

Franklin Panthers Gymnastics - New England Champions!

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA
Congratulations to the Franklin High School Panthers

Gymnastics team! On March 12th, the FHS team completed its season with a big win at the

New England Championships in Connecticut. The team's journey to that championship began with an undefeated regular season followed by a division win, then a league win on February 6th, sectionals win on February 26th and a snag of second place at state finals on March 5th.

"Our girls actually had a tremendous season," said Paula Lupien, head coach of the Division 1 Varsity High School team, who works with Assistant Coach Beth Hurley. "They won three championships!"

Last year, says Lupien, the team, which has been gaining momentum over the six years since it began, won the league championship.

"This group of girls, with an additional senior last year,



On March 12th, the FHS Varsity Gymnastics team completed its season with a big win at the New England Championships in Connecticut. Photo used Courtesy of Franklin Panthers Gymnastics

CHAMPIONS

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See our
Spring Home & Garden Guide
Inside ...



How Green is Green?

*Franklin's Efforts to Go Green
Also Help Its Bottom Line*

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

It's old news at this point that Franklin is a Green Community. The town received that designation in 2018, which opened it up to various grants on the state level. With Earth Day celebrated this month, *Franklin Local Town Pages* spoke with Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator, on what has been happening lately to further a clean environment in town.

"We did get certified as a Green Community in 2018. Since then, the couple grants we've gotten have been around getting our first electric vehicles, and we're getting a couple more from a grant this year," says Hellen. "We also got a grant for some (energy efficiency) mechanical adjustments."

One big project that reduced the town's carbon footprint was



streetlight conversion, says Hellen. "This was a huge project, and no taxpayer money went to that. It was a combination of grants and one time revenue we cobbled together. The whole town has been converted to LED streetlights."

GREEN

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GREEN*continued from page 1*

Hellen also notes that the municipal aggregate electricity program not only saves the town money, but also directs its consumers to clean energy sources. “The municipal aggregate program is saving people 4 cents off their electric bill per kilowatt. That adds up to a lot, but the sub bullet to the aggregation savings is that all that electricity is from wind – turbine power in the west.” About 12,000 to 15,000 customers get that clean energy, says Hellen.

Hellen says Franklin has been going green for a long time now. In fact, part of the Green Community certification four years ago required submitting an energy reduction plan.

“We struggled to find, and the state certified this, they struggled to find how we were going to reduce our energy consumption by 20%, because our energy use was so low as a town, there weren’t any new ways to save energy. Most towns that have an energy reduction plan are going to have old boilers, old buildings, bad facilities and schools. Here, if you look at the school facilities analysis, it shows our buildings are incredibly well maintained and modernized.”

Virtually all municipal buildings, Hellen explains, draw their electricity from a solar farm on Union Street owned by Cistercian nuns.

“That whole solar field was supposed to be 7-8 megawatts, now it’s at 10-11 megawatts. That easily takes 98% of our municipal load – including schools, town streetlights, underground lights. We are virtually a net zero organization. We can’t claim it’s 100%, but we’re pretty darn close. Now, we’re getting electric vehicles – staff vehicles, and all that fleet is going to be turned over to electric vehicles probably by the end of this year.”

Hellen explains that fire trucks and dump trucks, vehicles of that nature will still be fossil-fueled, because “as a society, we’re not there yet, but as fate would have it, National Grid is offering a program to do a fleet audit for us on nearly 200 pieces of apparatus.” That audit, says Hellen, could illustrate how Franklin might replace those vehicles with what’s available on the market.

Hellen notes that having Franklin resident, Rep. Jeff Roy as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy is useful. “Not only do we have a great relationship and friendship,” says Hellen, “but it really

does go hand in hand when your state rep is working on this.”

With gas prices high, the town, says Hellen, the Franklin is “going to be hurt at the pump” to fuel that high level apparatus until more efficient ones are available.

“We have to test, and we have to think about it and not just run in because of politics,” says Hellen. “You have to make sure you can still provide the services, especially with emergency management.”

Franklin, says Hellen, is going to continue to compete for the DOER grants. “Alecia (Alleyne) has taken over our Green Communities, and we’re continuing to be competitive (through that program).”

Looking forward, Hellen notes, “We are updating mechanicals in municipal building, like boilers, getting energy efficient air conditioning systems. That’s the next big capital project – this building is 20 years old.”

Hellen wants the residents of Franklin “to know, they have staff members on both the town and the school side who are deeply committed to becoming a net zero community to the best of our ability. We really have, as an organization speaking louder with our actions than our words, and I think the state has recognized us for that. It’s going to



Franklin Earth Day Cleanup April 23

Earth Day is celebrated on Friday, April 22nd throughout the United States. Franklin will host their own Earth Day on Saturday April 23rd this year!

Keep Franklin looking beautiful by helping us clean our local parks, roads, schools, and town greenery!

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Earth Day is a great opportunity for High School Students to earn their volunteer hours!

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take some patience, as products get developed, but we’re going to be on the forefront.”

As far as town waste, Hellen explains that the company, Waste Management, is the town’s hauler.

“We actually (recently) announced, that of all the municipalities in Norfolk County, we had the highest recycling rate. The DEP just did an audit, and our percentage was that only 7% was unrecycled,” says Hellen. The town, he says, has gotten DEP grants to do local audits and compliance checks, “and the reason is not to be punitive, it’s not about fines, it’s saving the system money, so I don’t have to raise rates,” says Hellen, adding the recycling rate reflects “not just the town, that’s the residen-

tial commitment. The town is deeply committed to recycling and preventing all that other garbage from going into the waste stream, which then saves money in tonnage.”

One project coming up next year will be the solid waste master plan, that will take about two years. “Part of that (will be) a state-of-the-art recycling center down on Beaver Street.” Recycling is such a great thing. It does save money on us having to pay people to take away more garbage. It saves time, and when you save time, you save money, especially these days, when personnel costs are going through the roof. It’s not just about the Earth, it’s also about saving money in your budget when other things are going up.”

Mass. House Passes Legislation to Boost Offshore Wind Development, Reduce Carbon Emissions

On March 3, 2022, in an effort to meet the Commonwealth's climate goals of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050, the House of Representatives passed legislation to further develop the offshore wind industry in Massachusetts. The legislation will also modernize Massachusetts' electrical grid and energy storage infrastructure, and create thousands of new jobs.

"I'm immensely proud of the steps that the House took today to ensure Massachusetts remains at the forefront of renewable energy development," said House Speaker Ronald J. Mariano (D-Quincy). "Not only will this legislation help us reduce our carbon emissions and combat climate change, it will also spur economic development, modernize our energy infrastructure, and create thousands of new jobs in the process. I want to thank Chairman Roy for his hard work in advancing this legislation, as its passage today was undoubtedly a critical step in the right direction."

"I am thrilled that today the House passed legislation crucial

to the development of a strong offshore wind industry in Massachusetts," said Representative Jeffrey N. Roy (D-Franklin), House Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy. "Massachusetts waters have the greatest offshore wind potential out of the contiguous U.S., and this legislation will ensure that the Commonwealth is prepared to harness that energy while also creating a just and robust local economy, educational opportunities for our residents, and critical upgrades to our energy infrastructure without causing undue harm to our coastal habitats or maritime industries."

"An Act advancing offshore wind and clean energy" (H.4515):

- Makes the Massachusetts offshore wind bidding process more competitive by removing a current price cap that requires bids to be less expensive than previous procurements that has deterred companies from participating in the pro-

urement process. Future procurements would now include economic development, employment, and environmental and fisheries mitigation benefits.

- Invests hundreds of millions of dollars over the next decade in infrastructure, innovation, job training, supply chain capacity, and transmission upgrades. The legislation consists of tax incentives, grants, loans, and other investments.
- Requires utility companies to proactively upgrade the transmission and distribution grid to improve reliability and resilience and accommodate the anticipated significant shift to renewable forms of energy.
- Invests in long-term energy storage to help the Commonwealth's transition to renewable energy.
- Provides thousands of good-paying jobs with a focus on ensuring access and opportunity for everyone.

- Creates a DESE high school offshore wind credential training pilot program through which DESE would reimburse school districts for each student that obtains the credential.

The legislation creates parity between electric and natural gas, imposing a charge for natural gas consumers to support renewable energy, similar to the charge electric customers currently pay. At a little over \$1 a month for the average customer, this is estimated to collect \$23 million a year over the next 10 years to support the

Commonwealth's transition to clean energy. By diversifying Massachusetts' energy portfolio, Massachusetts will become more energy independent and less reliant on imported natural gas that is susceptible to volatile price spikes, thereby helping to stabilize ratepayer bills in the long term.

"An Act advancing offshore wind and clean energy" (H.4515) passed the House of Representatives 144-12. At press time, the bill was headed to the Senate for their consideration.

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Milford Regional to Receive \$1.6M from FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will be sending \$1,577,919 in federal funding through FEMA's Public Assistance grant program to reimburse Milford Regional Medical Center, affiliated with the University of Massachusetts Medical Center, for the costs of a variety of COVID-19 response measures taken between January and June 2020.

Additional information about FEMA's Public Assistance program is available at <https://www.fema.gov/public-assistance-local-state-tribal-and-non-profit>. To learn more about the COVID-19 response in Massachusetts, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/disaster/4496>

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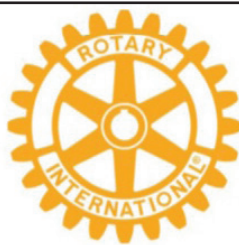
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CHAMPIONS

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were really responsible for building the program," says Lupien. "We were able to see all of our hard work come to fruition. We were undefeated last year, won the league, but we couldn't go beyond that (due to COVID). Being able to realize our full potential this year was the icing on the cake, you can't go beyond that."

This year's roster of 23 gymnasts includes 15 varsity athletes, among them three senior captains, Kate Rudolph, Elizabeth Shirduan and Caroline Woelfel.

"These girls are incredible leaders, not only incredible athletes, but they really care about the success of the team, and they all play a significant role of leading the team to the goals we set out for ourselves. Kate Rudolph, an all-around athlete is one of the captains. Also, Emma White also won the all-around competition for the New England championship with a score of 39 out of 40."

The competition level is fierce, says Lupien.

"Once you get to the New England level, you truly are competing against the best athletes among the states in New England. A lot of teams had to fall. Once you get into state competition, those top 6-8 teams are usually the toughest in the state. We fell to a very strong MASCO Gymnastics (Masconomet HS Varsity Gymnastics) at the state championship, and they elected not to go to New England, which enabled Franklin to get the first-place seed."

Lupien knew Connecticut had some strong teams, but, she

says, "It was the first time we'd made it to that level of competition. We weren't really prepared or understood how this was going to fall out. We stayed in our lane and continued to do what we did all year, and we came out really strong on beam, which set the tone. We were just trying to do our job."

Although FHS gymnastics is a winter sport, Lupien, who coaches club gymnastics as well as the high school team, explains that "these girls have to be in the gym all year round. The majority of these gymnasts competing at the high level are in the gym year-round." That amounts to over 20 hours in each week. "They're competing at level 9 competition. We're striving to be a good contender in the league and beyond," says Lupien.

Lupien initiated the program six years ago.

"As a club coach, where I was coaching gymnastics, I was seeing a lot of 8th graders start to quit the sport and I couldn't understand why," says Lupien. "A lot of these athletes wanted to be able to compete for their high school, so a lot of them left gymnastics to do cheer, or track or cross country. That bothered me, and I just started on this path of working with the previous administration to get the program started. It was a challenge at the time." Six years ago, Franklin's new A.D., Tom Angelo, "was instantly supportive of the program," says Lupien. "He has been 100 percent supportive from day one, really helped me get it off the ground. Six years later, we're champs. We're anticipating having a strong team and a great followup season and looking forward to a great upcoming year in 2022-23."

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Tax Preparation with Liberty Tax

Local tax professionals help navigate an increasingly complicated system

Winter brings two things to Massachusetts: snow, and tax preparation.

“Everyone can benefit from a tax professional’s help,” says Dawn Porthouse of Liberty Tax in Franklin. “This is true of individuals, but it’s even more true of small businesses.”

Tax professional and local small business owner, Dawn Porthouse opened the Franklin office of Liberty Tax in 2018 and has been helping Metrowest area families and businesses with their taxes ever since.

“It starts with a free consultation to determine a client’s needs,” says Porthouse. “Many individuals and small business owners come to me thinking we just fill out their forms, but then they realize all the other ways a tax professional can help them grow their business.”

For example, Liberty Tax can manage a business’s bookkeeping year-round, or handle payroll.

Porthouse says, “The tax code is not only complex but in the past few years it has undergone significant changes. Because of that, it’s not always apparent what a person or a business should do. Two clients can be similar in income and family size but have very different tax situations, which is why it’s so important to involve an expert.”

Liberty Tax in Franklin offers services that extend well beyond tax season such as IRS transcript monitoring, tax planning, and assistance with federal and state tax issues.

Porthouse says, “When a small business reaches a certain point, the owner wants to focus on growing the business rather than ‘working in’ the business.” Most owners begin by handling the back end work themselves, acting as the bookkeeper and payroll manager. After the first couple of years, bringing in an expert frees up the owner to do what they do best, and follow their passion. That way, their time is spent on their area of expertise, which in turn brings in more income and allows the business to flourish.

Moreover, once a business had grown to the point of hiring employees, the owner needs a plan for handling payroll and dealing with the many regulations from

both Massachusetts and the federal government. “Massachusetts makes it complicated,” says Porthouse. “We’ll keep you in compliance.”

Dawn Porthouse has an MBA, MPA, and has obtained her Enrolled Agent (EA) license from the IRS. The EA allows her to represent taxpayers before the IRS. “I worked in the research industry for a long time preparing and managing federally-funded projects but was looking for something more. While I completed my MBA at Babson College, I started to work for a tax office and found that I enjoyed preparing tax returns and learning about taxes. The main thing I realized is that it’s not just about taxes, it’s about giving individuals and small business owners peace of mind when they fully understand their tax situation.”

When a taxpayer receives a letter from the IRS, before even opening the envelope, panic sets in. Porthouse says, “One of the first things I tell them when they call is to take a deep breath: we’re on their side. I will research the problem, discuss solutions, and then educate them on how to avoid similar issues in the future.”

Staying on the right side of the IRS is in every business’s best interests.

Keeping on top of changing regulations is a challenge in and



of itself. “Last year, Congress altered the tax laws right in the middle of tax season. Moreover, those changes were retroactive, meaning anyone who’d already filed may have to go back and amend their returns. We handled all of that for our clients so they could rest easy. We may be looking at a similar situation this year if Congress passes legislation which includes retroactive provisions such as the Build Back Better bill.”

Since taxes are inevitable, it makes sense to have an ally who can provide a roadmap to help families and businesses navigate them. Porthouse says, “I educate my clients. I make sure they understand this year’s return and help them plan for next year’s. I’m passionate about helping clients achieve their financial goals.”

For more information, visit Liberty Tax at <https://www.libertytax.com/income-tax-preparation-locations/11369> or call the office at (508) 528-6000.



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Demystifying the College Financial Aid Award Letter

Arriving in mailboxes now are the students' financial aid award letters! Getting into college is an exciting time; however, the award letters can often cause confusion. Colleges tend to use different jargon to relay the same message which can affect making an informed decision. College 101 recommends reviewing the financial aid award letters as a family, jotting down any questions, and creating a spreadsheet to compare ALL the costs the student will incur for the full year of school. Once in place, the family can contact the college's Financial Aid Office if any clarification is needed

Award letters are prepared by each college detailing the student's financial aid package such as need-based grants, work-study opportunities, merit scholarships, and eligible federal student loans. The letters are sent after a fam-

ily has submitted the FAFSA, federal need-based aid, and depending on the college the CSS Profile, institutional need-based aid.

A few things to note when reviewing the award letters:

- Create a cost comparison spreadsheet to compare all schools - it is critical that you are comparing apples to apples. **FREE RESOURCE:** If you would like a copy of our cost comparison spreadsheet - email us!
- If your child is living on-campus, make sure the "Room & Board" is included in the Cost of Attendance (COA). Recently one of our students received a letter from a local college and the cost of room and board was not included. That is a significant expense that cannot

be ignored. Every college has a page that includes the COA.

- The award letter includes direct costs (tuition, room & board, and fees) in addition to indirect costs, such as personal expenses, books, and transportation. The indirect costs are often estimated low. Families should develop expense projections based on the student's needs. For example, if the student is attending a major city college, the lifestyle will be more expensive (restaurants, music venues, ball games) than attending a college in a rural area where the student's free time is mostly spent on campus. Transportation costs are also a factor if the student is attending a college not close to home.
- Scholarships and loans are often combined in the same section which can cause confusion as to what is free money and what needs to be paid back. Be sure to separate the award types on your spreadsheet. Loans are either unsubsidized loans (interest starts to accrue in college) or subsidized loans (interest starts to accrue 6 months after the student leaves school).
- Loans don't need to be scary. Over a four-year period, the student can borrow \$27,000 in FAFSA loans and at the lowest possible interest rate available, which can be affordable. If a student chooses a school where the tuition is significantly higher than the family's resources, it could result in



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

the student incurring significant debt to be repaid after graduation. Families need to consider the impact of such a costly decision. **FREE RESOURCE:** Go to studentaid.gov (valuable website!) and use the loan simulator. Walk your child through how much they would need to pay each month based on the loan amount, coincide this with a budget, and let the facts speak for themselves!

- If there are scholarships, does the letter state it is for all 4 years? What requirements are needed to retain the scholarship? The acceptance letter should clarify the terms of the scholarships. What if your child transfers, this is usually not stated in the letter, but would they need to pay the scholarship back? If there is any ambiguity - call the college's Financial Aid Office.

- Don't forget the value of state colleges! Massachusetts has competitive state colleges which often cost less than private colleges. They provide a great education, too. A name brand school does not equate to a better education!

Fully understanding the financial aid package is a critical piece in the college process. Congratulations to your student! Take your time reviewing all options, and make sure all of your questions are answered before making any decisions!
College 101 Admissions Consultants LLC has two offices located in Columbus, OH and Wrentham, MA. They are ready to support you and your child on their college search journey! Reach out anytime via email at tracy@mycollege101.com or by phone at (508) 380-3845. Services are also located on their website, www.mycollege101.com.

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April Brings Spring, Baseball and Tax... Squirrel!

Time for the annual, “You know, we should be doing more to pay less taxes”.

Then like a dog seeing a squirrel, you get distracted, run in another direction and think “It’s ok, we’ll pay a lot less taxes in retirement.”

Let me share a secret, if your wealth is mostly in tax deferred retirement accounts (i.e. 401(k)s, 403(b)s and Traditional IRAs), your taxes will be much more than you realize.

Income Sources

Retirees receive income from a variety of sources, including distributions from tax deferred retirement accounts; payouts from company pensions and annuities; rental income; savings and earnings from investments.

Tax deferred retirement accounts enjoyed tax-deferred growth on contributions and investments; but when distributions are taken, these are fully taxable as earned income and added to your adjusted gross income (AGI).

What if you don’t need the funds? Don’t worry the government wants its taxes, so starting

at age 72 you have Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs).

For example, at age 62 your spouse and you retire with \$1.25M across all tax deferred retirement accounts. You live within your means, don’t take from these accounts and grow 7.2% annually. By age 72, the accounts total \$2.5M and time for RMDs. Per IRS Table III divide by 25.6 at age 72 for \$97,656 taken as RMD, taxed as earned income and added to your AGI.

Social Security

Factors such as your total income and marital status determine what/if a portion of your Social Security benefits are taxable. If your AGI plus any tax-free interest exceeds \$34K for individuals or \$44K for married filing jointly, then up to 85% of Social Security benefits are taxable.

Ways To Minimize Taxes

Taxes are inevitable with retirement savings or pension income, but there are many strategies to reduce amounts owed, here are a few:

During Retirement - Distribute funds in certain years of claiming large deductions, such as the breaks for medical expenses or charitable gifts, temporarily lower your tax rate.

Before Retirement - Contribute to Roth 401(k) and Roth IRA (if eligible) now. After age 59 ½ and owned for at least 5 years, withdrawals are completely tax free. Added bonus is RMDs don’t exist for Roth accounts nor are balances in Roth accounts a factor in determining RMDs for your tax deferred accounts.

Before or During - Roth Conversion and Backdoor Roth. Yes, pay the taxes now for benefits listed in the prior paragraph. Consider greater amounts in years of lower income if self-employed, change jobs and/or take away from work. Also, 20% (or more) market corrections provide an opportunity to convert investments over to Roth, pay less in



Glenn Brown

taxes and let them rebound inside the Roth.

There are many more strategies to consider beyond this limited space. Bottom line, plan now for the tax implications of your retirement income.

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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Franklin Food Pantry Aims to Partner with Community to Revamp New Building

BY J.D. O'GARA

Now that the Franklin Food Pantry has purchased the new building, formerly known as Edwin's, at 341 West Central Street, Franklin Local Town Pages asked Tina Powderly, Executive Director of the Franklin Food Pantry, about some of the details of its plan to undergo renovations to convert it into a functional, accessible and expanded Pantry.

"We have been very lucky in that community has been very supportive of this project, and because it's taken a long time to find just the right spot, we had a lot of professional interior designers, contractors, painting, electrical, who have reached out to say that when the time comes, they'd be interested in helping," says Powderly, who plans to wholeheartedly take folks up on those offers.

At deadline time, Franklin Food Pantry was planning on hiring a general contractor to be OPM but had not finalized the hiring.

"Kuth-Ranieri, based out of California, but with a Franklin office, is our architect," said Powderly. "We are underway in terms of design planning, and we'll be subject to all the supply chain issues and market demographics everyone is facing, but our plan is to start work on the fit-out of the building as soon as possible, and we would love for folks who have professional skills to offer that are applicable to the build-out to come forward and reach out to us, because this is really a building about the community, and the more the community has a hand in preparing it to open, the more wonderful it will be."

Powderly welcomes "literally anyone who has a hand in the building industry to reach out to us" if they can provide in kind donations of labor, expertise or materials.

As for the goal opening date? "Gosh, I would love to be in there by the end of the year, of course, but realistically, we're going to follow all the correct

processes we need to follow, and again, we're subject to the supply chain issues and labor shortages everyone is facing. We're going to do this correctly, intentionally, and as quickly as we can with an eye toward the big picture goal of a fully accessible, warm, safe and inviting space, not just for our neighbors, but for our staff and volunteers."

An inviting space, says Powderly, makes a big difference for patrons of the pantry.

"The folks who come visit us are, by definition, experiencing some sort of hardship," says Powderly. What we've always been able to do, regardless of space, is meet them with a smile, provide food and some sort of support, but now we'll be able to provide a space that is warm and accessible, and key, private and confidential, and enhance all those we do as a community."

In April of 2020, the Pantry purchased 138 East Central Street to serve as a new location for its operations. After almost 18 months of work, the Pantry concluded that while 138 East Central was a viable option for pre-pandemic operations, Covid-19 so drastically changed operations and programming that the property no longer fully met the Pantry's neighbors' needs. The Pantry sold 138 East Central Street in late 2021. Simul-

taneously, the Pantry identified Edwin's as a new relocation opportunity. After detailed due diligence evaluating the feasibility of the property for its operations, the Franklin Food Pantry Board, on the recommendation of senior staff and the Pantry Building Committee, moved forward with the purchase of 341 West Central Street. The Pantry will use a variety of funding sources to purchase, renovate, and operate the building including grants, state funding, Board restricted funds and private donations specifically restricted for the new building.

"This new building gives us an opportunity to continue the innovative programs we created during the Pandemic to better serve our neighbors. We are thrilled to honor Jean and Edwin Aldrich by continuing their legacy of connecting with and enriching our community," said Powderly. "Through the generosity of our Board members and close friends, the hard work of our Building Committee and staff, and community members like Representative Jeff Roy who secured funding in the state budget for our new building, we will more fully meet our vision. The new building will have a larger and more accessible space that we will renovate to best fit our unique programs, especially those developed over the past two years."

These unique programs increase access to healthy food and related services that support needs arising out of food insecurity:

- Three simultaneous distribution models (curbside, in-person, and home delivery) to maximize access and options for neighbors in various circumstances
- Onsite farmer's market to provide access to healthy fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs
- Three holiday meal kits during the summer (right before July 4), at Thanksgiving, and during year-end holidays that neighbors can customize to their own family traditions
- In-person office hours to assist neighbors to access support for their everyday challenges

Until the new space is ready, The Pantry will continue to operate at its current location and appreciates the continued support of Rockland Trust.

Visit www.franklinfoodpantry.org for more information.



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Not just for Newcomers . . .

Come Join us on April 20th at "3" for our April Monthly Meeting

We are pleased to announce that Lisa Moczymski and Susan Speers, volunteers with Metacomet Land Trust, will be joining us with a program on "Bringing Earth Day Home." The program will introduce the conservation group, with a focus on its work to preserve open space in Franklin since 1988. Metacomet is a member-supported nonprofit which serves 15 towns and is based in Franklin. To mark the 52nd anniversary of Earth Day on April 20th, Moczymski and Speers will share a slide presentation on the group's conservation work, education programs, and behind the scenes assistance to landowners and towns wishing to permanently preserve natural

habitat. Metacomet's local efforts include helping Franklin to connect town open space and Metacomet's land. Metacomet is a 501-(c)-3 charity. More information can be found at www.MetacometLandTrust.org.

We welcome you to come join your friends and neighbors. Meet us upstairs at "3" Restaurant on Wednesday, April 20th at 7:30. Hot and cold appetizers and beverages are provided. No need to be a newcomer to the area, and no need to RSVP. Come make connections in your community. We are a multi-generational club offering a wide range of activities for all ages with an emphasis on fun and camaraderie. We are a member driven organization

and are always excited to welcome new faces and new ideas.

Residents of Franklin, or any surrounding town that doesn't have a Newcomers Club, are welcome to join us. We run our meetings September through May, typically meeting the 3rd Wednesday of the month. We also hold many fun and varied events throughout the year to stay connected.

Look for us on our Meetup and Facebook pages for more information.

<https://www.meetup.com/Franklin-Newcomers-Friends>
<https://facebook.com/Franklin-NewcomersFriendsClub>



The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

Community Counts

By GINA WOELFEL

On March 10th, b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio enjoyed a wonderful evening of networking when we hosted Shop Medway's "Headshots and Handshakes," a community-based event designed to bring local business people together. Guests received hair and makeup services, relaxed with refreshments and mingled about while photographer, Wendy Shea, updated their headshots in our new editorial space.

Working with our community to ensure stronger, more long-lasting relationships is a key part of who b.LUXE is as a small business. Our doors have always been open to organizations that provide a source of betterment and support to our surrounding towns.

On a regular basis, we work with the Franklin food pantry raising money and participating in their holiday meal drives and helping with their weekend backpack program which provides weekend meals and snacks to children in need through a partnership with The Franklin Public Schools.

b.LUXE owner, Heather Cohen, is a resident of Franklin, MA and also works with their senior center. She, and the other b.LUXE hairstylists, offer the guests of the Franklin Senior Center complimentary, bi-monthly haircuts at the salon. These visits are also a nice time for our staff to listen and share stories with an older generation they might not normally have the opportunity to socialize with. These seniors keep us laughing and their visits are always a

highlight of our month! We also proudly work with The Medway House, Medway Parks and Recreation, OUTMetrowest, The Hummingbird Foundation, PAWS New England, Medway Pride Day and the Martello Beauty Institute, Cancun, Mexico.

You're probably wondering why the b.LUXE Beauty Beat, a column about beauty, is writing about civic duty and what it means to give back? Well, the answer to that is simple: To feel beautiful on the outside, you need to feel beautiful on the inside and helping others, straight-up, makes you feel great!

Volunteering pulls you out of your comfort zone and keeps you in regular contact with people from your community. It feels good to get out there and contribute to projects and organizations that are close to your heart. These initiatives can help you develop a solid support system of new friends, which in turn can help you guard against stress, loneliness and anxiety. And if you're volunteering with pets or other animals, there's solid research that shows this type of outreach can improve mood and elevate happiness. And what's more beautiful than a smiling, happy face? Exactly.

We have officially entered the spring season, folks, with warmer, more light-filled days to look forward to! Finger's crossed, it looks like this summer might serve us up a little slice of normal, with venues fully open and people enjoying the company of family and friends. We're certainly excited to see this shift at the salon and have some wonderful spe-



scan for more info

cial planned for the next couple of months! It's time to treat yourself to a day of spa services and relaxation!

If you have an organization that you work with and you're looking to network or fundraise, reach out to b.LUXE Hair and Makeup Studio! We set aside a number of evenings throughout the year that we host our "Nights of Beauty." These complementary events can host up to 30 people at a time and are a great way to socialize for a cause! Feel free to email us at heather@bluxe.comcastbiz.net for full details.

Wishing you all a fun-filled April.

The b.LUXE Beauty Team

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Dean College Extends Exclusive Partnership with Kraft Sports + Entertainment

Kraft Sports + Entertainment (KSE), a division of the Kraft Group that oversees marketing, sales, content development, and event operations for the New England Patriots and New England Revolution, announced today they have extended their existing exclusive academic partnership with Dean College for an additional 10 years.

“Our organization is proud of our long-standing relationship with Dean College,” said Murray Kohl, vice president of

corporate sales for the New England Patriots. “We are excited to continue offering Dean students opportunities to gain real-world experiences into all the areas our organization operates.”

The two organizations began their partnership in 2009 and extended it in 2015 to launch the Center for Business, Entertainment and Sport Management. Since that time, Dean has seen a steady increase in enrollment with growth in programs such as business management, sport management, sports

broadcasting, criminal justice and homeland security, biology, and exercise science.

“We are honored to be so closely tied with organizations as successful and recognizable as the New England Patriots and the New England Revolution,” said Dean College President Dr. Paula M. Rooney. “The opportunity for our students to learn from the leaders of such respected enterprises is valuable and exciting.”

As part of the new agreement, Dean and Kraft Sports + Entertainment will develop a collaborative course to be instructed jointly, allowing Dean students unprecedented access and the opportunity to present their work to KSE executives at Gillette Stadium. KSE staff will also continue to provide their expertise as guest speakers and lecturers for multiple courses each semester, spanning all academic programs within the College.

In addition to building their networks through exposure to these industry leaders, Dean students will continue to have student employment, volunteer, and internship opportunities

along with occasions to tour various Kraft Sports + Entertainment facilities as part of their classes. As the exclusive academic partner, Dean is the only college to offer guaranteed internships with KSE. Over the years, countless Dean students and graduates have worked in various KSE entities, including the New England Patriots, New England Revolution, Patriot Place and TeamOps.

Dean College students and student-athletes will have the opportunity to utilize training facilities and access various strength & conditioning and nutrition programs through the Patriots and Revolution through guest lectures by trainers and nutrition staff, tours of training facilities and occasional use of Gillette Stadium practice fields for team practices. This invaluable benefit provides Dean College access to state-of-the-art equipment and contact with training staffs that have been consistently recognized as leaders among their respective leagues.

The partnership also includes a scholarship program funded by KSE and numerous branding

opportunities for Dean College in and around Gillette Stadium, including naming rights to the newly formed *Patriot Place Stage presented by Dean College*. This open-air venue offers another potential performance location for Dean’s dance and theatre students as the College continues to expand these signature programs, along with its arts and entertainment management program.

Dean College will also continue as the presenting sponsor for the New England Revolution’s *High School Night Match* that occurs each fall and a participating sponsor of the *MIAA High School Football Super Bowls* held each December, with each event drawing thousands of spectators annually.

“Kraft Sports + Entertainment is a true market leader, and we are so proud that Dean College remains as their exclusive academic partner. It speaks volumes about our institution and the future of the programs and opportunities we can offer to our students,” said Dr. Rooney.



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“Your eyes are the first thing people notice about you.” Felicia Bleakney of Just Felicia Eyelash Extensions is passionate about eyelashes, and this is why. “You want that first glance to show them you’re confident, interesting, and ready for the world.”

Just Felicia is about more than cosmetics. It’s about evoking the beauty inside a person and showing the world the truest expression of their own self.

Felicia explains, “It’s the little things that make a person bold. Knowing your eyes are bright and stand out—that makes you confident. The more confidence shines through, the more positivity you spread. And the world needs positivity right now. When you walk out there with that confidence, you know the world needs you.”

Eyelash extensions are a cosmetic procedure where a licensed and certified beautician attaches artificial lashes to the client’s pre-existing set of eyelashes. The result will be fuller, thicker lashes that highlight the eye’s natural beauty while enhancing the shape of the face.

“First the client comes for a consultation.” Felicia can generally get her first-time clients an appointment within a few days. “Everyone has different ideas about eyelashes, so I tailor each set to that individual person. I take into account their eyes, their



skin, their eyebrows, and their hair color. We talk about their job, their workouts, and their skincare routine. Once I know what they need, then each lash is customized to give the exact result they want.”

Felicia hand-selects each lash to create the perfect contour. “I’m a perfectionist,” she says with a laugh. “With all those lashes in front of me, I have to be. I apply anywhere from three to fifteen lashes per eyelash to create a fuller, thicker look.”

In some sessions, she’s applied a thousand lashes to a single client. The procedure can be done on the same day as the consultation, or later if the client wants time to think it over. The first application generally takes two to three hours.

Eyelash extensions aren’t only about making them fuller. “Some clients just want them longer, and I love to accommodate.” She also takes into account the health and strength of the original lash. “If

Business spotlight

someone has thin, fragile lashes, we do a fine set to protect the integrity of their natural lashes.”

Felicia has been in the beauty industry for forty years, and her clients’ transformations never fail to astound her. “Knowing you look your best brings out your confidence and your inner beauty.”

Felicia has won awards for her lashing and been in *Lash Magazine*, *Expert Lashes*, and *Gladys Magazine*. She won best of Brookfield, Wisconsin for lashes for two years in a row.

Felicia says, “I was born and raised in Massachusetts. I did move to Wisconsin for six years and opened my own business there, but last year I returned. I missed my roots.”

In addition to lash extensions, Felicia also does lash lifts (like a perm for eyelashes) and lash tinting. She does brow lamination (a type of reverse-perm to make brows look fuller) and tweezing.

Felicia splits her time between two locations, one in Milford and the other in Newton. “I don’t pass my clients along to an assistant. Clients know they’re going to consult with me, the lashes will be selected by me, and then applied by me. From beginning to end, they can trust they’re in good hands.”



In the end, Felicia adores the first moment her clients see themselves in a mirror. “All of a sudden, they’re looking at the best version of themselves. My passion is making people smile, and then they carry that passion out into the world and make other people smile, too.”

For brighter eyes and a brighter future, check out Just Felicia Eyelash Extensions online at <https://www.justfeliciawi.com> or call (781) 856-5271.

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Living Healthy

World-Class Eyecare and Cataract Surgery Closer to Home

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

Cataract surgery is by far the most common surgery performed in the United States. With advanced technology and if you choose an experienced and highly skilled surgeon, modern

cataract surgery should be a rather quick outpatient and a minimal risk procedure. If you are considering cataract surgery, your expectations should not only be to improve your vision, reduce glare at night, see more vivid colors and improve your day to day

activities, but you should also be given an opportunity to reduce your dependence on glasses or contacts and in many cases eliminate this need. Your expectations should also be to have your surgery by a world-class surgeon close to where you live and not

be told to travel hours for testing and surgery. Many choices exist on where to have the surgery and by whom. Here are the specific questions to ask when it's time to have the surgery:





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1. Why are you referring me to this surgeon? Your optometrist may ask you to travel miles and hours away from home to have your surgery with a particular surgeon of their choice. When you have experienced surgeons within minutes from where you live and when those top-notch ethical surgeons with excellent nationwide reputation will perform your surgery in a state-of-the-art surgery center closer to home. Ask your provider why they want you to travel hours and miles away. Unfortunately, if you dig enough, you will find the only reason for this remote referral is financial and business-related interest your provider has with the far-away surgeon. Beware referral bias. In our center, 100% of the surgeries are performed in a state-of-the-art facility in Milford. Very close to home. Your interest comes first.
2. What is my cost? Did you know that when your optometrist refers you to a surgeon who will perform your surgery at a hospital your insurance deductible and co-insurance will be higher at a hospital? If this is happening to you, we are available for a second opinion! All our surgeries are performed at an ambulatory surgery center in Milford with potential cost savings to you.
3. What type of anesthesia am I going to get? With modern cataract surgery, most surgeries should be completed under topical anesthesia. This means that the surgery eye becomes numb with drops. No need for injections or

shots around or behind your eye. No shots will reduce the risk of bleeding and serious complications from the shots. Ask about the techniques of the surgeon you are being asked to travel to see. In our center, 100% of the surgeries are performed under topical simple anesthesia.

4. What are the risks? One of the most dreaded risks of cataract surgery is accidental damage to the posterior capsule, which is the back wall of the bag holding your lens. Ask about the complication rate of the surgeon you are being asked to travel to. In our center this rate is close to zero percent.
5. What is the rate of infections in your center? Another potentially devastating risk of cataract surgery is an infection inside the eye called "endophthalmitis". Ask the complication rate of the surgeon you are being asked to travel to. In our center this rate is close to zero percent.
6. What type of technology is available at your surgery facility? Different centers have different equipment and resources. For instance, Massachusetts has only few centers offering laser-assisted bladeless cataract surgery. This should be an option if you want to reduce dependence on glasses and treat low grades of astigmatism at the same time as your cataract surgery. Our center was among the

Living Healthy

EYES

continued from page 12

first in the State and New England to offer this technology. Did you know that many hospitals and other centers do not offer laser-assisted bladeless cataract surgery? We do!

7. What type of implant am I going to get? Different lens implants can be used during cataract surgery with different materials, quality and ability to reduce your need for glasses. Ask your referring provider about his/her surgeon choice of implants. Our center was the first in the greater Boston area to offer the new diffractive and extended-focus implants. With those implants you can see clearly at distance, close and intermediate like your phone and computer screen with little or no dependence on glasses.

8. Will my need to wear glasses be reduced? Cataract surgery is a wonderful opportunity to limit or eliminate your need for glasses. As the surgeon removes the cataract, there is an opportunity to replace the cloudy lens with a special high-tech implant able to achieve this goal. Ask your referring provider about his/her surgeon of choice ability to achieve those goals. Our center has many happy and glasses free patients.

9. Will I have stitches? It is ideal to eliminate the need for stitches such as the surgery is a no-stitch surgery. Placing a stitch can be complicated by stitch induced astigmatism, a foreign body sensation and a broken and irritating stitch. Ask your referring provider if his/her surgeon of choice is still using stitches. 100% of our cataract procedures are stitch-free.

10. What will be my vision on day 1 after the surgery? One of the measurements defining quality of outcomes after cataract surgery is the quality of vision on day 1 after the surgery. Surgeons should strive to make the vision correct to as close to best as possible on day 1. Ask your referring provider about his/her surgeon of choice ability to achieve this outcome. Our center has many patients with happy 20/20 vision on day 1 after cataract surgery.

Cataract surgery is all about better precision, more safety

and excellent outcomes. At Milford Franklin Eye Center, Dr. Kaldawy is proud to have been the first surgeon in the area and among the first in Massachusetts to offer bladeless laser assisted cataract surgery and the first surgeon in the greater Boston area to implant the PanOptix and Vivity lens implants. We offer bladeless laser cataract surgery. We implant high quality premium lenses, with correction for distance, near and everything in between. Many cases of astigmatism are no longer a problem. Our percentage of posterior capsule complications and infections is one of the lowest in the Nation. No more need to travel hours for your cataract surgery! You do not even have to travel to Attleboro!

We operate in a state-of-the-art surgery center in Milford offering bladeless laser cataract surgery. Our surgery center passed certification and accreditation by the most rigorous State and National accreditation agencies. 100% of the surgeries are performed under topical anesthesia, so only drops, no need for shots and no need for stitches. Brand new gorgeous office in Franklin and a second location in Milford. Over 30 thousand procedures performed and 7 providers with your interest in mind offering the best cost-efficient surgical care in an ambulatory surgery center closer to home.

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Date: April 30, 2022 | Time: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Location: Bellingham DPW, 28 Blackstone St.

Fee: \$20

If you do not have paperwork regarding your pet's rabies vaccination history, your pet is eligible for a 1-year vaccination. If you have up-to-date paperwork, your pet is eligible for a 3-year vaccination. All cats MUST be brought in a carrier, while all dogs MUST be on a leash.

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Advancing Cancer Research: Local Operating Engineers Union Donates \$100,000 to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute

The International Union of Operating Engineers Local 4, which has 24 members from Bellingham and 20 members from Franklin, announced a \$100,000 donation from their charitable foundation to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The donation, which was raised during the Union's 4th annual golf outing will assist the Institute's pediatric and adult cancer care and research.

The Operating Engineers Charitable Foundation, Inc. follows the Local's long track record of supporting community and national organizations. The union has historically donated millions of dollars to organizations across Massachusetts and New England. This donation to Dana-Farber Cancer Institute recognizes the groundbreaking cancer research and the non-profit's distinguished leadership in making life-changing breakthroughs in cancer patient care.

"Local 4 is proud to support the work of Dana-Farber Cancer Institute," said Local 4 Business Manager Bill McLaughlin. "Cancer has affected many in our communities, including our membership and our families. Dana-Farber Cancer Institute does commendable work in preventing, treating, and defying cancer by accelerating revolutionary science, and providing extraordinary care, exceptional expertise, and essential oppor-



tunities. Local 4's membership is committed to improving the lives of our communities. We are hopeful that with this contribution, the Institute will be able to continue its mission to provide life-saving treatments to cancer patients."

"This gift is a testament to Local 4's commitment to our community," said Suzanne Fountain, Vice President, The Jimmy Fund. "At Dana-Farber, we serve hundreds of thousands of new patients every year. This contribution will be critical in our work to pursue bold visions and creative methods to treat cancer and serve our patients and their families."

Local 4 has a long history of giving back to the communities where they live and work and has been able to support charitable organizations and causes across New England for decades. Some of the causes Local 4 supports include food banks, homeless shelters, veterans groups, ALS, substance abuse, and more. In January, Local 4 also donated \$5,124 to the Maine-based, veterans organization, House in the Woods.

To learn more about Operating Engineers Local 4's various charitable contributions, visit <https://www.iuolocal4.org/about-us/charitable-contributions/>.

Knights of Columbus to Hold Palm Sunday Food Drive April 9 & 10

The Knights of Columbus (Sacred Heart Council, Franklin MA) is holding our annual Spring Fundraiser at St. Mary Church in Franklin, MA for those who are in need. All proceeds will benefit the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The Knights will have a table set up outside the church after Mass on Saturday, April 9th and after each Mass on Palm Sunday, April 10th. They will be selling Stop & Shop gift cards (5% of

sale benefits St. Vincent).

In recognition of significant need, we are also suggesting a second way you can share your generosity: by donating one or more of the gift cards you purchased (100% of donated cards benefits St. Vincent). Simply drop a purchased gift card into the Donation Box.

ONLINE GIVING OPTION: If people would prefer to contribute online, please visit our Website www.kofc1847.org.

org. Online orders will accept Credit Cards. On the website there will be a link(s) to Donate Food Cards - Easter Food Card Drive. (Please note that the website will accept donations for this food card drive from March 3 until Palm Sunday April 10.)

We thank you in advance for your continued compassion and charity for those less fortunate.

Thank You for your Caring

Franklin Garden Club to Present "Easy Rose Care" April 5th

The Franklin Garden Club, in conjunction with the Franklin Public Library, will co-sponsor a program on "Easy Rose Care" on Tuesday, April 5, at 7 p.m. at the Franklin Library, 118 Main Street, Franklin. The program, open to the public free of charge, will be presented by Teresa Mosher, one of the leading garden and rose consultants in New England. This presentation features information on uncovering winter protected roses, pruning various types, planting, fertilizing and choosing hardy roses. Photos from Mosher's highly regarded Zone 5 garden in Methuen are incorporated into the presentation. Handouts will be available.

Mosher is past President of the New England Rose Society, a Horticulture Rose Judge and Master Rosarian for the American Rose Society. An avid gardener for more than 40 years, she cares for and maintains 42 flower beds, over 200 roses, more than 1500 perennials, shrubs and trees in her garden. She has served as a past Judge in Floral Design

and Horticulture for the Massachusetts Garden Federation and has designed and maintained gardens in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

Mosher has garnered numerous awards, including the Bronze Honor Medal for Outstanding Service, 2012 - New England Rose Society; Outstanding Horticulture Judge, 2016 - Yankee District, American Rose Society; and Outstanding Consulting Rosarian, 2018- Yankee District, American Rose Society. She has served as President of the New England Rose Society - 2012-2019 and vice president - 2011-2012. She is a member of several rose organizations, including the Hybridizers Rose Association, Heritage Rose Foundation, Massachusetts Horticultural Society, and Massachusetts Garden Study Council and Landscape Design Council.



Family Legal Partners Co-Founders Selected for Prestigious Lists

Jason M. Carrozza has been selected to the 2021 Massachusetts Super Lawyers list and Amy M. Antonellis has been selected to the 2021 Massachusetts Rising Stars list; both are co-founders of Family Legal Partners, P.C., a Franklin estate planning and probate firm. Each year, no more than five percent of the lawyers in the state are selected by the research team at Super Lawyers to receive this honor. Super Lawyers, part of Thomson Reuters, is a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The annual selections are made using a patented multiphase process that includes a statewide survey of lawyers, an independent research evaluation of candidates and peer reviews by practice area. The result is a credible, comprehensive and diverse listing of exceptional attorneys. The Super Lawyers lists are published nationwide in Super Lawyers Magazines and in leading city and regional magazines and newspapers across the country. Super Lawyers Magazines also feature editorial profiles of attorneys who embody excellence in the practice of law. For more information about these attorneys please visit www.familylegalpartners.com



Franklin Resident Wins Trip

Franklin resident and Audi Norwell General Manager, Mike Gaughran, and his wife Michelle, won a weekend trip to Florida from Audi to go see Red Sox Spring Training. Unfortunately, during the time of the trip, the MLB was still in

the midst of a lockout. Though Mike and Michelle did not get to see the Sox play any baseball, they did enjoy a tour of JetBlue park in lieu of the game.

"A trip to Florida in early March is always a welcomed event, but no baseball yet was a disappointment for sure," Mike said. Shortly after his return, it was decided that baseball would be making a comeback after all. "A little late is better than never," Mike said. "I'm so glad to know baseball is back in time to fit in a full regular season."

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The Culinary and Performing Arts Come Together for "Culinary Cabaret"

On Friday, April 8 at 7 pm, the Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) will unite the culinary and performing arts for an inspired evening of fabulous food, drink, and entertainment. The \$75 all-inclusive ticket delivers a delicious and entertaining evening at THE BLACK BOX, Franklin's premier entertainment venue.

The 10th annual Culinary Cabaret spotlights this region's outstanding culinary talent, showcasing fine wines, craft beer, delectable spirits, flavorful dishes, and mouth-watering desserts by partners including The Gavel, Raillery, Curry House, Teddy Gallagher's, Parker's Pub, Salty Days Fish Market, Pour Richard's, Bakeshack, and more. This

special evening has been a celebrated part of FPAC's yearly performance calendar for a decade.

Featuring entertainment by Electric Youth and special guest artists of the Franklin Performing Arts Company, Culinary Cabaret supports Electric Youth's 2022 European tour. Franklin Performing Arts Company is Franklin's own professional theater company.

THE BLACK BOX is located at 15 W. Central St. in downtown Franklin, MA. For tickets and more information on Culinary Cabaret, visit THEBLACKBOXonline.com or call the box office at (508) 528-3370. Follow Franklin Performing Arts Company and THE BLACK BOX on Facebook and Instagram for updates on programming.



Save the Date! Franklin Spring/Summer Beautification Day May 21

The Franklin Downtown Partnership and the Franklin Garden Club have scheduled their annual spring/summer cleanup for Saturday, May 21st.

Volunteers are needed, volunteer groups are welcome, and high school community service hours are available!

Interested in a sponsorship? Contact downtown.franklin@yahoo.com

Visit www.franklindowntownpartnership.org for more information.

Empty Bowls Scheduled for May 19th

Save the DATE! According to a post on its Facebook page, the Empty Bowls Fundraiser is Back & in person on Thursday, May 19th from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. in the FHS cafeteria. Tickets can be purchased online and at the door with cash/checks. EB is so excited to work together with the Franklin community to support the Franklin Food Pantry.

More information to come!



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Tri-County RVTHS Seniors Gain On-Job Experience

Legal and Protective Services Students Secure Co-ops, Internships

Senior Legal and Protective students have secured co-ops and internships in their preferred fields to help them gain valuable work experience before they graduate high school. The Legal and Protective Services shop is a criminal justice-based practical career program. The curriculum covers many aspects of criminal law, criminal procedure, constitutional law, civics, police field tactics, investigation techniques, C.S.I., self-defense, critical thinking, leadership, psychology, and public service. The two-teacher shop is led by an attorney and a veteran police officer.

Bret Mathews is gaining experience at the Franklin Fire Department by going on ride-alongs in the fire engine, observing the dispatch department, and assisting with administrative work at the station. "I'm learning so much about how the station is run, what is in the ambulances and engines, and how everything works," said Mathews, of Millis. The station has been especially helpful in giving guidance to help Bret select the most efficient way to pursue postsecondary coursework in this essential field. Mathews' supervisor says, "Bret is doing a great job at Franklin Fire Department. He is always professional. He is not afraid to ask questions and had participated in everything he has been asked to do such as ambulance and engine operations, and training evolutions."

Jake Slook, of Franklin, is interning with the Medfield Fire Department. He goes on ride-alongs and handles incoming administrative phone calls. He is fine-tuning his plans after graduation with the assistance of the professional connections he has made. Slook is participating in the Medfield Fire Cadet Program to help prepare for his future.

Thomas Ruth is working with the Franklin Town Government through an internship with the Department of Public Works. He is learning first-hand how the citizens rely on their town government to provide well-planned, environmentally-sensitive, cost-effective infrastructure and services to promote public health, personal safety, transportation,

and economic growth. "My internship prepares me for the real world," said Ruth, of Blackstone.

Teaghan LeBlanc pursued an internship with the Millis Police Department her junior year due to a relationship she built through volunteering and community participation as early as middle school. LeBlanc reorganized the records department, proving herself to be a valuable resource to the department. Chief Soffayer appointed her as a part-time dispatcher for the department in November due to her hard work.

Erica Godfrey, of Plainville, has secured an internship with Nora Tyer-Witek, the Clerk of the Court for the Federal District of Rhode Island. Godfrey has the opportunity to observe criminal hearings and questions of constitutional law. Godfrey also makes recommendations to the Clerk about a plain-language initiative for layperson court filings.

A'Neysa Cleveland, of Plainville, is training as a domestic violence advocate and educator at New Hope, a local domestic violence shelter and resource center. Her internship will give her the experience, trainings, and connections to pursue work in this field after her graduation.

After years of volunteer work at the station, Trevor Runyan, of Medway, secured an internship with the Medway Police Department. He participates in ride-alongs, observes dispatch operations, and assists with administrative work.



Bret Mathews, a senior at Tri-County RVTHS, is working as an intern with the Franklin Fire Department as part of his professional education in Legal and Protective Services.

Mullaney Harris holds an internship at Uxbridge District Court, where she observes arraignments, bail hearings, and trials and also assists the clerks and probation department with administrative matters. "Since the start of her internship, Mullaney has proven to be a valuable asset to the Clerk's Office. She speaks highly of her vocational program as she applies the knowledge and skills she has learned there to her work here," Harris' supervisor says of her hard work. Harris is gaining valuable experience and making invaluable connections with professionals in the field. "I've been dreaming of a job in the legal system since I was eight years old. There are so many options for me to pursue and all of them give me a direct opportunity to make positive changes in society which is all I have ever wanted to do," commented Harris of Uxbridge.



Tri-County student Thomas Ruth is interning with the Franklin Department of Public Works.

Many Tri-County students utilize their senior year to use the skills learned in their career program towards a co-op or internship. The connections they make and the experience they gain allows them to add practical applications and professional resumes. Students appreciate the

opportunity to grow their skills and connections prior to graduation. "Through co-op, I have grown as a student, professional, and person. I'm tremendously grateful for the dispatchers, officers, admin, and Chiefs who've mentored me the past year and a half," commented LeBlanc, of Millis.

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FSPA Summer 2022 Enrollment Open

Franklin School for the Performing Arts (FSPA) is now enrolling for Summer 2022. In addition to summer weekly classes, FSPA will hold one week camps including Creative Kids, Acting, Broadway, Little Music School Experience, Rock Out!, and Voice.

FSPA will also offer 5 weeks of Summer Theater. Students can sign up for one or more of the offerings. The more students participate, the more they save. June 27-29 for grades 5-12 is Broadway Boot Camp. Broadway Boot Camp brings Broadway's brightest talents to FSPA for song and dance master classes and coaching on individual performance skills. July 26-29 is the Cabaret Show for grades 5-12. Students will hone their skills and tap into their potential with a focus on performance skills, including repertoire choices, song interpretation, and presentation.

The week concludes with a cabaret-style revue at THE BLACK BOX, showcasing solo and small ensemble pieces that have been workshopped during the week.

Week 3, August 2-6 is a one week intensive for grades 4-8 and 8-12 that will focus on the rehearsal and preparation of a play that will be performed at THE BLACK BOX. The plays will be selected for each age group based on enrollment.

Weeks 4 and 5, August 8-19, culminate with the production of a book musical staged at THE BLACK BOX. Auditions for placements occur in May or early June. Grades 4-8 and 8-12.

The FSPA Ballet Conservatory will offer two intensives. The pre-professional summer intensive offers a four-week program for the dedicated and serious ballet student wanting to further ballet training and performance skills. A rigorous schedule of

classical ballet technique, pointe, modern, dance history, and character is provided. Students will be divided by their current ballet level for technique, pointe, select variations and choreography to ensure and maintain a challenging curriculum for every dancer. Additional disciplines may vary depending on enrollment and teacher availability. This intensive is for FSPA Conservatory Levels III/IV/V/VI, or by audition for ages 12+. It runs June 27-July 21 (4 weeks) Monday-Friday 9:30-3:00.

The three-week "Young Intensive" program is designed to challenge and motivate the young dancer. Instruction in classical ballet technique, pre-pointe, character, modern and dance history is offered. Additional disciplines may vary depending upon enrollment and teacher availability. The Young Dancers Program caters to FSPA Con-



servatory Levels I (2nd year)/II/III, or by audition ages 8-11. It runs July 5-21 (3 weeks) Monday-Thursday 9:30-3:00.

FSPA is located at 38 Main Street, Franklin MA. To register or learn more, visit www.FSPAonline.com or call (508) 528-8668.

Franklin HS All Night Party Returns

The Franklin High School All Night Party is back, slated to take place on June 3rd-4th, 2022. The Franklin HS All Night Party

is a tradition started in 1990 that has provided graduated seniors a safe and fun event to celebrate their high school experience one last time as classmates. The graduates enjoy a fun-filled night that includes games, prizes, food, DJ, and a hypnotist show. Due to the pandemic, the event has not been held for the past two years, but the All Night Party (ANP) Committee is ready to bring this incredible event back for our upcoming Class of 2022 graduates and future FHS graduating classes.

The All Night Party Committee would like to welcome families of new and returning students to join our team. Whether your son or daughter is

an elementary or middle school student, Freshman, Sophomore or Junior the All Night Party committee needs you now.

Your involvement contributes to the support of the present senior class and guarantees the continuation of this tradition for your future seniors.

Once again we will be transforming the Horace Mann Middle School into a magical experience. To do this it takes the hard work of numerous volunteers and the support of the school community and business partnerships to make this event

a success. The party takes place after the seniors finish their graduation starting at 11 p.m. on June 3rd.

The group held a virtual informational and initial planning meeting last month, but information will be available online at <https://fhsallnightparty.com> and on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/franklinallnightparty>.





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Jehovah's Witnesses Returning to In-Person Meetings

After Two Years Virtual, Congregations Will Meet Together Again Beginning April 1

All congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses across the world are being encouraged to begin holding in-person meetings during the week of April 1.

For most of the last two years, buildings for worship have remained closed globally due to the risks associated with meeting in person. Jehovah's Witnesses in the U.S. also suspended their public ministry on March 20, 2020. Since that time, they have carried on their ministry through letters and phone calls while holding twice-weekly meetings in a virtual format. Average attendance at these meetings exceeded 1.5 million each week in the U.S., even though there are fewer than 1.3 million Jehovah's Witnesses in some 13,000 congregations.

"There is a collective shout of joy among Jehovah's Witnesses around the world right now," said Robert Hendriks, U.S. Spokesman for Jehovah's Witnesses. "While we have prospered in many ways as individuals and congregations using technology to bring us together, nothing can adequately replace being together in person. We have longed

for this moment for the better part of two years."

The move back to in-person meetings coincides with two global events being held in all 120,000 congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses. The first is a special lecture scheduled in most congregations for April 10, 2022, entitled, "Where Can You Find Real Hope?" Additionally, the annual commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ will be held on April 15, 2022. Both gatherings will be held in person at local Kingdom Halls with live speakers.

"The timing of resuming in-person meetings could not be better," said Hendriks. "Bringing everyone back together for these special events will have a powerful effect on the worldwide congregation."

Guidelines for holding "hybrid" meetings have been sent to all congregations in the United States. Over the past six months, many Kingdom Halls have been equipped with the required technology to hold a productive meeting that allows for in-person and remote attendees, all

of whom can participate in the discussions. A pilot program was held in October and November in countries around the world to assess how this could be done most effectively. Lessons learned have helped form the plan for moving forward with reopening all Kingdom Halls, where law permits.

As of now, Jehovah's Witnesses have no plans to resume their public ministry, though their "alternative" ministry continues. In fact, since the start of the pandemic through November 2021 in the U.S. alone, Jehovah's Witnesses spent more than 400 million hours in virtual Bible studies, writing letters of comfort to their neighbors and making phone calls. They have released 77 new language translations of the Bible and held two global virtual conventions in more than 500 languages.

"No time was wasted in the past two years," said Hendriks. "Our congregants have been busy and productive helping each other and their neighbors through this most challenging time. That's what love and unity are all about."

For more information on Jehovah's Witnesses go to jw.org.



The Kingdom Hall, at 250 Maple St., Franklin, Mass., like those around the world, has been empty since the start of the pandemic in 2020. After two years of holding their meetings via video conferencing, Jehovah's Witnesses will return to in-person meetings as of April 1, 2022. Photo courtesy of Jehovah's Witnesses

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Franklin Art Association (FAA) Announces:

April 6 FAA Monthly meeting Demo Artist: Bill Lane

The Franklin Art Association has scheduled accomplished local watercolorist Bill Lane as Demo Artist for their April 6 monthly meeting at the Franklin Senior Center, simultaneously shown on the FAA Zoom. At that time, folks will get a chance to meet Bill Lane and see him work.

Watermedia Workshop with Bill Lane

Sat., April 23, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Fee \$100

The Watermedia Workshop with emphasis on watercolor – will be held in downtown Franklin at the Rockland Bank Annex.

Workshop schedule:

- 9-10:30am: Bill will do a demo
- 10:30am – 3:15pm: Artists paint- with break for lunch
- 3:15-4pm: Critique

Bill's suggestions for people taking his workshop:

“Students should bring their own images from which to paint. It is very important that their

subject matter speaks to them, i.e. they're excited and interested in their subject(s). For me, I love landscapes, seascapes and city scenes so I gravitate towards those kinds of images. Botanicals? Go for it! portraits, same. My workshop will focus more on watercolor technique than on subject matter.”

He has a list of suggested materials (below), but adds: “Students DO NOT need to go out and buy any of my suggestions but I do insist on GOOD paper.”

Materials:

- Paper
- **Good paper! I use Arches 300# Cold Press and Rough. 140# is fine as long as it's a good sheet of watercolor paper - no junk! You will never learn watercolor on inferior paper.**
- My palette
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- Cobalt Blue*
- Cerulean Blue*
- Cobalt Turquoise
- Rose Madder Genuine*

- Alizarin Crimson*
- Cadmium Red
- Cadmium Yellow*
- Burnt Sienna*
- Raw Sienna*
- Leaf Green
- Perylene Green
- Titanium White Gouache*
- **Bold = my “must have” colors*
- Brushes
- Mostly rounds with good points, a mop, a few flats, riggers
- My rounds are Escoda Perla. Misc.
- Your image from which to paint
- Paper towels
- Pencil (and eraser)
- Container for water
- Painting board
- Sponge
- White tape, if you're not using a block of watercolor paper

To reserve your spot please mail check for \$100 payable to Franklin Art Association, to: Treasurer, Franklin Art Asso-

ciation, 279 East Central Street, PMB 289, Franklin, MA 02038

Space is limited, so mail your check right away!

This program is financially supported by the Franklin Cultural District, Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Franklin Cultural Council.

Bill Lane is an Exhibiting Artist Member of the Providence Art Club as well as a Signature Artist Member in the New England Watercolor Society and the Rhode Island Watercolor Society, and an artist member of the Copley Society of Art in Boston.

“Everyday scenes from life intrigue me the most; be it a barren skyline, boats in the harbor or city life on a busy day. I observe how the light plays into the scene and reflects off the subjects. I work to capture that light and make it my point-of-interest in the painting.”

BillLaneWatercolors.com



Dean College Presents April Theatre and Dance Performances

The School of the Arts and the Joan Phelps Palladino School of Dance at Dean College will perform a number of performances throughout the month of April, including the *Freshman Theatre Showcase*, the *Senior Theatre Showcase*, the *Senior Dance Showcase* and the *Dance Company*.

The *Freshman Theatre Showcase* is an informal showing of monologues, scenes, songs, and theatre works brought to the stage by our first-year theatre majors. The *Freshman Theatre Showcase* will take place Friday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 10 at 2:00 p.m.

Featuring scenes, songs and monologues, the annual *Senior Theatre Showcase* is a celebration of the class of 2022 and the cohort's formal introduction to the professional theatre community. The *Senior Theatre Showcase* will take place Saturday, April 9 and Sunday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m.

The *Senior Dance Showcase* will take place Friday, April 22 and Saturday, April 23 at 7:30 p.m. Creating a performance from the ground up, our talented senior dance students share their choreography, performance and production expertise in this annual collaborative showcase.

The *Dance Company* will run from Thursday, April 28 through Sunday, May 1. Award-winning faculty and guest choreographers showcase the impressive talent of our dance majors through a mixed bill of new and restaged dance works, ranging in style from hip-hop to jazz dance, tap to modern and ballet. The *Dance Company* will take place at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, with matinee performances at 2:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

All four productions will take place in the Main Stage in the Campus Center at Dean College, 109 West Central Street, Franklin.

Dean College welcomes families and guests over the age of 12 to all our performances, provided patrons have complied with all COVID-19 safety guidelines.

To learn more about the show and all safety policies, and to purchase tickets, visit www.dean.edu/boxoffice.

Warm weather. Beaches. Golfing. Hiking. Outdoor dining. Are you looking forward to summer as much as we are? Then promote your business and events with our inaugural Summer Guide – jam-packed with things to do this summer. Just add warm weather!

Summer GUIDE

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The Franklin Republican Town Committee Announces Edward W. Brooke Scholarship

The Franklin Republican Town Committee (RTC), the official organization of registered Republicans in the Town of Franklin, has announced that it is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating senior at Franklin High School. The only requirement is that students applying must demonstrate an understanding of Senator Brooke's legacy and its relevance today. Applicants must submit a brief essay on this topic. Scholarship information is available from the school starting March 4. The deadline at Franklin High School is Mar. 21.

Wednesday, May 25, 2022 is the tentative date for in-person



Awards Night at the high school. Republican Senator Edward W. Brooke, the first black person ever elected to the U.S. Senate, represented Massachusetts from 1967 to 1979. He was also a decorated veteran of World War II.

St. John's Episcopal Church Holy Week Schedule

All Services are In-Person AND Remote. Please use the Sunday Zoom link or Facebook Live

- Palm Sunday Family Service - April 10th at 10 a.m.
- Candlelight Evensong for Ukraine Wednesday, April 13th at 7 p.m.
- Maundy Thursday - April 14th at 7 p.m.
Eucharist and Footwashing
Stripping of the Altar
- Good Friday Liturgy - April 15th at 7 p.m.
Veneration of the Cross
Communion from the Reserved Sacrament
- Easter Day - April 17th
9 a.m. - Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn then potluck Easter brunch
10 a.m.- Service of Resurrection

Like us on Facebook at St John's Episcopal Church
See our website at www.stjohnsfranklinma.org.
For more information, call (508) 528-2387, or email Admin@StJohnsFranklinMA.org



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Calendar

<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">April 5</div> <p>The Franklin Garden Club and Franklin Public Library, present "Easy Rose Care," 7 p.m., Franklin Library, 118 Main Street, Franklin, presented by Teresa Mosher, past President of the New England Rose Society, a Horticulture Rose Judge and Master Rosarian for the American Rose Society</p> <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">April 6</div> <p>Franklin Art Association monthly meeting, 10 Daniel McCahill St., Franklin, 6:30 business, 7 p.m. presentation by artist Bill Lane</p> <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">April 7</div> <p>Franklin Downtown Partnership General Meeting, 8:30 a.m., Zoom, visit www.franklindowntownpartnership.org for more info.</p> <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">April 8</div> <p>10th Annual Culinary Cabaret, 7 p.m., THE BLACK BOX, 15 West Central St., Franklin, spotlights region's outstanding culinary talent, showcasing fine wines, craft beer, delectable spir-its, flavorful dishes, and mouth-watering desserts by partners including The Gavel, Raillery, Curry House, Teddy Gallagher's, Parker's Pub, Salty Days Fish Market, Pour Richard's, Bakeshack, and more, with performance by Electric Youth and guest artists, \$75, THE-BLACKBOXonline.com or at (508) 528-3370</p>	<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">April 12</div> <p>The Basics of Hydroponics with Blackstone Valley Veggie Gardens, 7 p.m., Franklin Public Library</p> <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">April 15</div> <p>Franklin Library Book Sale, 1-5 p.m.</p> <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">April 16</div> <p>Franklin Library Book Sale, 9 a.m. to 12 Noon., \$5 bag sale 1-4 p.m.</p> <p>How to Sell and Buy Successfully in a Low Inventory Market, 3 p.m., Franklin Public Library, Kara Trombly of Suburban Lifestyle Real Estate and Signe Johns of Fairway Independent Mortgage are offering this real estate workshop</p> <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">April 19</div> <p>Franklin Rotary Club Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Rome Restaurant, 4 East Central Street, Franklin, email Diane Padula at padularotary@gmail.com for more information.</p> <div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">April 20</div> <p>Franklin Newcomers Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 3 Restaurant (upstairs), 461 W. Central St., Franklin, includes appetizers, featured speakers Lisa Mosczynski and Susan Speers, volunteers with Metacomel Land</p>
<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">April 23</div> <p>Friends of the Norfolk Public Library annual Book and Bake Sale, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Freeman-Kennedy School, 70 Boardman Street, Norfolk. Over 30,000 books, priced at 50¢ to \$3.00. Friends-Only Preview and Sale on Friday, April 22nd 6-9 p.m. Friends memberships starting at \$20 available at the door beginning at 5 p.m. For information: http://www.norfolkmalibrary-friends.org</p>	
<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">April 26</div> <p>Franklin Public Library Book Club, 7 p.m., The <i>Midnight Library</i>, by Matt Haig, at library and on Zoom at https://us-02web.zoom.us/j/81204204204?pwd=Z0kduuppj0oGd1riTUPnGfsy7Qph0WGxFTk.</p>	
<div style="background-color: #0056b3; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">April 30</div> <p>Letters from Red Farm: The Untold Story of the Friendship between Helen Keller and Journalist Joseph Edgar Chamberlin with Author Elizabeth Emerson 3 p.m., Franklin Public Library</p>	

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"Let's Play Ball!" Still the Call for Senior Softball Players

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

Once an athlete, always an athlete. That love of playing sports doesn't fade with age, as members of the coed Eastern Massachusetts Senior Softball (EMASS) will tell you. The league welcomes slow-pitch softball players age 50 and over of all skill levels.

John Neas, of Franklin, has played in other leagues but played the last four seasons with EMASS. "It's good exercise, good camaraderie and great fun!" he says. The 71-year-old plays on a team with his brother Saturday mornings, but notes, "some of the guys and gals play in two or three divisions each week."

With over 400 members, the league attracts players across Eastern Massachusetts with games on fields in Wayland, Medfield, and Framingham. The EMASS season opens in early May, with 18 weeks of regular season games scheduled through Labor Day and year-end playoffs in early October.

"We are preparing for growth by rebalancing our Saturday divisions and adding a new week-

day division to expand from 35 teams to over 40 teams," said Walker Royce, Commissioner of EMASS.

Tom Galindo, of Bellingham, has played EMASS Senior Softball for 20 years. A baseball player since childhood, and softball player since graduating college, Galindo looks "forward to ...the activity, the competitiveness – even though we're the age we are. I play in the Metro, the senior division. It's for the older guys, but it's still competitive, and it's a lot of fun. The rules are there because of the age, obviously, but it doesn't take away from the game."

Many EMASS players in their fifties and sixties can still hit a ball over 300-foot fences or run down a deep line drive in the outfield.

Galindo says that, although his skills aren't what they used to be, "You want to perform well. You're out there to have fun, but you still want to beat the other team. Some guys still hit the ball really hard, but for the most part, your days of sliding and taking out the second baseman are over. They try to be cognizant of people's welfare."



EMASS Senior Softball League player Kevin Hayes, of Bellingham, takes a swing. The league's season opens in early May.

Michael Walker-Jones, of Franklin, found the league 22 years ago. When he first began, he was working full time, and coaching and refereeing soccer, so he found weekend games convenient. Having played in another "excellent" 35+ league, Walker-Jones realized, at 50, that he sought fun, while some younger players "were still looking to get into the World Series." Still, he says, "If you get out there and watch us on a Saturday, you wouldn't think we're retired."

Walker-Jones appreciates the league "trying more and more to bracket off the age groups so you

don't have 75-year-olds competing with 55-year-olds." He adds, "There's great camaraderie, and as I got older, it was just the place to be. My only regret is I have not seen an increase in the number of women, and I haven't seen enough men or women of color. I would love to see more. If you like ball ... come and join us."

Good sportsmanship is a huge draw. Mike Tutin, at 53, joined EMASS last year to play alongside his brother. EMASS, he says, "is definitely laid back. No one really critiques or complains. You get your people that are hard core, but I was lucky. The team I was on was the best group of guys you could play with. It was so relaxing and fun, and the rules make it easier. You're not going to get blown out, you always feel like you're in the game, and you're not stuck up there for three hours to get up to bat. It's very rare you see someone so upset they walked off the field. A lot of times people are laughing after the game."

EMASS Senior rules, such as a third base commitment line, says Tutin, ensure player safety.

"Here we are in our 60s, 70s, or 80s, but just like when we were playing little league, we are always kidding around or giving someone a 'nice hit' or 'nice catch.' I believe it keeps you healthy being outside and interacting with people your age and different backgrounds. It gives you the opportunity to forget the worries or stress you might have and just enjoy yourself," says Donald Kelly, 70, of Franklin, who began playing as a substitute when he was under 55. The number of divisions allows people of all abilities to play, he says.

EMASS, with paid umpires and a recent investment in team manager training, umpire clinics/certification, new equipment and a rich website, will open its 2022 season with over 40 teams competing in 6 different divisions – two Saturday divisions and four weekday divisions, each playing a double header each week.

"You like to see more people join, and when they join, they come back," adds Galindo.

For more information about EMASS Senior Softball League, visit www.e-mass.org.

Ryan Martin named Vice President, Portfolio Manager at Rockland Trust Investment Management Group

Franklin, MA - Rockland Trust's Investment Management Group (IMG) recently appointed Ryan Martin as Vice President, Portfolio Manager. In this role, Ryan will focus on taking a personal approach to integrating

investment strategies that help position his clients appropriately to achieve their long-term goals. Ryan will be working primarily out of our Franklin office but will service clients as south as Cape Cod.

Ryan has worked in the financial services industry since 2004. Prior to joining Rockland Trust, he spent 17 years at Eastern Bank Wealth Management where he was most recently a Vice President & Relationship Manager managing portfolios for high-net-worth individuals and institutions. He will work primarily out of the Franklin office and will cover that area and further south into Cape Cod.

Ryan received his Bachelor of Science in Finance from Bentley University. As someone who grew up on Cape Cod during a time of development boom and now seeing the ongoing housing crisis – Ryan wanted to be a part of the solution. Since 2018, he has been an active member of the Cape & Island United Way Housing Committee where he is playing a part in tackling the homelessness and affordable housing issues in

the region. Ryan currently lives in Mansfield with his wife and two children.

For information about Rockland Trust's Investment Management Group visit <https://www.rocklandtrust.com/wealth-and-investments>.

For more information about Rockland Trust, visit RocklandTrust.com.

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Franklin Police Execute Warrants, Make Arrests

After a joint investigation with the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Massachusetts State Police, Franklin Police Detectives executed multiple search warrants on Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at 258 Washington Street, Apartment #2, Franklin.

During the course of the investigation a package was intercepted through the mail which was addressed to an occupant at 258 Washington Street Apt. 2. Probable cause was developed that illegal narcotics were contained in the package.

On Wednesday, February 23, 2022 with the assistance of the Metro-LEC Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT), the package was delivered and the search warrant was executed. Two illegal firearms were located in a bedroom of the apart-

ment. One was a fully loaded AK-47 rifle and a loaded Mossberg 12 gauge shotgun. Several types of controlled substances were also found in the apartment.

Due to this investigation in conjunction with the evidence seized as a result of the three search warrants, three individuals were charged in this case. At *Local Town Pages'* deadline, Harry Alberini (04/13/1980), Sonya Peterson (09/18/1977), and Joseph Martin-Morse (09/16/1980) were to be charged with several firearms and drug related charges at Wrentham District Court



Sports

State Crown Top Priority for FHS Girls Lacrosse Team

By KEN HAMWEY,
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Kristin Igoe's prime goal as she begins her 10th season this month as the girls' varsity lacrosse coach at Franklin High speaks volumes about the Panthers' program.

The 32-year-old coach mentions daily improvement and winning the Kelly Rex Division title as objectives but her No. 1 priority is to become state champions. That goal may sound bold and lofty but consider what's occurred during her time at Franklin's helm. There's been four sectional championships, four berths in the state's final four, eight straight Kelly-Rex titles, and playoff appearances every year.

Last year's squad, which was 18-0 when it faced Westwood for the Division 1 crown, came close to capturing the school's first state title in girls' lacrosse. Franklin lost to the Wolverines, 6-5. Only three seniors graduated from that team, and Igoe has 15 experienced players returning.

"This year's group has the potential to be the best team I've ever coached," said Igoe, who played on two state championship teams at Framingham High. "The keys to winning a state championship are to stay injury-free, get some luck along the way and to stay focused. We must also thrive on a team-first approach and challenge ourselves in practice."

Igoe's optimistic outlook for a long journey in the playoffs stems from the attributes the current contingent possesses.

"We're athletic, we've got speed, quickness, and good instincts and the squad's lacrosse IQ is high," Igoe said. "Other strengths include versatility, a coachable nature, leadership, technical skills, experience and depth. What we have to guard against is complacency."

Because of Igoe's competitive philosophy, it's highly unlikely complacency will be an issue. "We've built a culture at Franklin that focuses on having fun while competing, working hard and reaching your potential," Igoe emphasized. "When those things



Franklin coach Kristin Igoe has guided the Panthers to four appearances in the State's final four.

happen, winning will be the by-product."

Five seniors who'll no doubt fuel a winning outcome are midfielders Kenzie Baker, Jackie O'Neil, Kate O'Rourke and Stella Regan and goalie Brigid Earley.

Baker, Regan O'Neil and O'Rourke were Hockomock League all-stars. Last year, Baker had 42 goals and 16 assists; Regan netted 33 goals and had 37 assists; O'Neil had 30 goals and nine assists; and O'Rourke scored 36 goals and assisted on 15 others. Earley had a goals-against average of 4.5 and a save percentage of 50.

"Kenzie will be playing next year at UMass-Lowell," Igoe noted. "She's a hard-worker who's tenacious. Excellent in transition, she's got a high lacrosse IQ and is technically skilled. Jackie can play either midfield or attack. She's selfless, preferring to pass more than shoot. Capable on attack, she's very effective on defense. She could be a walk-on at Villanova next year.

"Kate will play next year at the University of New Hampshire. She's scrappy, excellent in transition, good in the draw circle and a strong dodger. Stella will play for Colby next year. She's shifty, gets to the goal and is fast and aggressive. Strong in transition, she's also solid on draws. Brigid is a multi-sport athlete who's instinctive in goal. Her height (six feet) is helpful. No one wanted to play goalie last year, but she stepped up. She's calm under pressure."

Five juniors, four of whom have committed to playing in college, will be counted on to contribute in key situations. They include Katie Peterson (midfield/attack/defender), Kaitlyn Carney (midfield/attack), Jamie Tanner (midfield/defender), defender Payten Crandall, and midfielder Lindsay Atkinson.

Peterson had 32 goals and 29 assists last year; Tanner scored 21 goals and had 10 assists; Carney had 47 goals and 16 assists; and Atkinson netted 17 goals and assisted on 10 others.

"Katie will play next year at UMass-Amherst," Igoe said. "She's a hard-worker who's versatile, athletic, talented and technically skilled. A team-first player, she's an adept scorer and passer. Kaitlyn will play next year at James Madison University in Virginia. She scored two goals and had an assist in last year's state final game. She rises to the occasion. Her hard shot and her attacking skills are big assets.

"Jamie will play for Sacred Heart (Connecticut)," Igoe said. "She always steps up on defense and marks our opponents' top scorer. She clears the ball well and her communication is excellent. Payten will play for Stonehill. Aggressive and scrappy, she reads offenses very effectively. A good athlete, she's instinctive and her footwork is top-notch."

Atkinson, who suffered a torn ACL late in the season last spring, underwent surgery and a year's rehab. Igoe expects her to be competing later this month. "Lindsay is one of our



The 2021 Franklin girls' lacrosse team celebrates after defeating Chelmsford to advance to the State final against Westwood.

fastest players," Igoe said. "She's well-rounded and very capable whether passing or shooting."

It's obvious the Panthers have another talented team, but Igoe's background and expertise in the sport that puts Franklin's program at an elite level. A native of Framingham, she was a three-time Bay State Conference all-star as a midfielder. After playing on two state title teams at Framingham, she continued playing at Boston College, named Atlantic Coast Conference all-star during her four years for the Eagles. After graduating from BC, she played professionally for three years with the Women's Professional Lacrosse League. With a

bachelor's and master's degrees in education, the married mother of three boys is co-owner of Gold Star Lacrosse.

"Franklin's lacrosse program was strong before I became the school's coach," Igoe offered. "Much of our tradition and success comes from a strong youth program with quality coaches and from dedicated athletes who compete year-round and come from supportive families. Many parents support the team and become part of the booster club."

The Panthers will be in the mix to win the state crown in June. Igoe is optimistic it can happen. And, if it does, it won't be by accident.

For updates on area wrestlers who competed in the State, All-State and New England tournaments, and for basketball and hockey teams that advanced deep into the State Tournament, go to franklintownnews.com.

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**Franklin Nonprofits Encouraged
to Use FANN Hashtag**

**#FranklinCAN to Spread Word When
Community Action Is Needed**

Franklin is a caring community. It has been known to come out, to show up, to support when needed. Time, and time again. Members of the Franklin Area Nonprofit Network (FANN) need to take advantage of this to accomplish what each organization is focused on. The FANN will help in that effort.

#Franklin community action now (CAN) is a simple way for all nonprofits to help each other spread the work on each other's fund raising efforts, events, etc.

1. When community action is needed, your organization can plan accordingly. Devise whatever is required for fund raising, collection, pick up, etc.

2. As you communicate to your followers, send the event, or action to the FANN. We'll put it on the calendar

3. As you create your social media campaign, figure out how to add #FranklinCAN (fill in the blanks) to your social posts. What (fill in the blank) makes sense for this event, action, etc for you/your organization

4. Mark your social media communications with the hashtag #FranklinCAN(fill in the blank)

5. FANN members can set up a Google alert for #FranklinCAN to find out what is happening

6. The FANN and other members can share that hashtag to help spread the word on your effort

So easy!

You do what you need to do and with the #FranklinCAN(fill in the blank) hashtag, the FANN can help spread the word to make your event or effort more successful.

Some examples might be

- #FranklinCANpickup
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How can the community help you? #FranklinCAN

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130 Mechanic St.
Foxboro



124 Minot Ave. U:2
Wareham



124 Minot Ave. U:1
Wareham



342-344 Summer St.
Franklin



31 Holly Cir.
Weston



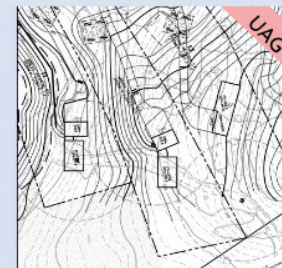
Amberfields-
Lot 17
Wrentham



Amberfields-
Lot 11
Wrentham



Amberfields-
Lot 13
Wrentham



Amberfields-
Lot 12
Wrentham



36 Forest St.
Franklin



Amberfields-
Lot 10
Wrentham



Amberfields-
Lot 21
Wrentham



166 Oak St.
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111 Stone Ridge Rd.
Franklin

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\$1,099,000

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\$289,900

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\$835,000

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SOLD

99 Melendy Ave U: 99, Watertown
\$677,888

BEAUTIFUL BRICK CAPE

SOLD

78 Washington St, Dedham
\$425,000

SPECTACULAR

BUILD TO YOUR NEEDS

24 Wildflower Path, Hudson
\$1,024,500

12 ACRES, 2 HOMES

SOLD

7 Pineview Terrace, Mansfield
\$425,000

NEW CONSTRUCTION

UNDER AGREEMENT

1135 Central, Stoughton
\$689,900

FIVE BEDROOMS

SOLD

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\$475,000

STUNNING COLONIAL

SOLD

12 Berkshire Drive, Franklin
\$1,205,000

BRAND NEW COLONIAL

SOLD

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\$839,900

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\$505,000

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