

CAREER DAY
FROM PAGE 1

professionalism of Pathfinder’s students, noting how attentive and confidently they greeted families.

Tables in the gym were set up for informational programs and extra curriculum information offered but mainly people entering the building were given a map of the grounds showcasing where each program can be found.

Inside the gymnasium, Pathfinder’s academic teachers shared their work, emphasizing rigor, personalization, and preparation for both college and careers.

English Department chair Angela Sweeney described a “homegrown curriculum” aligned with core standards through short stories, novels, plays, and student presentations. Offerings include standard and honors tracks, Advanced Placement English in grades 11 and 12, and electives such as creative writing and modern media communication, where students analyze social media, blogs, podcasts, AI, and video games.

Social Studies teacher Laura Ann detailed a robust selection of coursework, from world and U.S. history to electives in psychology, the Holocaust, human behavior, war, and museum studies.

In the Art Department, instructor Darlene Henshaw outlined a sequence of design, drawing, painting,

and three-dimensional ceramics courses, all available as upperclassmen electives. Students can even double up during their junior and senior years.

The Science Department, represented by teacher Erin Welby, is restructuring its pacing to strengthen students’ foundation in biology before they branch into anatomy and physiology, chemistry, earth science, physics, biomedical science, and tech engineering. The department offers two AP courses and emphasizes hands-on investigative work.

Foreign Language teacher Liz Cygan explained offerings in Spanish, Latin, French, and an online dual-language option. The department is promoting the Massachusetts Seal of Biliteracy, encouraging students to continue language study long enough to earn an intermediate proficiency stamp on their transcript and diploma.

Math Department chair Joshua Dusza said Pathfinder offers the full high school progression through AP Calculus and AP Statistics, along with electives in accounting, math through art, and a popular personal finance course preparing seniors for budgeting, investing, and economic decision-making.

Professional Skills instructors Elizabeth Dobson and student Lucas Roy described the required freshman/sophomore program that focuses on goal setting,



Danielle Salerno ran the table for Adult Continuing Education, giving out information to people and talking about options.

career exploration, OSHA 10 certification, resume writing, banking, public speaking, and personal development.

“It really helps them think about where they want to be and why,” Dobson said.

Horticulture instructor Jeff Pronovost highlighted the wide range of environmental and outdoor skills within his program, from greenhouse propagation and landscape construction to arboriculture, including tree climbing and chainsaw work.

“We do everything from patios and walkways to full ground’s maintenance,” he said.

Down the hall from the gymnasium, HVAC instructors Mike Sicilia and Rafe Gould described their growing program, which prepares students to begin working in

residential heating and cooling directly after graduation.

“We’re building a strong program here,” they said, emphasizing the high demand for trained technicians.

In Advanced Manufacturing, instructor Adam Girard showcased the school’s evolution from traditional machine shop to a modern, tech-driven program incorporating CAD/CAM, lasers, 3D printing, precision inspection tools, and industry-standard machining systems.

“Basically everything that encapsulates manufacturing,” he said.

The Electrical program also reported strong interest. Instructor Eric Simard described how many students pursue electrical licensure using industry-recognized credits earned at Pathfinder, while others continue to college for specialized systems training.

Upperclassmen gain real-world experience through community job sites led by off-campus instructors.

In the Health Assisting classroom, instructor Anthony Braden laid out an academically rigorous pathway that leads to CNA certification, clinical hours in area facilities, CPR certification, EKG training, and job offers before graduation.

“Nine times out of ten,

the facilities offer them jobs once they pass the exam,” he said.

The Cosmetology program, led by Cindy Rubin, presented its full spectrum of training in hair, skin, and nails, including state board preparation and specialized skills such as textured hair care, waxing, makeup, and formal styling.

Upstairs, Information Technology instructor Sarah Manson described a wide-ranging digital curriculum: web development, programming, networking, cybersecurity, hardware repair, and a student-run help desk that troubleshoots technology around the building.

One of the most expansive shops, CAD/Pre-Engineering, drew strong interest. Instructor Justin Bren explained that ninth graders work toward the SolidWorks Associate Mechanical Design Certification; a professional credential requiring roughly 1,000 hours of training.

Pathfinder even has a student who has advanced to the expert certification level, something rarely seen in high school. Seniors collaborate with other shops to build fully functional robots, with parts manufactured, painted, programmed, and wired through inter-shop partnerships.

“It’s one of the biggest collaboration projects we’ve ever done,” Bren said.

Families were also greeted by displays covering the school’s wide range of student organizations.

These include the literary magazine, yearbook, drama, music, student government, Diversity Club, outdoor adventure clubs, esports, Future Farmers of America, Girls in Trades, robotics, SkillsUSA, and the National Technical Honor Society. Activities are coordinated by Jessica McCann.

Athletic Director Kevin Aldrich said Pathfinder is experiencing “a time of growth,” with more than 150 fall athletes participating across soccer, golf, football,

cheerleading, and co-ops in field hockey, cross-country, ice hockey, and swimming. Winter numbers remain strong, with wrestling, boys and girls basketball, and additional co-op teams.

Pathfinder has recently added girls volleyball, which launched mid-season with 15 players and earned a full JV schedule for 2026. Aldrich praised students’ dedication and the program’s upward trajectory.

“We want students to be well-rounded citizens,” he said. “Student comes before athlete.”

Several teams have seen notable success: football reached the state vocational semifinals, wrestling holds back-to-back championships, girls basketball won its league last year, and both softball and baseball have made deep tournament runs.

Throughout the night, staff remained in the library assisting families with applications for the upcoming admissions cycle. Computers were available for on-the-spot submissions, which many families took advantage of before returning to the bustling program exhibits.

With around 800 people cycling through the building throughout the night, Duda reflected on what made the event stand out. The academic rigor, hands-on experiences, professional certifications, and strong community partnerships each play a role, he said.

But on Career Night, it was the students who stole the spotlight.

“Parents and families have been telling me how impressed they are with our students,” Duda said. “The eye contact, the handshakes, the professionalism...it was music to my ears.”

Pathfinder will continue accepting applications online, with staff available for assistance. Families who missed Career Night can contact the school for additional tours and program information.



The Automotive Technology program’s garage was filled with cars and people roaming the building.

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THE COMMONWEALTH
OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION –
HIGHWAY DIVISION
NOTICE OF A DESIGN
PUBLIC HEARING
Spencer - East Brookfield -
Intersection Improvements at
Route 9 and Route 49
Project File No. 613097

A Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed project in Spencer - East Brookfield, MA.

WHERE: Town of Spencer,

- public notice -

Town Hall, Great Room
157 Main Street
Spencer MA, 01852

WHEN: Thursday,
January 8, 2026 at 6:30PM

PURPOSE: The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed project. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

PROPOSAL: The proposed project consists of improvements along Route 9 and at the intersection of Route 9 and Route 49 in the Towns of East Brookfield and Spencer. The work involves construction of a cement concrete roundabout, improved bike and pedestrian accommodations, lighting, and upgrades to pavement, drainage, pavement markings, and signage. The proposed pedestrian accommodations consist of 5-foot wide sidewalks along Route 9 and a shared use path at the roundabout. The proposed bicycle accommodations consist of 5-foot buffered bicycle lanes along Route 9 and a shared use path at the roundabout. Pedestrian and bicycle accommo-

dations have been provided in accordance with applicable design guides.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. MassDOT’s policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, via e-mail to MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us or via US Mail to Suite 7550, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Project Management, Project File No. 613097. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted on the MassDOT website listed below.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable ac-

commodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT’s Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email (MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

In case of inclement weather, a cancellation announcement will be posted on the internet at https://www.mass.gov/orgs/highway-division/events.

JONATHAN GULLIVER
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER

12/26/2025, 01/02/2026

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

Town of Warren
Town Accountant

JOB OPPORTUNITY
Full-Time – Town Benefited Position
32 hours per week, Monday to Thursday

The Town of Warren is actively seeking a qualified professional to fill the position of Town Accountant. The Town is seeking a dedicated and enthusiastic Accountant to join our team. Strong organizational skills, excellent customer service skills, municipal finance and Vadar experience preferred. A complete job description can be found on the Town’s website www.warren-ma.gov.

Please email or mail your resume and cover letter to the Town Administrator, Jim Ferrera, townadministrator@warren-ma.gov or by mail to 48 High Street, P.O. Box 609, Warren, MA 01083. Salary range is negotiable from \$60,000 to \$64,500 and is based on relevant work experience, certifications, and educational background. Position open until filled, with a first look at resumes starting on December 22, 2025.

Town of Warren is an Equal Opportunity Employer



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Please check the accuracy of your legal notice prior to submission (i.e., date, time, spelling). Also, be sure the requested publication date coincides with the purpose of the notice, or as the law demands. Thank you.