

Metro ▾

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GLOBE SOUTH ▶	GLOBE WEST ▶		
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Boy, 4, drowns in pool of Westborough complex

Facility was not officially opened

By **Matt Rocheleau and Evan Allen** | GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS MAY 14, 2012

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A 4-year-old boy apparently drowned in a murky pool at a Westborough apartment complex Sunday afternoon, according to the office of Worcester District Attorney Joseph D. Early Jr.

Alexie Lepoer was found in the pool shortly after 5:30 p.m., the district attorney's office said in a statement. The boy's family, who live in building R of the Park Village West apartment complex on East Main Street, had reported to police that Alexie was missing about a half hour earlier, the office said.

Emergency responders tried to resuscitate the boy at the scene, the statement said. He was taken to the UMass Memorial Medical Center in Worcester, where he was pronounced dead. A cause of death will be determined by the state medical examiner's office.

The pool, surrounded by a chain-link fence about 6 feet high, had not yet opened for the summer, said residents Larry Sullivan and Ram Dondapati.

It normally opens around Memorial Day weekend. The pool had been uncovered about a week ago so crews could start treating and cleaning it, said Sullivan, whose apartment overlooks the pool.

“That gate is always locked,” he said.

The six-building, 252-unit apartment complex is owned by the Natick real estate company Stonegate Group, according to the Westborough assessor’s office. Dean Calivas, chief operating officer of the company, declined to comment Sunday evening.

Resident Laltu Ghosh said he came home around 5:35 p.m. and found that a number of police officers had blocked off the area surrounding the pool as they searched for the boy.

Police also searched a wooded area at the edge of the apartment complex, and the bushes surrounding the brick building, Ghosh said and asked neighbors if they had seen the boy. They also searched an empty apartment unit overlooking the pool that was recently gutted by fire.

Neighbors said the family had several children.

Lights were off in the apartment the family lived in, and no one came to the door when a reporter rang the doorbell.

State Police detectives assigned to the district attorney’s office and Westborough Police are investigating.

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