

CRIME

Cops: NYC man stole meds in NH spree

Police say suspect targeted Walmart, Hannaford stores and was found with bags of stolen medications, including Tylenol, Aleve, Zyrtec and Motrin

By Aaron Curtis
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HUDSON, N.H. » A Staten Island man is being held without bail after police said he carried out a coordinated retail theft operation, stealing 455 containers of over-the-counter medications from Walmart and several Hannaford grocery stores before fleeing from officers.

The Hudson Police said they arrested 29-year-old Yasin Shearin after Walmart employees on Lowell Road reported a "repeat theft suspect" they wanted removed for trespassing. When officers approached



Shearin

him, Shearin displayed a New York driver's license on his phone, but the photo did not match him, and he struggled to answer questions about his identity, including his Social Security number, according to a police affidavit.

Police said they linked him to a prior felony theft at the same Walmart involving nearly \$1,500 in merchandise on Oct. 29. According to the affidavit, during that prior inci-

dent, the store's asset protection employee took surveillance of Shearin placing items into a tote and walking past all points of sale. The employee told police Shearin appeared to be attempting the same method again on Dec. 17, concealing Zyrtec inside a closed tote.

Police said the store's asset protection employee also alleged Shearin had "numerous open cases around the area regarding past thefts with Walmart."

As police moved to arrest him, Shearin allegedly resisted and ran from the store. Officers chased him across the parking lot and apprehended him by the

nearby McDonald's.

Police said Shearin tried to get into a black 2025 Nissan SUV with New York plates during the chase. The vehicle was seized, and a search warrant allegedly uncovered 455 items of over-the-counter medications — Tylenol, Zyrtec, Nexium, Nicorette, Motrin, Dulcolax, Nexium, Pepcid, Breathe Right nasal strips and more — packed into bags.

Police said they also found marijuana and what they believe to be butane hash oil.

The affidavit states GPS data obtained from the vehicle showed it had stopped

at several Walmart and Hannaford supermarkets in New Hampshire, including locations in Salem, Bedford, Seabrook, Manchester, Derry, Londonderry and Hudson.

Surveillance footage from the Hudson store showed Shearin entering alone, heading directly to the vitamin and health aisle, and concealing medications in a blue bag hidden inside a shopping cart before walking out without paying, according to the affidavit.

Police later matched the blue bag to one allegedly seized from the SUV.

Shearin was arraigned in the 9th Circuit Nashua District Court on Friday. Court documents state he entered a not-guilty plea to willful

concealment, a Class A misdemeanor, and no pleas to receiving stolen property (\$1,501 or more), a Class A felony, and organized retail crime enterprise and theft by unauthorized taking (\$1,001-\$1,500), both Class B felonies.

A judge ordered him held without bail, citing his risk of flight, multiple open cases in other states, and what was described as a safety risk to himself and the community if released.

Shearin was appointed a public defender, Alex Charles Perna, who was not immediately available for comment.

Follow Aaron Curtis on X @aascelacurtis, or on Bluesky @aaroncurtis.bsky.social.

COMMUNITY TEAMWORK

‘A SAFE, DIGNIFIED PLACE TO LAND’

CTI, Trahan celebrate purchase of family shelter property



COURTESY OFFICE OF U.S. REP. LORI TRAHAN

From left, front row: Community Teamwork Inc. Chief Program Officer Kayombo Kamaku, CEO Carl Howell, Lead Family Advocate Kathleen Dearborn and U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan. Middle row: Lead Case Managers Elizabeth Wando and Wanda Montes. Back row: state Rep. Tara Hong and Family Engagement Director Jonathan Lunde. Trahan visited a CTI emergency family shelter in Lowell Jan. 28, 2026, to celebrate the impact of a \$3 million federal earmark she secured for it.

By Peter Currier
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LOWELL » After Community Teamwork Inc. purchased the building last year with help from a \$3 million federal earmark, U.S. Rep. Lori Trahan and CTI celebrated the success of a family emergency shelter property in Lowell.

The emergency shelter has been open since 2020, but at the time CTI did not own the property it stood upon, instead relying on a lease, which raised con-

cerns about the long-term stability of the facility and the families who utilize it.

The \$3 million secured by Trahan in the fiscal 2023 budget for CTI was part of a federal Community Project Funding earmark which facilitated the purchase of the property. The shelter is in Lowell, but due to safety and privacy concerns for survivors of domestic violence and those who experience homelessness, CTI is not publicizing its exact location.

In a statement Wednesday, Trahan said the funding, which is the second largest Community Project Funding earmark she has ever secured, "was about stability and dignity for families who are going through some of the hardest moments of their lives."

"By securing federal funding so Community Teamwork could purchase this property, we ensured that this shelter remains a permanent, reliable resource for families with

children who need a safe place to land while they work toward permanent housing," said Trahan. "Community Teamwork's efforts here are a model of how compassionate, community-based solutions can change lives."

The emergency shelter offers 17 family units with office space for shelter staff. The building was converted from student housing while shelters were at full capacity during the COVID-19

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HAVERHILL

DA clears police in man's death

Essex DA Paul Tucker says charges against officers 'are not supportable'

By Colleen Cronin
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Charges will not be brought against police officers involved in an incident that led, in part, to a man's death over the summer in Haverhill, according to the Essex DA's office.

Essex DA Paul Tucker said that the Haverhill police officers who helped re-

strain Francis Gigliotti before his death acted reasonably and lawfully in a statement Tuesday.

The decision not to bring charges against the officers comes after the conclusion of an independent investigation into Gigliotti's death.

"After a comprehensive review of all the facts surrounding the incident and the applicable law, and con-

sideration of the analysis and opinion of a retained expert on police use of force, this Office concludes that criminal charges against the involved officers are not supportable and will not be pursued," Tucker said in a statement.

The report Tucker referred to was prepared by Eric P. Daigle, a lawyer with police and military experi-

ence who specializes in use of force cases.

"This Office is aware that Attorney Daigle has no prior connection to the Haverhill Police Department or to the officers involved and has testified as an expert witness both for and against police officers in civil and criminal use-of-

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The Five Minute Read



COURTESY PCA

The Celtic trio Fódhla plays Westford's Parish Center for the Arts on Jan. 31, 2026.

Celtic trio Fódhla at the PCA

WESTFORD » Enjoy the sounds of Ireland when the Celtic trio Fódhla performs at the Parish Center for the Arts on Saturday, Jan. 31, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for members, \$22 for non-members, \$25 at the door (if available). Seating is cabaret-style with dancing in the gallery. Ticketholders should bring their own food and drinks. Doors open a half-hour before show start time.

The name Fódhla comes from a protective spirit of Ireland. The trio brings fiddle, flute and guitar tunes to the stage. A typical concert starts off with high-energy traditional sets of Irish reels and jigs, includes trade melody and harmonies and a toe-tapping pair of barn dances.

To reserve tickets or for more information, visit parisharts.square.site, call 978-692-6333 or email admin@pcawestford.org. The PCA is a member-driven nonprofit whose mission is to promote community participation in the visual and performing arts.

Whistler House closes for restoration

LOWELL » The Whistler House Museum of Art will be closed until Friday, Feb. 20 for interior restoration projects. The WHMA is the historic birthplace of the famous American artist James McNeill Whistler. Established in 1878 as the Lowell Art Association Inc., it is the oldest incorporated art association in the United States. The WHMA is known in-

ternationally for its distinguished collection of 19th and early 20th century New England representational art, including works by Whistler, Gorky, and Sargent.

For more information, call 978-652-7641 or visit whistlerhouse.org.

Movie time

TEWKSBURY » Enjoy a screening of the R-rated movie "Roofman," on Friday, Jan. 30, from 2 to 4 p.m., in the Meeting Room of the Tewksbury Public Library, 300 Chandler St.

A charismatic criminal, while on the run from the police, hides in a hidden space of a toy store. There, he adopts a new identity and becomes involved with an employee, beginning a relationship as unlikely as it is risky. The comedy, drama and romance movie stars Channing Tatum and Kirsten Dunst. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Candy and water will be served. A \$1 donation is suggested to help cover the costs of refreshments.

The library's movie events are sponsored by the Friends of the Library and Tewksbury Lions Club.

Registration is required at tewksburypl.org/home/pages/calendar. For information, call 978-640-4490 or visit tewksburypl.org.

Creative writing group

LOWELL » The Pollard Memorial Library invites writers of all genres to join a monthly writing group on Monday, Feb. 2, from 6 to 8 p.m., in the Ground Floor Meeting Room, 401 Merrimack St.

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The Plymouth County District Attorney said he will not bring charges against the officers involved in an incident that led to Francis Gigliotti's death.

Marie R. Grenda



Marie R. (Fleming) Grenda, R.N., age 99 of Lowell, passed away Thursday, January 22, 2026, at Lowell General Hospital, surrounded by her loving family. She was the beloved wife of the late Joseph Grenda, who died in 1968.



Marie was born in Everett on March 5, 1926, the daughter of the late Matthew J. Fleming and the late Sheila (Linehan) Fleming of Revere and Billerica.

She is survived by her three children, Geraldine (Grenda) Hall and husband Richard of Tewksbury, Joseph Grenda Jr. and wife Paula (Beauregard) of Lowell, and David Grenda and wife Mary (Connors) of Lowell; her five grandchildren, Melissa (Hall) Fontaine and husband Matt of Lowell, Stacy (Hall) Centola and husband Anthony of Norfolk, Kelly (Grenda) Bertrand and husband David of Lowell, Joanna (Grenda) Craig and husband Shawn of Lowell and Brian Grenda and wife Janice (Stefaniak) of Milford, N.H.; her eight great-grandchildren, Joseph, Madysen and Elizabeth Bertrand, Violet Centola, Shawn Craig, Emalee, David and Lily Grenda and Matal Fontaine (step-grandson); and her brother, Edward Fleming and wife Linda (Merten) Fleming.

Visiting Hours will be held on Monday, February 2, 2026, from 9am to 11am at the DRACUT FUNERAL HOME, 2159 LAKEVIEW AVENUE, DRACUT, followed by her Funeral Service at 11am in the Funeral Home. Interment in St. Mary Cemetery, Tewksbury. Funeral Directors Paul A. Hardy, Jr. & Jennifer Lebaropoulos Hardy. For complete obituary, visit DRACUTFUNERALHOME.COM.



**DRACUT
FUNERAL HOME**

Yolanda L. Spataro

CHELMSFORD - Yolanda L. (Merlo) Spataro, age 101, of Enfield, CT, formerly of Chelmsford, MA and Naples, FL, passed away peacefully at St. Joseph Living Center, Windham, CT, on Monday, January 26, 2026. She was the beloved wife of the late Albert F. Spataro with whom she enjoyed 52 years of marriage until his passing in 2000.



She was born in Pinerolo, Italy on April 5, 1924, and was the daughter of the late John and Maddalena (Griotto) Merlo.

Yolanda was a kind and gentle soul who loved her family wholeheartedly and her friends with great fondness. She resided with and was taken care of by her daughter Linda until her recent hospitalization in December. She was highly intelligent and was an A student at Girls High School in Boston. Instead of attending college, she studied to become a beautician in order to help support her parents and brothers. She opened her own beauty salon in Boston for 25 years until she chose to work closer to home in Chelmsford. She was artistic by nature and in addition to styling hair she painted and learned to play piano at age 50. She created beautiful afghans, scarfs, and potholders for family and friends over many years. She read the Wall Street Journal daily until her late 90's and would often share what she learned.

Mrs. Spataro is survived by her loving daughter, Linda Spataro of Longmeadow, MA and CT; and son, Dr. Robert Spataro of Rochester, NY and Naples, FL; as well as her beloved grandson Avery Spataro Robinson of Longmeadow, MA and Norfolk, VA; and grandkitty Cali.

Her two brothers Raymond ("Honey") Merlo and John Merlo predeceased her.

Visiting hours will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2026, from 9am to 10am at the BLAKE CHELMSFORD FUNERAL HOME, 24 Worthen Street, CHELMSFORD. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, January 31, 2026, at 11am following the visitation at St. Mary Parish, 25 North Road, CHELMSFORD. Interment in Pine Ridge Cemetery, CHELMSFORD.

Funeral Directors Paul A. Hardy, Jr. & Jennifer Lebaropoulos Hardy. For directions and online guestbook, visit CHELMSFORDFUNERALHOME.COM and find us on Facebook.



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Haverhill

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force cases," Tucker noted.

To compile his report and come up with his findings, Daigle reviewed documentary evidence, audio and video recordings, and witness statements, in addition to department policies and case law.

Daigle stitched together a detailed timeline of events leading up to Gigliotti's death, from the original 911 about Gigliotti's erratic behavior to officers' attempts to de-escalate the situation before restraining him and their efforts to revive Gigliotti after he became unresponsive.

According to the report, a 911 caller said that Gi-

gliotti had walked out of his apartment, hit his head on a vehicle, and started straying into traffic.

When police first encountered Gigliotti, who was covered in blood, they tried to calm him down, but Gigliotti appeared to the officers like he may have been experiencing delusions that people were shooting at him and could have been impaired by narcotics.

Eventually, Gigliotti made his way to the entrance of a restaurant and tried to force himself inside.

"Because Mr. Gigliotti's injury was unexplained, his behavior was unpredictable, and it was still unknown if he was armed, (Haverhill Police Officer Richard Welch) told Mr. Gigliotti could not go inside and pulled Mr. Gigliotti

away from the door," the report said.

Gigliotti still did not comply with officers, the report said, and ended up on the ground, with the officers struggling to restrain him.

"At no time during the incident did Officers strike Mr. Gigliotti, and no use of force equipment was utilized. Officers stated that they did not have their knees on Mr. Gigliotti's head, neck, or back, which is consistent with the available video footage," Daigle noted.

After securing Gigliotti in handcuffs, officers noticed that he wasn't responding, and they placed him on his side in the recovery position. One officer checked his pulse and began chest compressions. Another administered Narcan.

Officers and EMS continued CPR and used a defibrillator on Gigliotti, but he was pronounced dead after being transported to the hospital.

Based on the evidence, Daigle said he concluded that "the officers exer-

cised sound judgment, applied their training appropriately, and acted in accordance with professional standards."

The report and decision to clear the officers comes after a medical examiner ruled the Gigliotti's death a homicide, saying he died from "cardiac dysrhythmia in a person with acute intoxication due to the combined effects of cocaine and ethanol while being restrained prone by police."

Tucker said in his statement that "a medical examiner's designation of a death as a 'homicide' is not determinative of whether a crime was committed."

"Over the course of the entire incident, in their words and actions, none of the officers displayed anything remotely suggesting a reckless disregard or indifference for Mr. Gigliotti's well-being, much less an intent to harm him," Tucker said. "To the contrary, the available facts disclose that they acted reasonably and proportionally with an intent only to ensure his safety and that of the public."

David Costello

FREEPORT, ME - David Costello, 77, passed away on January 25, 2026, in Portland, ME.

Family and friends are invited to visit from 4pm

- 5pm on Friday, January 30, 2026, at the new Conroy-Tully Walker Cremation, Funeral & Gathering Center, 300 Allen Avenue, Portland; a Celebration of Life will begin at 5pm. To view David's full obituary and memorial page, please visit www.ConroyTullyWalker.com



Kevin Scott Gannon

TYNGSBORO - Kevin Scott Gannon, age 31, a resident of Tyngsboro, passed away peacefully at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston on Sunday, January 25, 2026, after a courageous lifelong battle with Cystic Fibrosis.

Kevin was born in Lowell on September 23, 1994, and was the beloved son of Scott D. Gannon and Sharon (Maheu) Narbonne. From the very beginning, Kevin faced life with grit, humor, and an unbreakable spirit, Cystic Fibrosis never

defined him—it fueled his determination to live boldly, fiercely, and fully. He was a warrior in every sense of the word, stronger than anyone who knew him could ever put into words.

Kevin graduated from Tyngsboro High School, Class of 2013. He was currently employed at Best Friends Pet Hotel, where his love for animals shone through daily. He was previously employed as a distributor with Red Bull and earlier served as a Manager at CVS. No matter where Kevin worked, he brought loyalty, heart, and an unmatched work ethic.

In his free time, Kevin poured his passion into creating content for a YouTube channel with his closest friends dedicated to wrestling, WCFNW Promos. Wrestling was more than an interest, it was a true passion. Kevin also deeply loved music and photography and was a gifted photographer with a natural eye for capturing powerful, meaningful moments. He found joy in attending live concerts, spending time in nature, and caring for animals with tenderness and devotion. He believed in living life out loud, embracing adventure, friendship, and every moment he was given.

In addition to his loving parents, Sharon (Maheu) Narbonne and her husband Alan, and Scott Gannon and his fiancé Carol Megna, Kevin is survived by his sister Olivia Gannon and her fiancé Chantz Mello of Nashua, NH, uncles Michael Maheu; Gary and Sheila Gannon; Daniel and Celeste Gannon; James and Susan Gannon; Keith and Lynn Gannon; aunts Linda and Woody Dennechuk; Lisa Gagnon and her daughter Marisa his cousin, his beloved grandfather, Joe Maheu; along with many loving cousins, dear friends, and a community forever changed by his presence.

Kevin was predeceased by his beloved maternal grandparents, Doris Maheu; his beloved paternal grandparents, Daniel and Theresa Gannon; his aunt Cheryl Boulanger; and his cousin Dannel Gannon.

Memorial donations may be made in Kevin's memory to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation or to a favorite no-kill animal shelter, two causes close to his heart.

Visiting hours will be held on Friday, January 30, 2026, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM at the DRACUT FUNERAL HOME, 2159 Lakeview Avenue, Dracut. His Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday at 11:30 AM at St. Rita's Parish, Lowell. Interment will follow at St. Mary's Cemetery, Tewksbury. Funeral Directors Paul A. Hardy, Jr. & Jennifer Lebaropoulos Hardy. For directions and online guestbook, visit DRACUTFUNERALHOME.COM and find us on Facebook.



**DRACUT
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COURTESY COMMUNITY TEAMWORK

From left, Community Teamwork Inc. Lead Case Manager Elizabeth Wando, state Rep. Tara Hong, Congresswoman Lori Trahan, and CTI Lead Case Manager Wanda Montes during a visit to a family emergency shelter in Lowell Jan. 28, 2026. With a \$3 million earmark secured by Trahan in fiscal 2023, CTI was able to purchase the land under the shelter to ensure long-term stability of the 17 units.

CTI

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pandemic, and it now operates as a part of the Massachusetts Emergency Shelter Program. It serves families with children under 21 who are experiencing homelessness and meet income eligibility guidelines, as outlined by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities' shelter criteria.

"We are grateful to Congresswoman Lori Trahan for securing this vital federal investment, which allowed Community Teamwork to purchase this family shelter and ensure long-term stability for emergency housing," said CTI CEO Carl Howell. "Because of her leadership, families with children experiencing homelessness have a

safe, dignified place to land while they work toward permanent housing. This investment protects a critical resource for our community for years to come."

Families who enter the shelter are immediately connected with a case manager, and CTI begins working to increase the family's income stability and find permanent housing. Each family stay is limited to six months, and about 45 families are served at the shelter annually. The 17 units there are counted among 113 family units CTI operates in the region, along with 26 individual shelter units. Another 19 shelter units were opened in Lowell in 2024 thanks in part to \$2 million in funding from the city awarded CTI from the American Rescue Plan Act.

CTI also expects to open a 50-unit women's shelter on Church Street this fall.

Read

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The library will provide a writing space and snacks. No registration required. For information, call 978-674-4120 or visit lowelllibrary.org.

**Mark your calendars:
Black storytellers**

LOWELL Join other bibliophiles for the Lala Books Black Storytellers Book Club. Dive into diverse stories that celebrate the richness of Black voices with fellow book lovers for meaningful discussions, fresh perspectives and a variety of genres by Black authors. This month's selection is "Love in Color: Mythical Tales from Around the World," retold by Bolu Babalola. Pick up a copy at the bookstore or your local library before Friday, Feb. 6, at 6 p.m., 189

Market St. Audio books are also available at the Libro shop.

For more information, call 978-221-5966 or visit lalabooksstore.com.

**Save the date:
Preschool and kindergarten resource fair**

LOWELL Lowell Public Schools hosts a 2026 Preschool & Kindergarten Registration Showcase and Resource Fair on Wednesday, Feb. 11, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., at the McAuliffe Elementary School, 570 Beacon St.

During the event, families will have the opportunity to meet school leaders and educators from all 15 Lowell public elementary schools and learn more about preschool, kindergarten and community programs serving children birth to age 5.

A light meal will be provided. To register, visit bit.ly/4b1MKBF.