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Jordan Grondell and Nikki Forrest are the new owners of Brook Bound Nursery at 170 State Road East, in Westminister. PHOTOS BY STEPHEN LANDRY/THE GARDNER NEWS

Gardner to unveil 20-year Master Plan for city's future

Stephen Landry
The Gardner News | USA TODAY NETWORK

What could the Chair City look like in 20 years? That's the question officials in Gardner are hoping to answer as they prepare to unveil the final draft of the city's Master Plan.

The plan, which represents Gardner's first comprehensive master plan update since 1974, will be presented during a public open house at Maki Park at 57-67 Parker St. between 4 and 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15.

In the event of rain, the event will be moved to Levi Heywood Memorial Library at 55 West St.

The plan was developed by the Barrett Planning Group, in coordination with the city of Gardner and supported by a Community Planning Grant from the Massachusetts Executive Housing and Livable Communities.

The Barrett Planning Group was contacted by Gardner officials in December 2024 and tasked with drawing up a housing production plan for the city that would create a path to open new housing opportunities to alleviate current market pressures. The proposed plan will also review issues of citywide parking and urban renewal plans, create a new economic development plan for the city, and strengthen the city's redevelopment plans, especially after a recent construction project highlighted breakdowns in interdepartmental communications and project oversight in the city.

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BLOOMING UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

Brook Bound unveils renovated year-round gift shop

Stephen Landry
The Gardner News | USA TODAY NETWORK

What started out as a love for flowers and connections has bloomed into a dream that the new owners of Brook Bound Nursery hadn't even realized they'd been chasing. When the gardening center at 170 State Road East in Westminister, which opened in 1988, was put on the market in late 2025, Nikki Forrest and Jordan Grondell, two longtime residents with decades of gardening experience between them, jumped at the chance to leave the corporate world and put their green thumbs to use.

"We both have a love for gardening and crafts and all things kind of nature and outdoors," said Forrest, who added the pair had plenty of time in their "mom circle" to discuss their shared dream as they watched their children play together.



The Brook Bound Nursery, which opened at 170 State Road East in Westminister in 1988, is under new ownership.

Grondell was no stranger to the business, working for Brook Bound Nursery's previous owners, Tammy Cirillo and Jason Martin, for about five years before they announced their

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FBI warned agencies of Iran's threat to U.S.

Kristina Cooke and Ted Hesson
REUTERS

WASHINGTON – The FBI warned U.S. state and local law enforcement of an elevated threat posed by Iran's government to targets in the United States last month even as the White House sought to downplay the likelihood of an attack, a law enforcement intelligence report reviewed by Reuters shows.

In the March 20 report, the FBI and other federal intelligence agencies cautioned that the Iranian government "poses a persistent threat" to U.S. military and government personnel and buildings, Jewish and Israeli institutions, and Iranian dissidents in the United States.

Despite those warnings, the FBI and National Counterterrorism Center had not identified broad threats to the American public, the report said.

President Donald Trump publicly has minimized

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