

WEATHER

DAY
sunny and humid
69

TUESDAY
sunny, hot and humid
76

WEDNESDAY
partly sunny and humid
76

THURSDAY
mild with partial sunshine
78

FRIDAY
mild with times of clouds and sun
67

LOCAL

Middleboro 92/70
Wareham 88/69
Marion 85/68
Westport 88/69
New Bedford 89/69

OCEAN TEMPERATURE
64

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

SUMMARY: Partly sunny and humid today. Winds south-southwest 6-12 mph. Clear tonight. Winds southwest 4-8 mph. Hot tomorrow with sunshine. Winds south-southeast 6-12 mph.

ALMANAC
New Bedford through 6 p.m. Friday

TEMPERATURE

High	86
Low	66
Normal high	80
Normal low	63
Record high	97 in 1991
Record low	50 in 1902

COOLING DEGREE DAYS
An index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was above 65 degrees for the day.

Yesterday	17
Month to date	69
Year to date	99
Normal year to date	138

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 6 p.m. Fri.	0.01"
Month to date	2.45"
Normal month to date	3.15"
Year to date	28.49"
Normal year to date	25.21"

WIND
Highest SW at 13 mph

UV INDEX TODAY

10 a.m.	Noon	2 p.m.	4 p.m.
5	9	9	5

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number the greater the need for eye and skin protection. 0-2: Low, 3-5: Moderate, 6-7: High, 8-10: Very High, 11+: Extreme

AIR QUALITY INDEX

Yesterday 42 Good
Today Moderate
Source: www.mass.gov

POLLEN INDEX

Grasses	Trees	Weeds	Molds
Low	Low	Absent	Absent

Source: Asthma and Allergy Associates

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise	5:13 a.m.	Moonrise	10:08 p.m.
Sunset	8:22 p.m.	Moonset	7:19 a.m.
Last	New	First	Full

Jul 6 Jul 12 Jul 19 Jul 27

MARINE FORECAST

Wind southwest 6-12 knots today. Seas 1-2 feet. Visibility clear. Wind southwest 4-8 knots tonight. Seas 1-3 feet. Clear. Wind north 6-12 knots tomorrow. Seas 1-2 feet.

TIDES TODAY

Location	High	Low
New Bedford	10:14 a.m. 10:27 p.m.	3:37 a.m. 3:26 p.m.
Canal at Buzzards Bay	11:36 a.m. 11:51 p.m.	6:30 a.m. 4:22 p.m.
Westport	10:16 a.m. 10:29 p.m.	4:03 a.m. 3:52 p.m.

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LOTTERY

MASS DAILY NUMBERS
Drawn Friday afternoon 4-4-4-4

Payoffs on \$1 bet exact order 4 digits \$2,149

Freetown does the Fourth right



For The Standard-Times' guide to Fourth of July events going on around SouthCoast, visit SouthCoastToday.com. (DAVID W. OLIVEIRA/STANDARD-TIMES FILE)

Fireworks, flags and turtles highlight Freetown's Fourth of July celebration; New Bedford fireworks scheduled for July 4

By Michael Bonner
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It's Christmas in July. For Freetown, though, it's just another Fourth of July celebration.

Instead of snowflakes, there are fireworks.

Replace holiday decorations with about 80 American flags that pop up all over town.

"Everything looks pretty and patriotic. It's like coming up to Christmas," Chair of Freetown's Parade & Fireworks Committee Judy Gregory said. "Everybody loves seeing it like that with the red, white and blue."

Forget about nine tiny reindeer, too. Nine enchanting turtles grab the attention of children and adults alike.

"If you haven't been to our fireworks, you're missing big time the world famous Freetown racing turtles," Gregory said.

Gregory believes the tradition began with the fire department and now extends to the Freetown Independence Day celebration. Three turtles "race" at a time while the others rest. Spectators can place quarter bets on who they believe will win.

"There are people who save their quarters in jars all year long and come to bet on the racing turtles," Gregory said.

Many of those residents placing bets may be wearing blue shirts.

As some SouthCoast towns struggle to raise funding for fireworks, Freetown turned to T-shirts six years ago.

This year, 45 sponsors appear on the back of the nearly 400 T-shirts sold to help raise money for Freetown's Fourth of July extravaganza. The front of the shirt features a design selected out of 85 submissions. For the fourth consecutive year,

a third-grader earned the prize.

"We're not selling the shirts to make money," Gregory said. "We're selling those shirts to get the word out that the sponsors on the back of those shirts are the winners of helping us put on each year's parade and fireworks."

Freetown's fireworks are scheduled for July 3, with festivities beginning at Hathaway Park at 6 p.m. and fireworks launching no earlier than 9:30 p.m. Gregory suggests those attending should arrive early as parking fills up quickly. The parade will follow the next day.

New Bedford's fireworks are scheduled for July 4.

Mayor Jon Mitchell announced Thursday that Hawthorn Medical Associates offered \$10,000 to help sponsor the city's fireworks display over New Bedford Harbor.

State Pier will not be accessible during the fireworks but Union Street east of Water street will be closed to traffic for spectators.

Free parking will be offered in the Elm Street and Zeiterion Parking Garages.

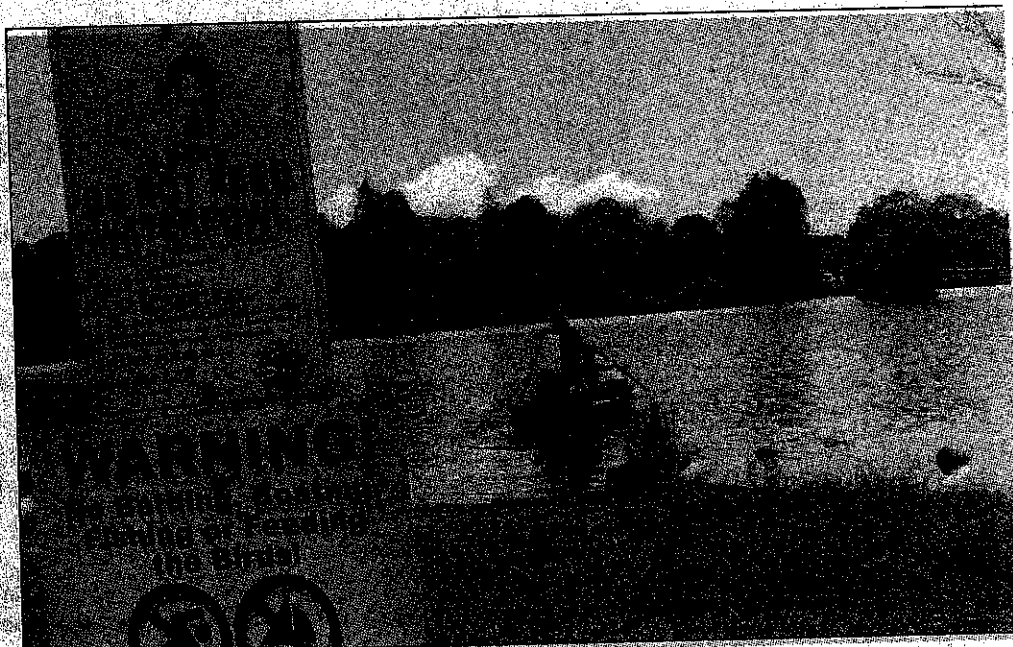
"We invite everyone in the Greater New Bedford area to spend time in downtown New Bedford on Fourth of July evening, and to celebrate Independence Day with us and enjoy the fireworks," Mitchell said.

Like Freetown, other local businesses also contributed to New Bedford's fireworks display for the community.

Call it the holiday spirit. "Nowadays the way this world is going," Gregory said. "I feel we really need for people to focus on what's so great about our town, our state, our country and just kind of reminding people this is what it's all about, working together."

Follow Michael Bonner on Twitter @MikeBBonnerSCT.

What killed dozens of fish at Buttonwood Park Pond?



Biologists from Solitude Lake Management, Shrewsbury, head out onto Buttonwood Park Pond on Friday to test nutrient and e-coll levels after dozens of fish were found dead Thursday. (LINDA ROY/STANDARD-TIMES/SCMG)

By Linda Roy
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NEW BEDFORD — Dozens of fish, mostly perch and sunfish, found Thursday at Buttonwood Park Pond died from lack of oxygen due to overgrowth of algae, state environmentalists said Friday.

Steve Hurley, a Division of Fisheries and Wildlife biologist, visited Buttonwood Pond to conduct testing and investigate the fish kill on Thursday. Hurley determined the fish kill was caused by oxygen depletion and is still investigating exactly how that happened.

Theories about how the fish died escalated when a video posted to social media started getting thousands of views. Comments on the thread blamed overgrowth of algae for choking the pond's oxygen level, chemicals used to combat the algae, geese and duck droppings polluting the pond; some even blamed the fish kill on the swan boat recreational business that opened in April.

The New Bedford Animal Control Department, the owners of the Swan Boat business, and biologists from Solitude Lake Management were at the pond Friday morning surveying the area and taking water samples.

A lake management company official said that parts of the pond had been treated June 15 with an algicide solution that specifically targets algae.

"The application is harmless. It's not toxic to fish or wildlife. All it does is target the algae," said James Lacasse of Solitude Lake Management. He said the nutrient levels of the pond are negatively impacted when rain runoff collects the geese droppings, which are full of nitrates, and washes them into the pond. "The algae feeds off these nitrates," he said, causing it to grow unchecked.

Keith Gazaille, director of Solitude Lake Management, said the algicide used is under scrutiny by state wildlife agencies and approved for application in such instances as Buttonwood Park Pond. He said while aquatic plants produce oxygen during daylight hours, they draw in oxygen at night for respiration and that an overgrowth of algae can severely deplete the oxygen levels for fish to breathe.

Allen and Cynthia Days, who opened the Swan Boats in April, stressed they do not use any chemicals to clean the



Dead fish collected Thursday by New Bedford DPW. (SUBMITTED PHOTO)

inside and seats of the swan boats are cleaned, and then immediately wiped down. She said none of the water used to clean the seats goes into the pond.

She said the paddling of the boats around the pond actually help aerate it because standing water absorbs oxygen through movement on the surface. The fountain in the middle of the pond, which the swan boat business operates 24/7, also helps to keep the water oxygenated.

Emanuel Maciel from the city's animal control department said he cannot stress enough to visitors of the park not to feed bread to the ducks and geese. He said the enormity of bread being fed to the birds results in them contracting a condition called "angel wing," which deforms their wings, eventually making them unable to fly and migrate. Bread also doesn't afford the geese and ducks the nutrients they need and they end up dying.

"Feeding them bread becomes a death sentence for them," Maciel said, adding, the birds have become so accustomed to the bread food source that they don't leave and their droppings collect around the rim of the pond, and get washed into the pond when it rains.

Allen Days noted that fill

the pond is one "that needs work." He said the funds raised through the swan boat rides are being put toward pond maintenance, and admitted it will likely take a couple of years before it reaches appropriate nutrient levels.

He said only the swan boat side of the pond was treated for algae and that the far north and Brownell Avenue sides of the pond haven't been treated.

The greatest concentration of Thursday's dead fish event happened on the Brownell Avenue side of the pond, where a heavy concentration of algae exists, Cynthia Days said.

Signs posted at the pond prohibit the feeding of waterfowl noting that regular feeding can cause:

- Unnatural behavior
- Pollution
- Overcrowding
- Delayed migration
- Poor nutrition and disease

This is not the first fish kill to happen at the pond. It happened in 2004 and 1994 when the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife determined that ammonia bacteria killed hundreds of fish in the pond. In August 1995 a fish kill was attributed to oxygen depletion due to high summer temperatures and excess algae growth.