

New Bedford officials reports 13 more COVID-19 cases on Friday

Mayor Jon Mitchell's office reported 13 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Bedford on Friday, bringing the total positive cases in the city to 1,794, **up from 1,781 on Thursday**. COVID-19 related deaths remained at 68.

New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell announced last week that the Buttonwood Park Zoo would be opening under the first phase of the plan to reopen Massachusetts. Full details **here**.

17 additional cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Fall River, according to Mayor Coogan. This brings the total in Fall River to 1,233. The death toll from the coronavirus in Fall River has increased to 35 as 2 more residents have sadly lost their life. Full details **here**.

Seven Bristol County Sheriff's Office staff members and eight county inmates have tested positive for COVID-19 since May 21. Full details **here**.

Wareham police asking for public's help in solving vehicle break-in case

The Wareham Police Department is seeking help in identifying this vehicle.

On Sunday, May 24, in the early evening, another vehicle was broken into and items were stolen. The incident occurred in the Target parking lot on the Lowe's side of the building, at the Wareham Crossing. Wareham Police detectives would like to speak to the male occupant of the pictured car as he is a person of interest in the break and entering.



If you have any information please contact the Wareham Police Department.

Boston Marathon canceled as

Mayor Walsh prepares for summer of distancing

Chris Lisinski

Katie Lannan contributed

State House News Service

The Boston Marathon has been run in some form every year since 1897, withstanding the 1918 influenza pandemic, two world wars and other disruptions. But with the state's path through the COVID-19 era still uncertain, the marathon will not take place in 2020.

During a wide-ranging press conference that included hints about restaurant reopenings and an announcement about expanding roadway spacing, Boston Mayor Martin Walsh announced Thursday that the marathon, previously postponed from April 20 until Sept. 14, will be outright canceled this year.

The historic first underscores how long the road to the new normal will be for Massachusetts.

"We're putting our own health and other people's health before our own celebration, our own enjoyment of these events," Walsh said. "Right now, the best celebration we can do to each other is respecting each other and supporting each other and not spreading the virus."

Officials had hoped that delaying the marathon about five months would buy enough time to conduct it safely, but Walsh said he became convinced it is "less and less plausible" because of how long the post-peak tail of infection has been and because of the lingering threat of a second surge in COVID-19 cases between August and October.

"There's no way to hold this usual race format without bringing large numbers of people into close proximity," he

said. "While our goal and our hope was to make progress in containing the virus and recovering our economy, this type of event would not be possible or realistic on Sept. 14 or any time this year."

Restaurants and other tourism-centric businesses, many of which are already under enormous strain, will take another hit from the cancellation. Walsh estimated that marathon weekend typically draws about \$200 million into the regional economy.

Boston Athletic Association CEO Tom Grilk said the organization will issue refunds to all registered runners, and when it opens the field for the 2021 Marathon, it will consider qualifying race times as far back as September 2018.

The BAA will conduct a "virtual marathon" between Sept. 7 and 14, making available online panels and a "printable finish line." Any runner who completes 26.2 miles within six hours during that span and can provide proof of time will earn a medal, a t-shirt and a runner's bib.

During a separate press conference later on Thursday, Gov. Charlie Baker said the city and the BAA "made the right decision by erring on the side of caution."

"We've all concluded that – and I know this is not the answer anybody would want to hear – that for the time being, we are better off being careful and cautious when it comes to really big events like that," he said.

Baker filed a bill (H 4571) to designate Sept. 14 as a state holiday after the race was postponed on March 13, but neither the House nor Senate moved to vote on it in the ensuing months.

The marathon cancellation comes as the state continues its early steps toward reviving public activity. The resumption of full, large-scale recreational activities will not get approval to resume until the fourth phase of the Baker

administration's plan, during which officials hope to have a COVID-19 vaccine or treatment available – a milestone that may be months or more than a year away.

“Nothing close to old normal routines will be possible until a vaccine or an effective treatment for COVID is ready,” Walsh said Thursday.

State officials have indicated that restaurants could expand beyond takeout and delivery operations starting in the second phase, when lodging could also reopen with safety precautions in place.

Baker's team tapped a separate group to craft recommendations for those industries, and Walsh said Thursday that he expects those guidelines to surface as soon as Friday.

“We're working with the state right now waiting for the state to finalize the guidelines,” Walsh said. “We're expecting probably within the next 24 hours, we'll know from the state, whether indoor (dining), outdoor or both.”

The city has been studying how to make outdoor, socially distant dining more feasible once restaurants get the go-ahead, and Walsh said 264 establishments expressed interest in placing seating on sidewalks or parking lanes.

Asked about closing entire streets to make space for dining al fresco, Walsh said he has some concerns with shutting down major thoroughfares but wants to consider the matter on a case-by-case basis.

“Every option's on the table,” he said.

Other states have opened rights-of-way they control to restaurants during the COVID era to help space out patrons during warm-weather months.

Walsh also announced a framework for employers in the city, who can begin hosting employees in physical offices on June 1,

as long as they cap capacity at 25 percent.

The range of recommendations include limiting elevators to four people at a time, naming a workplace COVID-19 coordinator, placing markers of six-foot distances in all high-traffic areas, and regularly disinfecting public spaces.

Boston businesses should instruct all employees and visitors to cover their faces unless they have a medical condition or disability, and the employers should provide facial coverings to workers, Walsh said.

Over the next few months, the city also plans to implement changes on its streets aimed at ensuring residents can practice social distancing.

Boston's Transportation Department starting in June will expand bus stops at 10 locations, such as Broadway Station and the northbound Hynes Station stop. Workers will also build new bike lanes to connect the downtown area to other parts of the city.

"As we move through this next reopening phase of COVID-19, it's incumbent upon all of us to make sure we can get it right," Walsh said. "The impact of a second shutdown on our economy could be even more devastating than the first."

**Massachusetts State Police
arrest Oklahoma man in
Sturbridge for possession of**

illegal narcotics and firearms

On Monday at approximately 7:42 a.m., Trooper William Pothier, who is assigned to State Police-Sturbridge, conducted a check of the rest area on I-84 westbound in Sturbridge. While conducting this check, Trooper Pothier spoke with the occupants of a GMC Denali which was parked in the rest area, with an expired temporary Missouri registration.

After a brief investigation, the vehicle's owner, JUSTIN G. BARRON, 39, of Heavener, Oklahoma, was found to be in illegal possession of a .40 caliber Springfield XD pistol and a Smith & Wesson M&P rifle, both with ammunition, and a smoking pipe containing methamphetamine as well as other miscellaneous drug paraphernalia. BARRON is not licensed to carry firearms in Massachusetts.

A female passenger was released with no charges. BARRON was placed under arrest and charged with the following:

1. Possession/carrying a firearm;
2. Assault weapon, sell/possess;
3. Improper storage of a firearm;
4. Possession of a large capacity weapon or feeding device;
5. Possession of a large capacity weapon or feeding device;
6. Possession of a large capacity weapon or feeding device;
7. Possession of ammunition without FID card;
8. Possession of Class B drug; and
9. Unregistered motor vehicle.

BARRON was transported to State Police-Sturbridge for booking. BARRON was held on \$15,040 bail, pending arraignment in Dudley District Court.

Town of Fairhaven to honor this year's graduating seniors with a graduation procession

"The Fairhaven High School Class of 2020 is graduating this Sunday, May 31st. With their traditional graduation on hold, the Fairhaven Public Schools, Town of Fairhaven, Acushnet Public Schools and Town of Acushnet will honor this year's graduating seniors with a Graduation Procession on Sunday.

The Procession will start in Acushnet at the Elementary and Middle Schools at 10AM and proceed through Acushnet and into Fairhaven. It will go to Fort Phoenix before heading to Leroy L. Wood Elementary and then East Fairhaven Elementary. From there, the Procession will wind up at Elizabeth I. Hastings Middle School where students and their families will wait in their cars until they're called in small groups to drive to the high school to receive diplomas. (Please do not show up at Elizabeth I. Hastings Middle School as ALL of the parking space will be utilized for graduates and their families.)

We encourage residents to show support on their lawns if the Procession goes by your house. We are also asking that spectators follow Department of Public Health guidelines at all times.

Use the link below for more information, including specific route details and other ways to tune into the Graduation remotely.

http://fairhavenhs.ss16.sharpschool.com/family__students/grad

uation_2020

Help us honor the Class of 2020 in a classy yet memorable way. Congratulations seniors!!"-Fairhaven Police Department.



**New Bedford Symphony
Orchestra FREE live-stream**

performance “Welcoming Summer with Dvořák”

LIVE STREAM on Sunday, May 31, 4pm.

Tune in on our website or on Facebook for a LIVE STREAM of Welcoming Summer with Dvořák when NBSO violinist Emmy Holmes-Hicks is joined once again by her downstairs neighbors, good friends, and wonderful musicians Adrienne Taylor (cello) and Andrei Baumann (piano).

Emmy, Adrienne, and Andrei will be back for another afternoon of chamber music for piano and strings. In these strange times, we can find hope and comfort in the natural world and the changing of the seasons. We bring you this program of Dvořák’s brooding, romantic, and folksy music to help welcome in the summer. We’re keeping Andrei busy with a program that includes the Dumky Trio, which means literally a song or lament of captive people; Silent Woods for cello and piano, which takes us on a tour of southwestern Bohemia; and Four Romantic Pieces for violin and piano, a charming collection of miniatures.

You have two options to view this live stream. The live videos will not appear until very close to 4pm, and it is possible that the performance may start a bit late.

Option 1: If you have a Facebook account, go to the NBSO Facebook Live Videos page where you will see current and past live videos. Click on Welcoming Summer with Dvořák to open the post so that you can comment and see others’ comments.

Option 2: Go to our website and look for the Events tab, then Upcoming Events, and click on Welcoming Summer with Dvořák. Simply scroll down to find the video.

All of our live stream performances can be viewed afterward in

either place.

New Bedford's Buttonwood Park Zoo to welcome public back

New Bedford Mayor Jon Mitchell announced last week that the Buttonwood Park Zoo would be opening under the first phase of the plan to reopen Massachusetts.

BPZ00 will welcome back the public on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 after 12 weeks of closure due to the coronavirus pandemic.

BPZ00 will be open from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm, with last admission at 4:00 pm, from Wednesday through Sunday until further notice. The Zoo will be closed on Mondays and Tuesdays for deep cleaning. Timed-based admission will be utilized to limit capacity and all tickets, for members and non-members, must be reserved online at bpzoo.org/purchase-tickets. There will be no cash handling on site. In accordance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts guidelines, protective face coverings are required for all guests over the age of 2.

"We are very excited to reopen the Zoo for the community," said Buttonwood Park Zoo Director, Keith Lovett. "During our closure, Zoo staff have been diligently working to make modifications to our grounds and our operating policies to allow guests the ability to socially distance during their visit."

The visitor experience at BPZ00 has been reconfigured to meet current public health guidelines. BPZ00 has implemented measures to encourage social distancing among guests and staff and to protect our animals. Additionally, indoor areas will be

temporarily closed during Phase One of reopening. This includes Rainforests, Rivers & Reefs, Buttonwood Farm barn and the North Wood Gift Store. A limited number of gift store items will be available for sale at an outdoor kiosk during your visit. The Wildlife Carousel, Baycoast Bank Black Bear Express and Charlie's Nature Play area will be temporarily closed per State guidelines. For a complete look at what to expect, visit www.bpzoo.org/reopening/

"Although the experience may be a little different during our Phase One reopening, we are confident that a Zoo visit will continue to be an enjoyable, family-oriented activity that allows guests to gain a better appreciation of wildlife and the importance of endangered species conservation," Lovett went on to say.

The Zoo is located at 425 Hawthorn Street in New Bedford and is open from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm, with admissions allowed every half hour. Ticket prices for non-New Bedford Residents are \$10 for adults/\$6 for children 3-12; Ticket prices for New Bedford Residents are \$7.50 for adults/\$4.50 for children 3-12 and must be reserved online in advance and brought to the Zoo for admission. There will be no monetary transactions at the admissions gate. For more information about the Zoo's programs, animals and exhibits, visit www.bpzoo.org.

New Bedford roadwork sites

for the upcoming week of June 1, 2020 –June 5, 2020

The City of New Bedford has roadwork sites for the upcoming week of June 1, 2020 –June 5, 2020 and they are as follows:

Eversource:

Eversource will replace the gas mains at the following locations:

- Tarkiln Hill Rd. and Park Ave. from Tarkiln Hill Rd. to Church St.
- Davis St. from Riverside Ave. to 389 Davis St.
- Johnathan St. from Arnold St. to 57-59 Johnathan St.
- Hill St. from Hillman St. to Mill St.
- Hillman St. from County St. to Pleasant St.

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

Other:

- Contractor (PA Landers) to continue drainage work at MassDOT 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 (Tuesday – Friday), police details and traffic controls will be in place.
- 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.
- The contractor (WES Construction) is scheduled to continue construction of the new pumping station and installation of the site utilities 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.

- 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.

Bristol County Sheriff: 32 inmates, 34 staff members have tested COVID-19 positive

Seven Bristol County Sheriff's Office staff members and eight county inmates have tested positive for COVID-19 since May 21.

All of the seven staff members to test positive since May 21 are members of the security team; six corrections officers and one sergeant. A total of 34 staff members have tested positive since the beginning of March. Sixteen have recovered and returned to duty and two more are expected back this weekend, while the rest are expected to make full recoveries and return to duty in the coming weeks.

The total number of county inmates who have tested positive for COVID is now 32, 28 of which are still in BCSO custody. As reported last week, four county inmates who had tested positive were released as their sentences ended. Prior to their release, the BCSO provided notification of the positive test to the person picking them up and the state Department of Public Health, which in turn notifies the communities they are returning to. Of the 28 still in BCSO custody, several of them have recovered and returned to general population and the others are being kept in isolation and closely monitored by medical professionals.

Over the past few months, the Bristol County Sheriff's Office has instituted many protocols to protect inmates, detainees and staff from the Coronavirus outbreak. Some of those measures include:

- All employees were given masks that must be worn inside the secure perimeter of our facilities. All inmates and detainees have also been given masks to wear for protection.
 - All areas of the facility are being cleaned\disinfected every day on every shift.
 - All staff members are being screened before entering the buildings; new arriving inmates are being screened before being accepted into custody.
 - In-person visitation has been suspended to limit the number of people coming in and out.
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New Bedford police arrest four, seize fentanyl, Oxycodone and crack cocaine

During two separate street-level incidents on May 28, New Bedford police detectives seized oxycodone, fentanyl, and crack cocaine and large amounts of cash.

After detectives observed a drug transaction, 49-year old Jose Gonzalez-Delgado of 1851 Purchase St., Apt. #38, is charged with trafficking, conspiracy, and possession to distribute. 34-year-old Joel Rodriguez of 89 Collette St., Apt. #2, is charged with trafficking and conspiracy. Police seized more than 22 grams of Oxycodone and \$640 as a result of the incident.

Later that day, detectives observed what appeared to be a separate drug transaction on Acushnet Ave. near Wood Street. 26-year old Johnny Veras of 773 S. First St., Apt. #3, is charged with trafficking, possession to distribute and conspiracy. Veras currently has three open court cases for possession and distribution of Class A drugs in 2018 and home invasion in 2016. The following was seized during the arrests; 16 grams fentanyl, a small quantity of crack cocaine and \$916.

Chief Joseph Cordeiro applauds Narcotics Detectives for their determination and resilience at this time. "The extraordinary circumstances of COVID-19 has not stopped our Detectives from doing incredible work to keep the residents of New Bedford safe. They continue to be successful in getting drugs off the streets."

If you have any information on criminal activity in your community, the New Bedford Police Dept. wants to hear from you. You can leave an anonymous tip on our voicemail at (508) 991-6300 Ext. 1.