

Legislators help launch Browse Borrow Board in region

SPRINGFIELD – State Senator Jake Oliveira (Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District) joined his colleagues in the Western Mass Delegation, representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority, and the Massachusetts Public Library System to launch the Browse Borrow Board Program in the Pioneer Valley.

Browse Borrow Board will bring MassDOT and PVTa riders the opportunity to browse digital audiobooks, eBooks, newspapers, and magazines while waiting for their bus to arrive before borrowing and enjoying their reading materials on the go. The program was made possible through Oliveira's fiscal year 2024 budget amendment that increased state aid to regional public libraries by \$750,000.

For Oliveira, the program extends far beyond what riders can access.

"Like our public libraries, Browse Borrow Board is about more than just books. The program is a reflection of the values of equity, inclusivity, and accessibility upheld by our public libraries across the state. I'm thrilled to see the program expanded across the Commonwealth from Boston to the PVTa and to our regional transit authorities to provide the regional equity we strive for in the Legislature," Oliveira said in a press release.

Oliveira went on to thank his colleagues in the legislature, the PVTa, and the Mass Library System for making the expansion possible.

"I want to thank the partners in this who have joined me today and were instrumental in making Browse Borrow Board a reality, Senator Adam Gomez and State Representative Carlos Gonzalez, as well as our partners at the Massachusetts Library System, the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority, and the Boston Public Library," he said.

Senator Adam Gomez (Hampden District) was grateful to Oliveira and expressed excitement about the potential of further expanding the program through the upcoming West-East Rail.

"Launching the Browse Borrow Board program at Union Station with Mass Library,

MassDOT, and the PVTa is exactly the kind of engagement we as legislators want to partake in," said Gomez. "This pilot program, coupled with PVTa's Try Transit program, can entice families to browse digital audiobooks and eBooks while riding the bus. I look forward to seeing this program succeed and entertaining its viability down the line when East-West Rail is up and running."

Also on hand were PVTa Administrator Sandra E. Sheehan and the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Library System, Sarah Sogigian.

"We are happy to join the Browse Borrow Board program that brings riders a vast assortment of reading options to ride the bus with an enjoyable read. Browse Borrow Board makes it as easy as one, two, three," said Sheehan.

Browse Borrow Board strives to promote literacy, local libraries, and public transportation. The program is multilingual and provides riders of all ages and backgrounds the opportunity to browse digital audiobooks, eBooks, newspapers, and magazines while waiting for their bus to arrive and enjoying their reading materials on the go.

No library card is needed to access the collection. It's free and very easy to use. Just scan the QR code, create an account, and start browsing.

Browse Borrow Board's primary goal is to reach riders who may not already be familiar with the library's offerings.

Library cards are not required to use this service. The program gives riders access to books, magazines, and other material through QR code links and doesn't need an app.

The program builds on efforts to make public transportation more enjoyable while also connecting residents to the resources the Boston Public Library offers.

Since the start of the program in Boston, there have been a total of 4,145 QR scans, including 3,829 unique scans. 1,371 people have created accounts since March, and some of the most checked-out items are those in Spanish and Portuguese.

The top rented item is "La Ladrona de Libros" (The Book Thief).

Baystate Wing honors Gift Shop and Auxiliary volunteer

Estelle Carbonneau recognized for 14 Years of Service

PALMER – Estelle Carbonneau was recently recognized for her many years of service as a member of the Baystate Wing Auxiliary and volunteer in the hospital's gift shop.

"We are grateful for the many years of service Estelle has given to the gift shop and Auxiliary," said Evelyn Glabicky, president of the Auxiliary at Baystate Wing Hospital in a press release. "She has served in many roles as the manager of the gift shop, helping with purchasing merchandise, and training new volunteers. Generously giving of herself and her time has been a way of life for Estelle and her connection to our hospital has always been extra special. A committed volunteer and member of our Auxiliary for 14 years, she now serves as trustee of the organization."

Auxiliary members and volunteers help in several areas of the hospital including greeting and transporting patients as needed, welcoming patients, families and visitors arriving for appointments, providing directions for visitors on campus, operating the gift shop, and volunteering on the Med/Surg unit.

"Volunteers are extraordinary people who want to contribute to the greater good," said Becky George, manager of volunteer services for Baystate Health. "We have several opportunities open for individuals to share their talents and skills to support and assist our staff in creating wonderful experiences for our patients. Every hour and every minute that our volunteers serve makes a difference in the lives of our patients, families, and our team."

Volunteers are currently being sought to fill positions in various departments,



ESTELLE CARBONNEAU, left, is shown with Evelyn Glabicky, president of the Auxiliary at Baystate Wing Hospital.

including greeters, patient-care areas, and the gift shop. Duties will vary depending on the volunteers' interests and the needs of the hospital.

"During their service at Baystate Wing Hospital, we want to ensure that all of our volunteers are doing something that they enjoy," said George.

The Volunteer Services program is open to anyone interested in giving back to their community. All potential volunteers must be age 16 or older and complete a volunteer application, submit to and pass a background check, and meet all vaccination requirements.

The program is an ideal opportunity for seniors and young adults who wish to volunteer in a healthcare setting. Volunteers will receive training and support and can receive credit for school (if they require it) and grow personally through service to others.

For more information or to fill out an application online, visit www.baystate-health.org/about-us/volunteer or call Becky George at 413-370-5295.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Public Hearing Special Permit Legal Notice Belchertown Planning Board

In accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A, Sections 9 and 11, and pursuant to the Town of Belchertown Chapter 145-29.2 and 145-69, the Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing to discuss a special permit proposed by Kalyx, LLC., One Monarch Place, Suite 730, Springfield, MA 01144 for a proposal to place a Non-medical Marijuana Establishment at 125 North Main Street, Belchertown, MA 01007, Map 238, Lot 183, owner: Colvest/Belchertown, LLC.

Place: Belchertown Town Hall, 2 Jabish Street, Belchertown, MA

Date: January 23, 2024
Time: 7:00 pm
Remote access information:

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://meet.goto.com/173538941>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (408) 650-3123

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The application is available for inspection during regular business hours at the Town Clerk and Planning Board office, 2 Jabish Street Daniel Beaudette, Chair Belchertown Planning Board 01/04, 01/11/2024

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For more information on news or community features for The Sentinel, please email sentinel@turley.com.

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The Sentinel
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One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$225, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

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