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**The Russell Public Library in Russell, MA is seeking a PART TIME (8 HOURS) LIBRARY CIRCULATION ASSISTANT.** Required, strong interest in working with the public, good organizational skills and solid computer skills. Bachelor's Degree with 1 year of library/administrative/ public service experience or an Associates Degree, with 2 years of library/administrative/ public service experience. For more info see library page on **Town of Russell website.** Please send a cover letter and resume to **Russell Public Library Trustees P.O. Box 275 Russell, MA 01071** or email to **rpldirector@townofrussell.us** to be received by May 21, 2024.

## TOWN OF WILBRAHAM

**ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK  
HEAVY EQUIPMENT  
OPERATOR 1  
P/T RECYCLING ATTENDANT**

The Town of Wilbraham is looking to fill several vacancies. For application and more information please visit **www.wilbraham-ma.gov**. EOE

## REAL ESTATE

### FOR RENT



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

**ALL REAL ESTATE** advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

### FOR RENT



All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status (number of children and or pregnancy), national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, or any intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

## BUDGET | FROM PAGE 1

Committee, the school district was asked to cut \$800,000 from that initial figure.

Salaries still make up 67% of the budget, and special education tuition has increased by 7.3%. Transportation has also increased by 14.8% over the last fiscal year.

Out-of-district placement tuition increased by 6% after going up 14% the prior year.

"This is a number that is based on what we know and what we have," McCormick said of special education tuition for out-of-district placements. "It is our moral obligation to always provide the best services for all of our students...these placements are made in the best interests of these students."

Circuit Breaker reimbursement for special education costs is projected to increase to \$1.184 million.

McCormick said the final round of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds will be running out in September of this year, creating a fiscal cliff for many school district across the commonwealth.

"A lot of districts, including North Brookfield, used that to offset salaries because of budgetary constraints," he said.

McCormick the school district is looking at ways to save money and use what they have to fill gaps caused by the loss of ESSER.

He said recent adjustments to the FY 25 budget have helped the school district recover \$606,731 of the \$800,000 reduction. This includes an increase in offsets such as Circuit Breaker reimbursement, Rural School Aid Fund, a teacher resignation, American Rescue Plan Act money, and more.

McCormick said the school district will make up for the remaining shortfall by eliminating two sixth grade teaching positions at the elementary school, and moving those students up to junior high.

"That is the model that most districts are adopting," he said, grouping grades six, seven and eight together in one wing.

Other cost saving measures include eliminating one special education teacher, and also using unspent salaries from FY 24 to pre-buy Into Reading curriculum for kindergarten through grade six.

He said these measures put the district "in a good place for FY 25."

McCormick said a group of about 20 people spent about a month

and a half looking at the school district's priorities.

"Part of this process, we conducted surveys we looked at data from students and families. We talked about what are those big-picture, overarching goals for the next three years," he said. "In this process, we developed a new mission statement."

The mission statement is focused on empowering each student to reach their full potential through a high-quality education.

"Statements are simply words; unless they're backed up by action. I think that over the last two years we've backed up these words with a lot of action," McCormick said.

The school district is working to achieve this by streamlining its curriculum and adding programs such as Project Lead the Way. The district is also partnering with the Boston Celtics and Mass IDEAS, as well as area manufacturers to bring more opportunities to students.

McCormick said the school district is working toward receiving an Innovation Pathway designation in advanced manufacturing.

Mental health concerns and anxiety have increased since the pandemic, and McCormick

said many students are coming to school with trauma. The school district has used a Safe and Supportive Schools grant to increase in-school counseling and allow a therapy dog to come to the schools.

"Every classroom will have what is called a 'common corner,'" McCormick said. "Where there will be items that students can use to process anxiety while remaining in class."

This grant will also provide professional development for staff in order to better support students.

"I'm really proud of the work that we're doing as a leadership team. I'm really proud of the work that our teachers are doing; our support staff... and our kids. Our kids are embracing these positive changes," he said.

## public notice

### Town of North Brookfield Accepting Bids

Town of North Brookfield is seeking proposals from MassDOT pre-qualified general contractors for construction of proposed sidewalk upgrades along N. Main Street. Bid documents may be downloaded at **www.BiddocsOnline.com**. **Bids due 05/31/2024 at 10 a.m.** 05/17, 05/24/2024

# Job Connection

## HELPING YOU FIND HELP

If you have job postings to fill, get them the exposure they need.

Join us in highlighting what positions you have available in our Job Connection!

Each week this available jobs section will run in your community newspapers.

4.75" x 4"

**\$150 for three papers**  
\$40 for each additional paper

4.75" x 8"

**\$300 for three papers**  
\$80 for each additional paper

9.681" x 8"

**\$600 for three papers**  
\$160 for each additional paper

9.681" x 15.75"

**\$1,200 for three papers**  
\$320 for each additional paper

The advertisement displays a grid of job listings from various towns including Wilbraham, North Brookfield, and Southwick. It also features a crossword puzzle with clues and a public notices section.

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### CLUES ACROSS

- Geological time
- Ooze
- A set of eight
- Obstruction
- Swiss mathematician
- Philosophy
- The night before
- A timid person
- Unifies
- Gangs
- Alternative name
- Acumen
- Cathode-ray tube
- Tantalum
- Soluble ribonucleic acid
- Humiliate
- Earthy pigment
- Air Force
- Adult males
- Stiff untanned leather
- Before
- Atomic #18
- Beer mug

### CLUES DOWN

- Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
- Untangle
- One from the U.S.
- Academic terms
- San \_\_\_ Obispo, in California
- Not healthy
- Self-assessment questionnaire (abbr.)
- Arugula genus
- VIII
- Makes a monarch
- Tormentor
- Commercials
- Sprinkle
- Make a mistake
- Freshwater fishes
- Vermont town
- Man-made device
- Entrap
- Places to store important things
- Accumulate
- Greek mythological nymph
- Gregory \_\_\_, American dancer
- Denotes past
- Becoming popular again
- Indicates position
- Cam before
- An extra seed-covering
- Cheerful
- Deli sandwich staple
- Skateboarders love them
- Mandela's party
- Sierra lake
- Nickname for Elizabeth
- Remove from record
- Employee stock ownership plan
- Former NFLer Newton
- Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- Work unit
- Town in Cambridgeshire