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The METROWEST DAILY NEWS

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Dining hub nears first restaurant opening



Troy Spruel, owner of Blue Square Pizza, talks with a contractor inside his soon-to-be-open eatery at The Block in Natick Center on June 11. PHOTOS BY DAILY NEWS STAFF PHOTO/JOHN WALKER

Blue Square Pizza opens in June at The Block in the Natick Center

Caroline Bunnell
The MetroWest Daily News
USA TODAY NETWORK

NATICK — The long-awaited arrival of The Block in Natick Center is finally taking shape, with the complex's first restaurant just days from opening and construction underway for the rest of the development's dining lineup.

The two-story, mixed-use building at One South Main St. (Route 27), is set to become a new hub for MetroWest restaurants. It will contain four ground-floor eateries and a second floor that will primarily focus on health and wellness businesses, property owner Stuart Rothman told the Daily News.

Originally slated to open last year, The Block faced extended permitting delays that pushed back opening dates for its tenants. Rothman said the building itself is now fully complete, and interior construction is progressing inside the restaurant spaces. He emphasized



The Block, a mixed-use building in Natick Center, will soon be home to several restaurants including Blue Square Pizza.

that there's still a lot of work needed for the development to be complete, but that it's moving in the right direction. But after years of planning, he's eager to see the project finally come to life.

See **THE BLOCK**, Page 3A

Towns could install red light cameras if bill passes

Margie Cullen
USA TODAY NETWORK - New England

You could get caught for failing to stop at a red light even if no policemen are present under a bill in the Massachusetts Legislature.

Sponsored by Sen. William Brownsberger, D-Belmont, S. 2344 would allow cities and towns to install automated cameras that would enforce road safety violations like running red lights, blocking intersections and speeding.

If passed, Massachusetts would join at least 22 states and the District of Columbia that use red-light cameras, according to the CDC.

What would the red-light camera bill do?

The violations enforceable with the cameras include:

- Failing to stop at a red light

See **CAMERAS**, Page 2A

MA drought map shows where conditions worsened

Seth Jacobson
USA TODAY NETWORK - New England

Dry weather is taking its toll in Massachusetts. Drought conditions – ongoing since 2024 in the Bay State – were improving earlier this spring, but in the latest report by the state's Drought Management Task Force, it's clear things have worsened. In May, between one and three inches of rain fell in the state, which officials say "was 1.3 to 3 inches below normal."

One region of the state is now considered to be in "critical drought" and several others have escalated to be considered in a "significant" drought.

"The designation follows two years of below-average rainfall and declining streamflow and groundwater across the state, signaling worsening drought conditions and increasing stress on local water supplies," a press release said.

As the drought worsens to critical conditions,

See **DROUGHT**, Page 3A



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