

News & Record

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Tuesday, September 1, 2026 WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES greensboro.com

DOWNTOWN SHOOTING CAPS VIOLENT MONTH



Police protect the scene of a shooting at S. Elm and W. McGee streets in Greensboro, N.C., on Sunday, August 30, 2026. The shooting, one of several acts of violence to occur in the city over the past month, has prompted discussions over public safety in Greensboro.

Wave of violence raises new concerns across Greensboro

KEVIN GRIFFIN
Staff Reporter

A month that began with a night-time shooting at a crowded event hall ended with a shooting and police shootout in broad daylight in Greensboro's city center.

In between the Royal Banquet Hall shooting that left nine injured on Aug. 2 and the shootings on Sunday that ended with the death of the gunman and critical injuries to a woman, there were other incidents of violence across the city as well.

A day before the downtown shooting, a 46-year-old man was shot and killed outside his southeast Greensboro home in what was the city's 18th homicide this year.

The city's 16th and 17th homicides occurred the weekend prior when two women were shot and

killed on Creswell Court in the Grandover Resort community.

On the same day as that shooting, a man was seriously injured in a stabbing at the Four Seasons Town Centre.

And a week before the downtown shooting Sunday that blocked off sections of major streets for hours, discussions about downtown safety had already begun in response to a series of social media videos showing fights late at night in the area.

Violence raises hard questions

In the wake of the shooting Sunday and other acts of violence in the past month, Mayor Marikay Abuzaiter and members of the city council said that determining the causes and working to prevent specific incidents can be difficult.

"I'm sure that chief and city manager are brainstorming to figure out what can we do," Abuzaiter said on Monday. "I honestly don't know what one can do when somebody decides to hurt somebody. We have no way of predicting that a lot of times."

Councilman Adam Marshall, who represents the district where the Sunday shooting took place, echoed that sentiment.

"I don't know what drives some folks to take these bad actions," Marshall said. "Those people that want to do harm are going to do harm and that is just the reality of where we are. I mean, how do you solve it? I don't know."

At the same time, Marshall said "the violence that has occurred recently is not acceptable."

Please see **SHOOTING**, Page A4

Man shot by police dies

Woman he shot is in
critical condition

SUSIE C. SPEAR
Staff Reporter

Gunman Richard Bernard Hovis Jr., a Salisbury man who shot and critically injured a woman in downtown Greensboro before engaging in a police shootout that closed several city blocks, died early Monday, police said.

Greensboro police Chief Kamran Afzal said during a Sunday news conference that the incident began when officers received a call about a shooting from the Gateway Plaza housing complex on Spring Garden Street on Sunday shortly before 4:30 p.m.

He said officers found a woman suffering from gunshot wounds in the 200 block of McGee Street and a man fleeing the scene.

The chase evolved into a shootout between five officers and Hovis, who was armed with a long gun, authorities said. Hovis fired at least one shot at an officer at the intersection of Elm Street and Smothers Place, Afzal said.

The episode ended by the railroad tracks where Hovis continued shooting at officers even after he was shot by their return fire and fell, officials said.

The injured woman, who has not been named, was in critical, but stable condition at an area hospital Monday morning, authorities said. Police have not said how Hovis knew his victim.

"As is standard protocol with critical incidents involving a death, the Greensboro Police Department has requested the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation to conduct a criminal investigation into the incident," police spokesperson Annette Ayres said Monday in a press release.

Hovis's father, Richard Hovis Sr., was up before dark Monday, preparing for his dialysis treatment, when police called.



Hovis

Please see **FATHER**, Page A4

13-year-old Northwest Middle student died after medical emergency

BRYANT ROCHE
Staff Reporter

Caden Sorrell, a 13-year-old Northwest Middle School student whose medical emergency caused the Page-Northwest High varsity football game to be rescheduled from Friday to Saturday, has died.

Sorrell died after suffering a sudden cardiac arrest during football practice at his middle school, according to his uncle Joshua Sorrell, who set up a GoFundMe to raise money for the family. Caden received treatment at Cone Medical

Center, including extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, a heart pump and additional intensive treatment but didn't survive.

A social media post from Northwest Guilford football says that Sorrell was born on Oct. 20, 2012, and died on Sunday, and contained the slogan "Live Like Caden."

"One Viking family," the Northwest football Instagram page posted on Sunday. "We honor C.R.S and his family. Thank you to the Vikings staff, EMS, doctors that cared for him."

"One Viking family. Together. Additional details will follow."

On a different graphic, the post continued with a picture of Sorrell in his Northwest uniform taking a knee with a large shield having the letters "CRS" written on it with a ship image underneath those larger letters on the shield.

Northwest Middle School principal CeCe Matson issued a statement on Sunday.

"Today, our Northwest Middle School family is grieving the loss of one of our

students," it reads. "There are no easy words to make sense of losing a child and our hearts are with the family, friends, classmates and all who loved him."

"We ask that you continue to keep this family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. As we grieve this loss, let us lean on one another and extend compassion to those around us. A caring heart and gentle presence can mean so much right now."

Please see **NORTHWEST**, Page A4

1 stabbed Sunday night in South Greensboro

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Weather
Mostly sunny
and hot
High: 95
Low: 74
Forecast: A10

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