

Body found in bog

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NORTHAMPTON - An unidentified body was found in a Barrett Street marsh Sunday, the third such corpse found in city waters this month.

The death was reported to the Northampton Police Department at 6:30 p.m. Sunday. An investigation is under way to identify the person and to determine what happened, according to Northwestern District Attorney Elizabeth D. Scheibel.

A state police helicopter from Westover Air Reserve Base was called to the scene Sunday to search the area.

Three detectives and two crime scene technicians from the Police Department were out investigating the scene, police said. Lt. Michael Patenaude said those department personnel were the only people familiar with the case; he would not comment further.

When asked if the body was male or female, if foul play is suspected in the death, or if the incident has any similarities to the other two bodies found this month, Scheibel said, "It's too early to say."

Numerous people in the city Police Department and state police detective unit of the Northwestern District Attorney's Office are involved in the investigation, she noted.

The other two bodies found this month are identified as Gary Schack, 55, of Northampton, and Michael A. Mikalunas, 36, of 25 Greenwich Road, in Amherst.

The men were found floating in separate waters in the Meadows, near the Connecticut River and the Easthampton/Northampton border. Schack's body was found May 9 and Mikalunas' body was found May 10.

The deaths appear to be unrelated, and investigators do not suspect foul play in either death, according to police. Reports from the state Medical Examiner's Office are pending.

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KEVIN GUTTING

A Northampton police van enters the parking lot of the Coachlight Condominiums at 72-74 Barrett St. Sunday evening where Northampton police and fire units and Massachusetts police staged to respond to a body found in the wetland area between the parking lot and Carlon Drive to the east.



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