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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2026 | TAUNTONGAZETTE.COM K1

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Search for remains of 19th century priests underway

Emma Rindlisbacher

The Taunton Daily Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Diocese of Fall River is conducting a search for the remains of two priests who may have been buried on the now-closed St. Mary's church in Taunton in the 19th century, a spokesperson for the Diocese said Friday.

In July 2025, the Diocese announced that St. Mary's church would be closing

for good.

The Diocese said at the time that they are "actively exploring potential buyers." It is unclear if any specific buyer has been identified at this time.

A spokesperson for the Diocese said Friday that, starting on the week of Monday, March 23, the Diocese has begun an investigation to locate the remains of two priests who may have been buried on the church grounds in the 1800s, in order to reinter them in a

Catholic cemetery.

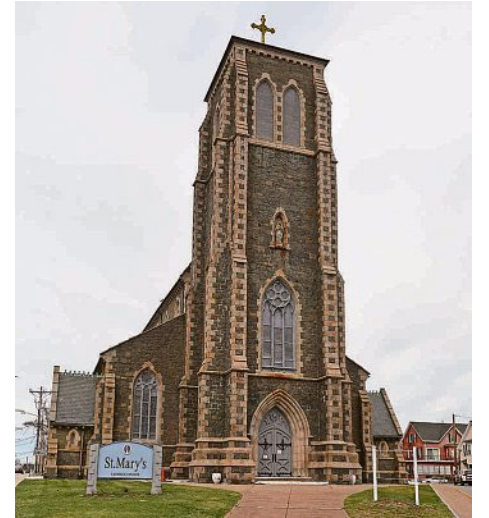
As of Friday, any potential remains have yet to be located, the spokesperson said.

Orange cones and wooden boards could be seen on some locations at the church on Friday, March 27.

Here's what we know.

Former Taunton Mayor Tom Hoye told the Gazette in a text message Friday

See SEARCH, Page 2A



The exterior of St. Mary's church in Taunton on March 27.

EMMA RINDLISBACHER/TAUNTON DAILY GAZETTE



The complex for Taunton East Little League, 629 Middleboro Ave. in East Taunton, will soon be getting its own splash pad for kids. The splash pad, to be installed and run by the City of Taunton, will be located next to the parking lot of the complex. Currently, batting cages are on the location. The batting cages are being relocated by Taunton East Little League to the center of the complex. DANIEL SCHEMER/TAUNTON DAILY GAZETTE

Third splash pad coming to East Taunton neighborhood

Daniel Schemer

The Taunton Daily Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

Kids in East Taunton will soon have a new place to cool off and have fun in the summer.

East Taunton will soon get its very own splash pad, joining two others already up and running in the city.

Where will this new splash pad be located? On the property of Taunton East

Little League at 629 Middleboro Ave.

Taunton parks and recreation Commissioner AJ Marshall said the city, along with its residents, have been wanting more kids recreation options in that part of Taunton for years.

An arrangement between the city and the youth sports league, approved by the City Council, will install a new splash pad on the property, along with additional renovations, hopefully sometime this summer.

City tried twice before to put splash pad in East Taunton. Why this time is different

The city currently runs two other splash pads: At Hopewell Park and the Weir Riverfront Park on East Water Street.

Marshall told the Committee on Public Property & Information Technology

See SPLASH PAD, Page 2A

2 Taunton women honored at statewide event

Daniel Schemer

The Taunton Daily Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

Two Taunton women were honored at the Massachusetts State House for positive contributions they have made to the local community.

"Black Excellence on the Hill," hosted by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus, is an annual event that commemorates "leaders and trailblazers who are moving the needle forward in cities and towns across the commonwealth," according to its website.

Recipients of awards at Black Excellence on the Hill, held on Feb. 27, were nominated by elected officials representing districts in the state.

Those Taunton recipients honored at this year's event were:

Patricia Juba, founder and CEO of Taunton nonprofit A Life Worth Living, Corp, who was nominated by State Rep. Lisa Field.

Talisa Proctor, owner of Talisa's on Main wine bar in downtown Taunton, who was nominated by State Sen. Kelly Dooner.

Who is Patricia Juba?

Juba founded A Life Worth Living, Corp., at 563 Bay St. in Taunton, in 2017.

Influenced by her own experiences dealing with poverty, addiction, and becoming a mother at a young age, Juba

See WOMEN, Page 2A



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Volume 178 | No. 249
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