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November 2023

Pen Pal Project Aims to Connect Town's Teens and Seniors

BY DAVID DUNBAR

Two teachers at Bellingham High School are working on a project that would help bring local elders and high school sophomores closer together.

The Pen Pal Project would pair a Bellingham elder with a group of four to six sophomores, all students in six different history classes. One of the teachers, Emma Wells, says, "I hope that through this project our students and the seniors in the community can feel more connected and in tune with one another."

The search is on for 30-35 seniors who would like to participate. They would write letters about their experiences in the military, being LG-BTQIA+, immigration, living in Bellingham, great economic downturns, or anything else they would like to discuss.



Brian DeDentro and Emma Wells go over plans for inaugurating a Pen Pals Program aimed at bringing together the town's senior citizens and the high school's sophomores.

PEN PAL

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Bellingham Is Home to a Unique Resident

White Squirrel Spotted Last Month in Town

BY J.D. O'GARA

It was Saturday morning on Caroline Drive in Bellingham, and Robin Heroux was doing what many of her neighbors might be doing at that time.

"It was breakfast time. I was making coffee, looking out the back window, and my daughter was on her phone, as usual," notes Heroux, when something caught her eyeprompting her to call Reese, her daughter, to hurry over with her phone.

In her backyard was a snow-white squirrel.

The two took a video and a muddy picture, but the next day, they were at the ready, opening the door for a (slightly) better picture when the bright white critter showed up around the same time.

"We had seen two gray squirrels that have a whitish back to them," adds Dan Heroux, wondering if the white squirrel was some sort of offspring.

Massachusetts Wildlife Rehabilitator Susan Siegel, of Return 2 Wild, agrees that's a possibility.

"It's (likely) an Eastern Gray squirrel, but a leucistic squirrel," says Siegel. "It's uncommon, but it does happen."

Leucism is a genetic anomaly due to a mutated gene. A recessive allele causes reduced pigmentation in all types of skin pigment. Eastern Gray Squirrels can also produce melanistic offspring, which are black and seen a bit more often, says Siegel.

"They're still an Eastern Gray Squirrel. They're not common at all, but we do see them once in awhile. Leucistics do quite well, but because they're white, they're certainly more visible to predators. It's harder for them to blend in," says Siegel.

SQUIRREL

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PEN PAL

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Their letters would be sent to Wells, or to the other teacher, Brian DeDentro, for review and assignment to student groups for response. This would begin around November 27 and continue through March 19, 2024. Writing back and forth would continue every two weeks.

“The students seem excited to start this pen pal scenario,” says Wells. And it’s “not grade weighted” adds DeDentro. He continues, “I like the concept of the project, because I think it will expose surprising similarities among the generations, in addition to the anticipated differences. I think they will also find it appealing because it personalizes history a little more and exposes the fact that history is simply a fascinating story.”

So, the scenario might go like this. The senior writes, “I’m a Vietnam war veteran who saw lots of action and got wounded. I wondered why I was in Vietnam in the first place.” The students write back, “You were answering the call from your

country and your sense of duty. Tell us more about your experience.” And the discussion would continue.

Wells and DeDentro will assign responses to student groups based on what the senior is writing about. “This is about connection with people outside the students’ own realm,” explains Wells. “The world we live in has become so fast paced and digital, and I hope that the act of sending letters will bring some connectedness to the town,” says Wells. “Additionally, I think that it will be a really great thing for the stories of local seniors to be ‘told’.”

“I was thrilled,” says Senior Center Director Josie Dutil, “when the high school reached out to us with this idea. In a world where different generations seem to have little in common, a project like this reminds us of the ways that we are all the same - we are all in need of connection. Our seniors have so many incredible stories to share, stories of how life used to be in Bellingham and of how much things have changed over the years. I’m excited for the local history our high school students will discover through the ‘elders’ in our community.”

Bernadette Rivard oversees the town library. “As a librarian

and in my role as the Secretary of the Bellingham Historical Commission, this collaboration between the schools and the seniors to become pen pals and learn more about each other is a fantastic opportunity for Bellingham to record these intergenerational stories. We are hoping that some participants will be willing to share their correspondence with us so we can tell their stories in upcoming or future editions of The Crimpville Comments, The Bellingham Historical Commission’s newsletter.”

The students plan to create a website in April next year to present all the stories collected during the pen pal phase. They may even create printed copies – maybe even a book – to fully report on all the information they have collected.

Wells says she doesn’t know if something like this has been done in neighboring towns. And adds that “this kind of civics project is new in Massachusetts.”

If you are a senior who would like to participate or have questions, then please email Wells at ewells@bpsdk12.org or DeDentro at bdedentro@bpsdk12.org You can also call the Senior Center at (508) 966-0398.

SQUIRREL

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In the meantime, the two Heroux family members that

spotted the squirrel are affectionately referring to it as “she,” even choosing a name for her, “Oehni,” after searching for names in different languages that meant “unique.”



This bright white, leucistic squirrel was spotted in late October by a family on Caroline Drive. Have you seen her?
Photo by Reese Heroux

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Jen Schofield
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TOPSoccer: A Special Program for Kids with Special Needs

BY GRACE ALLEN

It's a typical sight on a Sunday morning: a soccer field brimming with activity while parents cheer from the sidelines. For families who have kids with disabilities, that experience once might have seemed out of reach. TOPSoccer is changing all that.

The Outreach Program for Soccer, or TOPSoccer, was developed by US Youth Soccer for children and youth from ages 4 to 26 with physical and/or mental disabilities. The participants are paired with volunteers who teach them how to play soccer in a safe and fun way.

A local TOPS chapter has been operating in Norfolk since 2011, with participants from several surrounding communities. Starting in the spring, the program will move to King Philip High School in Wrentham, which is offering the field for free so there will be no cost for families.

John Rainone, the director of the TOPS program, says the move to the high school is significant because the turf field will make it easier for kids with disabilities to play, without the worry of uneven terrain.

"Our TOPS program has some of the highest numbers in the state," explained Rainone. "We have multiple kids in wheelchairs, multiple kids on crutches and leg braces, and a couple that are legally blind. The turf field will make the program even more inclusive."

Rainone has been involved with the Norfolk-based TOPS chapter since its start, and in 2020 became its director. He runs the program with the help of his daughter, Kelsie, who began volunteering with TOPS when she was in 6th grade.

According to Rainone, the primary goal of TOPS is to provide a fun, social outlet for special needs kids while learning to play soccer. But another, equally laudable goal, is to provide the parents of these kids with the opportunity to just sit and watch while volunteers take over.

"Parents can relax, knowing their child is safe, having fun, and involved in a sport in a way they probably didn't think would ever be possible," said Rainone.

Mark and Erin Botelho's son, Leo, has multiple disabilities, including cerebral palsy, and is legally blind. Leo has participated in the TOPS program for twelve years, beginning at the age of 3. He started out with a walker but now uses leg braces and walks independently. He enjoys playing goalie, says his mother.

"The volunteers from King Philip are amazing and kind students," said Botelho. "We are thankful our son has found a place where he is welcome and expected only to be himself."

Another parent, Lauren Love, says TOPS has provided her son Jonathan with the opportunity to practice the fundamentals of soccer at a level appropriate for him. Love says her son has participated in TOPS for close to ten years, and calls the experience rewarding for everyone involved in the program: players, parents, and volunteers.

"It's provided Jonathan with a wonderful social experience, and has given us a sense of community," said Love. "It has allowed me to meet and share information with other parents who experience both the joys and the struggles of having a child with special needs."

Love says that another son, Ryan, plays soccer for King Philip High School, and this year is one of the TOPS volunteers who works specifically with Jonathan.

"It's heartwarming to witness how much they are learning from each other," she said.

Kayla Swedits is yet another parent who speaks highly of the TOPS program. Her 7-year-old daughter Riley has a rare genetic disorder and subsequent developmental delays. An attempt to play in her town's recreational soccer program was disheartening for Riley.



TOPS Director John Rainone and his daughter Kelsie, with TOPS athlete Jonathan Love.

"We tried TOPS and it was a completely different feel," said Swedits. "The volunteers meet her where she is, skill-wise. Riley loves it and I get to sit back and watch her play with a big smile on her face."

While anyone can volunteer with the program, the biggest group of volunteers are high school athletes, primarily from King Philip. The boys soccer team has been the backbone of the program, especially during the height of COVID, but this year all the fall sports teams have stepped up to help, says Gwen Prater, president of the King Philip Soccer Association (KPSA), which



From left, KPHS soccer players Lauren Obara, Natalie Seropian, and Halle Leblanc, with TOPS athlete Rowan Lee.

offers the local TOPS program. She expects all the spring sports teams also to volunteer when the program moves to the high school in 2024.

"The volunteers might even be getting more out of the program than the individuals playing in TOPS," says Prater.

Kelsie Rainone, now 24, agreed that the volunteers have embraced the program, learning along the way that the participants, even the kids with severe special needs, are typical kids too, with similar likes and dislikes as the volunteers.

"When I first started volunteering, some of the TOPS kids were my age," Kelsie said. "And

they were doing the same things I was. I play soccer, they're playing soccer. Yes, they play a bit differently but they're still doing the same things I'm doing."

Prater says KPSA families have made financial donations to the TOPS program, which will enable the organization to get new equipment, including specialty balls, uniforms, and medals for the end of the season. KPSA also funds an ice cream truck for the last day of the session.

TOPS Director Rainone, who sits on the board of the Massa-

TOPSOCCER
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Municipal Spotlight

10th Annual Veterans Day Ceremony Slated for Nov. 11

By KEN HAMWEY,
BULLETIN STAFF WRITER

The 10th annual Veterans Day program is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 11, at 11 a.m. at the Bellingham Public Library.

The number 11 dominates the timing of the holiday, which was originally called Armistice Day. A peace treaty ending World War I was signed in 1918 and the agreement occurred on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

“Although our country has been experiencing challenging times, we must not forget the service and sacrifice of Bellingham veterans, past and present,” said Jim Hastings, who’s been the Chairman of the Memorial and Veterans Day Committee for the last 16 years. “On Nov. 11, we can pause, reflect and honor their service, courage and commitment.”

Hastings, a Marine veteran who served in Vietnam, will be in Washington D.C. for Veterans’ Day, attending a ceremony for the Marine Corps birthday (248

years), and he also will be visiting the Vietnam Memorial. Sam Cowell, an Army veteran and a 15-year member of the committee, will fill in for Hastings.

The program will begin with the Bellingham VFW and Boy Scouts posting the colors followed by Robbie and Joe Oliver singing the National Anthem. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Rev. David Mullen, the pastor at St. Brendan Parish, will offer an opening prayer.

Speakers include Chris Condon (Navy), Margaret Johnson (Army) of Bellingham, and Staff Sergeant Kyle J. Reitnauer of the Natick Soldier Systems Center who will deliver the keynote address.

Condon, a 58-year-old native of Bellingham, joined the Navy and served for six years (1983 to 89). After recruit training boot camp and service school, he was assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Constellation (CV-64). Assigned to engineering in the Aft Group Propulsion Division in an engine room, his home port was



Staff Sergeant Kyle J. Reitnauer of the Natick Soldier Systems Center will deliver the keynote address.

in the San Diego area at Naval Air Station North Island.

“In my time aboard the ship, we deployed and sailed throughout the Pacific (Indian Ocean and the China Sea),” Condon said. “Over time, I learned and qualified on each station in the engine room and served as a top watch for my last year. I also held the position of Petty Officer in charge of lube oil quality man-



Chris Condon will speak about his service in the Navy that included deployments throughout the Pacific (Indian Ocean and the China Sea).

agement.”

Johnson served in the Army National Guard for 26 years and had two deployments, one to Kosovo in 2005-06 and the second to Kuwait (2003-05).

Johnson, who’s lived in Bellingham for 18 years, attended basic training in 1992 at Fort Leonardwood, Mo., and throughout her military career attended multiple training courses. She’s received awards, citations, coins and recognition for dedication to her mission and mentoring of soldiers.

“I’m proud to be a veteran, and I’m very grateful for all of my family and friends’ support throughout my military career,” she said. “And, I’m very proud



Margaret Johnson served in the Army National Guard for 26 years and had two deployments, one to Kosovo and the second to Kuwait.

to have served in the Army National Guard and to live out the Army values each and every day of my life.”

Currently the Adjutant for VFW Post 7272 in Bellingham, Johnson is married to Master Sergeant Karl Johnson, who also served in the Army National Guard for 36 years.

Reitnauer was born on Misawa Air Force base in Japan. He moved every few years of his childhood while his family was in the Air Force, living in New Mexico, Montana, Germany and North Carolina, where he graduated high school and at-

CEREMONY
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CEREMONY

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tended East Carolina University.

He enlisted in the Army in February 2013 and attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Sill, Okla. Afterwards, he attended Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sam Houston, Tex., and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., earning the military occupation specialty of medical laboratory technician.

Reitnauer later was assigned to the United States Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., where he conducted research to provide medical countermeasures for chemical warfare agents. While assigned, his research work was published twice in the Journal of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science.

Reitnauer was later assigned to C Company 703rd Brigade

Support Battalion in Fort Stewart, Ga., where he served as a squad leader. Within six months of his arrival, his unit went on a rotation to Poland in February of 2019 that was supposed to be three months, but due to COVID-19, lasted 10 months. The only lab tech assigned to his brigade, Reitnauer traveled across Europe, performing COVID tests and establishing quarantine sites for patients.

At the Natick Soldier System Center, Reitnauer, a highly-decorated and awarded non-commissioned officer, is in charge of the Military Performance Division at the U.S. Army Research Institute of Environmental Medicine (USARIEM). He oversees multiple human performance research projects, and his research has resulted in lasting changes to the Army physical fitness test as well as the Army body composition program.

His military education includes Hospital Management of Chemical Biological Radio-

logical Nuclear Emergency Incidents, Field Management of Chemical and Biological Casualties, Medical Management of Chemical and Biological Casualties, Field Sanitation, Combat Life Saver, Clinical Operations with Infectious Diseases, Basic Leaders' Course, Transportation of Biological Material, Technical Transportation of Hazardous Material, Advanced Leader's Course, SHARP Foundation Course, and Master Resilience Training.

Retired schoolteacher Lori Fafard encouraged students from the Memorial Middle School to write poems about veterans, and the three winners will honor veterans by reading their poems at the ceremony.

The program will also feature the Oliver Brothers and remarks by State Representative Mike Soter prior to heading outdoors for posting of the colors, a prayer, wreath presentation, a moment of silence and a conclusion with *Taps*.

Encore Students to Receive Regional Gold Medals in New York City

Encore Music Academy and Recording Studios, located in Franklin, MA, is proud to announce that two students have been awarded Regional Gold Medals of Excellence for academic year 2022-2023 from the Royal Conservatory of Music Certificate Program. To achieve this award, students must have attained the single highest score for their level on their instrument in the region which includes the following states: MA, RI, CT, ME, VT, NH, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, and WV.

Congratulations to the following students and their instructors for the talent, hard work, dedica-

tion, and perseverance it takes to achieve such a tremendous honor:

Amelia Piercy, 16, Franklin, student of Carl Scheinman, Level 4 saxophone

Sunehri Verma, 15, Franklin, student of Lisa Ostrow, Level 6 voice

As a result of their tremendous achievement, these students have been invited to perform at the annual Celebration of Excellence in New York City on January, 28, 2024!

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Taste of Bellingham November 8th

By J.D. O'GARA

“Basically, Taste of Bellingham is a sampling from all our local restaurants, liquor stores and vendors that are BBA members ... it's the best \$10 you'll ever spend, and if you go home hungry, it's your own fault!” That's how Sue Grady, of the Bellingham Business Association, sums up the upcoming 16th Taste of Bellingham, to take place at Frank Webb Home showroom at 37 South Maple Street, Bellingham, on November 8, 2023, from 6-8 p.m. Tickets are \$10

before November 7th, or \$15 at the door. Attendees are asked to bring a donation for the local food pantry.

The event has grown over the years, says Grady.

“We started out in the community room of the library, moved to a couple other places and now the showroom in Bellingham has been our home, as Frank Webb Home/FW Webb Company is nice enough to host the event for us,” says Grady, “We have over 20 vendors participate from flowers, music and

interviews to restaurants and liquor stores showcasing their business and favorites for the public to sample a taste.”

Tickets are for sale from BBA board members and available at the following locations around town: Dean Bank (Bellingham), Gateway Liquors and Mass Armament. There is also an event page on facebook to follow along <https://fb.me/e/1xwOfnioY> or Taste of Bellingham | Facebook .

Grady also hopes to remind BBA members of the holiday party, coming up in December.

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Larry Bees Music Is Hitting All the Right Notes

By JENNIFER RUSSO

Whether you are a music enthusiast, aspiring musician, instrument collector, or all three, there is a little place in town that is calling your name. Bellingham's Larry Bees Music has been a fixture for over 50 years, teaching music to those who have a passion to learn it professionally or as a hobby and was known for selling instruments and records at the height of the 60's and 70's rock music revival. If you've lived in or passed through Bellingham, you are likely already familiar with it.

What you may not know, is that though the location on Pulaski Boulevard was built in 1993, a few very talented and passionate local musicians took up the call to manage the store in 2020 after founder, Larry Brodeur, sadly passed on after bravely battling illness. Kevin Lombard, the primary owner, reached out to a longtime friend, Alec Antobeneditto, to see if he would like to step in to help bring Larry Bees into a new era, and it all happened from there.

Business spotlight



Alec, who is now a partner at the store as well as its drum instructor, has been playing drums since 1978, went on to Berklee College of Music and has studied drums under world-renowned drummer Gary Chaffee. He presently plays in 9 different bands, so he knows well the ins and outs of recording, booking, and performing for different types of live audiences.

Jay Tullio, who is a part-owner and the store manager, is known well in the area for his amazing guitar work in two local bands. He has been play-



ing guitar since 1971 and has been working in music retail since 1983. He is a guitar repair expert – so, if you need something fixed, you can trust it is in great hands.

Part-owner Mike Rossacci has been involved with the music industry since he was in his teens and a musician in bands for over 30 years. Right now, in addition to helping to run the store, he has moved his focus to his singer/songwriter interests.

The three have all worked together in some capacity since 1987, whether it be playing in

bands together or through other common connections, so they kid that they are like “three little old ladies arguing about whose blueberry muffins are better because it's the Italian thing to do.”

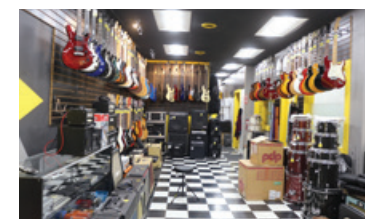
The old-school music shop has been renovated – it is brighter and more modern, now sporting dozens of shiny guitars and accessories, drum sets, keyboards, amps, and several lesson rooms. They have a robust social media presence, over one hundred students, and have great plans for the future.

“I think we stand apart as a smaller music store, because it's a more personal experience that our customers will get here,” says Alec. “It's a family element, we get to know the kids and their parents, and people can just come in here and play something instead of having to check something out online and guess if it's right for them.”

“The vibe in here is comfortable, when people come in here to take lessons, we talk to them and check in,” says Mike. “We have all played, and we can see things from both sides. We can do a quick adjustment for them if they need it, run a new string on a guitar last minute before someone's show...things we are happy to provide because we care about the people that come in.”

You may be asking yourself why the name hasn't changed with the complete facelift the store received, and really...the short answer is, community.

“It was important to keep the name – the spelling changed just slightly, and we added a new logo that Mike's son came up with, but Larry built the community for this, and we really wanted to honor that – it didn't make sense to change it,” says Jay.



Larry Bees teaches guitar, bass, piano, ukulele, harmonica, mandolin, and drums to children and adults and are hoping to hire a vocal instructor soon. The lessons they provide are very competitively priced, with highly trained instructors. Lessons are coordinated by employee Andrew Barry, who the trio says they could never run the business without.

Additionally, they want to add more Master Classes to the schedule - they recently had a successful one with award-winning drummer and actor Rich Redmond. Looking toward the future, they hope the business will grow into adding another location that is more of an interactive music center with a lesson side and a playing side and in-house recording, among other ideas.

“Though we sell instruments and lessons, it's never just about selling here,” Mike shares. “It's more about helping people make good decisions and finding what works best for them – we do have great, high-quality instruments for beginners and professionals and our lessons are taught by some of the best in the industry – it all speaks for itself. We just want people to love what they get.”

The store welcomes would-be musicians and those who are actively playing to stop in and take some time to just casually speak with them about music. A music store years ago was a place to go and hang out and share a love of music, and the owners and team really feel that is what it SHOULD be about. With decades of industry knowledge and a super cool vibe, it's a welcoming, real person interaction that can't be found just anywhere.

Larry Bees is located at 425 Pulaski Blvd. in Bellingham. Learn more about Larry Bees on their website at LarryBeesMusic.com or on their Facebook page at Larry Bees Music. You can also reach them at (508) 883-5150. Be sure to take advantage of their amazing deal by bringing in the coupon in their Bulletin ad this month.

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TOPSOCCER

continued from page 3

chusetts Youth Soccer Association and serves as liaison for the state's 27 TOPS programs, hopes to grow the program in new directions. He'd like to have enough participants so they can hold real

scrimmages each week. This past fall session, he invited the Norfolk, Plainville, and Wrentham Police resource officers and their community resource dogs to a TOPS session, enriching the experience even more for the kids. Rainone also envisions having therapists in the program, working with the volunteers to better serve the TOPS athletes, and also engaging

with the parents on the sidelines. "John is thinking big," said Prater. "With Kelsie at his side, he has successfully run this program and KPSA has done everything we can to support them. Every week I've watched them greet each TOPS player with a huge smile, and I literally find myself wiping tears away as I watch the kids play. It's clear they've created more than a rec program. This is a community, and we want this resource to continue to grow and serve even more special needs families in the area."

Registration has opened for the spring session, which will run on Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., starting on April 21, 2024 until June 2. There are no restrictions regardless of physical or mental disability. Participants from area towns are welcome, and volunteers are always needed.

Visit <https://www.kpsoccer.org> for more information and to register for the spring session. Email topssoccergold@gmail.com with any questions.

To help support the TOPS program, which will need more specialty equipment and nets, donations can be made via Venmo: @kp-soccer with TOPS in the memo line.



KPHS football players Tommy Kilroy and Aiden Astorino with TOPS athlete Rowan Lee.

Santa Foundation Calendar Raffle Now Underway

You can help support needy neighbors in Franklin and surrounding towns by donating to The Santa Foundation. The organization has just embarked on its annual fundraising calendar raffle. To participate, visit <https://www.sfjoy.org/calendar-raffle>.

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1. While at the park, Dre throws a football to Everett when he is not looking and breaks his nose. Would Dre's apartment insurance policy pay for Everett's medical injuries?
2. Eric and Lexie make 200 chicken wings for a tailgate. While heading to the game in Lexie's car, the wings spill out of their container and stain Lexie's seats. Would Lexie's car insurance help pay for any of the stains?
3. Bryan's business hosts a tailgate party away from his office. During the event, an attendee trips and falls over a cornhole board Bryan set up. Would Bryan's general liability pay for the injuries even though he is not at his office?

Answers:

1. Yes, apartment insurance includes liability and medical payment coverage.
2. Yes, if Lexie has comprehensive coverage. However, she would be subject to her deductible.
3. Yes, general liability insurance would provide coverage away from the office and business location.



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48th Annual Franklin Newcomers Craft Fair is Nov. 18th

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

The Annual Franklin Newcomers & Friends Craft Fair is back to its original location at Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School, 147 Pond St., Franklin, on November 18, 2023, from 9 am to 3 pm. The event, the group's

largest fundraiser, will be the organization's 48th.

"We're excited to be back in our original space and to have a great event," says Franklin Newcomers Craft Fair chair Terri Attinello. "Everything is hand-made, and we require crafters to show photographs of

them making things as well as the person making them to be there. So, people can talk to the person who's making (the item). It's more personal."

The unique gifts items include jewelry, home and holiday décor, hand-knit, sewn, and embroidered items, soaps, and

food, and they're just in time for the holidays. Admission is \$3 for anyone 12 and older, and the group will also be accepting donations of nonperishable food items for Franklin Food Pantry.

For updated details on the Newcomers' Craft Fair, visit the craft fair's dedicated Facebook page @FranklinNewcomers-CraftFair.

Franklin Newcomers & Friends began in 1971 by Fran Kober. She moved to Franklin from New Jersey and was very disappointed to learn there was no Newcomers Club in town, so she placed an ad in the paper to meet other new residents to the town. She received five replies, and the next ad she placed encouraged new people to come meet and socialize. Twenty people responded, and the Franklin Newcomers & Friends group was born.

"Members organize a variety of things," says Attinello. "We've met for coffee and muffins, have gone to plays. They're events anyone can come to."

Community service is also an integral aspect of the club. Proceeds from the Newcomers' Craft Fair funds donations to local Franklin organizations as

well as club events and outings.

"We have a bake table and raffle table supporting the club," says Attinello. "Admission plus other profit goes toward our charitable donations, voted on by membership." This past year, she says, members directed those funds toward the Random Smile Project, Franklin Food Pantry, the 4th of July Coalition, The Santa Foundation, Fish of Franklin, and the SAFE Coalition, among others.

Membership is open to Franklin residents as well as those living in adjacent towns that don't have a similar club. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Escape Into Fiction, at 12 Main Street in downtown Franklin. Light refreshments are served. Although meetings will now be held bi-monthly, activities are still scheduled throughout its membership year October to April. Members can check out the group's private Meetup page (Franklin Newcomers & Friends (Franklin, MA) | Meetup) or public Facebook page (Franklin Newcomers & Friends Club) for up-to-date meeting details.

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Your Money, Your Independence

Stop Making Sense: Massachusetts Updates Estate Tax Laws

It's taken 2 years, but Massachusetts lawmakers finally provided legislation for Governor Healey to sign on October 4th impacting the lowest (worst) U.S. estate tax threshold as part of a "\$1 billion tax relief package."

There are several positives in this package. Benefits for expanded childcare credit (over 30% of package), seniors, renters, septic systems, low-income housing, commuters, and short-term capital gains reduced from 12% to 8.5%.

Recall an estate tax may be owed based on net value of the estate of a deceased person before distribution to non-spousal heirs. To calculate net value, add all assets (real estate, investments, IRAs, small business, life insurance proceeds, personal property etc.) minus liabilities.

Key facts on MA update:

- Estate tax exemption rises to \$2 million from \$1 million, first increase since 2006.
- Provides a uniform credit of \$99,600.
- Eliminates "the cliff effect" when all assets were taxed if over threshold.
- Retroactive for estates of decedent's death on or after January 1, 2023.
- Filed 2023 estate tax returns



Glenn Brown, CFP

or estimates paid are entitled to a refund.

This Must Be The Place (Naive Melody).

Before celebrating a victory for the Commonwealth by echoing legislators that this "doubles the previous threshold," understand there are only 12 states in the U.S. that still tax estates.

Yes, you can live in 38 other states and pay \$0 state estate tax regardless of your wealth.

Furthermore, the federal estate tax exemption is now \$12.92 million, over 6X greater than MA. For most, there's little concern of having a life's work of earning, planning and saving being taxed upon death by the federal government.

Same As It Ever Was, Same As It Ever Was...

The new \$2M threshold moves MA from tied for 49th worst to 48th of U.S. states.

Consider actions of other states since 2018 per taxfoundation.org.

New Jersey and Delaware eliminated their estate tax.

Vermont raised to \$5M, Maine \$6.4M, New York \$6.58M and Connecticut now aligns to federal government's \$12.92M.

Additionally, Illinois (\$4M) and Oregon (\$1M) legislators have proposals to increase to the federal government's \$12.92M or higher.

Take Me To The River (or another state)?

How quickly can one's estate exceed \$2 million in MA?

Consider the median single-family home sale price in Middlesex County is \$845,000. Add savings, 401(k), 403(b), any insurance proceeds, value of a small business, maybe a generations Maine lake house... it can add up.

Connect with an estate planning attorney. New laws and life events are opportune times to connect as well as provide an updated net worth and review

your process. Remember, revocable living trusts bypass probate, not estate tax laws.

Know your net worth. Run updated estate tax estimates after \$99,600 credit applied. MA is still a graduated tax rate starting 0.8% up to 16%. For example, \$3M is now ~\$82,400 in MA estate taxes, \$5M is ~\$292,000 taxes, and \$10M is ~\$968,000 taxes.

Plan to be agile in retirement. Connection to seasons, family and friends can be strong. However, proper planning can create alternatives for residency in 38 states to no longer deal with state estate tax or 5% MA state income tax (make that 9% if earning over \$1M).

At \$10M net value, does one put \$1M towards a new or 2nd home in another state, declare residency so heirs receive this

value? Or stay in Massachusetts to pay ~\$1M in estate tax?

As a fiduciary, it's a responsibility to educate on the possibilities for those interested.

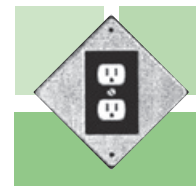
The opinions voiced in this material are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.

Glenn Brown is a Holliston resident and owner of PlanDynamic, LLC, www.PlanDynamic.com. Glenn is a fee-only Certified Financial Planner™ helping motivated people take control of their planning and investing, so they can balance kids, aging parents and financial independence.

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International Fellows Impressed by Vocational Education

National Defense University Tours BVT

Students, staff, and administrators at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT) recently welcomed members of the National Defense University International Fellows program to their campus. The visiting group of veterans and active-duty military officials representing 83 countries were excited to tour the school and speak with students about their education.

The National Defense University in Washington, D.C., provides senior international civilian and military leaders with graduate learning opportunities. Its International Fellows program is a one-year intensive program focused on educating, inspiring, and developing national security leaders. As part of their studies,

the International Fellows Class of 2024 visited Upton, Massachusetts, on September 20th to gain a better understanding of the American education system.

At BVT, the group received a first-hand look at career technical education. They walked the hallways, observed teachers and students at work in 18 modern vocational shops, and peeked into classrooms. The tour ended with tasty treats professionally prepared and arranged by students in the Culinary Arts program for the visitors to enjoy before participating in a question-and-answer session with administrators and students.

Having observed the hands-on training students receive in their vocational classrooms, the group was interested in learning



Kallie Allen of Hopedale, a junior in Biotechnology and Massachusetts SkillsUSA President, spoke with a group of the International Fellows.

how students balance their vocational and academic coursework. They also wanted to know how students decided which vocational program to study during high school and their plans to continue pursuing their chosen

fields.

“BVT has incredible resources,” said International Fellow Edward, of the United Kingdom, while touring the school. “It was a great opportunity to observe students putting

theoretical learning into practice at a young age.”

“During the comprehensive tour, I saw students working with modern tools and equipment they’d use in the industry,” said International Fellow Alex of Romania. “It’s impressive that the students have technical skills that will allow them to compete and work anywhere in the world. Very cool.”

The recent visit exemplifies how BVT works to expand its student’s knowledge by sharing perspectives. Interacting with the International Fellows allowed the students to learn about the aspects of a military career. Our students were proud to speak about their experience and showcase what education is like at a regional vocational high school in the United States.

From the Town Clerk...

As an open Town Meeting community, Bellingham’s local election is held in the spring. Beginning in 2024, the local election will be held in June instead of May. This change was voted

in at Town Meeting in 2022 as part of a bylaw update. There will be no elections in Belling-

ham (state or local) in November of 2023.

REMINDER: Annually in January, when you receive your town census form, there is a statement referencing Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) with regards to penalties for not returning your census information

(MGL Chapter 51, Section 4c: “Failure to respond to this mailing shall result in removal from the active voting list and may result in removal from the voter registration rolls”).

After the census is complete and the annual Street List/Residents books are printed, the Town Clerk is obliged to notify those who have not returned their census for the current year, and thus begins the process of removal from the voter rolls. The process can take up to two years for the actual removal. Therefore, if you receive a “Confirmation Card” in the mail, please do not panic! Simply fill out the card to let us know that you are still residing in Bellingham, and we will remove you from the inactive voter list. The card may be returned by mail using the postage paid portion of the mailer, by dropping in the blue dropbox at the entrance of the Municipal Center or by delivery to the Town

Clerk’s office. If you go to polls and have not returned the card, you will be asked to complete a form signifying that you have continuously been a Bellingham resident. You will then be taken off the inactive list and allowed to vote. If after two State election cycles, you have not properly declared your continuous Bellingham residency, you will be permanently deleted from the voter rolls.

As you can see, this is a long and involved process that can be completely avoided by simply returning your annual census in a timely manner. As well, it is a costly endeavor in both labor and material costs.

Confirmation Cards are being mailed out in early November. If you receive one, please complete the card and sign it, then return it as soon as possible.

Bellingham’s annual census forms will be mailed out in mid-January of 2024. Please do your best to comply with the 10-day return window. At the very latest, please be sure to have it in by April 1st, the same day that dog licenses are due. So, if you have a dog, please send the renewal in (with rabies information and a check) with your census and you will avoid any possibilities of dog late fees or inactive voter status.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

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There are many simple things we can do to save water. Learn from the water-efficiency hero Flo what you can do today to help protect our water supply!

TURN OFF THE TAP!

Just by turning off the tap while you brush your teeth in the morning and before bedtime, you can save up to 8 gallons of water! That adds up to more than 200 gallons a month, enough to fill a huge fish tank that holds 6 small sharks!

The same is true when you wash dishes. Turn off the tap! Scrape your dirty dishes into the trash—then put them in the dishwasher.

Check Back Each Month for more Helpful Ways to Save!

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Santa is Coming to Town!

Once again, Santa will take to the streets in Bellingham on November 24th, 25th, and 26th. (Continuing with safety protocols, no lap sitting will be allowed.) A photographer will be on-hand to take photos with Santa for a \$5 donation, and, of course, all are welcome to take selfies with Santa from a social distance.

All proceeds go to the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry in Bellingham.

Santa will be making stops shown on the list below. You can follow Santa's progress on the Bellingham Lions Facebook page as the elves will be making real-time updates to track Santa's route and approximate times of when he will be arriving at each stop. Santa will have donation boxes on board his sleigh for any families wishing to donate to the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry to help those in need this holiday season.



Please check the Bellingham Lions Facebook page for any changes prior to the event.

November 24th

- 28 Blackstone Street
- Bellwood Circle & Mendon Street
(Pull in and turn around)
- Main Avenue & 4th Avenue
- Paul Road & RuthEllen Road
- Caroline Drive & Stella Road
- Stella Road & Sheila Drive
- Caroline Drive & Lisa Ann Drive
- Lisa Ann Drive & Theresa Drive
- Lisa Ann Drive & Nason Street
- Nason Street & Bruce Road
- Bruce Road & Monique Drive
- 15 Walter Morse Road
- Barret Lane & Hixon Street
- 7 Phillip Drive
- Cedar Hill Road & Arrowhead Road
- 4 Cedar Hill Road
- Rawson Road & Sagamore Road
- 13 Deerfield Lane
- North Main Street & The Charles
(Formerly Jefferson)

November 25th

- 28 Blackstone Street
- Silver Ave & Brion Road
- Candlelight Lane & Silver Lake Road
- Irene Court
- Indian Run Road & Buffy Road
- 30 Whitehall Way
- 40 Fox Run Road
- Partridge Trail and Quail Run Rd
- 20 Lizotte Drive
- Laurel Lane & Little Tree Road
Bellstone Drive & Elm Street
- 45 Elvira Street
- Essex Street
- Central Street & Winter Street
- 9 Fairway Drive
- 12 Pine Acres
- 24 Rakeville Circle
- Muron Avenue & Pinegrove Avenue
- 37 Deer Run Road
- 6 Ernie Drive
- 11 Acorn St

November 26th

- 28 Blackstone Street
- Maple Brook Road & Old Bridge Lane
- 323 Maple Brook Road
- 13 Sandcastle Lane
- 70 Highridge Road
(Sportsmen Side)
- Highridge Road & Rhodes Way
- 38 Highridge Road
- Rhodes Way & Highridge Road
- Susan Lane & Sharon Drive
Blackstone Street & Debra Lane
- 70 Stonehedge Road
- 33 Ray Avenue
- John Alden Road & Plymouth Road
Plymouth Road & Arapahoe Road
Arapahoe Road & Apache Road
- 10 Caryville Crossing

Volunteers Are Needed!

Pathway to a Better Life is opening our doors this winter to help those in need to stay warm for the night. Our doors will be open 9:30 p.m.-7 a.m., when temperatures drop to 20 degrees and below.

We are looking for volunteers to share the night by volunteering 9 p.m.-2 a.m. and 2 a.m.-7 a.m. or stay the whole time.

November Training Date:

Tuesday, November 14th from 6:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

We cannot open without your help. Please if you are interested in volunteering text or email Lisa Trusas (508) 922-9032 or pathway-toabetterlife2019@gmail.com.

Please share and help us get the word out! We want all volunteers to know we are not allowed to turn away anyone with symptoms or who is COVID positive.

Happy Thanksgiving!

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DURYSTA - A Game-Changer in Glaucoma Treatment

BY: ROGER M. KALDAWY, M.D.
MILFORD FRANKLIN EYE CENTER

Introduction

Imagine a world where a tiny implant can help prevent vision loss and improve the quality of life for millions of people suffering from glaucoma. This vision is becoming a reality with the introduction of DURYSTA, a groundbreaking treatment option that is changing the landscape of glaucoma management. In this article, we will delve into what DURYSTA is, how it works, and its potential impact on the lives of glaucoma patients.

Understanding Glaucoma

Glaucoma is a group of eye conditions that can lead to damage of the optic nerve, ultimately resulting in vision loss. It is often referred to as the “silent thief of sight” because it typically progresses slowly and without noticeable symptoms until significant damage has occurred. The most common type of glaucoma is open-angle glaucoma, which accounts for around 90%

of all glaucoma cases. In open-angle glaucoma, the drainage system within the eye becomes inefficient, leading to increased intraocular pressure (IOP). Elevated IOP is a major risk factor for optic nerve damage and vision loss.

Traditional Glaucoma Treatments

Traditionally, the primary approach to managing glaucoma has been to lower intraocular pressure. Several methods are used to achieve this, including eye drops, laser therapy, and surgical interventions. While these treatments can be effective, they often require frequent administration, leading to compliance issues. Additionally, surgical procedures carry certain risks and may not be suitable for all patients.

Enter DURYSTA

DURYSTA (bimatoprost implant) is a revolutionary development in the field of glaucoma treatment. Approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in March 2020, DURYSTA offers a novel and



sustained approach to lowering intraocular pressure in glaucoma patients.

How DURYSTA Works

DURYSTA is a tiny implant that is placed directly into the anterior chamber of the eye through a minimally invasive procedure. This implant releases a medication called bimatoprost, which is a prostaglandin analog. Prostaglandin analogs are known to be effective in reducing intraocular pressure by increasing the outflow of aqueous humor from the eye. What sets DURYSTA apart is its sustained release mechanism, providing consistent IOP reduction for an extended period.

Advantages of DURYSTA

Long-Lasting Efficacy: DURYSTA is designed to provide sustained IOP reduction for up to twelve months after a single

implantation. This means fewer office visits and a reduced need for daily eye drops, improving patient compliance and quality of life.

Minimally Invasive: The procedure to implant DURYSTA is minimally invasive and typically takes a few seconds. Patients can usually return to their normal activities shortly after the procedure.

Efficacy Across Glaucoma Types: DURYSTA has shown efficacy in reducing IOP across various glaucoma types, including open-angle and angle-closure glaucoma, making it a versatile option for a wide range of patients.

Reduced Side Effects: Unlike eye drops, which can cause side effects such as stinging, redness, and allergies, DURYSTA is delivered directly to the eye’s target site, minimizing systemic side effects.

Preservative-Free: Many eye drops contain preservatives that can irritate the eyes over time. DURYSTA is preservative-free, reducing the risk of irritation.

Improved Quality of Life: With fewer daily eye drop applications and sustained IOP reduction, DURYSTA can enhance the quality of life for glaucoma patients, allowing them to focus on their daily activities without the burden of frequent medication administration.

Clinical Trials and Results

The approval of DURYSTA was based on the results of clinical trials that demonstrated its safety and efficacy. In a pivotal Phase 3 clinical trial, DURYSTA was shown to significantly reduce intraocular pressure compared to a placebo, with the effect lasting for an extended period. The trial also highlighted the low rate of adverse events associated with DURYSTA implantation.

Real-World Impact

Since its approval, DURYSTA has made a significant impact on glaucoma management in clinical practice. Patients who were previously struggling with the inconvenience of daily eye drops and the fear of surgical procedures now have a more convenient and effective option for managing their condition.

DURYSTA has particularly benefited individuals with poor

adherence to medication regimens, as it eliminates the need for daily eye drop administration. This can be especially crucial in preventing vision loss in glaucoma patients, as consistent IOP control is essential to preserving vision.

Furthermore, DURYSTA has the potential to reduce the healthcare system’s burden by decreasing the frequency of office visits and surgeries for glaucoma management. This can lead to cost savings and improved resource allocation in healthcare.

Challenges and Considerations

While DURYSTA presents a promising solution to many of the challenges associated with glaucoma management, it is not without its considerations:

Cost: The cost of DURYSTA may be a barrier for some patients, as it is a relatively new treatment and may not be covered by all insurance plans.

Implantation Procedure: While minimally invasive, the implantation procedure for DURYSTA still requires a skilled ophthalmologist. Access to specialized care may be limited in some areas.

Long-Term Data: As DURYSTA is a relatively new treatment, long-term data on its safety and efficacy beyond the three-year mark is still being collected.

Conclusion

DURYSTA represents a significant advancement in the field of glaucoma treatment. Its sustained release mechanism, minimal invasiveness, and potential to improve patient adherence make it a game-changer for glaucoma patients. As further research and real-world experience accumulate, DURYSTA’s role in preserving vision and enhancing the quality of life for those with glaucoma is likely to become even more pronounced. While challenges and considerations remain, DURYSTA offers new hope and a brighter future for individuals living with this sight-threatening condition. Our center and ophthalmologists have state of the art equipment to diagnose and treat many eye prob-

EYES

continued on page 13



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3rd Annual Bellingham Lions Holiday House Decorating Contest!

The Bellingham Lions are sponsoring a Holiday House Decorating Contest for this holiday season. The Lions are asking for a \$10 donation to enter, with all donations going to Lions' charities locally and globally. Prizes will be awarded for 1st place \$100, 2nd place \$50, and 3rd place \$25.

Displays will be judged based on:

- Presentation & Theme (all holidays are welcome)
- Creativity
- Wow Factor

Participation is open to all Bellingham residents, and you must ensure the displays are on and visible between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. on Saturday December 16th and Sunday December 17th for judging. Winners will be announced the week of Monday December 18th. The contest is limited to outdoor displays only.

You can register using this link <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/00377bef-d6b1-4da7-ad11-47f267f8e04e>

use the below QR code. Information can also be found on the Bellingham Lions Club Facebook page. All entries MUST be received by Wednesday December 13th, 2023.

For any questions contact Brian Salisbury bellinghamlights@gmail.com

Senior Luncheon

The Bellingham Lions Club will provide meals for our seniors at the Bellingham Council for Aging Senior Center. Reservations should be made in advance by contacting the Senior Center at 508-966-0398. A full Thanksgiving dinner will be catered by PJs.



First place winner of the 2022 Bellingham Lions Holiday House Decorating Contest. Photo used courtesy of Bellingham Lions Club.

EYES

continued from page 12

lems, including glaucoma. We offer DURYSTA in our state-of-the-art surgery center in Milford. 7 dedicated eye care providers here to help you in 3 facilities in Franklin, Milford and Millis. We are available and have Saturday and after-hours appointments. From the basic eye exam to the high-tech surgeries performed

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Four Sage Salon Stylists Finalists at Behind the Chair's One Shot Hair Awards

Four stylists from Sage Salon, the premier hair and beauty treatment salon in Franklin, Mass., were recently named finalists for the eighth annual One Shot Hair put on by Behind the Chair (www.behindthechair.com), an international community of salon professionals devoted to the education and promotion of the industry.

The four stylists—Steph Brown of Bellingham, MA, Taylor Godfrey of Franklin, MA, Christa Rice of Millis, MA, and Natalie Salcedo of Marlborough, MA—were recognized at the annual One Shot Hair awards ceremony held in Austin, Texas.

“The One Shot Hair awards are like the Academy Awards for the hair and beauty industry and these four stylists certainly have become stars well beyond our salon,” said Jill Godfrey, owner of Sage Salon, which is located at 648 Old West Central Street in Franklin. “There were thousands of entries from all over the world—more than 120 countries represented—for

this year's One Shot from all over the world. So, to be named a finalist is a major accomplishment and I'm so happy for each of them.”

Brown, a stylist with 13 years' experience, was a Top 25 finalist for Reds and has been nominated 14 times over the past three years. She shares her work on Instagram @vividandsalvage.

Rice, a makeup specialist for the past five years, was a top 5 finalist in this year's One Shot. She's been nominated for special effects makeup four times and made the top 50, one top 25 and one top 5 finalist. She shares her work on Instagram @christaricemakeup.

With 10 years in the beauty industry, Natalie has entered One Shot Hair the past two years and was nominated for top 5 in 2023. She's also been invited to join the BehindTheChair.com team. She shares her work on Instagram (Natalie-@nattythestylist).

DellaTorre, a graduate of Tri-County High School and

six-year industry veteran, was nominated for seven top 100s (Blondes, Color Video, Cut Video, Styling Video, Educational Post, Balayage, Funny video) and three top 25s (Color Video, Educational Post, Funny Video). She shares her work on Instagram @taylordidmyhair.

In addition to being recognized at the awards ceremony, each finalist received a complimentary ticket for the three-day educational event (worth \$495), free merchandise from sponsors (valued at more than \$1,000).

“The One Shot awards and Behindthechair.com demonstrate how the hair salon industry has evolved since I began more than 40 years ago,” said Jill Godfrey. “Back then, you got your customers through word-of-mouth. Today, social media is a huge factor. Many of our stylists have their own followings. It's not unusual for them to go out in public and be recognized and asked to have their picture taken,” adding, “Thankfully, we have a whole team of celebrity stylists at Sage Salon.”



Sage Salon of Franklin, MA won big at the One-Shot Hair Awards in Austin, Texas. From left to right. Christa Rice(make-up artist), Natalie Salcedo(stylist), Jill Godfrey (owner), Steph Brown(stylist), Heidi Souza (manager), Sarah Cabral(friend, Christa's sister and also top 25 nominee), Taylor DellaTorre(stylist).



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Bellingham Business Association Holds Scholarship Golf Tournament

After a venue cancellation and 2 rainouts, the Bellingham Business Association finally held its 19th annual golf tournament on October 2nd at Maplegate Country Club. The sun was finally shining and the sold-out event began with a 3 p.m. shotgun start. Because of the postponements, a delicious catered dinner prepared by Sierra's Pizza and Pub, with appetizers by JK Catering and desserts by Shelley Bakehouse had to be held on September 25th at the Bellingham Sportsman Club. The biggest raffle that the group has ever had took place at the same time.

The 1st place prize went to the men's team of Paul Rogers, Pete Boswell, Greg John and Kyle McGarry. The 2nd place prize went to the team of Mone DaVong, Bobby Monteiro, Kack Ratsapho and Aloon Khounbom.

The 1st place women's team included Cindy McNulty, Beth Laplante, Mary Ryan and

Emily Ryan. Longest drive winners were Josie Dutil and Tim Mooradian. Closest to the pin winners were Meghan Casey and Kack Ratsapho. All golfers received a lottery ticket.

A special raffle was held for 300 - \$1 lottery tickets donated by Larry's Liquors and the winner was Sue of Coldwell Banker Realty. A basket full of nips donated by Vet's Package Store was won by Steve from the Bellingham Sportsman Club.

The BBA would like to extend a big thank you to our GOLD SPONSORS - CBJ Environmental, Imperial Cars, Middlesex Savings Bank and US Bank. The SILVER SPONSORS - Asphalt Engineering, Bellingham Dairy Queen, Charles River Bank, Dean Bank and Sue Ranieri - Coldwell Banker Realty. The BRONZE SPONSORS included All Star Press, Antron Engineering, Circle CG Farm Campground, Crystal Pool & Spa, Larry's Liquors, Mass Re-

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The following businesses and individuals sponsored holes, donated swag, prizes or gift certificates for the raffles:

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Co-Chairs Sue Grady and Sue Ranieri expressed sincere thanks to Maplegate Country Club, and all the businesses and individuals for the continued support and generosity in helping to make this event another great success. The BBA looks forward to seeing everyone again next year. Save the date of 9/09/2024! Let's hope for no rain!

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Come December 9th to a Country Christmas Fair

The elves are hard at work at the North Pole...that's a given. But did you know the elves are also going at full throttle in the St. Blaise Parish Hall and the homes of many of the crafters in Bellingham? They are working on beautiful handmade gifts such as afghans, soaps, Christmas decorations, religious items, Christmas gift baskets, jewelry, etc. Any and all of these will be displayed in the Country Store for purchase during the St. Blaise Christmas Country Fair, December 9, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will also be food items for sale, like homemade spiced cracker mix, soup in a jar (just add meat and water), spice packets to make your own mulled cider or wine at home or Reindeer Chow, at the country store. The kids (of any age) can buy penny candy, actually priced at a penny and individually selected or already filled bag for 50 cents. There will be other handmade items for purchase, like key rings, bookmarks, tissue holders, bible covers, at the Craft table too.

The fragrance of a crockpot of hot mulled cider will greet you as you arrive and is available for purchase from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., along with lunch choices like hamburgers, hot dogs, chili, dynamites, and other favorite foods and drinks. A variety of breads, muffins, cookies, cakes, and pies from the St. Blaise Sweet Shoppe will be ready to enjoy as dessert at the Fair or packaged to take as gifts.

There will be old favorites and new kids' games with prizes displayed with each game in a Kids Zone. The main raffle table, lottery ticket raffle, and the adults' Card Game will also make their return.

Santa and Mrs. Claus confirmed their visit to Bellingham! All who are at the Fair can make their Christmas gift requests to him from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and also take a picture with them!

Please mark your calendar for the St. Blaise Country Christmas Fair! We're waiting to welcome you and enjoy good food and Christmas cheer with family, friends and neighbors.

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Bellingham Public Library News & Events for November

For updates to library programs and services, please see the library website, www.bellinghamlibrary.org.

Additional details about library programs are available on the library calendar at <https://bit.ly/3xMECCt>

The library will close at 1 pm on Wednesday, November 22nd and remain closed on November 23rd for the Thanksgiving Holiday; open regular hours on Friday & Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend.

Highlighted Programs

First Saturday Family Fun! Saturday, November 4th at 11 a.m.

Join us on the first Saturday of each month for a different family fun activity! This month we will be making turkey crafts to celebrate November! Drop in!

NEW! Drop in Sewing/Craft Night, Thursday, November 9th and 30th from 5:15-7:45 p.m.

Join members of your community for a night of sewing, quilting, knitting, and crocheting. Feel free to bring other craft projects you are working on! Light refreshments will be served.

Adults only, for safety.

Town of Bellingham Veterans Day Ceremony, Saturday, November 11th at 11 a.m.



Join us for the annual Town of Bellingham Veterans Day Ceremony at the library. Doors open at 10:30 a.m., program starts promptly at 11 a.m..

Candy Cane Wreath Making, Monday, November 13th at 6 pm

Welcome guests to your door with a candy cane shaped wreath made by you. Class will be taught by crafter Ana Mendes of Afonsoway.com. Each guest will choose from a variety of ribbons, bows and decorative elements to create their own personalized candy cane wreath. Adults only – no children are permitted in the room. Registration required. This program is supported by the Friends of the Bellingham Library.

Easy Walks In Massachusetts Presentation, Thursday, November 16th at 6:30 p.m.

An Easy Walk means not too many roots or rocks, relatively level with firm footing and something of interest along the way. This program is presented by Marjorie Turner Hollman, Bellingham resident and author of four Easy Walks in Massachusetts guides. The guides cover walks in 53 contiguous towns in Massachusetts, including Bellingham and surrounding towns. Marjorie created this series of guides as a resource for those with mobility and other challenges. The most recent book, Easy Walks South of Boston, is a collaboration with Marilyn and Dave Dore of Stoughton. Dave is legally blind. His wife, Marilyn, hikes with him and provides support, so he can get out and enjoy the trails as much as she does. Registration is preferred but not necessary!

Giant Candy Land is Back! Friday, November 17th at 9:30 a.m.

We will have the Community Room set up as a giant version of the board game with all your favorite Candy Land characters.

After School Programs

Registration is mandatory for children in grades 4-6 to attend the ASK program.

- ASK Program hours 2:30-4:45 p.m.
- The Teen Room is open for grades 7-12 from 2-4:45 p.m.
- Check the library website for details on the programs. <https://bit.ly/3QzITpI>

Ongoing Children's September Programs

Ring a Ding – Mondays & Thursdays at 10:15 a.m. Drop in!

Read to Freedom the Reading Dog – Mondays from 6-7 p.m. Sign up for a 15-minute time slot!

Sensory Story Time – Tuesdays at 10:15 a.m. Please register for each session. No session Nov.14th.

Adult/Child Book Club – Tuesday, November 21st at 6:30 p.m. For kids in grades 6-9 and the adult in their life who loves to read. Meets monthly, contact Diane Nelson, dnelson@cw-mars.org.

Adult Programs

Book Discussion Group – Generally meets the 1st Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Attend in person or on Zoom. Contact Cecily Christensen, cchristen@cw-mars.org for more information.

Our December title is: *The Forest Lover* by Susan Vreeland

Yoga for the Seasons – Transitioning into Fall, Tuesdays at 8:30 am, registration required.

Carol the instructor is a 200-hour certified Kripalu Yoga teacher. Email questions you have to her at carolbrooks111@gmail.com. Classes are 75 minutes long, and those new to yoga are welcomed. Wear loose fitting clothing, bring your own yoga mat, 2 blocks and a yoga strap. Please arrive 10 minutes early if you are new to the class to sign a waiver. You must register for each class you wish to attend.

Virtual 50+ Job Seekers Networking Group – Wednesdays on Zoom

If you are unemployed and actively looking, underemployed, seeking a new career direction, re-entering the job market after a long employment gap, or recently retired and looking for your "Encore Career," join us in a professional online forum for networking with peers in a safe and comfortable environment conducive to developing new relationships and developing skills and strategies to help in your career transition. Each meeting features a new topic, available on the library calendar.

Bellingham Skein Artists – Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

All skill levels are welcome, including beginners. Please bring your own materials. No registration required.

Writing Group for Adults – Tuesday, November 14th at 6:30 p.m.

Writers, readers, listeners – come join us! Local area writers Amy Bartelloni and Marjorie Turner Hollman welcome the public to an evening of reading and listening. Hear what local writers are working on, and share what you are working on. Works of fiction or non-fiction, all are welcome. Reading limit is 9 minutes per reader, with a brief opportunity for positive, personal comments only. To participate contact Marjorie Turner Hollman at marjorie@marjorie-turner.com.

Library Board of Trustees Meeting – Thursday, November 9th at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room.

Friends of the Library virtual meeting – Tuesday, November 14th at 7 p.m. Email library@bellinghamlibrary.org for the Zoom link.



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Healey-Driscoll Administration Awards Over \$5.4 Million Awarded to Help Municipalities Improve Road Safety

The Healey-Driscoll Administration has announced that 186 Massachusetts towns and cities, including Bellingham, will receive grant funds to support traffic safety enforcement and outreach programming. The federal awards total upwards of \$5.4 million invested in local roadway safety initiatives.

A total of \$5,449,584.03 has been awarded through the FY24 Municipal Road Safety Grant Program. The program is administered by the Office of Grants and Research (OGR) and utilizes funds awarded by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). The annual program provides funding to municipal police departments who propose traffic safety projects in their community, including high visibility enforcement patrols, equipment to enhance road safety such as digital speed signs, pedestrian and bicyclist safety initiatives and public outreach campaigns intended to educate

community members and youth about roadway safety. The Bellingham Police Department was awarded \$25,195.

“Whether by vehicle, bicycle or foot, everyone has the right to travel safely through our communities,” said Governor Maura Healey. “Through this program, we were able to award grants to every community that requested funding. The education, enforcement and outreach initiatives supported through these grants will help ensure safer roads for all.”

“As a former mayor, I understand how important these grants are to ensuring safer streets in our neighborhoods,” said Lt. Governor Kimberley Driscoll. “Every community seeks to enhance the safety of their roadways, but each faces unique needs. This program provides cities and towns the flexibility to identify and invest in the traffic safety issues that are most pressing in their own communities.”

“Aggressive and dangerous driving are a threat to every road user. Providing local law enforcement agencies with the resources necessary to enforce traffic laws and educate members of their communities about distracted, impaired and aggressive driving is vital to ensuring the public’s safety,” said Secretary of Public Safety and Security Terrence Reidy. “These grants allow towns and cities to approach traffic safety initiatives in ways that make the most sense for the community’s needs.”

“Tragically, the COVID-19 pandemic led to a secondary epidemic of increased traffic fatalities across the nation. As we work toward reducing the number of crashes on Massachusetts roads, it’s imperative that agencies involved in this mission have the resources they need to protect road users,” said OGR Executive Director Kevin Stanton. “The Municipal Road Safety Grant Program is designed to provide towns and cit-

ies with the flexibility to address their community’s needs along with the guidance and resources needed to ensure the success

of traffic safety initiatives. This collaborative approach is key to improving the safety of our roadways.

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Sports

BHS Football Linked to Notre Dame, 4 Horsemen

By KEN HAMWEY,
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

One of the best untold stories in Bellingham is its football program's link to the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame — more specifically linked to one of South Bend's legendary Four Horsemen.

The connection, which took almost two years to develop, involved a math teacher from Hopkinton, Villanova University, and an all-American quarterback from Notre Dame.

The link started when Bellingham High fielded its first football team in the early 1930s, when the Great Depression was rearing its ugly head. When the school's first coach left after one season, a search for a replacement became a high priority for the fledgling program.

Frank Moriarity, a native of Hopkinton who graduated from St. Mary's of Milford (no longer in existence), enrolled at Villanova where he majored in math as an undergraduate. Harry Stuhldreher, Notre Dame's star quarterback, was attending Villanova as a post-graduate student. Moriarity and Stuhldreher weren't best friends, but they knew one another well enough to often chat about college life.

When Moriarity graduated, his goal was to teach math at Hopkinton High. With the Great Depression taking hold, jobs were scarce. No math positions were available in Hopkinton, but Moriarity discovered that Bellingham had a vacancy. He interviewed and got the job on one condition — the new teacher had to coach football. Needing to work and eager to teach, Moriarity consented.



The Four Horsemen led the Notre Dame football team to an undefeated season (10-0) and the national championship in 1924.

Athletics played a role in Moriarity's life, but football wasn't high on his list. He was well-versed in basketball, and golf later became his specialty. Suddenly faced with leading and guiding students on the gridiron, Moriarity realized that if he was going to survive as a teacher-coach, then a letter to Stuhldreher might keep him afloat.

Bellingham's football schedule was only five games, primarily because gasoline was scarce during the depression and World War II was just around the corner. Stuhldreher sent Moriarity five plays used by Knute Rockne, Notre Dame's legendary coach.

Moriarity's team battled through the five games, finishing with a 2-2-1 record. Stuhldreher had mailed him two offensive plays, two on defense and one special-teams play.

The season ended and Moriarity finished his first and only year at Bellingham High successful as a math instructor and a coach with a .500 record. He left for his native Hopkinton when informed of an opening in the math department. During his lengthy stint on the Hillers' faculty, he became the school's varsity basketball coach and he later coached golf. After his death, the Tri Valley League named a golf trophy after him and presented it every year to the school that won the golf championship.

Moriarity was well-known in local circles, especially in Hopkinton and Milford, but Stuhldreher was known nationwide. He was the catalyst who sparked Notre Dame's 13-7 victory over Army on Oct. 18, 1924 at the Polo Grounds in New York City before 55,000 fans.

With Stuhldreher at QB, Rockne unveiled a backfield that included left halfback Jim Crowley, right halfback Don Miller and fullback Elmer Layden. They had run rampant through opponents' defenses since their sophomore seasons.

The quartet, however, became famous when Grantland Rice, a sportswriter for the New York Herald-Tribune, provided the words that led to their football immortality. After Notre Dame's victory over Army, Rice wrote the most famous passage in the history of sports journalism.

He began, "Outlined against a blue-gray October sky, the Four Horsemen rode again. In dramatic lore they are pestilence, famine, destruction and death. But, these are only aliases. Their real names are Stuhldreher, Miller, Crowley and Layden."

George Strickler, then Rockne's student publicity aide and later sports editor of the Chicago Tribune, made sure the name stuck. After the team arrived back in South Bend, he posed the four players, dressed in their uniforms, on the backs of four horses. The wire ser-

vices ran the famous photo, and the legendary status of the Four Horsemen was etched into the history of the roaring '20s.

After the triumph over Army, Notre Dame's third straight victory of the season, the Irish were rarely threatened. A 27-10 win over Stanford in the 1925 Rose Bowl gave Rockne and Notre Dame the national championship and a perfect 10-0 record.

How did this writer discover the link between Bellingham, Moriarity and Stuhldreher?

I began my career as a sports journalist in 1967 at the *Framingham News*, long before it became the *Metrowest Daily News*. At times, the sports editor would assign two reporters to a significant game. Moriarity, who was still teaching math at Hopkinton, worked for the paper as a part-time correspondent, mostly covering sports in Hopkinton.

Frank and I often teamed up for a major event. One day, en route to a game, Frank revealed how Stuhldreher helped him get through his brief time as a football coach. He also discussed the plays and the strategy Stuhldreher provided.

Unfortunately, Bellingham eliminated football in the early 1940s. A student-athlete had died from injuries suffered in a game, and that led to football's demise at BHS. The sport, however, was revived in 1966 at the junior-varsity level. A varsity program re-emerged in 1967 when George Anderson, for whom the current field is named, became the Blackhawks coach. BHS became a charter member of the Tri Valley League when that circuit was formalized in 1966.

Dan Haddad, Bellingham's current coach, had some interesting comments about the school's link to Notre Dame and one of its Four Horsemen.

"I'm amazed that coach Moriarity's team was able to play five games with such a small playbook and win games," said Haddad. "To know that Knute Rockne and the Four Horsemen's influence made it all the way to our little town of Bellingham is remarkable. Such a great story from the 1930s."

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Sports

Versatile Turner a Major Plus for BHS Football Team

By KEN HAMWEY,
BULLETIN SPORTS WRITER

Donovan Turner would be a welcomed addition to any high school football team.

The 6-foot, 205-pound senior plays center and defensive end for Bellingham, and he's not only a two-time captain and a Tri Valley League all-star, but he's also a two-year member of the school's National Honor Society.

What's also significant about Turner is his team-first approach, his desire to strive for excellence, and his willingness to compete without any fanfare. The native of Webster, nevertheless, has earned some notice the last two seasons. He was chosen for the team's Unsung Hero Award as a sophomore, and as a junior, he was selected as the team's Offensive Lineman of the Year.

"Donovan is the most pure two-way athlete we have," said coach Dan Haddad. "He's tough, incredibly strong and very smart. He is easily the most versatile player we have."

Center isn't exactly a position players crave, but Turner enjoys that role.

"It's very challenging," he said. "Every play on offense starts with me, and it requires good snaps and the ability to be an effective run-pass blocker. When defenses blitz, they're going for the quarterback, and that means they're charging at me. I'm usually lined up against every opponent's nose tackle, who's often the biggest player on their line."

The 17-year-old Turner also likes his defensive responsibilities as an edge rusher. "At defensive end, I enjoy the freedom to be aggressive in pursuing the ball-carrier," he noted. "I like being the one to make a hit and cause stress for an opponent."

Relying on consistency, speed and quickness, Turner plays both positions intensely until the referee's whistle sounds. His other strengths include a high football IQ, athleticism, endurance, technical skills, and mental toughness.

Turner has been a two-way starter for the last two seasons, and he's competed in both of the Blackhawks' last two playoff appearances — a loss to Medway in 2021 and a defeat in last year's

matchup against Lynnfield.

Another playoff invitation this season should materialize for Turner and his teammates. The Blackhawks were 3-3 at the Bulletin's deadline and ranked 9th in Division 6. The tourney field will include 16 teams.

When BHS was 0-3 to start the season, a tourney berth looked bleak. But, Turner remained optimistic.

"I'd be very disappointed if we don't qualify," Turner said at that time. "It would be hard to imagine, because the talent is there, our team chemistry is good, we've got physical ability and the squad has passion for the sport."

The three losses to start the season were by a total of five points, and the squad was drastically short-handed in its first two games, against Blackstone-Millville and Westwood.

"The three losses to start the season caught me off guard," Turner said. "We'll be a playoff team, but we've got to stick together and stay focused. Losing our first three games by five points shows we didn't quit, and we were competitive."

Haddad credits Turner for the Blackhawks' bouncing back and posting triumphs over Ashland, Dedham and Medway. "Donovan kept telling the kids not to worry when we were 0-3," Haddad said. "He emphasized that we'd be okay."

One of Turner's goals in the pre-season was for the team to not only improve every day, but also for the players to be better student-athletes and better citizens.

"Competing for the TVL Small Division title and getting to the playoffs were also on my list," he noted. "My personal goals are to guide the team in a positive way, increase my tackles and sacks and get ready to play at the next level."

Turner, who began playing youth football at age seven, has not missed a varsity practice or a game in his high school career. That iron-man attribute will be a plus when the college recruiting process gets into full swing. His 3.7 GPA will also be a major asset.



Donovan Turner was chosen for the team's Unsung Hero Award as a sophomore, and as a junior, he was selected as the team's Offensive Lineman of the Year.

"I definitely want to play football in college," Turner said. "My top choice right now is Assumption College, and I'm leaning on studying law."

Assumption officials no doubt will like watching the film of Turner's efforts against Medfield last year. The 6-0 victory came after BHS lost a 40-7 encounter to Westwood.

"I had seven tackles and four of them were for losses," he recalled. "I also had three sacks. We were underdogs, but we really clicked on defense for a bounce-back win."

Turner's top thrill in football was his selection as a captain on two occasions. He leads by example, but he doesn't shy away from speaking up when he wants to make a point. "I usually will speak about the little things that are important," he said. "Things that can make a difference in a game's outcome."

Turner has a high regard for the team's other captains — seniors Sean Dutremble (guard/nose tackle) and Connor Kelley (tight end/linebacker) and juniors Mason Jacques (wide receiver/cornerback) and Ryan Cochrane (wide receiver/cornerback).

"They all work hard, and they care about their teammates and coaches," he said. "And, they're all fundamentally sound and very competitive."

Turner has positive words for his coach, whom he's known since Pop Warner. "Coach Haddad stresses commitment, and

Donovan Turner (50) knows that playing center requires good snaps and the ability to be an effective run-pass blocker.



he's a tremendous motivator," Turner said. "His demeanor is positive, and he's helped me to be a better person, a better student and a better player."

Turner also competes in outdoor track, focusing on the discus and shot put.

Relying on an athletic philosophy that includes winning, reaching one's potential and having fun, Turner believes that "enjoyment and fun lead to winning and reaching your potential."

Life lessons can be learned from playing football, and Turner is acutely aware of what football has taught him. "I've learned to overcome adversity

and to be resilient," he said. "I've also learned how to lead effectively and how to develop good relationships."

Calling his father (Jonathan) his role model, Turner admires what he's emphasized. "He's taught me the value of a strong work ethic," Turner offered.

The personable Turner more than likely will achieve his short-term goal of playing football in the playoffs. Although his future after high school has yet to be decided, Donovan Turner's desire, dedication and devotion to athletics and academics will help insure it will be successful and bright.

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Sports

Corsi Finding that Golf Is Fun

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Bellingham's Joe Corsi was a two-sport athlete playing basketball and baseball but found himself doing nothing during the fall season. His family that played golf continuously asked him to join them on the links, but Corsi always denied. Eventually his family gave up and stopped asking him to try out the sport.

"Originally, I had no interest in golf whatsoever," he said. "After they stopped asking me, I decided to start watching videos online and found it interesting, so I finally gave it a try. I immediately was addicted as it was a sport that you needed to find ways to improve."

Corsi took to the course with his family, but although he had been watching and taking notes on videos, he was awful.

"Everything that I did needed to be fixed. My grip and stance

were all wrong, and I was not good at chipping properly, and I'm still working on that," Corsi said. "My family would just let me swing away and laugh at me."

The Bellingham senior only began playing the sport three years ago, and through 18 holes found himself shooting in the 130's, a far cry from what he is able to do today. After a year of learning the sport, he decided, as a junior, to go out for the high school team. He earned a position on the varsity squad, but was in the last group with an average of nine holes in the low to mid 50's.

Last fall, Corsi began to see his game plateau and needed to do something to take it to the next level. His mother suggested that lessons may help, and Corsi decided to go that route and quickly found he was really in need of help.

"I learned so much though lessons; the proper way to grip

the clubs (I was gripping the clubs like a baseball bat), ball position - where it was to be in regard to my stance - along with the overall basics," he said. "It took me about a month, but I started to see I was making progress, I just needed to learn how to do things."

The senior recalls, that, despite doing just about everything wrong on the course, it was rather uncomfortable to make the switch, but eventually he got used to his instructors lessons. As a junior for the Blackhawks Corsi was shooting around 52/53. This year, after lessons, he has take a about 10 strokes off his score and is averaging in the mid 40's.

"Joe is a very consistent golfer, now. His weakness continues to be his chipping and getting into position, but he is working hard to get better," Bellingham Coach Tom Forbes said. "He's looking to improve his game watch time out. He can hit the ball a country mile and is our most consistent long ball hitter on the team."

According to the Blackhawks coach he is shooting around 42-43 thus far this season and is interchangeable at the number



It took Joe Corsi some convincing to try golf, but now the three-sport athlete hopes to play it after high school.



one and two positions on any given match.

Coming into his senior season, Corsi was looking to move up into the first group for Bellingham in addition to shooting a 44 or lower. With both goals accomplished with still a handful of matches remaining on the regular schedule, Corsi is now looking to break 40 during an actual match for Bellingham.

"I'm doing alright as a golfer, holding onto that number one spot on the team, which would send me to Sectionals. With that thought in mind, I'm preparing in case I do make it; I've just got

to go out and stay focused while I play my game," Corsi said. "As a team, we're still not doing the best, playing in a very tough Tri-Valley League, but we are scoring much better, and I am hoping that eventually leads to more wins than last year (5)."

The Bellingham golfer believes that if he is the one that gets to play in the Sectionals for his team, he should be able to be competitive.

"In golf, you never know what will happen," he said. "but if I continue to play the way that I have been recently I should be able to put up a good fight against the other golfers in the Sectionals."

As a three-sport athlete now at Bellingham, Corsi sees golf as his best sport and would like to continue to play it after he graduates from high school. He noted that he is not sure his game is good enough to play in college, but he definitely knows that he can at least play on a club team.

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Bellingham Democrats Begin a Busy Year

The Bellingham Democratic Town Committee began the 2023-2024 year by completing the election of new officers at the September 1 meeting. Lora Davidson and Pat Keppler were chosen as Co-Chairs. Maria Nyren was named Vice Chair, Nina Benjamin becomes Secretary, and Kevin Keppler returns as Treasurer.

Five members of the Town Committee represented Bellingham Democrats at the recent State Convention, which was held on September 24 at Tsongas Arena at the University of Lowell. In attendance was the new Chair, Lora Davidson, in addition to members Nina Benjamin, Phil Devine, and Kevin and Patricia Keppler. All representatives

were elected as delegates at the annual caucus.

The convention began with morning training sessions, sponsored breakfasts, and an exhibit hall open to interested attendees. State Chair Steve Kerrigan welcomed the delegates to the general meeting at 10 AM. The assembled delegates then voted on charter changes that made veterans a defined group that may be added to local delegations as representatives of a marginalized group. Votes were also taken to bring gender-related language to more modern usage, and to clarify that State Committee members (except for the Chair) are not be eligible for full-time employment with the State Committee.



Pictured at the Democratic State Convention are: (L-R) Kevin Keppler, Patricia Keppler, Phil Devine, Lora Davidson, Nina Benjamin

Much of the day was dedicated to speeches by all elected Democratic state officials, including Governor Healey, Attorney

General Andrea Campbell and Senators Warren and Markey. Mayor Wu of Boston, Mayor Chau of Lowell, and Massa-

chusetts AFL-CIO leader Steve Tolman also addressed the gathering. Moakley Internships and JFK Scholarships were awarded to ten deserving students. The Democratic State Convention is held annually, with delegates chosen at meetings of local committees.

The Bellingham DTC works for the election of Democratic political candidates, takes part in community events in town, and sponsors an annual scholarship for a graduating Bellingham High School student. The committee meets on the first Wednesday of most months at the Town Hall. All Democrats in town are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Pat Keppler at (508) 966-0003.

Practical Nursing Program at BVT Holds Information Session and TEAS Exam

The Practical Nursing program at Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT), in Upton, prepares its adult students for personal and professional success as practical nurses. The part-time evening program regularly holds informational sessions and offers the TEAS Entrance Exam dates throughout the school year.

Information Sessions
With an increased need for skilled nurses, our Practical Nursing Program will hold informational sessions on Tuesday evenings from 5 to 6 p.m. via Zoom on November 21. Then again in 2024, on January 9, February 13, March 19, and April 23. It's the perfect opportunity to speak with staff and learn more about the program.

TEAS Entrance Exam Dates
All interested applicants must

take the Test of Essential Academic Skills (TEAS), a requirement for the Practical Nursing program. The TEAS exam dates are offered remotely on Tuesday evenings from 4 to 8 p.m. via online testing on Tuesday, November 28. Then again in 2024, on January 16, February 27, March 26, and April 30. The exam is done remotely via an online testing platform.

"It is a good time to enter the nursing field because there's such a need for skilled nurses," said Practical Nursing Coordinator Joann L. Monks, MBA, MSc, RN-BC, RMA.

The affordable program offers small class sizes and accepts in-district, out-of-district, and out-of-state applicants. For more information, visit www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/practicalnursing or www.valleytech.k12.ma.us/pnteasentranceexam.

About Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT):

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School serves the towns of Bell-

ingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge. Located in the heart of the Blackstone Valley, BVT creates a positive learning com-

munity that prepares students for personal and professional success in an internationally competitive society through a fusion of rigorous vocational, technical, and academic skills.

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Calendar

November 4

18th Annual Bellingham Senior Center Craft Fair, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Bellingham Senior Center, 40 Blackstone St., Bellingham

First Saturday Family Fun! 11 a.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham. Join us on the first Saturday of each month for a different family fun activity! This month: turkey crafts.

November 6

Book Discussion Group, 6:30 p.m. Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham. Attend in person or on Zoom. Contact Cecily Christensen, cchriste@cwmmars.org for more info.

December title: *The Forest Lover* by Susan Vreeland

November 8

Norfolk County Registry of Deeds open house and release of "We Remember Our Veterans" volume 3. 4:30-6:30 p.m., 649 High Street, Dedham. Patriotic music, historic storyboards, honors vets

November 9

Drop in Sewing/Craft Night, 5:15-7:45 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham. Join members of your community (ADULTS ONLY) for a night of sewing, quilting, knitting, and crocheting. Feel free to bring other craft projects. Light refreshments.

November 10

Milford Performing Arts Center presents Little Shop of Horrors, 7 p.m., 150 Main St., Milford www.milfordpac.com

November 11

Town of Bellingham Veterans Day Ceremony, 11 a.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham

Milford Performing Arts Center presents Little Shop of Horrors, 7 p.m., 150 Main St., Milford www.milfordpac.com

November 12

Franklin Oddfellows Trivia Tournament, 2 to 4:30 p.m., Bellingham Sportsman Club, 360 Lake St., Bellingham. Teams of up to ten players with a registration cost of \$10 per person, and \$15 at the door. Raffle prizes. Pre-register: <https://www.franklinmassoddfellows.org/odd-fellows-third-annual-trivia-extravaganza/>

Milford Performing Arts Center presents Little Shop of Horrors, 2 p.m., 150 Main St., Milford www.milfordpac.com

November 13

Candy Cane Wreath Making, 6 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, taught by crafter Ana Mendes of Afonsoway.com, adults only, registration required. Program is supported by the Friends of the Bellingham Library.

Bellingham Women of Today meeting, 7:30 p.m., Bellingham Police Department's conference room on Blackstone St. Contact us at bellinghamwomentoday@gmail.com and visit us on Facebook.

November 14

Writing Group for Adults, 6:30 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, with local area writers Amy Bartelloni and Marjorie Turner Hollman, writers listen and share works, reading limit 9 minutes per reader, positive environment. Contact Marjorie Turner Hollman: marjorie@marjorie-turner.com.

November 16

Easy Walk in Massachusetts Presentation, 6:30 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham, presented by Marjorie Turner Hollman, Bellingham resident and author of four *Easy Walks in Massachusetts* guides that cover limited mobility-friendly walks in 53 contiguous towns in Massachusetts. Registration preferred, not necessary!

November 24

Santa Comes to Bellingham, follow Santa's progress on the Bellingham Lions Facebook page to track Santa's route and approximate times of when he will be arriving at each stop (see article in this *Bulletin* for locations of stops). Donation boxes on board sleigh for any wishing to donate to Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

November 25

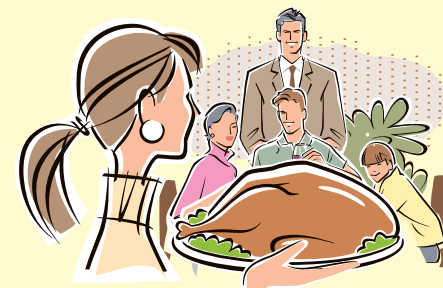
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November 26

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November 30

Drop in Sewing/Craft Night, 5:15-7:45 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, 100 Blackstone St., Bellingham. Join members of your community (ADULTS ONLY) for a night of sewing, quilting, knitting, and crocheting. Feel free to bring other craft projects. Light refreshments.



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BWOT Bake Sale – a Tasty Fundraiser

It's time for the Bellingham Women of Today's annual fundraiser of popular Butter Braids Pastries, and Joyful Traditions Cake Rolls. It will be hard to decide the pastry filling you like best in the hand braided pastries as all are delicious: Raspberry, Bavarian Cream, Cinnamon, Apple, Strawberry Cream Cheese or Blueberry Cream Cheese. They are light and flaky with over 20 layers of pastry dough, made with 100% real butter, and natural ingredients. Easy to prepare for special occasions or any time; just thaw and rise overnight and bake the next day. These braided pastries are perfect for upcoming special occasions like Thanksgiving and Christmas or a great Sunday morning treat for the family. Each 22 oz. pastry serves 5-6 for breakfast or 10 for an evening sweet.

The Joyful Traditions Cake Rolls are delicious cake with yummy filling rolled up inside. They are frozen so you can use them when it's convenient for you. Just thaw and they are ready to serve! They come in the following flavors: Pumpkin, Chocolate Cream, Red Velvet, Strawberry Cheesecake, Carrot Cream Cheese, and Lemon Cream. Thaw and bake caramel rolls or cinnamon rolls are also available!

The BWOT are taking orders through November 6th. To place your order, send item name, flavor and price to BWOT, PO Box 405, Bellingham, MA 02019. Include a check for payment made out to BWOT. For more information contact Melonie at (508) 657-1113 or check our Facebook page. Items will be available for delivery or pick up Nov 14th. Proceeds will go to local BWOT charities and projects.

What are the Bellingham Women of Today?

The BWOT, a nonprofit civic organization, has served Bellingham and surrounding communities for over 35 years. It is one of six Massachusetts chapters of the United States Women of Today. This organization was founded in 1985 by former members of United States Jaycees Women. The United States

Women of Today has more than 1,880 members in 13 states in America and Limassol, Cypress is our international chapter.

The Bellingham Women of Today have served our community through programs such as our annual Breakfasts with Santa and the Easter Bunny, Letters from Santa, Santa's Elves Project for families in need, Easter Baskets for Meals on Wheels Seniors, High School Scholarships. We raise funds for our projects through selling items like our famous Butterbraid pastries and donations from businesses and individuals.

The goals of the Women of Today are threefold: to promote community service and involvement, to provide personal growth opportunities, and to offer leadership training to members. The individual who wishes to reach out and share her/his talents will find that Women of Today offers tremendous rewards and satisfaction.

As with any group, we are only as strong as our members. We are fortunate to have talented and enthusiastic women whose various backgrounds, interests and strengths, form a group committed to serving our communities and develop as individuals. We are a diverse group, some of us are working mothers, some single, divorced or widowed, some retired wanting to remain active. We all share the desire to give something back to our friends and neighbors and have fun, too. We plan many social events such as Girl's Night Out to a movie, play or just for ice cream. We have our annual Salad Supper in August and year End Banquet in June. How about a Holiday Party and Yankee Swap in December or marching in the Memorial Day Parade?

We would like you to join us as we continue to serve our community. We meet in the Bellingham Police conference room on Blackstone Street on the second Monday of the month at 7:30, September through June. For further information about the Women of Today contact Julie at (508) 272-0978, see our Facebook page or email bellingham-womenoftoday@gmail.com.

24 Local Firefighters Graduate from Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

STOW—State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine and Massachusetts Firefighting Academy Director Jeffrey P. Winn announced the graduation of 24 firefighters from the 50-day Career Recruit Firefighting Training Program, including Brock DuVarney, of Bellingham Fire Department.

"Massachusetts firefighters are on the frontlines protecting their communities every day, and today's graduates are needed now more than ever," said State Fire Marshal Davine. "The hundreds of hours of foundational training they've received will provide them with the physical, mental, and technical skills to perform their jobs effectively and safely."

"Massachusetts Firefighting Academy instructors draw on decades of experience in the fire service to train new recruits," said Director Winn. "Through



Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

Career Recruit Class #314 Graduation • September 29, 2023

consistent classroom instruction and practical exercises, today's graduates have developed the tools they'll need to work seamlessly with veteran firefighters in their home departments and in neighboring communities as mutual aid."

The graduating firefighters of Class #314 represent the fire departments of Acton, Bellingham, Charlton, Gloucester, Lawrence, Littleton, Milton, North Andover, Orleans, Plymouth, Revere, Rockland, Tewksbury, and Weston.

Meals on Wheels Seeks Friendly Volunteers

The Franklin Meals on Wheels office needs volunteers! We have both onsite positions & delivery driver positions, all with very flexible, morning shifts. Volunteer drivers receive \$0.56 per mile with a stipend. Meals on Wheels provides nutritious meals to in-need, homebound seniors in Franklin, Bellingham, Blackstone & Medway. If you are interested in helping out or want further info please call Jeanne at (508) 520-1422, Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. -1 p.m.

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Coming Up at the Bellingham Senior Center

The Bellingham Senior Center is located at 40 Blackstone St., Bellingham. Reach them at (508) 966-0398 or visit www.bellinghamma.org

Craft Fair 2023: November 4, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. This will be the 18th Fair put on by the COA. You will find antiques, jewelry, soaps, knitted items, and some great Christmas gifts. Enjoy music, food, and raffles. We have 23 vendors, Polka Paul, Raffle, Bakery Table, Gift Baskets, and more. For more information, contact Kay Page (508) 966-1804.

Pen Pals: Connecting the Generations through Letters: Two teachers at Bellingham High School are working on a project that would help bring local elders and high school sophomores closer together. The Pen Pal Project would pair a Belling-

ham elder with a group of four to six sophomores, all students in six different history classes. The search is on for 30-35 seniors who would like to participate. Email Wells at ewells@bpsdk12.org or DeDentro at bdentro@bpsdk12.org, or call the Senior Center at (508) 966-0398.

Coffee & Conversation: On Tuesday, November 7, at 9:30 a.m. join us to learn about the Tax Work Off program. Senior Center Director Josie Dutil will answer your questions.

Presidential Tales: Popular presenter Paul Arsenault will talk about the presidents Truman, Eisenhower, and Kennedy! Monday, November 13, at 11 a.m.

Veterans Day Ceremony at the Library, Saturday, November 11, at 11 a.m., Bellingham Public

Library, one hour program, free and open to all.

Tax Work-Off Program: Offer your services to the town to get up to \$1,425 off your annual property tax bill. Work up to 100 hours per year at the rate of \$14.25 per hour. (Individuals only, couples working can make up to \$1,500) Open to Bellingham seniors 60+ years of age and qualified veterans of any age. New program begins on December 1, ends November 30, 2024.

To sign up, please call Melissa Paquette at (508) 657-2801 and make an appointment. She is located on the lower level of the Municipal Building.

Free Turkey Lunch: The Bellingham Lions Club is offering a FREE sit-down lunch at the Senior Center on Saturday, De-

cember 2 from noon to 1 p.m. Enjoy a turkey luncheon, pie for dessert, drinks, all from the popular restaurant PJ's. Will include raffles, prizes, and, perhaps, a visit from Santa. Please call the Senior Center at (508) 966-0398 to reserve your spot. Seating is limited.

The Giving Tree: For the past 20 years, "Knitters" at the Senior Center have produced hats, mittens, and more to be donated to the St. Blaise Food Pantry, Milford Hospital, and local nursing homes. Purchased items are also welcome. Bring your contribution to the Senior Center before the end of November. Please call the Welcome Desk at the Senior Center for more information. "Everything will be shared before Christmas."

Thoughtful Engagement: "Do you know someone who has become withdrawn or isolated? Are you interested in improving your quality of life? Please join Thoughtful Engagement® Specialist, Mary-Ellen Kramer from The Aging Space™, Inc. as she explains how her unique Thoughtful Engagement® program works on Tuesday, November 14 at 2 p.m.

Julian to Gregorian: When and How Our Calendar Changed: Join Seema-Jayne Kenney for this fascinating exploration on Thursday, November 30 at 1 p.m. to learn more. Please call ahead.

Access Bellingham-Mendon, Inc.

The Access Bellingham-Mendon, Inc. Board of Directors recently selected three winners for the ABMI-TV \$1,000 Scholarships: Mendon resident Lauren Plumb is currently attending Syracuse University. She is a 2023 graduate of Nipmuc Regional.

Bellingham resident Baileigh Murphy is currently attending the University of Connecticut. She is a 2023 graduate of Bellingham High.

Bellingham resident Cassandra Senna is currently attending the Massachusetts College of Art and Design. She is a 2023 graduate of Bellingham High.

The scholarships are awarded upon successful completion of the students' first semester at college.

For information on the 2024 ABMI-TV Scholarships, contact your local school guidance dept, or call ABMI at (508) 966-3234.

BWOT Holiday Activities

The Bellingham Women of Today will welcome Santa for their 30th year of Muffins with Santa on Saturday, December 16th from 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at St. Blaise Church Hall, 1158 S. Main St., Bellingham. Admission fee is \$5 per child with a maximum charge of \$15 per family. Children can meet Santa, give him their Christmas wish list while you are welcome to take your phone or camera photos. We will offer muffins, bagels, juice, milk and coffee. Food and beverage items are \$1-\$2 each. There will be free crafts and col-

oring pages for kids as well as raffle baskets and holiday items for sale. All proceeds will benefit local BWOT charities.

Letters from Santa

Santa and his elves are so busy preparing for Christmas the Bellingham Women of Today will be helping him send personalized letters to anyone on your list. They are a great gift for children, seniors, college students and anyone young at heart. The cost is \$2 for each letter or three for \$5. We will be taking requests at Muffins with Santa, December 17th, 9 to 11:30 a.m. at St. Blaise Church Hall in Bellingham or send the name and address of child/children along with your name and

phone number, payment, and any information you would like added to the letter, to BWOT, PO Box 405, Bellingham, MA 02019 before December 15th.

About BWOT

The BWOT is a nonprofit civic organization that has served Bellingham and surrounding communities for over 30 years. We would like you to join us as we continue to serve our community. We meet the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m., September through June, in the Police department's conference room on Blackstone St. Bellingham. Contact us at bellinghamwomenoftoday@gmail.com and visit us on Facebook.

Don't just watch TV — Make it!



Come on down to the ABMI-TV studio and learn the "ins-and-outs" of video production...

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Library Services of the Month – Programming

The Bellingham Public Library has a variety of programs for all ages! There are fun and educational programs for children, after school programs for middle schoolers and teens, as well as programs for adults.

There are ongoing programs for children, as well as special programs. For the youngest children, there are the following ongoing programs:

- Ring a Ding - fun time of songs, a story, instruments, and more!
- Sensory Story Time - for ages 2-5, involves a silly story, sensory activities, and open play.
- Alphabits - focuses on one letter of the alphabet each week, with stories, activities, and a craft.
- Read to Freedom - for any children facing reading challenges. Sign up to read to Freedom, a beautiful black Labrador Retriever. Freedom is a wonderful, calming partner to practice your reading with!

For children in grades 4-6, there is an after-school program called After School Kids (ASK). Children come over to the library after school and play video games, board games, use Chromebooks, and do arts and crafts. Registration is required and first-time applicants are required to sign up in person.

Teen Room Activities, for grades 7-12, take place in the Teen Room after school. Teens play on the WiiU and Xbox and use the computers. They also play board games and hang out with friends. There is no registration for this program.

The library holds ongoing programs for adults, as well as special events.

- Book Discussion Group - generally meets on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is hybrid, so you can attend either in person or through Zoom.
- Writing Group meets on the second Tuesday of the

month at 6:30 p.m., and anyone interested can email Marjorie Turner Hollman at Marjorie@marjorieturner.com for more information.

- Yoga class meets on Tuesday mornings at 8:30 a.m. You must register for each class separately to attend.
- Bellingham Skein Artists Adult Knitting Group meets every Wednesday at 6 p.m., with all levels welcome. Anyone who enjoys knitting, crocheting, or any of the other fabric arts are welcome to come.
- Ask a Lawyer - on the third Monday of each month, lo-

cal attorney Brian T. Salisbury holds virtual 20-minute legal consultations through Zoom. Appointments are from 5 to 7:30 p.m. and you choose your appointment time when you register for the Zoom link.

- 50+ Job Seekers Networking Group is virtual and meets through Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month from 9:30-11:30 a.m., and on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 6-8 p.m. Please see the library calendar for more information and to register to get the Zoom link.

Also, for job seekers, the library subscribes to a database called the Learning Express Library Job and Career Accelerator. In this database job seekers can build a resume and cover letter, explore occupations, and find career matches, search for jobs and internships, prepare for a job interview, and discover schools and scholarships. This database can be accessed through the “Online Resources” tab on the library website.

For more information about any of the library’s programs and for special events, as well as to register, go to the library’s website at www.bellinghamlibrary.org and click on the Calendar/Program Registration link.

Affordable & Workforce Housing Lottery

Harmony
1 Lilac Ave, Bellingham, MA

Harmony is a new community of 103 single family homes located in Bellingham. Through this lottery, 3 units will be made available to households earning less than 50% of Area Median Income (AMI), 2 units will be made available to households earning between 50% and 80% of AMI (above 5 units are “Affordable” units), and 2 units will be made available to households earning between 80% and 120% of AMI (above 2 units are “Workforce” units). Homes will feature approximately 2,500 square feet, four bedrooms, two and a half bathrooms, quality kitchen appliances, high speed internet, washer/dryer hookups, all electric utilities, central air conditioning, and a garage. Sales Prices for these homes are as follows:

- Three (3) Homes @ \$182,200 will be Sold to Households Earning 50% or Less of the Area Median Income**
- Two (2) Homes @ \$320,300 will be Sold to Households Earning 50% to 80% of the Area Median Income**
- Two (2) Homes @ \$509,100 will be Sold to Households Earning 80% to 120% of the Area Median Income**

The Household Income Limits and Ranges are as follows:

Number of Household Members	50% AMI Maximum Income Limit	50%-80% AMI Income Range	80%-120% AMI Income Range
1	\$51,950	\$51,951 - \$82,950	\$82,951 - \$125,412
2	\$59,400	\$59,401 - \$94,800	\$94,801 - \$143,328
3	\$66,800	\$66,801 - \$106,650	\$106,651 - \$161,244
4	\$74,200	\$74,201 - \$118,450	\$118,451 - \$179,160
5	\$80,150	\$80,151 - \$127,950	\$127,951 - \$193,492
6	\$86,100	\$86,101 - \$137,450	\$137,451 - \$207,825
7	\$92,050	\$92,051 - \$146,900	\$146,901 - \$222,158
8	\$97,950	\$97,951 - \$156,400	\$156,401 - \$236,491

Application Deadline: January 9, 2024 at 2:00 pm

Completed Applications and Required Income Documentation must be delivered or postmarked by this date. Applications postmarked by the deadline must be received no later than 5 business days from the deadline.

Public Info Session: December 4, 2023 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

Go to zoom.com/join or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 818 9317 7595

Lottery: January 24, 2024 at 6:00 pm via Zoom

Go to zoom.com/join or call (646) 558-8656 and enter Meeting ID: 857 2736 5609, Passcode: 276410

Attendance is not required at Info or Lottery sessions. To view the recorded sessions at a later date, please search for Harmony on the SEB Housing YouTube channel.

For Lottery Information and Applications, or for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities, go to www.sebhousing.com or call (617) 782-6900 x2 and leave a message or postal mail

SEB Housing, 257 Hillside Ave, Needham MA 02494. For TTY Services dial 711.

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Franklin Town News

now has its own Facebook page!



Franklin Town News on Facebook to keep up-to-date with articles, events, giveaways and contest announcements for Franklin!



Bellingham High School Sports Updates

The Blackhawks have had one of the most successful “collective” fall sports seasons in more than a decade and Athletic Director, Michael Connor cites engagement with more than 350 Middle and High School students participating in 8 sports encompassing 23 teams. Connor notes that the summer Blackhawk Boot Camp conditioning program and the reintroduction of Middle School Field Hockey and Volleyball a few years ago is paying dividends and that this year’s addition of 7th graders playing in the TVL Middle School football league and Cheerleaders being able to participate on a JV Squad will clearly pay dividends down the road.

Going into the MIAA tournament season, (which begins this week: schedules can be found on the BHS Athletic Web Page) finds cheer, field hockey, football, boys’ & girls’ soccer, and volleyball tournament bound. More information on the tournament itself can be found on the MIAA website; miaa.net

Registration for the Winter

and Spring seasons remains open at FamilyID.com (search Bellingham) and this winter more than 225 student-athletes are expected to participate in B/G Basketball, Cheer, B/G Ice Hockey, B/G Indoor Track, and co-ed Wrestling. The Winter season begins on the Monday after Thanksgiving and runs well into February.

The Spring season registration process is also open and easily more than 300 student-athletes will join one of our 5 sports (Baseball, B/G Lacrosse, Softball, B/G Track & Field, B Volleyball) encompassing 15 teams/levels. Connor noted that he would like to see our participation levels in our no-cut sports increase dramatically so that students are more engaged and are prepared for the next or preferred sport. Great things are happening athletically at both the Middle and High School. Many contests are free to attend with varsity tickets available via GoFan or at the door.

A note of appreciation to our many BOOSTER PROGRAMS. While the athletic budget ac-

counts for day-to-day costs (equipment, uniforms, officials, transportation, coaches, etc.) the backbone of many teams are the unsung heroes ...our parent-run booster programs. These organizations coordinate team dinners, outfit the teams with apparel, perhaps a post-game snack, senior nights, and end of season banquets. The community’s participation is critical to their success, so please consider stopping by a Saturday morning car wash, offering your change when they are canning, buy Blackhawk apparel and participate when they knock on your door, make a phone call or an email to participate. They’re building memories that last a lifetime – **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**

Finally, there are a limited number of tickets available for the BHS Athletic Hall of Fame induction being held on Friday, November 17th @ The Coachmen’s Lodge. To check remaining ticket availability, you can email Michael Connor mconnor@bpsdk12.org.

Camy 5K Run November 11th

The 23rd consecutive annual in-person USATF-certified Camy 5K Run & David 5K Walk will be held on Veterans Day Sat., Nov. 11, 2023, at the Walpole Italian-American Club, 109 Stone St., Walpole. The fundraising event benefits the Walpole Community Food Pantry, I-A Club/Society and the Carol Hunt-Clerici Chamber Music Series Clerici Quartet. It features the competitive Camy 5K Run, fun David 5K Walk, free 50-yard Rosina Fun Run dash for kids 11 and under, and

two raffles of gift certificates, athlete autographed items, clothing, gifts, etc.

Register available online (<https://www.active.com/walpole-ma/running/distance-running-races/23rd-annual-camy-5k-run-and-david-5k-walk-2023?int=72-3-A1>), by mail (www.paulclerici.com/camydavid5k), or on race day. For information, e-mail camydavid5k@yahoo.com or call (508) 668-2249.

Michelle Sebio Savje
508-561-4257

wishing you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving! Let us all be thankful for our blessings! We're here if you need us!

Remember, if you want to BUY or SELL, call Michelle!

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