

Southern New England Brotherhood Ride departs in honor of fallen first responder

From Thursday, August 6th through Sunday, August 9th, 2020, the Southern New England Brotherhood Ride will conduct a 4-day 200-mile bicycle ride through over 50 communities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island to honor 12 first responders who paid the ultimate sacrifice to the communities in which they served and protected. This year's ride will begin in Rochester, MA, and will travel through several communities before completing our mission. Due to the current state of the pandemic, we were unsure how to make the ride possible as we were unable to secure overnight accommodations. To honor and ride in the memory of the 12 heroes that paid the ultimate sacrifice in 2019 we have decided to make day trips. Each day we will be starting at different locations throughout Massachusetts and Rhode Island to honor the 12 heroes and show the support to the families, departments, and communities of the loved ones lost that they will NEVER be forgotten.

The Brotherhood Ride takes place one year after the death of a first responder in MA, RI, or CT to show the communities where they served, their department, and their family that their acts of bravery will never be forgotten. SNEBHR is a nonprofit organization established in 2018 as a chapter of the Brotherhood Ride of Florida. We are a team of active and retired firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical technicians who ride bicycles to honor the memories of fallen first responders who suffered a line of duty death from the previous year. The SNEBR is entirely made up of volunteers. No one collects a paycheck or compensation for their time. Everyone who participates does so on either their

own personal time or vacation time. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and all donations are tax-deductible. Other than the cost of the ride itself, all of the proceeds and monies raised, from fundraising and donations will go directly back to the families of the fallen.

It is not a race, it is not a competition, we do not ride for us, we ride to remember our fallen heroes, our brothers and sisters, we ride in their memory and to let their families know that we truly will “never forget” they paid the ultimate sacrifice.

“So stand down my brother, you have completed your shift. Let our legs carry your memory and remind all who will listen that you gave your life to save a total stranger”.

– Jeff Morse Founder Brotherhood Ride Florida

Honorees who we are riding in honor of this year:



You can also or visit our website at <https://www.snebrotherhoodride.com/> or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/snebhr/> for more information about our organization, our mission, and our Ride. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to email us at snebhr@gmail.com.

34-year-old Brockton man, an alleged hate crime assault

suspect found dangerous; held without bail

A 34-year-old Brockton man who allegedly entered onto a Taunton couple's property and violently assaulted one of them in what is alleged to be a hate crime was found dangerous by a Taunton District Court judge today and ordered held without bail for up to 120 days.

Michael Cates was arraigned last week on charges of assault and battery-causing serious bodily injury and assault and battery to intimidate (based on sexual orientation).

On June 29th the male victim was interviewed by a Taunton Police Officer after he reported being assaulted on his property. During the interview, the victim explained that he and his husband were outside their Taunton home, when the suspect drove by his house in an SUV. The suspect stopped his SUV, exited the vehicle and angrily entered onto the victim's property. The suspect then, according to the victim, yelled a homosexual slur, and punched the victim twice in the face, causing him to lose two teeth. The suspect then retreated back to his vehicle and drove off. The suspect and the victim are apparently unknown to one another.

An independent witness and the victim's husband both witnessed the assault occur.

The home had a gay pride flag flying and a rainbow sticker on its mailbox.

An initial investigation conducted by Taunton Police eventually led to the defendant as the chief suspect. After numerous interviews were conducted and surveillance footage was reviewed, Taunton Police officially filed charges against the defendant on July 23rd, and summonsed him into court for last week's arraignment.

The case is being prosecuted today by Assistant District Attorney Bryan Thompson.

“I am very pleased the defendant was held without bail as a danger to the victim and the community, which he clearly is. This is outrageous and malicious conduct. Targeting someone because of their sexual orientation, and violently assaulting them, will not be tolerated,” District Attorney Quinn said,

Although charges have been filed in Taunton District Court, this case remains under investigation by prosecutors from the district attorney’s office and Taunton Police Department officials. Investigators are in contact with Taunton Mayor Shaunna O’Connell’s office regarding the ongoing investigation.

“I was glad to hear this defendant was found dangerous and will not be out on the streets. My office is closely monitoring this matter and our Taunton Police Department is continuing to work closely with District Attorney Quinn’s office on this ongoing investigation. The allegations in this case are disturbing, and do not represent the values of the residents of this great city,” Mayor O’Connell said.

After 31 years, owners of New Bedford iconic G&S Pizza retire

“31 years we embarked on an adventure. We had a dream and brought it to reality with hard work. We are so grateful for everyone we met along the way.

To our loyal customers, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts! You have all become our friends and family over the years. We are forever grateful for each and every one of you.

To our staff, your hard work and loyalty does not go unnoticed. Thank you for sticking with us and becoming part of our G&S family. We appreciate every single one of you. We couldn't have done it without you.

This is a very bittersweet moment for us, but the time has come for us to retire. We will miss seeing everyone every day. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve you over the past 31 years. We hope G&S brings the new owners as much joy and success it has brought to us.

Thank you,
Arthur and Fay."



Three Saugus police officers stabbed attempting to detain stolen vehicle suspect

Saugus Police Chief Michael Ricciardelli reports that three Saugus police officers were stabbed this morning when investigating a report of a stolen motor vehicle.

Police responded to a residence on Tuttle Street on Thursday at approximately 7:20 a.m. to investigate a report of a stolen U-Haul rental vehicle that had not been returned.

43-year old Steven Sossong of Saugus is being charged with:

- Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon, Four Counts
- Assault and Battery on a Police Officer, Four Counts
- The investigation remains ongoing and additional charges may be forthcoming.

Sossong declined to exit the residence upon police arrival. Police made entry into the home following an initial investigation, and an altercation ensued with Sossong.

Three Saugus Police Officers were stabbed by a sharp weapon upon entry, all sustaining what are believed to be non-life-threatening injuries.

All three were taken by ambulance to area hospitals, and additional Saugus Police and mutual aid partners responded to the scene. A fourth officer was also evaluated by EMS and transported to a local hospital as a precaution, but his injuries were not believed to be serious.

The injured officers were able to disarm SOSSONG and place him into custody as other officers arrived. SOSSONG was transported to an area hospital for evaluation.

Police have blocked off Tuttle Street as they continue to investigate. The incident remains under investigation by Saugus Police. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

Melrose, Wakefield and State Police responded to the scene to provide support.

These are allegations. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty.

Massachusetts State Police arrest Vermont man for illegal firearm

Just after midnight, Trooper Robert Berrena assigned to the Troop B Community Action Team was on patrol in Northampton when he observed a Toyota Corolla with a Vermont registration commit motor violations.

Trooper Berrena activated his cruiser emergency lights and stopped the Corolla in the parking lot of the Speedway Gas Station. The vehicle contained two occupants. The operator was identified as TRISTIAN GALLAGHER, 22 of Lyndonville, Vt.

As a result of an investigation and search of the vehicle, a black Taurus "Curve" handgun with five .380 caliber rounds of ammunition plus an additional magazine were located. GALLAGHER was placed under arrest and transported to the Northampton Barracks where a bail commissioner set bail at \$1000.00. GALLAGHER was held until his arraignment today in Northampton District Court on the following charges:

- 1) Possession/Carrying a Firearm;
 - 2) Possession of a Firearm/No LTC;
 - 3) Possession of Ammunition/No FID or LTC; and
 - 4) Carrying a Loaded Firearm.
-

New Bedford roadwork sites for the upcoming week of August 10, 2020 –August 14, 2020

The City of New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of August 10, 2020 –August 14, 2020 and they are as follows:

Eversource:

Eversource will replace the gas mains and service at the following locations:

- Kings Hwy. – Tarkiln Hill Rd. to Mt. Pleasant St. (Main)
- Cottage St. From Parker St. – Sycamore St. (Main)
- Clifford St. from Ashley Blvd. to Acushnet Ave. (Services)
- Davis St. from Riverside Ave. to 389 Davis St. (Services)
- Hatch St. from Acushnet Ave. to Belleville Ave. (Services)
- Summer St. from Studley St. to Locust St. (Main)
- Pleasant St. from 899 Pleasant St. to Hillman St. to Purchase St. (Main)

Eversource will be doing final street and sidewalk restoration at various locations city wide

Other:

- Contractor (PA Landers) to continue drainage work at Mass DOT Project #606709, New Bedford – Roadway Reconstruction and Related Work (including signals) along a section of Kings Highway and Tarkiln Hill Road. Construction to take place during regular working hours (Monday – Friday), police details and traffic controls will be in place.
- SRPEDD will be performing traffic counts at Hawthorn St. at County St. and Howland Rd. at New Bedford line.
- Department of Public Infrastructure will be filling potholes on a continuous basis throughout the city.
- Department of Public Infrastructure conducting its annual street sweeping program city-wide.
- Department of Public Infrastructure will soon start Sunday hydrant flushing. Flushing will be conducted on August 2nd, 9th and 16th at the following locations between 8 AM and 4 PM:
 - Industrial Park along Braley Rd., Church St., Phillips Rd., Duchaine Blvd., Samuel Barnet Blvd. and John Vertente Blvd.
 - The Fish Houses along Coggeshall St., North Front St., Herman Melville Blvd. and MacArthur Dr. from Front St. to Cove St.
 - Pier 2, Pier 4 and the State Pier
 - Downtown between Maxfield St. and Walnut St. and from County St. to the Waterfront.
- Contractor (P Gioioso and Son) is scheduled to continue with the replacement of the Nelson St. Water Main between Crapo St. and County St. During working hours, Nelson St. may be closed to thru traffic with access by local traffic only. Traffic will be directed to either Jouvette St. or Scott St. Detour signage, police details and traffic controls will be in place. There will be a lane restriction at the Crapo St. intersection on Tuesday and the County St. intersection on Thursday to complete connections between the existing and new water mains.
- The contractor (WES Construction) is scheduled to continue construction of the new pumping station and demolishing the old station at the Front St./ Elm St. site. Elm St., between JFK Memorial Highway (RTE 18) and MacArthur Dr. will be closed

to westbound traffic. Westbound traffic will be detoured via MacArthur Drive. There will be detour signage and traffic controls in place.

- The contractor (Bay State Wind Water) will be replacing municipal interconnecting water meters along Lloyd St. and Nye Ln. There may be some traffic controls for short periods during the week. The contractor will also be replacing water meters at various NBHA locations.

- Due to ongoing construction at the High Hill Reservoir residents may experience discolored water. The water is safe, and the discoloration will be temporary. We recommend allowing the water to settle for a few hours and then flushing your service line by letting the bathtub run for a few minutes until the water clears.

*** Please note: Contractors will continue to follow guidelines and protocol regarding COVID-19 social distancing while conducting work in construction zone.*

Due to the current COVID-19 situation the Department of Public Infrastructure will be closed to the public entry. Office staff is available to assist by email and telephone.

Man released by judge after firearms conviction connected to ongoing New Bedford homicide case

A 24-year-old New Bedford gang member arrested in connection to the ongoing investigation into the July 17th fatal shooting of Keven Rocha on Margin Street in New Bedford was found

dangerous and ordered held without bail by a New Bedford District Court judge last Friday, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced..

Bruno Lopes is charged with Armed Assault in Dwelling, Carrying Firearm without a License, Carrying a Loaded Firearm without a License, Attempted Assault and Battery with a Firearm, Malicious Destruction of Property Over \$1200 and Discharging Firearm Within 500 Feet of a Building.

During the district court dangerousness hearing, Assistant District Attorney Matthew Sylvia entered the following allegations into the record:

On the evening of the homicide, the defendant and Mr. Rocha were seen on surveillance video leaving Monte's Park together and arriving on Margin Street in New Bedford. The defendant and Mr. Rocha entered the home, at which point it is alleged that Mr. Rocha pointed a gun at the occupants inside with the intent to rob. A struggle ensued, and Rocha is apparently shot and killed with his own gun.

After initially fleeing the home on foot, the defendant is then seen on surveillance video coming back to the home about ten minutes later with another gun. The defendant is accused of shooting at the home from outside at least seven times. The gun allegedly used by the defendant to shoot into the home was located by police on the defendant's path of travel after the shooting.

At the time of this incident, the defendant was free due to a Superior Court Judge's September 2019 ruling to set aside a jury's guilty verdict connected to a May 2018 shooting. In that case, the defendant was convicted by a jury of his peers after a four-day trial in Fall River Superior Court on indictments charging him with Carrying an Illegal Firearm and Attempted Assault and Battery by Discharge of a Firearm.

On June 20, 2019, Judge Gregg Pasquale sentenced the defendant

to serve the maximum two-and-a-half year jail sentence for the carrying of an illegal firearm charge. He was then sentenced to a second two-and-a-half year jail sentence, with one year to serve and the balance suspended for three years, on the attempted assault and battery by discharge of a firearm charge.

However, on September 30, 2019, Judge Pasquale allowed the defendant's motion to set aside both jury verdicts based on their contention that the defendant could not be identified as the shooter on surveillance video. The judge then entered not guilty findings on both indictments and ordered the defendant released from custody. The judge's decision is currently under appeal by this office.

New Bedford Police, Massachusetts State Police detectives assigned to the district attorney's office and Homicide Unit prosecutors continue to actively investigate the fatal shooting which occurred between 4:00-5:00 am on July 17.□

New Bedford Police responded to 17 Margin Street early that morning and discovered Mr. Rocha had been fatally shot inside of the multi-family building.

Ricardo Velez-Gonzalez□, 33, of New Bedford was arrested July 21 and charged with Manslaughter in connection to the death of Mr. Rocha. He is currently being held without bail after being found dangerous by a New Bedford District Court judge in late July.

"This defendant clearly should be held as a danger to the community for his outrageous conduct of opening fire on an occupied building. He showed an utter disregard for the lives and safety for anyone in and around the building. He simply should not be out on the street. On May 24, 2019 he was convicted by a Bristol county jury of illegally possessing a firearm and firing into an occupied automobile. However, several months later in an extremely rare action, the trial

judge, Gregg Pasquale, vacated the jury verdict and entered a finding of not guilty. He put the defendant back on the street and we have appealed that decision. In addition, the defendant was arrested in the City of Providence, Rhode Island on June 2, 2020 during a public disturbance,” District Attorney Quinn said.

Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife staff joined with other fire professionals to battle stubborn 60 acre wildfire in Leverett

Over a month after the first report of a wildfire on Joshua Hill a few lingering smokes (hot spots) remain but the fire is completely contained. Joshua Hill is partially within MassWildlife’s Mount Toby Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and adjacent private lands in Leverett. At its peak, over 100 firefighters from local fire departments and state agencies were involved in battling the fire.

The fire was successfully contained within a 60-acre perimeter, but environmental and physical conditions have made it difficult to completely extinguish the fire. Officials are requesting that the public refrain from visiting the Joshua Hill area at this time. Though an investigation is ongoing, lightning is the suspected cause of the fire.

The Joshua Hill fire was first reported on June 25, 2020. The extent of the fire and difficult terrain severely limited access for conventional firefighting equipment and therefore required a coordinated response from surrounding communities and state agencies. Leverett Fire Department and the Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) District 9 Bureau of Forest Fire Control initiated a unified response under the direction of the Leverett Fire Chief.



Additional firefighters, equipment, and other resources were provided by at least a dozen neighboring fire departments. In addition, other DCR firefighters, the MassWildlife wildland fire crew, the Franklin County Hand Crew, and State Police Air Wing Division were deployed on the fire line and in the air. The community generously donated drinks, food, and supplies, and the State Highway Patrol managed increased local traffic on smoky roadways.

Firefighters faced a number of challenges while working to contain the fire—steep, rocky, forested terrain containing areas of dead and dying hemlocks, dry leaf litter, deep layers of duff, and hot and droughty conditions, as well as the remote location of a relatively large fire. To keep the wildfire contained, a fire line three feet wide and almost two miles in circumference was established; an effort involving considerable mechanical and physical labor.

A bulldozer donated by Wagner Wood of Amherst scraped off green undergrowth and layers of duff to expose bare, mineral soils to halt the fire's progress in lower elevations. In steeper terrain, firefighters cleared and dug the fire line trench by hand. Meanwhile, a State Police Helicopter strategically dropped water on the flames.

"At first, the fire was difficult to control due to the extremely dry fuels and the rugged terrain," said Phil Gilmore, DCR District 9 Fire Warden. "But qualified personnel from throughout the area came together quickly to secure a safe handline around the perimeter to prevent the fire's spread. We're thankful for their tremendous support."

Even after the flames were extinguished, fire continued to smolder belowground in dry root systems and duff for over three weeks. Fire crews will continue to monitor the site until heavy rains extinguish the fire. "Special thanks to our MassWildlife crew and the many professional firefighters who worked tirelessly over the last few weeks," said Caren Caljouw, MassWildlife's Prescribed Fire Program Manager. "Our staff gained valuable experience and skills which will increase our effectiveness and abilities in future prescribed burns and other wildland fire events."

MassWildlife staff are reporting positive observations of this wildfire on forest vegetation and wildlife habitat. Three weeks after the fire, monitoring crews have already seen oak trees greening up with re-sprouting leaves along with ferns,

grasses, and herbs emerging from the ashes and bare ground. The area will be monitored over time and can provide valuable information regarding the vegetation response to this wildfire.

Wareham's risk level for EEE raised to "high"


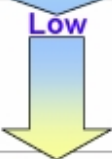
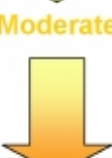


Yesterday the Massachusetts Department of Public Health announced that they have elevated the risk level for Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) in Wareham from moderate to high. In total, the agency found 10 new mosquito samples that tested positive for the virus in Wareham and Carver, another town that is also at "high" risk.

The "high" status means that those who live in a community with the elevated status are asked to severely limit their time outdoors during peak feeding hours, from dusk to dawn.

For Bristol County Raynham and Taunton are the only towns or cities that have an elevated status and are considered at "moderate" risk.

Currently, there is one confirmed human case of EEE in Massachusetts.

EEE virus is a rare cause of brain infections (encephalitis) typically spread to humans via a mosquito bite. Approximately 30% of people with EEE die and many survivors have ongoing neurologic problems.

Key to Color Coding on EEE Risk Map		
Risk	What it Means	What You Can Do
Remote 	EEE is not usually found in your area	TO Prepare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know your risk – check regularly at www.mass.gov/dph/wmv Repair screens
Low 	EEE may occur in your area	TO Prevent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear mosquito repellent between dusk to dawn Wear long sleeves and long pants from dusk to dawn Use mosquito netting on baby carriages and playpens
Moderate 	EEE occurred in your area within the last year AND/OR there is EEE in mosquitoes in your area now	TO Prevent – add this <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear mosquito repellent when outdoors, especially between dusk and dawn Avoid outside areas with obvious mosquito activity
High 	Conditions likely to lead to infection of a person with EEE are occurring in your area	TO Prevent – add this <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjust outdoor activity to avoid peak mosquito hours (from dusk to dawn) Avoid overnight camping, particularly near freshwater swamps where EEE activity is most likely
Critical 	Excessive risk from EEE virus exists, a person with EEE infection has been identified in your area	TO Prevent – add this <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cancel or reschedule outdoor gatherings, organized sporting events, etc. to avoid peak mosquito hours (dusk to dawn)

Boston police offers paid \$5.8 million in overtime tied to protests

Chris Van Buskirk
State House News Service

The City of Boston delivered nearly \$5.8 million in overtime pay to police in connection with shifts associated with the wave of protests in May, June, and July where thousands gathered to object to police brutality and systemic racism, the News Service has learned.

The outlays, obtained in response to a public records request,

show OT spiked in June when officers were paid \$5.3 million for a total of 82,054 overtime hours worked. The month featured several large gatherings outside the State House and protests in Nubian Square and Franklin Park.

“There is a tremendous irony here ... which is that protests against too much and too racist policing have been turned into a huge revenue opportunity for police in Boston and elsewhere,” said Boston University political science professor Spencer Piston.

The spending covers pay for additional, extended, or replacement shifts to monitor demonstrations over the three months. The \$5.8 million is roughly 9.5 percent of the \$60.8 million appropriated for paying overtime hours in fiscal 2020 and represents a total of 88,893 overtime hours worked over the three-month period.

Police spending has drawn significant scrutiny over the past several months and some advocates have called on the city to reallocate funding from the police to other city programs. Mayor Martin Walsh responded in early June by declaring racism a public health crisis and announcing a plan to move \$12 million in police overtime spending to other programs like housing security and violence prevention.

“What is at the heart of this is people in communities of color, particularly Black communities that have been over-policed, violently policed and policed in discriminatory ways, demanding justice,” said Rahsaan Hall, ACLU of Massachusetts Racial Justice Program director. “And one of the greatest indicators of a society is where it spends its money. And if people in communities are demanding justice, and our budget shows that we are spending more money in policing those demands for justice, that we’re headed in the wrong direction.”

Overtime spending on police in Boston, which has regularly

hosted large events, has become commonplace.

DESCRIPTION	DESCRIPTIONS	MONTH	OVERTIME HOURS	OVERTIME COST
PROTEST RESPONSE	ADDITIONAL TOUR / CALL OUT	May	4,033.25	\$ 282,063.11
		Jun	60,867.75	\$ 3,893,265.85
		Jul	851.50	\$ 54,343.41
	ADDITIONAL TOUR / CALL OUT Total		65,752.50	\$ 4,229,672.37
	EXTENDED TOURS	May	1,668.50	\$ 108,396.15
		Jun	20,288.50	\$ 1,382,900.59
		Jul	270.50	\$ 17,462.37
	EXTENDED TOURS Total		22,227.50	\$ 1,508,759.11
	REPLACEMENT PERSONNEL	May	15.50	\$ 1,170.56
		Jun	897.75	\$ 55,916.17
	REPLACEMENT PERSONNEL Total		913.25	\$ 57,086.73
PROTEST RESPONSE Total			88,893.25	\$ 5,795,518.21

Boston police overtime pay for protest response in May, June, and July 2020 totaled close to \$5.8 million. [Source: BPD]

Boston police operating needs for fiscal 2019 ran just over \$400 million with overtime hours costing nearly \$70 million, according to city records. From fiscal 2017 to fiscal 2019, OT spending within the department has grown by almost \$10 million. The department spent \$54 million on overtime through March of fiscal 2020.

Police officials previously said the department works to backfill at least 94 positions a day to meet mandatory minimum staff levels, according to a Boston Globe report.

Since the 2013 Boston Marathon bombings, the department has deployed more police to large events, Sgt. Det. John Boyle, a spokesman for the BPD, said Tuesday.

“There’s more special events and at these special events they are required to have more officers,” he said.

In recent years, the department spends more on overtime than it is appropriated for that purpose, although many factors

could contribute to the increased expenditures. For example, in fiscal 2017, the city appropriated \$55.6 million for overtime costs and the department spent \$60.3 million.

Under the collective bargaining agreement between the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association and the city, if an officer is called back to their unit after already leaving for the day then they are guaranteed a minimum of four hours of overtime recall pay. As it relates to protest response for the three months, the city of Boston paid \$4.2 million for additional call-outs or tours.

"We know that the estimates that the Boston Police Department makes for what it will spend on overtime are meaningless because the collective bargaining agreement requires them to pay officers," Hall said. "Then there are kind of departmental staffing levels that they bind themselves to, that require them to pay overtime to people so that they can have the appropriate staffing levels."

Countless protests occurred across the state and in Boston shortly after the death of George Floyd, a Black man who died at the knee of a Minneapolis police officer. Demonstrators often chanted "Black lives matter" and "I can't breathe," a reference to Floyd's final words, as they walked through city streets.

A peaceful protest on May 31 ended in the dusk hours and gave way to violence in downtown Boston that carried on into the early morning hours of June 1.

The city spent \$391,629 in May for 5,717 overtime hours worked staffing protests although it is unclear how much of that was associated with the May 31 protest. Overtime pay tied to protests totaled \$71,806 in July, with 1,122 overtime hours worked.