

- public notices -

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, 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 accommodations have been provided in accordance with applicable de-

sign 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 accommodations 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

TOWN OF NORTH BROOKFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
PUBLIC FORUM NOTICE
The Town of North Brookfield hereby gives notice that the Water & Sewer Departments, in coordination with the Collector's Office, will conduct an informational session regarding the implementation of a new water and sewer billing process, scheduled to commence in February 2026. The informational session will be held on **Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at 6:00 PM** in the North Brookfield Elementary School Auditorium, 10 New School Drive.

The proposed billing process will combine water and sewer charges into a single quarterly bill. The session will include a presentation explaining the new billing system, followed by a question-and-answer period to address questions and concerns from water and sewer users. All water and sewer users are encouraged to attend.
01/02/2026



W BROOKFIELD FROM PAGE 1

to plow the road due to the town's financial limitations. Though White Birch Drive seems to meet all the criteria, the town is in a hiring and a spending freeze right now for the rest of the fiscal year. "It's a very bleak financial situation," said Select Board Clerk Brad Merkel. Adding to another expense would seem to not be okay at the moment for the town. The resident asked if the board could revisit this possibly next year. The board said they will as they made motion to not add White Birch Drive to a list of private roads to be plowed by the town; the motion passed. MOU for CDL reim-

bursement The board discussed the changes made to the memorandum of understanding for a Commercial Driver's License certification reimbursement. This is a program where a trucking company pays back all or part of a CDL training costs after someone's been hired, typically given in monthly installments over time, in exchange for a commitment to work for them for a set period. The board was going over some of the changes but didn't feel comfortable voting on the MOU yet. The Select Board wants to run this by town counsel first and make sure the process of drafting this MOU is done correctly. Daley said this is for an operator/mechanic worker

who is determined to learn and ready to start. He is qualified to operate other trucks but is working to receive a CDL. The board voted to table the MOU for the CDL reimbursement changes until their next meeting. Woo Sox Town Take-over 2026 The town will participate in the Woo Sox Town Take-over in 2026. This event features a series of special themed nights at Polar Park where the Worcester Red Sox celebrate specific Central Massachusetts towns. The Select Board wanted to pick dates for next year and dates that will work for people. The board is aiming for dates sometime in the summer.

Job Connection

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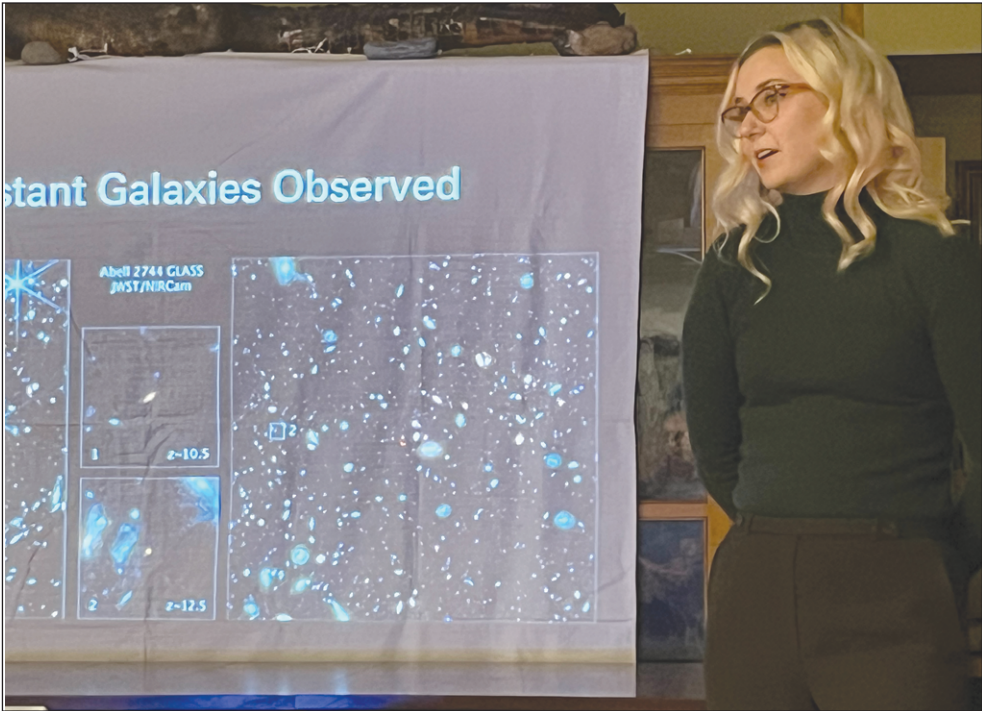
Compensation is hourly plus stipend.
Hours are scheduled or per diem as needed depending on role.

We are looking for friendly, professional, and compassionate people.

Contact Peter Masuzzo at 508-867-2885 or pmasuzzo@varnumfh.com

An entity of Milestone Funeral Partners

- community -



Maura Shea, a doctoral student at Georgia State University and Hardwick native, presented a "Space Night" at the East Quabbin Land Trust last Friday night.

SPACE NIGHT FROM PAGE 1

In addition to galaxies, Shea presented star forming regions, including the Pillars of Creation region. It is called this because it resembles a hand and fingers. Another star forming region is called Rho Ophiuchi, and it is the closest star forming region to Earth, but is also relatively small, she said. In addition to stars forming, they highlighted stars dying, including the Red Spider nebula. These happen when giant red stars die, and it will be the same thing that hap-

pens when the sun dies. Another type of star they presented are called Wolf-Rayet stars, which are even more impressive than the Sun, as they are 20 times the size of it. Since they are so large though, they are relatively short lived in terms of chances to observe it. Kar talked about some of the missions that are happening or in planning, including a plan to drop a lander on Titan, one of Saturn's moons, to observe whether there are any life forms on the moon. He said there are observed oceans, lakes, and other

bodies of water, but they are all made of liquid methane. Kar said life can form wherever it sees fit, so researchers want to know if anything can live in that liquid methane. He also said that the JWST has just seen Neptune's rings for the first time in decades, and it is being used to determine what is in the atmosphere of a planet. All of the images featured in the presentation, and more, can be found on the NASA website (<https://science.nasa.gov/mission/webb/multimedia/images/>).

SOCIAL SECURITY FROM PAGE 4

which sets the income thresholds on which your Medicare premiums are based and those thresholds are different if you file your income tax as a single or as "married/filing jointly." The IRMAA thresholds can change annually and there's no way to yet determine what they will be when you are able to enroll in Medicare at age 65. They are currently \$106,000 if you file as a single, and \$212,000 if you file your taxes as "married/jointly." If your "provisional income," your combined income from all sources, exceeds the threshold for your filing status, you will pay higher than standard Medicare Part B and Part D premiums. If your income is lower than the threshold, you will pay only whatever the standard Medicare Part B premium is for the year you start Medicare and there will be no supplemental premium for your Part D coverage. For information, the IRMAA supplements are progressive that is, the more you exceed the threshold by, the higher your IRMAA premium supplement will be. To see the current IRMAA thresholds and supplements again, these will likely change when you

are eligible for Medicare visit www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/2025-medicare-parts-b-premiums-and-deductibles. You are correct that your Medicare premium, when you enroll, will be determined by your total income from two years prior. So, if you plan to enroll in Medicare at age 65, sometime in 2028, it is your 2026 income which will determine your Part B and Part D premiums, and that income will be defined by your 2026 income tax return. Note, too, that Medicare premiums are reevaluated each year, based upon your IRS income tax return from two years prior. FYI, there are advantages to filing your income tax as "married/jointly" vs. married/filing separately and those are best evaluated by your tax advisor. We are not tax advisors here at the AMAC Foundation. And while it's true that the IRMAA thresholds are higher when you file as "married/jointly," it's also true that your total income as a married couple will be used when determining your IRMAA premiums for Medicare. So, once again, it is probably best to consult with a qualified income tax advisor for guidance on whether it is best, financially, for you to change how you file your income tax in 2026, con-

sidering that you will be enrolling in Medicare in 2028.]One final thing: If you are still working and have "creditable" healthcare coverage from your employer, "creditable" is a group plan with at least 20 participants, then you can delay enrolling in Medicare until your employer coverage ends thus temporarily avoiding the Medicare premiums. In other words, if you have creditable healthcare coverage from an employer, you don't have to enroll in Medicare immediately at age 65. *The Association Mature Citizens Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. This article is intended for information purposes and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the Association Mature Citizens Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association To submit a question, visit amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org. Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.*

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- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts' public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

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NOTICE

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