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January 8, 2026

DEVENS IN THE NEWS:

MassDevelopment Housing RFPs: <https://www.massdevelopment.com/rfps-and-rfqs/>

- REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY THE DEVELOPMENT OF ±6.6 ACRES OF RESIDENTIAL LAND AT ADAMS CIRCLE, DEVENS, MA
- REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY THE DEVELOPMENT OF ±62.7 ACRES OF RESIDENTIAL LAND ALONG GRANT ROAD, DEVENS, MA

Devens Business Profile and Economic Contribution Analysis, 2025:

https://www.devenscommunity.com/assets/Devens_Economic_Profile_and_Analysis_Report_FINAL_2025.pdf

MassDevelopment Devens Annual Report for 2025: [Devens annual report for 2025](#)

[Editorial: Residential push a Devens path to next community](#)

01/02/26 12:24 | United States | [sentinelandenterprise.com](#)

[Editorial No confusion about CFS' fusion goals.pdf](#) 12/21/25 00:15 | United States | [nashobavalleyvoice.com](#)

MassDevelopment seeks developers for more housing in Devens

The Harvard Press by John Osborn • Tuesday, December 23, 2025

MassDevelopment, the agency responsible for the redevelopment of Devens, has invited developers to submit proposals for new housing on nearly 70 acres in Devens, all of which lie within Harvard's historical town boundaries. The request marks the first major initiative since state lawmakers eliminated the community's long-standing cap on new housing last fall.

The announcement came late Monday in a press release sent to local officials and media. MassDevelopment is offering two sites: a 6.6-acre parcel at Adams Circle near Devens' commercial center and a 62.7-acre tract on Grant Road adjacent to Emerson Green, one of the community's largest residential neighborhoods. Combined, the properties could support single-family homes, townhomes, duplexes, and multifamily buildings at various price points for both rental and ownership.

"Housing is a critical competitive asset for Massachusetts and essential to sustaining a strong, growing economy," said Economic Development Secretary Eric Paley, who chairs MassDevelopment's board. "These sites present a real opportunity to expand housing options for the people who work in and around Devens, support employers competing for talent, and help address the region's broader housing shortage."

Publication of the requests for proposals follows passage of last November's Mass Leads Act, which removed Devens' previous 282-unit housing limit. Adams Circle and Grant Road are already zoned for residential development, allowing MassDevelopment to move forward immediately. The legislation also established a working group that in May recommended housing also be allowed in the Innovation and Technology Center zoning district, a change to current zoning that would require the approval of Harvard, Shirley, and Ayer. The ITC district includes the abandoned quadrangle of Army housing at Vicksburg Square as well as a former bachelor officers quarters.

MassDevelopment President Navjeet Bal said the agency's real estate professionals and engineers have prepared the sites for development. "With strong demand for more housing facing Devens and the entire region, we look forward to working with interested developers to turn this opportunity into reality," Bal said.

The Devens Enterprise Commission, the area's permitting agency, has already approved construction of six duplex units at Adams Circle by Reframe Systems of Andover. Meanwhile, at Emerson Green, NOW Communities, the neighborhood's developer, has been unable to complete construction of a long-awaited 46-unit apartment complex. The company's permit has been renewed twice, but to the consternation of abutting homeowners, a gaping hole in the community's center is the only sign of progress.

Complete RFP details for the Grant Road and Adams Circle parcels are available at www.massdevelopment.com/rfps-and-rfqs/.

MART cuts Emerson, commuter shuttles, but COA van still in place

The Harvard Press by Marty Green • Friday, December 19, 2025

Harvard's already limited public transportation has been sharply reduced this month. The Montachusett Regional Transit Authority (MART) ended shuttle service from Harvard, Ayer, and Shirley to Emerson Hospital on Dec. 15. The on-demand rides that MART provided to medical offices on Baker Avenue Extension were included in the cancellation. And last week, MART announced it was also ending the commuter shuttle from Harvard to the Littleton MBTA station, effective Dec. 26. The reason MART gave for discontinuing all these services was extremely low ridership.

The commuter shuttle had been running since late 2023, offering rides from St. Theresa's Catholic Church or the business plaza at 285 Ayer Road to the MBTA station in Littleton in the morning and back to those locations in the evening. The shuttle to Emerson was put in place after the closure of the Nashoba Valley Medical Center in August 2024. MART CEO Bruno J. Fisher wrote in an email, "There was essentially no ridership" for the Emerson shuttle. But he emphasized that on-demand rides are still available through the MART Connects service. "The remaining funds from the Emerson shuttle grant are being repurposed for the MART Connects project," Fisher wrote.

Debbie Thompson, director of Harvard's Council on Aging, said MART Connects has some important advantages over the two discontinued programs. Unlike the shuttles, MART Connects picks people up at their home addresses, so there is no need for someone to drive to a pickup location or find a ride to get them there. MART Connects also offers rides for longer hours: 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

But there is also a major disadvantage—MART Connects rides are available only for Harvard residents going to or from locations in Ayer, Devens, Shirley, and Lancaster. (Several other towns that were formerly members are no longer part of the program.) And MART Connects passengers have to book a ride at least a day in advance and pay a small fee (from \$4 to \$7) each way for their trip.

MART Connects rides can be booked by calling 978-345-7711 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. More information is available at the website www.mrta.us/services/mart-connects.

MART provides a COA van

Perhaps the most important service MART still provides for Harvard is supplying one of the two vans used by the Council on Aging, as well as maintenance for that van and training for all COA van drivers. MART also reimburses the town for COA payments to drivers of the MART van. (The other van is owned and maintained by the town.)

"We are trying to do as much as we can to support our rural communities," Fisher wrote in an email, "as we know all too well the significant challenges they are faced with [for] seniors, the disabled, and transportation dependent residents needs."

Chelsey Patriss of the Nashoba Health Equity Partnership agrees, saying "Transportation is absolutely critical." But she said in a telephone interview that the discontinued MART shuttle services had reached only a very narrow population. NHEP is focused on improving health through a range of approaches, she said, including making healthy food available and supporting mental health services. Access to health care, she said, could also be improved by bringing more services into the community or even directly to homes, as well as through expanding telehealth programs.

Residents elect four newcomers and an incumbent to Devens advisory boards

The Harvard Press by John Osborn • Friday, December 19, 2025

When the Devens Committee and Devens Educational Advisory Committee convene in January, four freshman representatives will be seated at the table.

In this year's annual election, which closed Monday, Dec. 8, voters chose Tolga Caglar, Aaron Farber-Chen, and Lisa Kendrick from among six nominees to fill three open seats on the Devens Committee, each with a three-year term. All three reside in Emerson Green, Devens' newest residential neighborhood.

There were no nominees for the two open two-year seats on the Education Advisory Committee, but voters wrote in the names of eight residents, with Philip Cheung and incumbent Fahima Shaik receiving the greatest number of votes.

According to MassDevelopment, however, those results are preliminary until Cheung and Shaik confirm they accept the positions.

MassDevelopment reported in its weekly newsletter that 219 ballots had been mailed to residents who registered for the election; 99 were returned, a 45% turnout.

Tolga Caglar, a Turkish-born naturalized U.S. citizen, moved with his wife and two children to Devens in 2020, according to a campaign statement posted online by MassDevelopment. He is the industrial design manager at VITO Design USA of Southbridge, Connecticut.

Aaron Farber-Chen, a pediatric registered nurse and family nurse practitioner, moved from Arlington to Devens with his family at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. He is a member of Harvard's Addiction Abatement Fund Working Group.

Lisa Kendrick, according to her biographical statement, also moved to Devens in 2020 after living in Harvard for 12 years. She is employed as a bookkeeper for a management company in West Concord as well as a local attorney. "In Devens I was able to downsize my home and land; remain in the school district; enjoy great municipal services, utilities, public works, and real estate tax rates," she wrote.

MassDevelopment announced this year's results Friday afternoon, Dec. 12, in its weekly newsletter. They were posted as well at the Devens Community website.

In the absence of a municipal town clerk the results were certified by Karen Montoya, MassDevelopment executive secretary for Devens operations and Devens office secretary Roseanne Hunter.

2025 Devens Election Results

Devens Committee	
Cynthia Carter (incumbent)	29
Lawrence LaForge	34
Lisa Kendrick	66
Tolga Caglar	51
Aaron Farber-Chen	57
Austin Mackey	49

Devens Education Advisory Committee	
Philip Cheung	57
Fahima Shaik (current member)	34
Dorinda Abrafi	22
Laura Ruth	2
Sathish Somishetti	2
Jesse Lowe (current member)	2
Hannah Chiou	1
David LaPierre	2

MVP 2.0 Meeting, Thursday, January 8th at 6pm (hybrid):

Community Resiliency Planning Kick Off

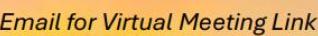
***There is more than football happening in January!
Learn about the latest Community Resilience
Project in Devens***



Devens is participating in a two-year process called the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) 2.0 Program. The MVP 2.0 Program is a grant program run by the State of Massachusetts to fund communities to identify vulnerabilities to climate change and implement projects that help build community resilience. Through the MVP 2.0 program, Devens will create a Core Team of municipal staff and Community Liaisons who will work together to lead the MVP 2.0 work in the community. We will discuss opportunities to get involved and other projects that are underway that will inform the Project.



If you are interested in learning more or want to receive the virtual meeting link, please contact Beth Suedmeyer, Environmental Planner for the Devens Enterprise Commission at 978-772-8831 or bethsuedmeyer@devensec.com



[Email for Virtual Meeting Link](#)

Thursday,

January 8th, 2026, 6pm

Hybrid Meeting

Vicksburg Conference Room,

33 Andrews Parkway, Devens, MA

Contact Beth (bethsuedmeyer@devensec.com) for the Zoom meeting link.

MVP 2.0 Call for Community Ambassadors, Deadline to express interest is January 15th:

Seeking Community Resiliency Ambassadors

SUMMARY OF THE OPPORTUNITY

This is a unique opportunity to get to know other people, build community capacity, and be part of positive change in your community.

Anyone who lives, schools, or works in Devens is welcome! We're especially looking for people who identify with and/or are well connected to groups who have been left out in past efforts.

We are looking for people who are interested in working to achieve the following for the Devens community:

- Housing security
- Food security
- Transportation access
- Increased economic and employment opportunity
- Optimal healthcare/wellness
- Overcoming language barriers
- Opportunities for healthy social engagement

Time commitment:

- January to August 2026
- Approximately 1-5 hours per week / 5-20 hours per month (variable)
- This includes attending mandatory meetings (one or two per month in person and /or virtual), attending community events, doing outreach and engagement activities, and reviewing and providing feedback on materials. Schedules will depend on participant availability.
- There may be an opportunity to extend the program.

Compensation:

- Approximately \$300 / month
- Approximately \$2,000 total, paid in 4 installments



If you are interested in learning more or expressing interest in the Community Ambassador position, please contact Beth Suedmeyer, Environmental Planner for the Devens Enterprise Commission at 978-772-8831 or bethsuedmeyer@devensec.com

Link to Expression of Interest Form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfanzlLUUzMYKEe0qRd-urFRjI2xoNTj9e-F-GhqkPzQ0fGIQ/viewform?pli=1>