

Massachusetts Environmental Police cite man for chasing geese and destroying nest

"On Saturday, May 16, 2020, Massachusetts Environmental Police responded to a residence in Somerset to a report of someone disturbing a pair of Canada Geese and their nest.

Upon arrival, the individual admitted to chasing off a pair of Geese with a garden hose and then destroying their nest. The individual was cited for violations of Massachusetts General Law 131 Section 74.

The Canada Goose is the only species of goose that breeds in Massachusetts. The species thrives in both residential and suburban areas – and given their population growth, they can also become nuisance.

However, taking, disturbing, or destroying the nest and/or eggs of Canada Geese is illegal. For information on how to deal with Canada Geese and to avoid or solve problems with them, please visit [here](#)."-Massachusetts Environmental Police.

Massachusetts Environmental Police plain clothes operations leads to seizure

and citations

“On the evening of Monday, May 18, 2020, Massachusetts Environmental Police Officers conducted a plain-clothed enforcement patrol along the Boston waterfront.

Officers encountered several individuals engaged in fishing, ultimately observing numerous striped bass fishing violations, to include: possession limit violations, minimum size violations, and illegal possession of river herring violations.

In total, the Officers issued nearly \$2,500 in fines and seized 15 illegally caught striped bass. The seized catch was properly stored overnight and will be donated to the Pine Street Inn, a homeless service shelter in Boston.”- Massachusetts Environmental Police.



Forever Paw's "Luscious" finds forever home after being in shelter since 2018

"Can we have your attention please??? Do you remember Luscious? Our beautiful girl who has been waiting for her forever home since December 25, 2018...HAS BEEN ADOPTED!!!!!!!

Luscious has found herself a wonderful home, with an amazing and dedicated new mom who has been spending time with her during her training. After waiting over a year to find a family of her own, her patience was rewarded today.

Thank You to New England Dog Training-Bill you were absolutely amazing to this girl, and we are so grateful.

Thank you to New Bedford Guide Fall River Reporter and WSAR for doing spotlights, and featuring her on your streams and shows!

HAPPY GOTCHA DAY LUSCIOUS! You have certainly earned it. Thank You SO VERY MUCH to your new family for taking a chance on this amazing girl. We wish you all the best!"-Forever Paws Animal Shelter.

Forever Paws No-Kill shelter to host walk/run/bike to help

provide shelter for animals in the New Bedford and Fall River areas

Support Your local no-kill animal shelter, providing shelter to The Greater New Bedford and The Greater Fall River Areas: WALK TO SUPPORT FOREVER PAWS! (or run or bike!)

How does it work? 3 easy steps:

Register [HERE](#) for the virtual 1 mile or virtual 5K any time between May 1 – May 31. During registration you will be asked to choose your participating Shelter and team. Be sure to select FOREVER PAWS and 100% of your \$10 registration fee will come to us. That's right, 100%. (You can also choose to make an additional donation as your register.)

Walk or Run your distance (with your pet if you would like) by June 1. Note: Local Stay at Home orders allow us to run outdoors (observing Social Distancing guidelines).

Submit your Time online either using the free "IYR Virtual" mobile app or manually in the online race results. [CLICK HERE](#) for instructions on how to use the IYR Virtual app and enter your time.

Bonus: Participants who send a picture of them and their pet walking/running/biking to asilva@foreverpaws.com will be entered into a drawing for a gift basket!

Runners who submit their time by June 1 will be entered into a drawing for "door prizes."

2020 Pets 2 the Rescue

Virtual Run/Walk/Bike to support
Forever Paws



1 Mile or 5K Run/Walk
5 Mile Bike

Now through June 15

*100% of your \$10 registration
fee goes to our shelter*

www.Pets2theRescue.org



Bristol County Sheriff's Office mourns loss of Fran Haddocks

"It breaks our heart to announce the recent passing of Fran Haddocks, a dear member of the Bristol County Sheriff's Office family.

Fran started as a Corrections Officer and worked his way up to Superintendent over his almost 40 years here, and although he officially retired years ago, he was a frequent face around the BCSO and a friend to many. "Fran gave each of us who

worked with, and for him, the opportunity to learn and grow professionally through his guidance and compassion,” Sheriff Hodgson wrote while informing the staff of Fran’s passing.

Please keep the Haddocks family, especially Maj. Belinda Bulgar, Donna Robertson, Marcel Canery, Maj. Scott Rose and K9 Officer Brennan Bulgar, in your thoughts.”-Bristol County Sheriff’s Office.

Democrats grab pair of Senate seats from Republicans in Massachusetts special election

Michael P. Norton
State House News Service

Democrats claimed victory in two special elections Tuesday, seizing Senate seats that had long been held by Republicans in races that party chair Gus Bickford said reflected a rejection of President Donald Trump’s politics.

John Velis of Westfield prevailed to take the seat that Don Humason gave up after he was elected mayor of that city, and Susan Moran of Falmouth was elected to serve in a district formerly represented by Plymouth Republican Vinny deMacedo.

The wins leave Republicans with just four seats in the 40-member Senate. The party, whose top officeholders in Massachusetts are Gov. Charlie Baker and Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, holds 31 seats in the 160-seat Massachusetts House,

where veteran GOP Reps. Randy Hunt and Elizabeth Poirier are not seeking re-election.

Both special elections had been scheduled for March 31 but were postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and were carried out with both traditional in-person voting and the use of mail-in voting, an option that lawmakers are weighing for the Sept. 1 primary and Nov. 3 general election.

“Two areas that were strong for Donald Trump a few years ago came back home and voted blue tonight,” Democratic Party Chair Gus Bickford said in a statement Tuesday night. “Democrats and independents are united now more than ever, and we will continue to work together through the fall. These two flipped seats are a sign of things to come in a few months.”

Moran, an attorney and selectboard member, beat James McMahon of Bourne, an attorney and supporter of President Trump. McMahon made a bid for state Senate after running in 2018 as the GOP nominee for attorney general, losing that race to Attorney General Maura Healey.

The Cape Cod Times reported that Moran took 55 percent of the vote to 45 percent for McMahon, riding voting margins in Falmouth and Sandwich to victory even though McMahon prevailed in Bourne, Kingston, Pembroke and Plymouth.

Velis, a state representative, veteran and attorney from Westfield, defeated John Cain of Southwick to give the Democrats a seat that had been held for more than two decades by Republicans. Humason had joined the Senate after Republican Michael Knapik, who was elected to the Senate in 1994, gave up the seat.

Moran's win in the Plymouth and Barnstable Senate district enabled the Democrats to take back a seat that was long held by Therese Murray, the former Senate president. In 2014, deMacedo, a longtime state representative, snagged that Senate seat for the Republicans. Last year, deMacedo resigned his

Senate seat to take a job at Bridgewater State University.

“Not only is this a great day for Senator-elect Moran, it’s a great day for her new constituents and their fellow Bay Staters,” said Rebecca Hart Holder, executive director of NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts. “Her victory flipped a seat that had been previously held by a staunch anti-choice politician and prevented it from falling into the hands of another.”

On the Horizon

On June 2, voters are scheduled to settle two House special elections to fill seats held until recently by Jennifer Benson of Lunenburg and Shaunna O’Connell of Taunton. Benson left the House to work as president of the Alliance for Business Leadership and O’Connell resigned after being elected as mayor of her hometown last November.

Democrat Carol Doherty and Republican Kelly Dooner, both of Taunton, are competing in the Third Bristol House district. In the 37th Middlesex district, Democrat Danillo Sena of Acton faces Republican Catherine Clark of Lunenburg.

The deadline for prospective candidates to turn in nomination signatures to qualify for the 2020 ballot passed in early May. Republican officials are still awaiting final certifications, but expect they will be able to run candidates in at about 55 House districts and eight Senate districts.

Republican Party Chairman James Lyons, who lost his House seat to Democrat Tram Nguyen in 2018, told the News Service this month that party officials have their eyes on the seat that Democrat Rep. Theodore Speliotis of Danvers is giving up, and the district covering Tewksbury and Wilmington that is currently represented by Democrat Rep. David Robertson.

The MassGOP is also planning to compete in the 12th Worcester District, where Democrat Rep. Harold Naughton of Clinton is

giving up his seat to join a law firm based in New York. Republican State Committeewoman Susan Smiley is running there.

The MassGOP also sees a chance to be competitive against Rep. Jonathan Zlotnik of Gardner, Rep. Kathleen LaNatra of Kingston and Rep. Josh Cutler of Pembroke. And Lyons said he expects to have five or six candidates running in the state's nine Congressional districts and two for U.S. Senate.

Democrats are hoping the turnout surge that accompanies presidential elections will help them build on super-majorities in both branches and return an all-Democrat delegation to Washington D.C.

Supervised drug-use facilities in Massachusetts gets 13 yes votes in committee

Chris Lisinski
State House News Service

More than two-thirds of lawmakers on a legislative committee endorsed a bill that would launch medically supervised drug-use facilities in Massachusetts, underlining what one sponsor described as a long-running effort to overcome discomfort with the controversial but life-saving proposal.

Thirteen of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Recovery's 19 members supported legislation creating a 10-year pilot program for at least two supervised

consumption sites, where individuals could consume controlled substances, including illegal drugs, without threat of arrest and could be revived from any potential overdose or medical emergency.

Four representatives voted against advancing the bill, which now moves to another legislative committee with an uncertain future and opposition from Gov. Charlie Baker. Two senators declined to support or oppose it.

Every lawmaker who backed the committee's redraft (H 4723) is a Democrat, but the vote did not break down exactly along party lines: votes against it came from Republican Reps. William Crocker and Alyson Sullivan, independent Rep. Susannah Whipps and Democratic Rep. Angelo Scaccia, an aide to co-chair Rep. Marjorie Decker told the News Service.

Fellow co-chair Sen. Julian Cyr's office said that five senators voted in favor of the bill and two reserved their rights, but refused to say which two lawmakers did not take a position.

Of the committee's seven senators, four – Cyr, John Keenan, Cindy Friedman and Brendan Crighton – either cosponsored an earlier version of the legislation or confirmed they voted in support of the rewritten version.

The remaining three, Democratic Sens. Jo Comerford and Walt Timilty and Republican Sen. Patrick O'Connor, [a]could not be reached Tuesday.

The committee's endorsement is a major step for the proposal, which has floated around Beacon Hill for years.

The Senate adopted language calling for a pilot program in its version of a 2018 opioid bill, but dropped it during private negotiations with the House. Both branches set up an expert panel, which included Friedman, to study the idea further.

Supporters argue that supervised consumption facilities, sometimes referred to as safe injection sites, will give people struggling with addiction a safe place to consume heroin or other drugs without risk of overdose.

According to the most recent Department of Public Health data, 2,023 Massachusetts residents are confirmed or suspected to have died from opioid-related overdoses in 2019.

Fentanyl has become increasingly common in overdose cases, and because it is so potent – according to the CDC, it is 50 to 100 times more powerful than morphine – it can trigger a fatal overdose in a matter of seconds. Public health experts who support supervised consumption sites say they allow for immediate intervention with the overdose-reversing drug naloxone, a timely response that is critical to preventing death.

“This is a notion that makes people really uncomfortable, and I started out being uncomfortable, too,” Friedman said in a Tuesday interview. “But then when you look at the data and realize it’s not about me, it’s not about us, it’s about saving people’s lives. It’s a really important thing to do, and I’m so glad they did it. I think it’s a big step.”

The committee’s bill would pilot at least two sites over the next decade. Any community would need to opt in to open a site.

Drug users would have to acquire substances outside the facilities. Workers would provide sterile syringes and other injection supplies, and they would also refer users to addiction treatment whenever possible.

It is unclear if there is enough support among legislative leaders to bring the proposal to a full vote in either chamber this session, particularly because the COVID-19 pandemic is consuming almost all attention.

Neither House Speaker Robert DeLeo nor Senate President Karen Spilka indicated Tuesday whether they support or oppose the bill, or what their plans may be for the legislation.

“In this time of crisis, we must be very cautious of the most vulnerable around us, and certainly, that includes those struggling with addiction,” Spilka said in a statement. “I was pleased to see regulatory rules modified during this public health crisis to streamline the availability of medication assisted treatment and I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue the conversation on the committee proposal.”

A DeLeo spokesperson said the bill that cleared the Mental Health Committee “will continue to be reviewed as it goes through the process.”

Baker previously described the idea as a non-starter – even after the panel chaired by his health and human services secretary, Marylou Sudders, recommended piloting one or more sites as part of a statewide harm-reduction strategy – because U.S. Attorney Andrew Lelling has stressed such facilities would violate federal law and draw enforcement.

In October, a federal judge ruled that Pennsylvania nonprofit Safehouse would not violate the so-called “crack house statute” of the Controlled Substances Act by opening a supervised consumption site in Philadelphia.

One day after the ruling, Lelling said he “respectfully disagrees” with the judge’s decision and renewed his argument that the sites are illegal under federal law. “Efforts to open injection facilities, including here in Massachusetts, will be met with federal enforcement,” he said.

Friedman cited the ruling as a key step toward the committee’s embrace of legislation, and she said she hopes the decision will help bring Baker on board.

“We need to be willing to take a chance,” she said. “I think saving these lives is worth it, and I’m going to try to convince people that if we have to go to court, then we’ll let the courts decide. But I think we have a very, very good argument that this is health care. We’re not encouraging people to use drugs. There’s no data that this encourages people to use drugs. We’re keeping people safe.”

The legislation is now pending before the Health Care Financing Committee that Friedman co-chairs. Since former Rep. Jennifer Benson resigned Jan. 8 to become president of the Alliance for Business Leadership, the committee has lacked a permanent House chair, with several duties falling to Vice Chair Rep. Daniel Cullinane.

Friedman said she is optimistic the committee can advance the supervised consumption legislation even with only one permanent chair.

“We have bills we have to report out, and I hope this can be one of them,” she said. “I would push for it, because I’m very much committed to it.”

Massachusetts State Police K9 “Kantor” to receive generous donation of body armor

Massachusetts State Police K9 Kantor (pictured) will receive a bullet- and stab-protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.

K9 Kantor's vest is sponsored by Madeline Hamersley of Sorrento, Maine, and will be embroidered with the sentiment "In honor of Sandy Marcal." Delivery is expected within several weeks.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501c (3) charity located in East Taunton whose mission is to provide bullet- and stab-protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States. The non-profit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four-legged K9 officers. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided over 3,830 U.S. made, custom fitted, NIJ certified protective vests, in 50 states, through private and corporate donations, at a value of \$6.9 million dollars.

The program is open to dogs actively employed in the U.S. with law enforcement or related agencies who are certified and at least 20 months of age. New K9 graduates, as well as K9s with expired vests, are eligible to participate.

The donation to provide one protective vest for a law enforcement K9 is \$960. Each vest has a value between \$1,744 – \$2,283 and a five-year warranty, and an average weight of 4-5 lbs. There is an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States. For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, please call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts tax-deductible donations of any denomination at www.vik9s.org or mailed to P.O. Box 9 East Taunton, MA

Bill calls for rent hike freezes in Massachusetts

Katie Lannan

State House News Service

The Housing Committee on Thursday plans to accept written testimony on a Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa bill that would authorize state- and city- level freezes on rent increases during the COVID-19 state of emergency and for 30 days after state and federal emergency declarations are lifted. Sabadosa's bill (H 4718) would temporarily suspend the sections of state law prohibiting rent control.

"The Department of Housing and Community Development shall be empowered to issue, maintain, and enforce a rent freeze and/or rent control within the Commonwealth for the duration and 30 days following the COVID-19 state and federal state of emergency declarations of March, 2020," the bill says. It continues, "A city or town may enact, maintain, or enforce rent freezes and/or rent control for the duration and 30 days following the COVID-19 state and federal state of emergency declarations of March, 2020." The bill has 29 co-sponsors, including two Republicans – Rep. Elizabeth Poirier and Sen. Patrick O'Connor.

The Housing Committee is accepting testimony by email to Kelly.Mallon@mahouse.gov.

New Bedford officials report 24 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases on Tuesday

Mayor Jon Mitchell's office reported 24 additional confirmed COVID-19 cases in New Bedford on Tuesday, bringing the total positive cases in the city to 1,552, **up from 1,528 on Monday**. New Bedford's COVID-19 related death count remains at 49.

Greater New Bedford has six operation COVID-19 testing sites; two in New Bedford, three in Dartmouth, and one in Fairhaven. Details on each location and list of COVID-19 symptoms **here**.

14 additional cases of COVID-19 have been identified in Fall River, according to the Mayor's Office. This brings the total in Fall River to 1,004. The death toll from the coronavirus in Fall River has also increased to 22. Full details **here**.

With Governor Baker outlining his plan for reopening the state's economy, COVID-19 numbers continue to trend in a positive direction overall. Massachusetts has seen 1,042 more positive cases in the last 24 hours. A decrease from the previous 24 hour period. Full details **here**.

The Baker-Polito Administration released Reopening Massachusetts, the Reopening Advisory Board's report, which details a four-phased strategy to responsibly reopen businesses and activities while continuing to fight COVID-19. Full details **here**.

The ACLU of Massachusetts and the law firm Foley Hoag sued the Bristol County sheriff's office Monday in an attempt to obtain information surrounding a violent altercation between officers and detainees at the Bristol County House of Correction in early May. Full details **here**.

Recreational marijuana stores will be allowed to reopen for curbside pick-up next Monday, just more than two months after they were ordered to close as part of the essential work order Gov. Charlie Baker put in place to control the spread of COVID-19. Full details **here**.