

UPDATE: Westport's Horseneck Road homicide investigation

An autopsy was conducted on 27-year-old Jose Cortez Cornejo of New Bedford, the deceased male who was located in the area of 180 Horseneck Road in the early morning hours of July 14th, by the Massachusetts Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

The preliminary autopsy finding indicates that Cortez Cornejo died of apparent gunshot wounds. Dartmouth Police, Massachusetts State Police detectives assigned to the district attorney's office and Homicide Unit prosecutors continue to actively investigate this homicide, no further information can be disseminated at this time.

Previous press release:

UPDATE: 5:30 PM-

The Bristol County District Attorney's Office has identified the deceased male located in the area of 180 Horseneck Road earlier this morning as 27 year old Jose Cortez Cornejo of New Bedford. As the investigation remains active and ongoing, no further information can be disseminated at this time.

Dartmouth Police, Massachusetts State Police detectives assigned to the district attorney's office and Homicide Unit prosecutors are actively investigating an apparent homicide which occurred in Dartmouth sometime late last night or early this morning.□

At 5:10 a.m. today, Dartmouth Police received a 911 call from a motorist, who reported seeing a male collapsed on the side of the road in the area of 180 Horseneck Road. When police and paramedics arrived on scene, they located the male and determined him to be deceased.

The victim is an unidentified male and based upon evidence gathered during the preliminary investigation, it is believed he is the victim of a homicide.

The state Medical Examiner's Office will take custody of the body to perform an autopsy in the coming days.

As the investigation remains active and ongoing, no further information can be disseminated at this time. Once the victim's next of kin is located and notified of his death, this office will be able to publicly identify him through a follow up media release.

If anyone has any information regarding this case or may have been in the area of 180 Horseneck Road between 11 pm and 5 am, they are urged to contact Dartmouth Police or take advantage of the district attorney's anonymous text a tip program.

The first way to submit an anonymous tip is via our text-a-tip program. To anonymously text a tip to us, text the word "Bristol" to the phone number CRIMES (274637). Then just text us your tip. You can also submit a web-based anonymous tip by going to Submit a Web Tip. These tip programs are completely anonymous and your personal information will never be seen by our investigators or anyone else.

Boston Police mourn passing of K9 "Rocky"

The Boston Police Department regrets to announce the passing of active duty K-9 Rocky following a brief illness.

Rocky was seven years old at the time of his passing and had

served the City of Boston over his six-year career as a dual purpose Patrol and Explosive Detection K9. His handler and partner noted that Rocky was a great dog who enjoyed working and will be dearly missed. Our thoughts go out to this officer during this difficult time.



New Bedford Man charged with

Fentanyl Trafficking found to be a Danger

A 50-year-old New Bedford man with a lengthy criminal record who was arrested by New Bedford Police late last month on Fentanyl Trafficking charges was found dangerous by a district court judge last week, and ordered held without bail for up to 120 days, Bristol County District Attorney Thomas M. Quinn III announced.

Eddie Torres was the subject of a July 7th dangerousness hearing in New Bedford District Court after being arrested June 30th on charges of Trafficking Fentanyl, Distribution of a Class B Drug, Conspiracy to Violate the Drug Laws, Distribution of a Class B Drug—Subsequent Offense and Distribution of a Class A Drug—Subsequent Offense.

On June 30th at approximately 5:20 PM, undercover officers observed the defendant operating a gray Volkswagen in the parking lot of Burger King on Cove Road. Officers then observed the vehicle enter the Dunkin Donuts parking lot where it was met by another vehicle. A male from the other vehicle approached the window of the defendant's vehicle and gave an item to the defendant. Officers subsequently stopped the defendant's vehicle. As officers approached, the defendant shouted "f*ck this" and placed his vehicle in reverse, attempting to flee. Officers were able stop the vehicle by grabbing the gear shift and the defendant was taken into custody. Officers found a bag of fentanyl weighing 3.3 grams by the driver's seat door and a digital scale on the driver's seat. Officers then found a plastic bag of fentanyl by the driver's side rear tire, weighing 13.1 grams, and a bag of cocaine weighing 14.3 grams under the vehicle. Officers also retrieved \$1,880.00 cash from the defendant's front right pocket.

The dangerousness hearing was prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Robert Fread and the dangerousness finding was issued by Judge Joseph Harrington.

“I am very pleased the court held the defendant without bail as a danger to the community. The defendant has a history of violence and has served significant prison sentences for manslaughter and attempted murder. At the age of 50, he continues to commit serious crimes. He just doesn’t get it, and belongs off the street to protect the public,” District Attorney Quinn said.

Mayor Jon Mitchell presents New Bedford Fiscal Year 2021 budget proposal

Mayor Jon Mitchell presented his Fiscal Year 2021 City Budget before the New Bedford City Council on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, via virtual meeting due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

In his accompanying letter to the Council presenting the \$365 million general fund budget, Mayor Mitchell wrote:

“The situation facing New Bedford is unlike anything we have experienced before. Ordinarily, my proposed budget comes to you in May for the City Council’s consideration and adoption before the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1. The arrival of a worldwide pandemic, however, has resulted in widespread illness and death, and has plunged the United States into a severe recession.

“New Bedford has responded skillfully to this crisis. Given our city’s older-than-average population, the pervasiveness of underlying health conditions, and our industrial workforce, we have managed to navigate the first wave of the pandemic better than anyone could have predicted. I am grateful for the City Council’s active support over the last several months and for standing behind the City’s residents, who have responsibly and admirably adjusted their daily lives.

“Nevertheless, the COVID-19 pandemic has inflicted tremendous loss and hardship here. Over one hundred New Bedford residents have died from the virus, more than 2,000 have tested positive, and hundreds of our residents have fallen ill. As of May 2020, the City’s unemployment rate stood at 23.9%, up from about 5% before the onset of the pandemic, the volume of home sales was down by 11.9% in comparison with 2019, and local revenue had declined substantially. Behind these numbers are our fellow residents who have suffered the loss of jobs or even family members. There is also considerable uncertainty about the future. While the city has begun cautious movement toward allowing businesses and other activities to reopen, the pandemic rages elsewhere and it will assuredly affect our daily lives in the years to come.”

Major Uncertainties in FY 2021 Demand a Conservative Approach and Proactive Steps

Mayor Mitchell noted that New Bedford weathered the last quarter of Fiscal Year 2020 despite the precipitous declines in revenue, helped in part by the City’s conservative approach to budgeting and proactive steps including the freeze on hiring and discretionary expenses imposed at the start of the pandemic. However, Mayor Mitchell noticed that there is considerable uncertainty that has made development of the proposed budget especially difficult, and that the budget could be adjusted if the updated state budget, when produced, differs substantially from the estimates in the proposed budget.

He outlined several major uncertainties.

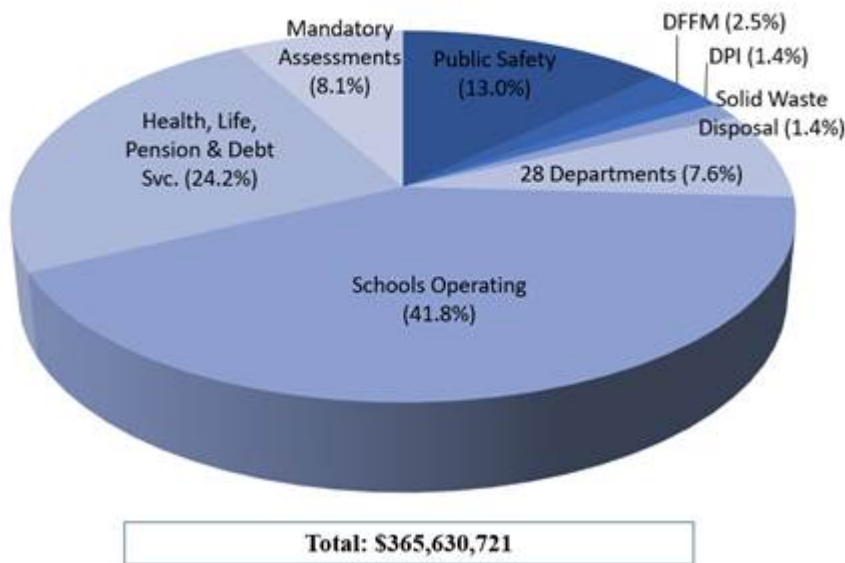
State Aid: State aid constitutes more than 50% of general fund revenue, and the Commonwealth has not provided updated guidance regarding FY 2021's outlook. Some outside groups, including the Massachusetts Taxpayers' Foundation, are projecting shortfalls of as much as \$6 billion, leading to significant uncertainty. The FY 2021 budget assumes education aid will not change from FY 2020, despite the passage of the Student Opportunity Act.

Local Revenue: Revenue collection is down across the board, and even with curtailed spending, the City anticipates net shortfalls in several major funds. As a result, significant realignment of the budget is necessary in FY 2021.

Mandated Costs: The City anticipates a significant increase in mandated costs for education, and that the potential funding established by the Student Opportunity Act is no longer likely. In addition, employee benefit costs, including pensions, will increase. Nearly \$1.7 million will be added to the City's pension assessment.

As in past years, Mayor Mitchell noted that there are very few places to cut or restructure the City's budget, with approximately three quarters of the general fund budget predetermined by state mandates and regional agreements.

FY 2021 General Fund Appropriations



The FY 2021 budget proposes significant belt-tightening measures, designed to control spending without diminishing services in City government. Specifically, the budget seeks to avoid both layoffs of City employees as well as a change in the level of service provided to City residents. The budget utilizes a combination of the City's certified Free Cash fund, as well as a \$2 million transfer from the Stabilization Fund, to mitigate the impact of the current economic disruption at this challenging time.

New Efficiencies Coming to City Government to Avoid Layoffs and Maintain Effective Services

Several initiatives to streamline City government and create efficiencies without losing services are proposed in the FY 2021 budget:

- Desk officer positions will be eliminated in the Police Department. The staff will not be laid off but reassigned to the field to provide more effective public safety services to the City's residents.
- The downtown police district station will be consolidated

and relocated to police headquarters in the City's West End and the savings will be invested in other important police department needs, as recommended by the strategic review recently completed for the police department. The use of police district stations is an outdated model, and among cities in Massachusetts surveyed by our police department, only cities operate more than one police district, or satellite, station around the clock – New Bedford and Boston. (Currently, the downtown district station serves the downtown and West End of the City, and headquarters is located nearby in the West End but does not serve as a local police station. The existence of both a local police district station and headquarters within that district station's district is unnecessarily duplicative and inefficient. Under the budget proposal, the local district station will be co-located with the headquarters on Rockdale Avenue.) A portion of the savings from the police department's efficiency and consolidation proposal will be used for important investments in the Police Department including the necessary replacement of aged police vehicles and enhanced staff training.

– Due to a recent streamlining of dispatch protocols that has reduced the Fire Department's need to respond to medical calls rather than fire-related calls, Engine 8 will be decommissioned, and ten vacant firefighter positions eliminated. This will not result in the closure of a station. A portion of the savings will be used to assess the future configuration of fire stations in the North End of New Bedford, as was completed for the South End. There will also be added capacity in the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Department to effectively respond to medical calls through EMS.

– Three full-time and one part-time position in the City's business offices will be reallocated to fund centralization of certain payroll and accounts payable functions, which will lead to further streamlining throughout city government by

removing redundant activity from the 32 operating departments.

- The Ashley Park Senior Center will close to further efficiency to the Council on Aging, with consolidation of senior programs at the Buttonwood Senior Center and Rosemary S. Tierney Community Center at Hazelwood Park.
 - The New Bedford Public Schools budget has been adjusted to reflect the impact of reduced state aid.
 - The Buttonwood Park Zoo privatization initiative will be advanced to reduce the growth in long-term legacy costs, such as retirement and health insurance.
 - The hiring freeze will continue as the City awaits further guidance from the state and responds to current conditions.
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State public health officials announce first EEE positive mosquito samples in southeastern Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) today announced that eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) virus has been detected in Plymouth County for the first time this year. The presence of EEE was confirmed today by the Massachusetts State Public Health Laboratory in mosquito samples collected on July 13 from a single location in Carver in Plymouth County. The mosquito samples collected July 13 are from the same trap collected on the same night. The findings are in a mammal-biting species of mosquito.

Data from the area will be reviewed and the risk levels in the area will be updated tomorrow as part of routine bi-weekly risk level changes by DPH. Information about current mosquito activity will continue to be updated regularly and can be found [here](#).

The findings mark the third time EEE virus has been confirmed in tested mosquito samples in Massachusetts this year. The two earlier findings of the virus were detected in samples collected July 1 and July 5 in Franklin County, increasing the risk level of EEE to moderate in the communities of Orange, Athol, Wendell and New Salem. No human or animal case of EEE has been detected so far this year.

EEE is a rare but serious and potentially fatal disease that can affect people of all ages. EEE is generally spread to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. There were 12 human cases of EEE in Massachusetts in 2019 with six deaths. There were also nine cases in domestic animals. Last year, public health officials raised the risk level for EEE to high in several communities in Bristol and Plymouth counties, both historic hotspots for EEE activity.

West Nile virus has also been detected this year in mosquitoes in Middlesex and Suffolk counties. There were 5 human cases of WNV in 2019. No human or animal cases of WNV have been detected so far this year.

Avoid Mosquito Bites

Apply Insect Repellent when Outdoors. Use a repellent with an EPA-registered ingredient (DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide), permethrin, picaridin (KBR 3023), oil of lemon eucalyptus [p-methane 3, 8-diol (PMD)] or IR3535) 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.

Be Aware of Peak Mosquito Hours. The hours from dusk to dawn are peak biting times for many mosquitoes. Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that occur during evening or early morning in areas of high risk.

Clothing Can Help Reduce Mosquito Bites. Wearing long-sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors will help keep mosquitoes away from your 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 discarding items that hold water. Check rain gutters and drains. Empty any unused flowerpots and wading pools, and change the water in birdbaths frequently.

Install or Repair Screens. Keep mosquitoes outside by having tightly-fitting screens on all of your windows and doors.

Protect Your Animals

Animal owners should reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes. Owners should also speak with their veterinarian about mosquito repellents approved for use in animals and vaccinations to prevent WNV and EEE. If an animal is suspected of having WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR), Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795 and to the Department of Public Health (DPH) by calling 617-983-6800.

More information, including all WNV and EEE positive results,

can be found on the Arbovirus Surveillance Information webpage at www.mass.gov/mosquitoesandticks or by calling the DPH Division of Epidemiology at 617-983-6800. A short video with State Epidemiologist Dr. Catherine Brown about EEE and what residents can do to protect themselves can be found [here](#).

RCA Electric & Generators is Hiring for Multiple Positions in Massachusetts

RCA Electric & Generators is hiring. Come grow with their busy Electrical & Generator Dealership! They offer competitive salaries, excellent benefits and are hiring for the following positions:

Licensed Electrician

We are looking for a licensed electrician for generator installations and light electrical duties.

Essential Functions

- Strong electrical knowledge base
- Ability to communicate with customers and team about project timelines.
- Knowledge of home stand by generator installation is a PLUS.
- Problem solving skills to test for, locate and repair electrical malfunctions
- Other electrical work as needed
- Safe operation and proper care of company vehicle

Job Requirements

- Massachusetts Electrical License– required
- Valid driver's license – required

Must maintain necessary licenses and certifications. **Apply**

HERE

Journeyman Gas Fitter

We need someone who can work independently and is comfortable talking with customers, co-workers and verifying work details.

Essential Functions

- Provide gas fitting and repair services for generator customers.
- Envision the best plan for completing a job once on-site.
- Ability to perform customized work with strong knowledge of code requirements.
- Ability to communicate with customers and team about project timelines.
- Ability to size gas piping accurately.
- Keep company truck stocked with necessary materials at all times.
- Cleanliness and organization of the project and company vehicle.
- Complete jobs on time.
- Ductless AC installation/repair knowledge (or willing to learn) a plus.

Job Requirements

- Massachusetts Gas Fitter License (Journeyman) – required
- Valid driver's license – required

Must maintain necessary licenses and certifications. **Apply
HERE**

Generator Technician

Essential Functions

- Offsite engine repairs on industrial and residential power generation equipment
- Engine and electrical diagnostics and troubleshooting
- Generator start-ups
- Preventative maintenance of power generation equipment, including but not limited to oil and filter changes and part replacement
- Safe operation and proper care of company vehicle

- Respond to 24 hour emergency calls for repairs and service, when needed
- Ability to work in a productive manner in all types of weather and environments.
- Possess a strong customer services focus with good verbal communication skills.

Job Requirements

- Two or more years of previous hands-on service experience working on 8.5kW – 150kW generators; candidates with limited electrical experience, but with strong engine experience, will be considered.
- Valid driver's license – required

Must maintain necessary licenses and certifications.

Do you have small engine experience? We will also train the right person! **Apply HERE**

Generator Installer / Electrician's Apprentice

Essential Functions

- Assist with generator installations.
- Must be willing to take direction from electricians.
- Possess a strong customer service focus with good communication skills.
- Have the physical ability to climb ladders, move heavy objects within OSHA regulations, bend, crawl, stoop, kneel, pull and dig.
- Work in various temperature extremes inside and outside in summer and winter.
- Attention to detail and a good team player.

Job Requirements:

- Minimum of 3 years of work experience.
- Must have a goal to obtain electrical license after required work and educational hours are complete.
- Valid driver's license – required

Interested in this position? **Apply HERE**

Want to join the team?

People know RCA for their generators, but the real source of energy around here comes from their dedicated and experienced professionals. If you love a dynamic, challenging and rewarding work environment, this a great opportunity. Whether you're a seasoned professional or just starting out, they would love to hear from you.

Benefits of a working at RCA:

- Established Electrical & Generator Company for over 30 years.
- GREAT team that has over 60 years of experience.
- Medical Insurance
- Retirement Plan
- Paid Holidays / Vacation
- Company Apparel
- Full time positions – Monday through Friday, 7:30 am – 4 pm.
- Saturday hours may occasionally be available.

Apply on our website:

<https://rcaelectric.com/careers/>

or email resume to:

info@rcaelectric.com



153 Commercial Street, Mashpee, MA 02649

Bus: 508-428-0449 Fax: 508-428-2449

Massachusetts Troopers arrest two for Trafficking Cocaine, Fentanyl and Possession of Stolen Firearm

Shortly before 5 p.m. yesterday, a Trooper assigned to the Troop D Community Action Team was on patrol in Fall River. As he was traveling on South Main Street he observed a Chevrolet Traverse with heavily tinted windows. The Trooper followed the vehicle then activated his blue lights and subsequently stopped it as they approached Columbia Street.

After the vehicle stopped the Trooper approached it to speak with the operator, identified as SAVON GONSALVES, 21, of Fall River, who eventually informed the Trooper that his license was suspended. Several other Troop D CAT members arrived on scene to assist in removing GONSALVES from the vehicle, who was then placed under arrest. While removing him, Troopers observed numerous indications that he may have recently taken part in the sale of illegal narcotics. Troopers then removed the passenger, identified as SERENA SILVA, 20, of Brockton, from the vehicle as well.

After a short investigation on scene Troopers located 15 grams of a substance suspected to be Fentanyl and 50 grams of a substance suspected to be Cocaine. They also located a loaded .45 caliber Springfield Armory pistol which an electronic inquiry had shown to be stolen. Neither occupant of the vehicle possessed a license to carry firearms. SILVA was also placed under arrest.

Both GONSALVES and SILVA were transported to State Police-Dartmouth where they were booked. A bail commissioner was contacted and set bail at \$100,000 for both. They were later

transported to Bristol County House of Correction where they remained until their arraignment at Fall River District Court on the following charges.

SAVON GONSALVES:

01. Operating a Motor Vehicle with a Suspended License;
02. Improper Storage of a Firearm;
03. Possession of a Firearm;
04. Possession of a Firearm without FID Card;
05. Carrying a Loaded Firearm;
06. Possession of a Firearm During Commission of a Felony;
07. Possession of Ammunition without FID Card;
08. Trafficking in Cocaine;
09. Trafficking in Fentanyl;
10. Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law;
11. Conspiracy;
12. Firearm Violation with Prior Violent/Drug Crime; and
13. Receiving Stolen Property under \$1200.

SERENA SILVA:

01. Improper Storage of a Firearm;
 02. Possession of a Firearm;
 03. Possession of a Firearm without FID Card;
 04. Carrying a Loaded Firearm;
 05. Possession of a Firearm During Commission of a Felony;
 06. Possession of Ammunition without FID Card;
 07. Trafficking in Cocaine;
 08. Trafficking in Fentanyl;
 09. Conspiracy to Violate Drug Law;
 10. Conspiracy;
 11. Firearm Violation with Prior Violent/Drug Crime; and
 12. Receiving Stolen Property under \$1200.
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Dartmouth Police seek public's help in investigating murder of New Bedford man

"Calling all cAHs...Calling all cAHs

As you most likely have either heard or read about it by now, in conjunction with Massachusetts State Police detectives, Dartmouth detectives are currently investigating the homicide of 27-year-old New Bedford resident, Jose Cortez Cornejo.

If you have any information regarding the homicide and would like to remain anonymous, you are strongly encouraged to download the free Dartmouth PD tip411 app. If you do not want to download the app, you can either send us a private message on Facebook, or call the Dartmouth Police Department Investigative Services Division at 508-910-1775.

To anonymously text a tip to the D.A.'s Office, text the word "Bristol" to CRIMES (274637), then text them your tip. You can also submit a web-based anonymous tip by going to Submit a Web Tip. No personal information will be shared, even with investigators.

Please help us bring justice and closure to this case by sharing this post!"-Dartmouth Police Department.

New Bedford branch of NAACP urges House members to approve police accountability bill

“If we are not going to tolerate police abuses, if we’re not going to accept racism in the ranks of law enforcement; if we are to end the targeting of people-of-color by law enforcement; if we are truly committed to creating a culture and environment of racial equality in our Commonwealth, then the Massachusetts legislature must pass the Police Accountability Bill,” said LaSella Hall, President of the NAACP New Bedford Branch. The Senate version of the bill, S 2800, passed with an overwhelming majority. The legislation now moves to the House.

“It’s rare for legislators to have the opportunity to pass civil rights legislation. History has shown that these opportunities don’t come often. We urge all House members to examine their consciences and think of the many lives lost, the many families devastated, by police violence, and take a stand against violence and racism today,” added President Hall.

A week ago the NAACP released a list of demands to of New Bedford City Mayor John Mitchell, Police Chief Joseph Cordeiro, and District Attorney Thomas Quinn III. Many of these demands, including creating Community Review Boards, outlawing choke holds and neck holds, in addition to many other protections, would be satisfied by the Police Accountability Bill. The organization worked closely with Senator Montigny to help craft and advance the bill, helping to include the voices of communities-of-color in the legislative effort.

Senator Montigny, in a statement, said, "We cannot deny that structural racism and inequality is deeply rooted within society, and we must take serious measures to begin to eradicate these pervasive problems."

As the earlier NAACP statement read: "The horrific death of George Floyd and, more recently, the deliberate shooting of Rayshard Brooks in Atlanta along with Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and other Black citizens too numerous to name, has increased the number of lives lost to state-sanctioned violence and white supremacy. These incidents are becoming all too common. Enough is enough!"

76-year old missing Dartmouth fisherman found deceased

Dartmouth Police and Fire, the Dartmouth Harbor Master, Massachusetts Coast Guard, Massachusetts Environmental Police and the Massachusetts State Police detectives assigned to the Bristol County District Attorney's Office began a search for missing fisherman Robert Griffith, 76 years of age of South Dartmouth, MA after his wife reported him missing at 11:30 am today.

Griffith left his home at approximately 5:00 am today to fish in his 14 foot Carolina skiff and was scheduled to return at 8:30 am. Griffith's boat was discovered at approximately 12:43 at Barney's Joy Beach in Dartmouth unoccupied. After a further search, Robert Griffith was discovered in the waters approximately half a mile out from Barney's Joy Beach and pronounced deceased a short time later. Foul play is not suspected.