Copicut Woods in Fall River for a trail run through hardwood forests and serene nature. We'll ramble from 3 to 5 miles, depending upon the interests of the group. Thursday, Oct. 29 at 4:30 p.m.

**Costume Photoshoot and Harvest Hunt**—A Halloween parade in the wilds of The Sawmill in Acushnet, along with a costume contest and harvest hunt. Saturday, Oct. 31 at 1 p.m.

Given current health concerns, the Coalition's outdoor programs will be restricted to small groups, typically no more than 12 individuals or a limited number of immediate families. Guests should bring and be prepared to wear masks for those times when participants are not able to maintain at least three feet apart outdoors. When equipment and supplies are required, there will be no sharing among participants. Additional safeguards may be put in place as appropriate.

Come learn a new skill, pursue a previously established interest or activity, connect with people who have similar interests, explore a conservation area, and participate in a fun outdoor activity."

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## **Six Coffee with a New Bedford Cop events set for October 20th**

Join members of the New Bedford Police Dept. for a cup of coffee and a chat on October 20 as part of the "Coffee with a Cop" movement taking place in October across the country.

"A cup of coffee is a common bond," says Chief Joseph Cordeiro. "Now more than ever we want to connect with members of our community to listen to what matters most to them and continue developing our relationship with the community." The events are part of our community policing philosophy, he added.

The following schedule indicates when and where Officers will be available. "There will be no speeches or specific topics," said Cordeiro. "We just want to take a few minutes for

informal conversations. Please stop by if you're in the neighborhood or passing by." Social distancing will be practiced throughout the event.



Please contact Melissa Batchilder at (508) 991-6300 Ext. 79428 for further information.

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## **Faith in humanity restored in New Bedford by simple, honest act by police officer**

In a day and age of social media when people seem to value how thuggish, mean, and insulting behavior, all it takes is a simple act to stand out. One man was having breakfast with his daughter before hopping on to the Sea Streak Ferry to spend the day in Martha's Vineyard. What could have turned into a really crappy way to start the day, was changed into something positive by a police officer.

"Here's a feel-good story for you !!!!! PLEASE READ !! AND PLEASE SHARE !!

I usually go to the Symposium Restaurant for breakfast once the Seastreak Fast Ferry has departed for Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket. Today was no different except that my daughter Catherine joined me.

After I sat down, a man walks in holding a bunch of cash that was blowing around the parking lot and next to my car. So I checked my pockets and realized they were empty. I then went outside and found my license, credit card, etc next to my car



as it apparently fell out of my pocket unbeknownst to me.

It was my bank from my store in the Seastreak Fast Ferry.....\$ 217.00 to be exact.

I would like to PUBLICLY THANK FALL RIVER POLICE OFFICER DAVID ST. LAURENT who along with his daughter handed me my cash.

Thank you Officer for your HONESTY and INTEGRITY which nowadays, we can never have too much of. And yes, a Box of Mad Good Cookies is going out to him and his daughter on Monday as a thank you.

My faith in humanity has been restored!!"-Jon Piwowarczyk.

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*Have a positive story you want to share? Something that restored your faith in humanity? Email [info@newbedfordguide.com](mailto:info@newbedfordguide.com) and we'll share.*

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## **Route 140 exits between Taunton and New Bedford to be renumbered starting tonight**

If we are a fan of Saturday Night Live's skit "Toll Booth Willie" featuring Adam Sandler you know all too well what it's like giving people directions to get places. Eastern Massachusetts is one of the oldest parts of the country and we have roads cutting through streets cutting through highways passing through toll booths weaving among each other like tangled computer wires.

So, it comes as no surprise that some people don't want their streets and highways, especially the exit numbers, tampered with.

"Maybe it's a New England thing, and Massachusetts in particular, we don't like change. People get pretty attached to their exit numbers and don't want to see it changed," said MassDOT Highway Administrator Jonathan Gulliver.

There has been ample warning by MassDOT starting almost a year ago with regular reminders. Massachusetts is one of the last states to abide by the federal government's requirement to convert sequential exit numbers to a mileage-based system and it can't wait any longer.

Route 140 exits between Taunton and New Bedford to be renumbered starting Sunday night and continue overnights between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m. Since the first seven exits going north out of New Bedford already correspond with the mileage markers they obviously won't be changing. The signs indicating the old exit numbers will stay in place for two years giving everyone time to adjust.

When this is completed the next piece of highway to be changed will be Interstate 195.

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## **New Bedford woman seeks Good Samaritan who helped save mom after stroke while driving**

"An open letter to the person who called 911. (Skip this post if you don't want to read a sappy letter and/or be a little

sad). Please feel free to share this so I can hopefully find the person who helped my mom.

To the person who called 911 on October 7, 2020,

I'm sure when you woke up in the morning on Wednesday you did not expect to have to call emergency services for a complete stranger. You did not expect to be a hero and save someone's life. Most people would have driven on by, but instead, you listened to your heart and you stopped to help my mom. In the time of COVID, where everyone is scared, you stopped to help a complete stranger. Despite not knowing what was happening, what was wrong, or what she may or may not have had, you did the right thing, when many people would not have. By calling 911 when she rolled into the intersection of Purchase Street (I believe) & Sawyer Street in New Bedford, you saved her.

Due to your immediate decision to help, you saved my moms life. You allowed the emergency medical team to help her within 45 minutes of the stroke. Because of your fast acting, and your compassion and kindness, my mom got the help she needed as soon as she possibly could. She did not have to wait, alone and unconscious in her car. She got the help she needed right away. We think the stroke happened between 1:45 and 2:00 in the afternoon on Wednesday, and by 2:30, she was on her way to the emergency room, if she hadn't already arrived, because of you.

My mom, of course, still has a long way to go. We don't know what the future holds, and we don't know what tomorrow will bring, but because of you, she has a tomorrow. Because of you, she has the chance to fight. Because of you, I can still tell my mom I love her and hold her hand. I wish I knew who you were so that I could thank you properly. I thank God every day for you. I pray that God blesses you abundantly. My mom, if she could, would say that God put you on earth for a reason, and that you were her angel that day. She would say that her guardian angels put you in her path.

I've been wanting to write this letter for a while, but I couldn't find the right words to say. I've realized that there are no right words to say, just the ones that are on my heart. So to keep it simple, thank you. You are an angel on earth. You are a hero, and you deserve all the good things that this world has to offer.

Sincerely,

A grateful daughter.

samantha\_cusson@yahoo.com" -Samantha Valles.

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## **Massachusetts State Police arrest three for trafficking; seize Fentanyl, cocaine, knife and firearm**

On Thursday October 15th a Trooper working out of the Shelburne Falls Barracks was monitoring traffic on Route 91 in the City of Greenfield. At around 8:10 p.m. he observed a gray Toyota SUV pass his location. A registry query of the license plate revealed the registration on the New York plate to be expired. The Trooper caught up to the Toyota and clocked it traveling at 84 MPH in a posted 65 MPH zone.

The Trooper stopped the Toyota which had three occupants. The rear passenger, JOANNE MITCHELL, 29, of ST Johnsbury VT, was not wearing a seat belt. The Trooper informed the operator, LANCE HARPER, 28, of New York NY, of the reason for the stop. The operator gave his license and the registration which confirmed it was expired. The Trooper requested a tow for the vehicle. Another Trooper arrived as back up and the occupants

were removed and the vehicle inventoried.

The inventory revealed a scale with white powder consistent with cocaine on it. Further investigation located 193 grams of cocaine, 180 wax bags containing suspected Fentanyl, a knife with white powder and a .45 caliber Glock model 30 with nine live cartridges.

HARPER, MITCHELL and the front passenger, JERMAINE TAYLOR, 48, of Brooklyn NY were all placed under arrest.

**All three were charged with:**

1. Trafficking in cocaine;
2. Drug, Possess to distribute Class A;
3. Conspiracy to violate drug law;
4. Carrying a loaded firearm;
5. Possessing a firearm in the commission of a felony;
6. Improper storage of a firearm;
7. Possession/carrying a firearm;
8. Possession of a firearm without an FID card;
9. Possession of ammunition without an FID card

**HARPER was also charged with:**

1. Convicted Felon in possession of a firearm;
2. Unregistered vehicle;
3. Speeding

**TAYLOR was also charged with:**

1. Convicted Felon in possession of a firearm;
2. Tampering with evidence

**MITCHELL was also charged with:**

1. Arrestee furnishing false name;
2. Failure to wear seat belt

Bail was set at \$50,000 each. All three were transferred to

the Franklin County House of Correction.

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# Governor Baker “may take a pass” on voting for President

Colin A. Young

State House News Service

For the second election in a row, the state’s top elected Republican might not even cast a vote for president of the United States. Gov. Charlie Baker, who did not vote in the 2016 contest between Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton, said Wednesday that he “may take a pass on that one as well” when asked whom he supports in the Nov. 3 contest between President Trump and Democrat Joe Biden.

A Baker aide later claimed that the governor meant that he “may take a pass” on answering the reporter’s question about whom he supports for president. When asked Wednesday if he might not vote for president at all this year, Baker said, “We’ll see.”

The governor, who lives in Swampscott and has a polling place across the street from his house, said he had not decided whether he will vote in person on election day, in person during the early voting period, or by mail. Baker did not support Trump during the 2016 Republican primary, did not support him as the GOP’s presidential nominee, and said in 2016 that he did not cast a vote for president. Baker had endorsed then-Gov. Chris Christie just ahead of the 2016 New Hampshire primary and campaigned in the Granite State for his fellow governor, but has not waded into presidential politics with an endorsement since. “I don’t ever want to be in a

position where people say you didn't have a position on something of significance and importance," he said at the time.

Earlier this year, reminded of his 2016 comment after declining to say how he voted in the Republican presidential primary other than saying he did not vote for Trump, Baker said nothing had changed. The governor seldom weighs in on the president but recently got a bit animated as he rebuffed Trump's refusal to commit to a peaceful transition of power if he loses the Nov. 3 election and defended mail-in voting. That triggered Trump to tweet about Baker, calling him a "RINO Governor" and saying about Baker's defense of vote-by-mail, "Wrong Charlie!"