

Oliveira applauds passage of the PACT Act

BOSTON — State Senator Jake Oliveira (Hampden, Hampshire & Worcester District) and his colleagues in the Massachusetts State Legislature celebrated the successful passage of the PACT Act, or An Act Relative to Pharmaceutical Access, Costs, and Transparency, landmark legislation aimed at improving the affordability and accessibility of prescription medications for residents of the Commonwealth.

Sponsored by Senator Cindy F. Friedman (4th Middlesex District) and Representative John J. Lawn, Jr. (10th Middlesex District), this transformative bill reflects a unified effort to combat rising drug costs and ensure transparency in the pharmaceutical industry.

“This legislation marks a critical step forward in making life-saving medications affordable and accessible to everyone in Massachusetts,” said Oliveira. “The people of the Commonwealth should not have to choose between their essential prescriptions and the other necessities

needed to live a healthy and fulfilling life. With these reforms, we are holding pharmaceutical companies accountable while protecting the health and well-being of our communities.”

Approximately 9% of Massachusetts residents have been diagnosed with diabetes, and 6.2% of adults over 35 live with heart disease. In 2015, more than 10% of residents lived with asthma. Black residents face these conditions at even higher rates — over 12% live with diabetes, and nearly 14% of Black adults live with asthma.

The legislation is designed to address these disparities, ensuring access to life-saving medications for communities disproportionately impacted by chronic illnesses.

Key provisions of the bill include:

Cost-sharing caps for chronic illnesses: Insulin co-payments are capped at \$25 for a 30-day supply, with coverage guaranteed for one generic and one brand-name drug for diabetes, asthma, and chronic

heart conditions.

Equity in cost sharing: The bill ensures that out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs do not exceed retail prices, offering immediate financial relief to patients at the pharmacy counter.

Creation of the Office for Pharmaceutical Policy and Analysis: This new office within the Health Policy Commission will monitor pharmaceutical trends, spending, and affordability. It will also publish annual reports with recommendations for mitigating pharmaceutical spending growth and promoting accessibility.

Expanded oversight of Pharmacy Benefit Managers: PBMs will now be licensed and regulated by the Division of Insurance. They must also report cost data and are prohibited from engaging in practices that inflate drug prices or harm consumers and independent pharmacies.

MassHealth and GIC Reforms: These reforms aim to reduce financial barriers to vital medications

for low-income residents and state employees.

Transparency through hearings and reporting: The Center for Health Information and Analysis will collect detailed drug cost data, while pharmaceutical manufacturers and PBMs will participate in the Health Policy Commission’s Annual Health Care Cost Trends Hearing. Public testimony will illuminate factors influencing drug costs.

The legislation also addresses broader systemic issues in the pharmaceutical industry, such as the influence of Pharmacy Benefit Managers, and empowers agencies like the Division of Insurance and the Center for Health Information and Analysis to regulate, audit and analyze data.

Implementation timelines for the various sections of the bill ensure a phased approach. Cost-sharing caps will take effect on July 1 and PBM licensing will begin in January 2026.

COLLEGE NEWS

Colleges and universities announce President’s and Dean’s lists

**President’s list
Nichols College**
Dudley
Riley Bassett of Gilbertville and Edward Guertin of Ware

Plymouth State University
Plymouth, New Hampshire
Luke Guertin of Ware, community media studies major and Tanner Lockwood of Ware, exercise and sport physiology major

**Dean’s list
American International College**
Alexys Prouty of Gilbertville, majoring in general business

Roger Williams University
Bristol, Rhode Island
Madison Barre of Ware

University of Rhode Island
Kingston, Rhode Island
Jen Hall of Wheelwright

Anna Maria College announced Dean’s list

PAXTON — Anna Maria College recently announced academic honors for students named to the Dean’s list for fall 2024 semester.

Anna Maria College awards Dean’s list recognition to students enrolled in a full-time undergraduate day program in good standing who have attained in the previous semester a GPA of 3.5 with no grade lower than “B” for a minimum of four courses.

Robert Bruso of Ware achieved Dean’s list recognition.

Emmet Wright named to WPI’s fall 2024 Dean’s list

WORCESTER — Worcester Polytechnic Institute has announced that Emmet Wright of Hardwick, a member of the class of 2026 majoring in mechanical engineering, was named to the university’s Dean’s list for academic excellence for the fall 2024 semester.

The criteria for the WPI Dean’s list differ from that of most other universities as WPI does not compute a grade point average. Instead, WPI students

are named to the Dean’s list based on the amount of work completed at the A level in courses and hands-on projects.

A total of 2,393 undergraduate students achieved these criteria for WPI’s fall 2024 Dean’s list.

Endicott College announces local Dean’s list students

BEVERLY — Endicott College, the first college in the U.S. to require internships of its students, is pleased to announce its fall 2024 Dean’s list students.

In order to qualify for the Dean’s List, a student must obtain a minimum grade point average of 3.5, receive no letter grade below “C,” have no withdrawal grades, and be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits for the semester.

The following Ware students have met these requirements: Abigail Gaudreau, nursing, daughter of Heather Gaudreau and Chad Gaudreau; Kyle Gordon, nursing, son of Lisa Bail and Charles Gordon.



DCR offers February vacation program on tracks and scat

BELCHERTOWN — The Department of Conservation and Recreation will host a February Vacation Program “Tracks and Scat” on Monday, Feb. 17 from 10-11 a.m.

Although we may not see them often, our native wildlife is all around us. Come learn to recognize some signs of wildlife through a fun and informative

indoor activity.

Meet at the Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center in Belchertown. Great for all ages, children must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call 413-323 - 7221. To register visit <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/250b6dcbecfc4f30a4da5b-0f86abc4f3>.

MGH and Matthew Perry Foundation announce fellowship in addiction medicine

The Matthew Perry Foundation Fellowship will honor Matthew Perry’s vision of increasing education on the disease and combating stigma.

BOSTON — The Matthew Perry Foundation and Massachusetts General Hospital, a founding member of the Mass General Brigham healthcare system, today announced the establishment of the Matthew Perry Foundation Fellowship in Addiction Medicine for the 2025/2026 academic year.

The fellow will join a highly competitive Addiction Medicine fellowship program, which is one of only 105 available in the United States and trains physicians who have completed an accredited residency program to become specialists and leaders in Addiction Medicine. The fellowship focuses on developing clinical expertise, leadership skills, and training on effective systems of care.

The goal is for graduating fellows to be trained to provide much-needed access to high quality treatment and provide guidance and mentorship in the communities where they ultimately practice.

Sarah “SK” Kler, MD, the inaugural fellow, was selected from a pool of more than 60 applicants and will receive comprehensive training in the delivery of high-quality addiction care to a diverse population of patients.

“The Matthew Perry Foundation is honored to be in collaboration with Massachusetts General Hospital’s Addiction Medicine Fellowship program. Matthew believed deeply in eliminating the stigma surrounding the disease of addiction and, with that in mind, we are proud to lend our name to this important work,” said Doug Chapin, the Foundation’s Chairman of the

Board and Lisa Kasteler Calio, its Executive Director.

Nearly 50 million Americans struggle with substance use disorders and hundreds of thousands of Americans die from alcohol and drug use each year despite evidence that addiction is a chronic, treatable health condition.

“Continuing to silo addiction care outside the rest of medical care and marginalize addiction as a social problem outside of the domain of physicians will only exacerbate stigma and inequities and increase the deadly impact of this epidemic,” said Sarah Wakeman, MD, Senior Medical Director for Substance Use Disorder at Mass General Brigham and program director of the MGH fellowship. “It is vitally important for the medical community to address substance use disorder using effective, holistic, wraparound services across medical settings. The training provided through the MGH fellowship will allow the next generation of physicians to provide and continually improve this care.”

The Matthew Perry Foundation was established to honor Matthew Perry’s unwavering commitment to helping those struggling with the disease of addiction. Drawing inspiration from Mr. Perry’s life, words, and personal experiences, the Foundation works to raise awareness and foster understanding about the nature of addiction and eliminate stigma and the barriers that prevent people from seeking and receiving care.

Dr. Kler’s training will commence on June 30, 2025. She received her medical training at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and currently serves as the Chief Medical Resident in Internal Medicine at MGH.

Dr. Kler worked with Boston Healthcare for the Homeless during her residency and, prior to medical school, she was a case manager in White River Junction, Vermont, providing case management to older adults who were homeless, insecurely housed, or living in subsidized housing. A compassionate and skilled clinician, Dr. Kler is known for her steadfast advocacy for her patients.

With the support of the Matthew Perry Foundation, coupled with continued funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration, Mass General will welcome three candidates into the 2025/26 program. Over the course of a year, the fellows rotate throughout various departments across MGH, as well as Mass General Brigham’s regional partnerships, allowing them to gain the necessary skills needed to become expert clinicians and leaders in the field of Addiction Medicine.

While curriculum is tailored to each individual fellow’s interests, core clinical rotations for all fellows include the full range of innovative clinical programs developed at Mass General Brigham, such as the inpatient Addiction Consult Team, the Bridge Clinic, the HOPE clinic for pregnant patients and families, the alcohol-related liver disease clinic, and working in integrated addiction teams in primary care.

“Mass General will work in close collaboration with the Matthew Perry Foundation to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and, most importantly, offer hope to those of every age, background and experience who are struggling with

substance use disorder,” said Dr. Wakeman.

Mass General Brigham is an integrated academic health care system, uniting great minds to solve the hardest problems in medicine for our communities and the world. Mass General Brigham connects a full continuum of care across a system of academic medical centers, community and specialty hospitals, a health insurance plan, physician networks, community health centers, home care, and long-term care services.

Mass General Brigham is a non-profit organization committed to patient care, research, teaching, and service to the community. In addition, Mass General Brigham is one of the nation’s leading biomedical research organizations with several Harvard Medical School teaching hospitals. For more information, please visit MassGeneralBrigham.org.

The Matthew Perry Foundation is the realization of Matthew’s enduring commitment to helping others struggling with the disease of addiction. The Foundation is guided by his words and experiences and inspired by his passion for making a difference in as many lives as possible.

With an emphasis on maximizing access to recovery in underserved communities, prioritizing youth prevention and early intervention programs, and providing non-judgmental support, the Foundation is committed to building a community where every individual has the opportunity to thrive. Please join us at MathewPerryFoundation.org.

Job Connection

HELPING YOU FIND HELP

The Town of West Brookfield Highway Department is seeking
**FULL TIME OPERATOR/
DRIVER/LABORERS**

This position performs manual labor, operates, and maintains equipment for the construction, operation and maintenance of town roads and maintains town owned facilities. Must possess current and valid Massachusetts Class B CDL license with an airbrake endorsement as well as current motor carrier medical examiners certificate (DOT card). In accordance with AFSCME Local 1364 Wage Scale this position is a Grade 10 -Step 2 at \$24.80 per hour for 40 hours per week plus overtime for snow/ice or emergencies.

Applications and a more detailed job description are available on the Town website:
www.wbrookfield.com

Please contact: Jim Daley at (508) 867-1417
or email jdaley@wbrookfield.com

The Town of West Brookfield is an Equal Opportunity Employer and values diversity at all levels of the workforce. EOE

Notice of Public Hearing Planning Board LEGAL NOTICE

This is a Notice of Public Hearing. Pursuant to MGL Ch. 40A, Sec. 5, the Ware Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Thursday, February 20, 2025** during their normally scheduled meeting starting at **7:00pm in the Town Hall meeting room, 126 Main Street, Ware MA.** The purpose of this hearing is to consider the proposed new Zoning District “Health Care Services”, amendments to the Zoning Map regarding the Health Care Services district, which will include the former hospital site at 85 South Street, and various adjacent parcels, and Sections 2.2 (Definitions), Sections 3.1 (Zoning Districts), Sections 4.8 (Special Use Regulations), Sections 5.1 (Area Requirements), and Sections 5.3 (Height and Coverage Requirements) of the Zoning Bylaw of the Town of Ware.

Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this hearing will be conducted in person and via remote means as a courtesy in accordance with the applicable law. Should there be technical issues, the meeting will proceed at the scheduled time. This means that

members of the Planning Board as well as members of the public may access this meeting in person, or via virtual means. In person attendance will be held in Town Hall Meeting room, 126 Main Street, Ware MA. It is possible that any or all members of the public body may attend remotely, with in-person attendance consisting of members of the public. The meeting may be accessed remotely via Zoom. Go to <https://zoom.us/join> or join by phone. Phone Number: 929-205-6099; Meeting ID: 784 604 1861; Password: 01082.

A complete copy of the proposed changes can be found at the Planning & Community Development Department Office and on the department web page at www.townofware.com. Anyone interested or wishing to be heard should appear at the time and place designated. All interested parties are invited to attend. Please contact the Planning and Community Development Director with any questions. (413) 967-9648, ext. 118. psmith@townofware.com

WARE PLANNING BOARD
Kenneth Crosby, Chair
01/30, 02/06/25

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampshire Division
Docket No. HS24P0721EA
Estate of:
Amelia Alice Kowalski
Also Known As:
Mimi Kowalski;
Amelia Kowalski
Date of Death:
August 5, 2024
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLIC NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Ann Garstka of Gilbertville, MA

a Will has been admitted to informal probate. Ann Garstka of Gilbertville, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond. The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the admin-

istration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
02/06/2025

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.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

- 1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com
- 2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.
- 3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Friday notices for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com