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Officials from the city of Taunton and developer Greystar held a groundbreaking ceremony on May 28 at Whittenton Mills, where Greystar is beginning construction of a 390-unit market-rate modular construction residential development, the largest the city has ever seen. DANIEL SCHEMER/TAUNTON DAILY GAZETTE

Berkley voters shoot down rezoning

Commercial zoning had been sought to help municipality's tax base

Emma Rindlisbacher
The Taunton Daily Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

Allowing additional commercial development proved a step too far for Berkley residents, whose town is facing severe financial constraints due to a lack of revenue amid rising costs.

At their Monday, June 1, annual town meeting, Berkley voted down a proposed zoning change that would have allowed commercial development on land near the highway that runs through Berkley.

The vote doesn't prevent residential development from happening on the land, which is currently zoned for residential development.

It is possible that the land may be sold and that future developers may pursue a 40B residential development. 40B developments allow local zoning rules to be overridden in cases where less than 10% of residential housing consists of certain types of affordable housing. In Berkley, the percentage is 1.7%.

"With the failure of the zoning change the property can still be sold and developed residentially by right," Board of Selectmen Chair Tabitha McCrohan told the Gazette. "At the end of the day it's a private transaction of residentially zoned property. What that means for its future, is unknown."

However, commercial development is generally seen as being beneficial to a municipality's tax base. Many municipalities, such as Taunton, have separate residential and commercial

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'Monumental' project

Taunton's largest-ever housing development about to become a reality

Daniel Schemer
The Taunton Daily Gazette
USA TODAY NETWORK

A year from now, the long-blighted Whittenton Mills land in Taunton could be home to residents in brand new apartments.

The site of the former industrial complex will soon be home to the largest housing development ever produced in the city — which is also the largest residential modular construction project in the entire region, according to the developer.

"This is a first-of-its kind project here in the city of Taunton," said Mayor Shaunna O'Connell at a groundbreaking on May 28 at 437 Whittenton St. construction site.

Since January, the site has been closed off while Greystar, the owner and

developer of the 390 market-rate unit development, has been engaged in demolition of the buildings and environmental remediation.

Demolition is scheduled to be complete this summer, with most of the property being prepared for construction, with foundation work, like pouring concrete, being set up.

Over 300 truckloads of asbestos had to be removed from the site when demolishing the old buildings, said

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Looking for love in Massachusetts? Survey finds 4 unlikely places

Ruth Thompson
Wicked Local
USA TODAY NETWORK

If you're looking for love in Massachusetts, forget smoky bars, sandy beaches or sweaty gyms. And yes, even (especially?) the dating apps.

Instead, be sure your antenna is up when you're in the checkout line at Market Basket.

ACE.com, an online gaming site, recently reported four seemingly unlikely places to meet your match in the Bay State, based on a national survey that

drew 3,024 respondents (Massachusetts results were a subsection of the overall body of work).

"These spots aren't trying to be romantic, which is part of the appeal," Paul Murphy, general manager of ACE.com, wrote in an email in response to a query from Wicked Local.

The survey provided multiple choice options, as well as an open-ended option. So without any further ado, here are four unlikely, yet promising, romantic spots in Massachusetts:

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The Brimfield Antique Flea Market in Brimfield was named an unlikely place to find romance. JAMES KUKSTIS/WICKED LOCAL

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