



What to know for high school football Week 11, quarterfinals

SPORTS, 1B

The METROWEST DAILY NEWS

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A SALUTE TO VETERANS



From left, Les Malecki, Al Jost and Tim Tonner, all of the Sudbury Companies of Militia and Minute, fire a salute to honor all veterans at Wilson Cemetery in Marlborough on Nov. 11. They are standing outside the tomb of Robert Eames, who fought in both the French and Indian War and Revolutionary War.

ART ILLMAN/DAILY NEWS AND WICKED LOCAL STAFF PHOTO

Two key Wellesley Square properties change ownership

Caroline Bunnell
The MetroWest Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK

WELLESLEY – Two cornerstone properties in Wellesley Square are entering new phases of ownership, as the Taylor Block was recently sold and the Rotunda Building has been put on the market.

The Taylor Block, at 540-568 Washington St. (Route 16), consists of five two- and three-story mixed-use buildings. The ground floors house local businesses, while apartments occupy the upper levels. Conveniently situated across from a Wellesley Commuter Rail stop, a post office, Town Hall, the town library and a municipal parking lot, the property can easily be accessed by visitors and Wellesley residents alike.

Jumbo Capital purchased the property for \$15.25 million, according to a report from Wayland-based brokerage and advisory firm R.W. Holmes. The

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Meet the Justice for Sandra Birchmore members

Amelia Stern
The Enterprise
USA TODAY NETWORK

BOSTON — A grandmother of four, a retired Canton police sergeant and a New Hampshire resident gathered outside the John J. Moakley Courthouse in Boston shortly before a federal judge set a trial date in the case against Matthew Farwell — a former Stoughton police officer accused of killing Sandra Birchmore in 2021.

None of the three protestors said they personally knew Birchmore, who was just 23 years old and pregnant when she was found dead inside her Canton apartment nearly five years ago. They still braved the chilly Autumn morning on Thursday, Oct. 16, to stand outside the courthouse holding signs in her

honor.

The three are part of the much larger “Justice for Sandra Birchmore” movement, a group made up of Birchmore’s family, her friends and thousands of strangers similarly angered by the alleged actions of three former Stoughton police officers accused of grooming Birchmore in the years before her death.

On Facebook, the group has nearly 18,784 members as of Nov 11.

“We collectively came together because we saw a young woman who was abused, broken down and groomed by three disgusting police officers who treated her like garbage,” one of the movement’s founders, Melissa “Mizzy” Berry told The Enterprise.

The investigation into her death, Berry said, also treated her like garbage.

What happened to Sandra Birchmore?

Birchmore first met Farwell when she was 13 years old through the Stoughton Police Department’s Explorers Program, an initiative designed to introduce young kids to careers in law enforcement.

A shocking 19-month internal affairs investigation presented by Stoughton Police Chief Donna McNamara concluded Farwell, an instructor of the program, began an alleged sexual relationship with Birchmore when she was just 15 and Farwell was 27.

Two other former officers, Farwell’s twin brother William Farwell, also involved in the Explorers Program, and former Deputy Chief Robert C. Devine, also had had “inappropriate relations”

with Birchmore, according to the investigation.

A former participant in the Explorers Program saw “inappropriate behavior” by Devine and the Farwell twins, including hugging, kissing and inappropriate contact in a closet, and statements to the effect of “come back and see me when you turn 18,” the report said.

Although not detailed in the report, McNamara said a fourth man, later identified as former Stoughton Animal Control Officer Joshua Heal, also took advantage of Birchmore.

According to charging documents, Matthew Farwell continued to sexually exploit Birchmore and in December 2020, Birchmore allegedly told him she was pregnant, and that he was the

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