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Bellingham's Favorite Hometown Newspaper

September 2022

## 300th Anniversary Time Capsule Closing Ceremony (Finally) Takes Place

By J.D. O'GARA

It might have taken place a few years too late, due to a pandemic-related shutdown, but the town of Bellingham finally sealed its 300th Anniversary Time Capsule, on August 11th, 2022, at the onset of the 2022 Bellingham Days festival.

Emceed by Bernadette Rivard, who was acting as the Bellingham Library Director, a member of the Bellingham Historical Commission and a member of the Bellingham 300th Anniversary Committee, the event was geared toward communicating with Bellingham residents 25 years into the future.

"Tonight, we are going to time-travel to 2044, but instead of opening the Time Capsule, we are going to be putting the items into it for those members of the 325th Anniversary Committee to see 22 years from now," said Rivard. She penned a letter for those residents to read, with some explanations of the pieces of Bellingham's past they will find.

Among items included was memorabilia from Bellingham's Zip Trip, which took place during the town's 300th year. Joe Lyons, 300th Anniversary Committee member, recounted that day's events for those in attendance at the library, noting that Gene Lavanchy hosted the program.



**300TH**

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**BVT is one of 90 vocational high schools in Massachusetts. A recent study by the Pioneer Institute found the Commonwealth's approach to this style of education produced the highest voc-tech graduation rates and test scores country.**

## BVT Exemplifies Excellence of Mass Voc-Tech Schools

By ANGIE FITTON

In the state of Massachusetts, long ago dubbed the "grandfather of vocational education," there are 90 school districts that offer vocational options alongside traditional schooling. These vocational schools, as mentioned in the book *Hands-On Achievement* with research conducted by the Pioneer Institute, have higher than average graduation rates and scores on

the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests. Massachusetts voc-tech schools have high standards for educators. In order to teach in one of these vocational schools, you must have licensing from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). You will need to hold an associate's,

**BVT**

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300TH

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Among other items included was a photo book made by Jim Hastings of The Wall That Heals' visit to the community, coasters and a brick from 300th anniversary fundraising, a number of t-shirts and many publications.

Rick Marcoux, chair of the Bellingham Historical Commission and Pam Johnson, Historical Commission Member, and

founder of the *Bellingham Bulletin*, assisted Rivard in placing items into the box.



Joe Lyons talked about Fox 25's Zip Trip to Bellingham in the town's 300th year.



Bernadette Rivard, left, had help from Rick Marcoux and Pam Johnson in sealing the 300th anniversary time capsule.



These Bellingham 300th Anniversary coasters were among the items placed in the time capsule.

## Dear Bellingham 325th Anniversary Committee:

This time capsule was closed at the Bellingham Library on Thursday, August 11, 2022 during the town's annual Bellingham Days Celebration. The event was originally scheduled for April 2020, and was long-delayed due to the global pandemic caused by COVID-19. More on that later.

Every 25 years Bellingham opens and closes a time capsule to remember the past and preserve the present. The 1994 capsule was opened on June 2, 2019 and it contained a menu from Ma Glockner's Restaurant, mugs and t-shirts from local businesses, and newspaper articles from the time period. It also

included a guest book from the 1939-1969 BHS Class Reunion held in April of 1969 as well as a grocery list with prices for milk - \$2.09 per gallon (it was \$3.04 in 2019), bread \$1.19 per loaf (it was \$1.50 in 2019) and a note that minimum wage was a whopping \$4.25 (in Massachusetts it was \$12.00 in 2019).

For the 300th year we included the following items in the 2019 Time Capsule, with notation that it should be opened during the 325th Anniversary Year in 2044.

300TH

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It has come to our attention that a paid Political Spotlight did not have the proper disclaimer stating "Paid Advertisement" in our August edition. For the record, the article was paid for by the Committee to Elect Chris Doughty. This was an unfortunate oversight. As the publisher I do not endorse any candidates and as a media source stay neutral in all political matters. I apologize for any confusion this oversight has caused. This experience has shown how passionate our readers are. Keep on reading.  
-Publisher  
Charles Tashjian

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**300TH**

*continued from page 2*

We included the following items:

**300th Anniversary Memorabilia**

300th Anniversary Model Cake and 2019 – this cake and sign was on display at the library and brought to many events throughout the Anniversary year. It was also used as a “bank” for fundraising!

300th Anniversary Flag – this flag was on display at 300th Anniversary events throughout town

2019 Boston Post Cane – this replica of the cane was presented to Bellingham’s eldest resident, Mary Markey, in 2019. Mary passed away in 2022.

300th Anniversary Coaster Set (the Friends of the Library sold these as a joint fundraiser with the 300th Committee - donated by Bernadette Rivard, Library Director)

300th Anniversary Pins – these were sold at events and were provided to people who attended the closing ceremony in 2022.

300th Anniversary Volunteer TShirt – All volunteers at the Bellingham Days events in August of 2019 were provided with volunteer tshirts.

Bellingham TShirts – with various locations around town, donated by Pam Johnson

300th Anniversary Fundraiser Brick (bricks were installed at 300th Anniversary Park, located in front of the Municipal Center) – Donated by Denis Fraine

300th Anniversary Hooded Sweatshirt – The “hoodies” were sold as a fundraiser. This one was donated by Bernadette Rivard, Library Director

Wall That Heals T-Shirt – These shirts were worn by volunteers at the Wall That Heals event and was donated by Jim Hastings, Memorial & Veterans Day Committee Chair

**300th Anniversary Publications**

300th Anniversary Issue of the *Crimpville Comments*

300th Anniversary Event Calendar

300th Anniversary Book, *Bellingham Now & Then* – Donated by the Friends of the Library

Wall That Heals Book – Donated by Jim Hastings, Memorial & Veterans Day Committee

DVD of ABMI Cable 8 “Something Special” Show – Linda Trudeau interviews Jen Altomonte (Chair of the 300th Anniversary Committee) and Cindy McNulty (Select Board Member)

DVD of ABMI Cable 8 *Something Special* Show – Linda Trudeau interviews Sarah Houle (Secretary of the 300th Anniversary Committee), Christine Cooper (Publicity Coordinator), and Joe Lyons (Volunteer Coordinator).

Issues of the *Bellingham Bulletin*, donated by Pam Johnson

**In the News and at The Time**

We received a request to include these “Game of Thrones” Coins, donated by Stacy Corrigan stating it belongs in the time capsule because “Game of Thrones was a sensation that culminated in the finale in 2019. This gave us the idea to record all the popular and acclaimed TV, movies, music and books for 2019. They include:

TV Shows – “Game of Thrones,” “Stranger Things,” “When They See Us,” “Chernobyl,” “The Mandalorian”

Movies – *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Green Book*, *Avengers: End Game*, *Frozen II*, *Toy Story 4*

Music – Bad Guy by Billie Eilish, “Truth Hurts” by Lizzo, Sucker by Jonas Brothers, “Old Town Road” by Lil Nas X featuring Billy Ray Cyrus, and Con Altura by Rosalia featuring J. Balvin and El Guincho

Books – *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens, *The Testaments* by Margaret Atwood, *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead, *The Dutch House* by Anne Patchett, *The Silent Patient* by Alex Michaelides

The top 10 news stories from CNN were:

- #10 Image of a drowned man and his daughter underscores the crisis at the US-Mexico Border
- #9 Cameron Boyce, Disney star, dies at 20 after a seizure, family says
- #8 Government Shutdown
- #7 Police sources: New evidence suggests Jussie Smollett orchestrated attack
- #6 The Dayton shooter wore a mask, bulletproof vest and hearing protection as he opened fire

- #5 Deadly shooting in El Paso, TX
- #4 President Trump has been impeached
- #3 Dozens killed in Christchurch mosque shooting
- #2 Hurricane Dorian slams into the Bahamas
- #1 Fire at Notre Dame Cathedral

And last, but certainly not least, in December of 2019 the disease that came to be known as COVID-19 was identified as an unknown disease, causing shortness of breath, fever and death in China. By late January the CDC was screening passengers arriving from China at major US Airports and the first cases were identified in the US. Anyone above the age of 4 at the time knows what happened next.

We thought it was important to include some of the items that became part of our every-

day lives from 2019 through 2022, like masks, gloves and face shields. Also included is the May 24, 2020 issue of the *New York Times* that marked what it called the “Incalculable Loss” - the 100,000 deaths to that date. Also included is Library Director, Bernadette Rivard’s journal of her perspective as a Library Director and daughter who was unable to visit her mother in a nursing home for over 2 months.

We hope that those opening this time capsule in 2044 enjoy seeing this glimpse back of what was happening in Bellingham in 2019 and use this time capsule treasure chest to store the memories of 2044 for 2069. As I write this, I think those years sound like a science fiction movie, but I guess that was technically 2001.

*Bernadette Rivard*  
Secretary  
*Bellingham Historical Commission*

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# From the Town Clerk: September is Here!

## Massachusetts State Primary

The State Primary is taking place in the Bellingham High School gymnasium on Tuesday, September 6th. Early Voting for this election at the Municipal Center ends on Friday, September 2nd. The last day/time to vote in the Town Clerk's office is Monday, September 5th at noon. The deadline has passed for vote-by-mail ballots; however, absentee applications may be obtained up until September 5th. Both Vote-by-Mail and Absentee ballots must be postmarked no later than midnight on September 6, and, received by close of business on September 9th in order to be counted.

This State Primary is being held to choose candidate from the Democrat and Republican parties for the following offices: Representative in Congress, Governor, Lieutenant Gover-

nor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, State Auditor, Governor's Council, State Senator, State Representative, District Attorney, Sheriff, County Commissioner. Unenrolled (no party affiliation) may choose a ballot from either one of the major parties.

## Happy 25th Anniversary to the Bellingham Town Common!

The Trustees of the Bellingham Town Common will be hosting a celebration commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Town Common in its current location. Please join us from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. on September 10th (rain date September 17th). Entertainment will be provided by Bellingham's own "Two of a Kind Crooners", Robert and Joseph Oliver. There will be pony rides, pizza, cake, soda, and snacks. Bring a beach chair or blanket and come and enjoy!

## BVT

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bachelor's or master's degree in teaching and have state academic licenses in your field. You must have 3-5 years experience in your field, pass Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL) or Literary Skills testing and have 18 college credits in vocational education courses approved by the state. Some fields also require state, federal or industry-issued licenses and certifications.

Unlike in the past, many vocational schools now offer Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Students who get into their regional or district vocational school do not have to choose between voc-tech education and sports or advanced curriculums, as these schools now offer sports electives. Students are also allowed and encouraged to work in real-life settings. For instance, many of these schools allow members of the community to utilize their services. A popular example is folks using a vocational school's auto shop, where they pay only for materials, not labor.

Vocational schools are responsible for equipping shops, on top of everyday academics. For this reason, their expenditures per student average \$22,427, whereas non-vocational expenditures average \$17,058. More than half of all MA vocational students make the decision to go on to postsecondary education, attending colleges and universities both in and out of state. Also, to add to the importance of vocational schooling, every MA voc-tech school has an advisory council of 10-15 members of the community. Their job is to make sure state-of-the-art programs are available, and they also assist the Superintendent. Voc-tech can be the best option for students who deal better with hands-on learning.

Among these vocational schools is the exemplary Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT), whose Superintendent is Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick, a nationally recognized expert in career voc-tech education. He has been in the teaching field for 50 years and a Superintendent for 30. This makes it no surprise that BVT is the first vocational school to have multiple years where 100% of students passed MCAS to graduate. According to Dr. Fitzpatrick, when the Massachusetts Education Reform Act introduced MCAS in 1993, voc-tech students were going to be exempt, indicating they couldn't pass the test, which is a requirement to be a graduate of high school. The doctor states, "I'm glad we were right in believing in the students. Their scores were far better than people expected."

Along with great test scores, for years, BVT has also had zero dropouts. "Vibrant teaching encourages record attendance," Fitzpatrick emphasizes.

Students at BVT take part in countless community projects that they can then add to their electronic portfolios, which they

then show on college applications. Named after the Mascot, which is a beaver, the school is home to "Sporty's Closet," a place for families in need to receive clothing and goods. According to Fitzpatrick, the students are great about bringing in donations. When they had a new facility built, BVT used their own students for electrical, plumbing, carpentry, metal fabrication, painting and HVAC. These students worked alongside subcontractors. To this day, the students help with on-campus improvements. "We are constantly in the process of renovating and improving the school environment," states Fitzpatrick.

At BVT you're able to dine in the student restaurant, but by reservation only. "We want to be sensitive to area restaurants and not compete with them." Fitzpatrick shared that the school has three chefs and a baker in the day teaching program.

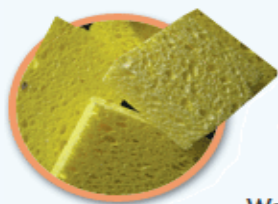
BVT has 13 municipalities, serving middle class towns. The towns who are in attendance are Bellingham, Blackstone, Douglas, Grafton, Hopedale, Mendon, Milford, Millbury, Millville, Northbridge, Sutton, Upton and Uxbridge. The address is 65 Pleasant St in Upton, and their graduation rate is 98.2%, whereas the state graduation rate is 83.4%. BVT also has the longest school year; 193 student contact days. This was implemented at a gradual rate over the years and has proven to be successful. Even with this longer year, attendance rates are significantly higher than other schools, translating to lower dropout rates.

"Any success we accomplish is a team effort. We are in a culture of commitment to the capability of the students." Dr. Fitzpatrick also said that the students with whom he'd spoken before the school year were excited about starting. One student's father even laughed about his son being ready to "run to the bus stop."



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# Never ask your teen, "Where do you want to go to college?"

From birth, parents control kids' activities, finances and help shape their problem-solving skills. It continues through high school, then something strange happens... parents step back and ask their teenager, "Where do you want to go to college?"

Stop!

You'd never take them to a car lot and ask, "What car do you want to drive home today?" Yet, the crazy notion of financing a \$75,000 car for your teen would cost considerably less.

**Take control, don't be another victim** - The student debt crisis has many sides to blame: government taking over student lending in 2009, unlimited money supply allows schools to raise tuition 5-7% annually and students (plus parents) desire for "brand name" schools on top of college rankings lists.

**College Rankings lists are brand marketing** - CNBC's latest "Colleges That Pay Off The Most" listed Stanford #1 again, followed by the usual trophy schools - ones kids (and parents) brag about attending. Criteria is based on 10-year earnings of graduates minus college costs.

Sounds noble until you discover costs are calculated based on Average Net Price Tuition for



Glenn Brown

a family income \$48-75K, which for Stanford is \$3,490. Realize under 1% of 7,083 Stanford undergrads pay this, while 52% pay the full \$55,000 tuition. If cost criteria was tuition paid by majority over 4 years (\$220,000) instead of paid by less than 1% (\$14,000), would Stanford and others even make this list?

**"What are you interested in doing for work?"** - This is the appropriate question and should be the focus of your teenager.

Share family finances with your teenager and together execute a broad screening of schools based on programs offered to benefit a desired profession. Become educated on Return on Investment (ROI) using school's data on 5-year earnings per de-

gree (not just the school) and calculate your true costs to attend.

**Use Net Price Calculators (NPCs)** - Found on a college's website, these are designed to generate your personal cost to attend. You'll share information from tax returns, size of non-retirement investment accounts, children's accounts (i.e. 529s) and for merit scholarship purposes supply GPA, test scores, class rank and activities.

You'll discover if \$55K tuition may be \$34K, \$23K or harsh reality it will be \$55K. Because you've shared available savings, your teen can visualize their debt obligation upon graduation before they get emotionally invested.

**The road less traveled yields merit** - "Top ranked" schools get thousands of honor roll students applying and willing to pay, so merit scholarships are awarded to those truly moving future rankings.

Same honor roll student discovers a lesser-known college based on a program of interest,

engages with a local recruiter, shares financial information, and chooses early decision or early action - here comes the merit.

For these schools to compete, they're willing to invest in your kid's ability to excel upon graduation, raise the 5 and 10-year earnings of graduates from the program and be an advocate for the college.

Eliminate emotional decisions to raid investment accounts, borrow heavily and/or delay retirement to make your teenager happy, because they won't be. Instead, lead a process that engages them, puts them on a desired career path and provides financial

transparency now and in their future.

*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](http://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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# Municipal Spotlight: Marano 'Excited' About Direction of Bellingham Schools

By KEN HAMWEY,  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Peter Marano, who's in his eighth year as Bellingham's School Superintendent, is optimistic about the future.

The 49-year-old Marano would be the first to admit that the COVID-19 pandemic took its toll on students, parents, teachers and administrators, but he's upbeat after the positive strides that occurred during the 2021-22 school year.

"The return to in-person learning in all of our schools was a major step forward," Marano said. "Remote and hybrid learning disappeared, masks became optional, and a sense of normalcy was prevalent. Children were back in their classrooms and teachers were able to instruct in a traditional way."

COVID-19, however, is still part of the public's vocabulary, and the virus is still a threat as new variants emerge. Its adverse effects on education were vivid, and Marano hopes he never has to deal with its negative nature again.

"During the last two years, students suffered socially and emotionally," he said. "They struggled to develop good peer relationships, and there was a general sense of frustration among students, staff and parents. We hope to continue with in-person learning but there still is uncertainty. We don't want to return to remote learning, and I'm optimistic we'll continue with the progress we made with in-person learning during the 2021-22 school year."

Following are areas that Marano listed that have either returned to pre-pandemic status or have experienced positive change:

- Enrollment — Marano says that about 1,900 students are enrolled in Bellingham's five schools and that number is status quo. "Our enrollment from pre-K to Grade 12 is about the same as it's been in the recent past," he indicated. "We lose students to private schools, the charter school in Franklin and Blackstone Valley Tech, but for the most part enrollment

remains on par."

- Athletics — "The pandemic regulations for sports during the last year loosened up so more fans could attend games," Marano said. "For the new school year there should be no regulations, or they'll at least be very minimal. Involvement and participation in athletics increased last year. For 2022-23, several new coaches were hired, and we look forward to our new coaches getting invested in our student-athletes."
- Teachers — Marano indicated that a large number of teachers retired after the 2021-22 school year. The number reached 15. "They've all been replaced," he said. "We lost some, because they changed careers, and it's likely the pandemic played a role in their decision."
- Nurses — There is a nurse at all five of Bellingham's schools and an LPN (Licensed Practical Nurse) has been added as a "floater." That new position was added last year. "It's a valuable position and it now is built into our budget," Marano said.

- Buses/drivers — Some school districts have experienced difficulty hiring drivers, but Marano noted that Bellingham is fortunate in that area. "Our company (Vendetti Bus Company) provides a capable service," he said. "I'm sure they probably have experienced a bus-driver shortage, but they've met our needs on a daily basis."
- Pandemic regulations — Just about all of the regulations implemented because of the coronavirus have been removed for the 2022-23 school year, but Marano said one key mandate remains. "If a student or teacher tests positive for COVID-19, the rules for isolation are still in force," he emphasized.
- Administration — Rachael Lawrence's retirement leaves the district with one assistant superintendent. "To replace her, a director of student services has been hired," Marano said. "Suzanne Michel of Winchendon will deal with special education. She brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in special education."




Peter Marano is in his eighth year as Bellingham's Superintendent of Schools.

- Grants — Three state and federal grants were awarded to the district. One for \$200,000 will enable the administration to purchase a new English Language Arts curriculum for pre-K up to grade 8. Another one (Innovation Pathway Grant) will allow for specific pathways for students to learn. "The pathway grant has been approved for manufacturing and engineering and health sciences," Marano said.

A third award is an Every Student Succeeds Grant. In response to the pandemic, Bellingham received \$400,000 from ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief). "This grant gives us money to address

**MARANO**  
continued on page 8



## Azza Law

Amy Azza, Esq

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# Family-run Affordable Junk Removal takes the stress out of cleanups

By CHRISTIE VOGT  
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Whether it's one old fridge in the garage or an entire home of unwanted goods, the team at Bellingham-based Affordable Junk Removal offers a cost-efficient, stress-free approach to waste management. "You don't lift a finger," says owner Jason Schadler, who started the company along with his wife Christine in 2005.

The business offers same-day service for both residential and commercial clients across eastern and central Massachusetts and northern Rhode Island. In addition to junk removal, the company rents 15-yard dumpsters.

As a family-owned and operated company, Schadler says Affordable Junk Removal has lower overhead costs and is more accessible than national competitors. "I answer my phone 24 hours a day," he says. "I was on vacation in Italy and Portugal, and I was still answering my phone on the beach. When you call us, you get me — not an automated machine!"

Schadler says the company has an environmentally friendly approach to disposal in which it recycles items when possible, properly disposes of non-recyclables and resells many items at the Schadlers' secondhand store, Resellables. "We opened that store in Bellingham because we hated to see things thrown away," Schadler says. "We have four kids and sustainability is extremely important to us."

During the business's early days, Schadler provided junk removal on nights and weekends when he wasn't busy working at a machine shop. Eventually, the business grew into a full-time endeavor, and the Schadlers invested back into the company with new equipment and techniques. "When I first started, for example, we didn't have any tarps. I'm driving around and things are flying out of my truck," Schadler laughs. "I'm like, 'Oh my god, I need a tarp.'"

Schadler says his wife Christine "was equally as involved" in getting the business off the ground. "She handled the back-end while I did the heavy lifting, all while she was working at



EMC," he says. "Fast forward 17 years, and we both work full time managing the company as well as other endeavors. Business is doing great; it has grown tremendously to a fleet of trucks and dumpsters, and we've also been able to buy a pizza place, The Corner Market in Holliston."

In addition to delivering an in-demand service to the community, Schadler is appreciative that Affordable Junk Removal has helped provide a work-life balance that suits his family. "It allows me to be able to do what I like doing and spend time with my kids," he says. "I'm home to see my babies play softball and do all that stuff. We are also able to give back to the communities we serve."

The Schadlers say that Bellingham has been an excellent hometown for both Affordable

## Business spotlight

Junk Removal and their Resellables shop, and they are proud to have many repeat customers and friends in the area.

One of the best parts of his job, Schadler says, is meeting and getting to know new people and developing relationships with returning customers. "We are really grateful for the repeat business and the chance to form connections with residents across the MetroWest area," he says.

To receive a free junk removal estimate, call (774) 287-1133 or visit [affordablejunkremoval.com](http://affordablejunkremoval.com).

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Christine and Jason Schadler, shown here with their children and dog, started Affordable Junk Removal in 2005.

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**H** **H**

**MARANO**

*continued from page 6*

the social and emotional needs of children,” Marano said. “It provides support for children to offset learning loss.”

The Superintendent said there are three areas that all five of Bellingham’s schools will be focused on for the new year — mathematics and English

Language Arts; security, and emotional support. “School security is an area where we’ll make sure all teachers are trained in all the up-to-date protocols for any intrusion,” he emphasized. “And we’ll provide robust emotional support for all children.”

Marano, who is in his 23rd year as an educator, previously was a guidance counsellor, assistant principal and principal. He has his bachelor’s and master’s

degrees in counselling from Assumption College and he has an EDD (Doctor of Education).

Pleased about the direction of Bellingham’s public schools, Marano said: “I’m excited about growing programs and providing a well-rounded curriculum for every student. I’m also proud of the work we do as a district, and I’m honored to be Bellingham’s Superintendent of Schools.”

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul to Sponsor Twelfth Annual “Friends of the Poor Walk”**

The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul, St. Blaise Bellingham Conference is participating for the 12th year in the nationally sponsored “Friends of the Poor Walk”. The Walk will take place rain or shine on Saturday, September 24, 2022. The walk registration begins at St. Blaise Church, 1158 South Main Street, Bellingham at 8:30 a.m. where the walkers will register and pick up a T shirt, snack and beverage. The walk will begin at St. Blaise Church and continue for 1.5 miles to and around the Common several times and back

to the church.

With the increase in the cost of gas/oil we anticipate a significant increase in the calls for assistance. The conference is looking to increase the participation and funds raised this year. All proceeds from the walk are used locally to assist Bellingham residents, regardless of faith. Assistance is provided for heating, gas, electrical bills, rent and other necessities. Approximately 50 families and 154 individuals have received assistance from the Bellingham Conference this past year totaling approximately \$29,000.

There are many ways people can help to ensure that the 12th Friends of the Poor Walk

is a successful one. One way is to register as a walker using the online registration system at [www.fopwalk.org](http://www.fopwalk.org). People may also register on the actual day of the Walk. You may donate to a specific walker or directly to the Bellingham conference at St Blaise on the same website, or make a check out directly to SVdP Bellingham Walk – c/o St. Blaise Parish, 1158 South Main Street, Bellingham 02019.

Join the walk and help us help those in need. Experience the good feeling that comes with helping individuals and families to find shelter, put food on the table, heat their homes, keep the lights on, provide for their children and remain in their homes.

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# Free Construction Help Stems from Entrepreneur's Faith

By DAVID DUNBAR

Giving back is something Marcus Wenger has become an expert in. He's the owner and general manager of Bay State Outdoor Personia, a Bellingham company that constructs and installs custom sheds.

"Community involvement gives us an opportunity to bless others with our successes," he explained in a recent "Core Values Speech". "We are dedicated to giving to those less fortunate periodically during scheduled days of charitable giving."

Four times a year, Wenger and his team of 25 or so designate a "day of charitable giving" and they will work on half a dozen projects that day.

"One of our crews used their skills to repair a shed with a roof that was ready to collapse. The thankful homeowners now have a better insulated and weather-resistant backyard workshop and storage space," he reports on the company's website. "We also helped clean up and rebuild another neighbor's roadside landscaping to prevent further damage to their house caused by passing traffic. At an elementary school's playground, one of our lead carpenters built a needed platform adaptable for children with special needs. Yet another crew traveled to a home damaged by recent storms, where they cleared out tree brush and

even repaired a pigeon coop."

Lenny Brooks, who turned 91 last month, needed help with an old shed at his home. So, he called Wenger. "Marcus and his team came out and put a brand-new roof on my 40-year-old shed. Excellent! Perfect job!"

Wenger does work for the elderly, disabled, vets, and "people who don't have the means to get it done any other way." He continues, "A lot of the people we help have helped others in the past or are helping someone now."

Bay State Outdoor Personia is a "faith-based company" says Wenger. And a passage from the Bible he quotes is from Proverbs: "Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor."

"We've been doing this for a couple of years now," Wenger recalls. He estimates that the total cost of the projects, which his company pays for, is in the range of \$40,000 to \$50,000 per year.

"My team and I are blessed financially, and we talked about ways we could give back, return the blessing" he says. "We wanted to make a difference personally."

"You guys are the best way to give back," writes Facebook poster Paul Rogers. "We love our pool house and loved the experience with all the crew that worked on it from start to finish."



Bellingham businessowner Marcus Wenger stands ready to offer construction services to those "who can't get the job done any other way"

*If you have a need, you can call Wenger at (508) 883-4043. If you'd like to know more about his company, then visit [www.outdoorpersonia.com](http://www.outdoorpersonia.com)*



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CNECA sets up and attends most major New England & national trade shows. They also are a powerhouse in buying from the public & dealers by appointment only. See their insert flier in this issue.

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# Drought Spurs Bellingham Water Ban

### Letter to residents from town of Bellingham.

We are instituting a total ban on all outside water use. Customers cannot water lawns on any day, cannot wash cars or houses at any time. The only exception is that customers can hand water vegetable gardens.

This is a mandatory ban. It is being put in place due to a mechanical failure at one of the Town's wells, in addition to the region wide level Tier 3 drought.

Compliance is mandatory for all water customers.

Compliance is vital for us to maintain standpipes at levels that will provide water to all customers and maintain hydrant pressure for fire protection.

Thank you very much to those who have been complying with the use restrictions.

We have no desire to fine customers for water use, but the situation is dire. The DPW will soon begin issuing written warnings that will be followed by fines per the town bylaws for those who do not comply.

# Mass. Memories Roadshow Comes to Bellingham Nov. 5th

The Mass. Memories Roadshow is coming to Bellingham on November 5th. This program of UMass Boston's Archives aims to document people, places and events in Massachusetts' history through family photographs and stories. Please share this announcement with Bellingham area friends and family! Here's the link to learn more and to

register to attend the planning meeting. [http://www.eventkeeper.com/mars/xpages/xp\\_newpopevent.cfm?zeeOrg=BLNGHAM&EventID=6998699&sw=1280](http://www.eventkeeper.com/mars/xpages/xp_newpopevent.cfm?zeeOrg=BLNGHAM&EventID=6998699&sw=1280)

If you are on Facebook, we'd appreciate you sharing this Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1977574155963925>

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# Preparing for Hurricane Season in Bellingham

By JENNIFER RUSSO

Though we often associate hurricane season with locations further south than Massachusetts, there is always the possibility of a hurricane hitting our coastal state. Hurricane season on the Atlantic Ocean falls between June and November. Historically, the month where Massachusetts has seen the most impact from hurricanes has been September.

According to Forbes, experts are predicting an “above average” hurricane season in 2022, based on factors like warmer sea surface temperatures in the Atlantic and Caribbean Sea, sea level pressures, and weaker trade winds. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), expect there to be 3-5 major hurricanes on the Atlantic, major being defined as those that are in categories 3-5 with sustained winds of 111 miles per hour or higher. In the last 10 years, NOAA has had above 80% accuracy in predicting the number of major hurricanes and named storms. Though it has been some time since a major hurricane has hit the Massachusetts coast hard, it would still be wise to prepare accordingly.

Major impacts of hurricanes include property and road impact damage due to high winds and fallen trees, loss of electricity for extended amounts of time, and flooding. Having a plan in place for these kinds of emergencies is important for every individual and family. The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) has an interactive map where you can find out if you live in a hurricane evacuation zone ([www.mass.gov/knowyourzone](http://www.mass.gov/knowyourzone)), and it is important to follow weather reports when hurricanes approach. Some other steps that can be taken to prepare are:

- 1) Have an Emergency Kit – this should include items that will keep your home sustainable for at least 5 days without power. Ideally, these items should be kept in a waterproof bag or plastic bin with locking lid.
  - Bottled drinking water (1 gallon per person, per day) and non-perishable food items like crackers, peanut butter, dried fruits, tuna fish, granola bars, etc. For infants, baby cereal, canned formula, and jarred baby foods. Canned and dry pet food for any pets.

- Necessary medications and a first aid kit.
  - Flashlights or lanterns with extra batteries (LEDs last longer).
  - Warm blankets and extra clothing in the case of an evacuation.
  - A whistle in case you need to get the attention of emergency personnel.
  - Rain Ponchos
  - Waterproof containers (to place phones, documents, etc. in if necessary)
  - Hygienic items like extra toothbrushes and paste, soap, tissues, and hand wipes.
  - A pocketknife or pocket multi-tool.
  - Rope
  - If in an area that can flood easily, life jackets for children and adults.
  - Battery operated or crank radio.
  - Laminated list of important contacts (local emergency numbers including at least one out-of-state emergency contact, doctors, schools, close family, etc.)
  - Laminated copies of health insurance cards and any personal documents you cannot replace.
  - Extra set of house and car keys.
  - If you do have pets, be sure to have a leash or crate to carry them in the case of an evacuation.
- 2) Make sure your vehicle has a full tank of gas and is inside a garage if one exists. If you need to evacuate, you will need to do so quickly. You may not have time to stop at a gas station.
  - 3) Reinforce windows, house doors, garage doors, and roofs. Move outdoor furniture and items like garbage cans inside or tie down.
  - 4) Go to the lowest level of your home and avoid sitting near windows.
  - 5) Purchase a battery pack charger and fully charge so that you can charge your phone if electricity goes out.
  - 6) Keep large trees and branches around your home trimmed and remove any older/dead trees.
  - 7) Download the FEMA application on your phone for real-time weather alerts for your area.

The Town of Bellingham Local Emergency Planning Committee is an excellent resource for more information. Access the website at <https://www.bellinghamma.org/emergency-management>, where you can find evacuation information, links to the National Weather Service and FEMA Storm Watch, information on our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and more. The Committee meets quarterly at the Municipal Center on Common Street and the next scheduled meeting is in October.

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# Massachusetts Legislature Passes Sweeping Clean Energy Bill

By CAROLINE GORDON

The Massachusetts Legislature recently passed a sweeping clean energy bill, an act furthering the development of clean energy and offshore wind.

The legislation aids green transportation, green buildings, and clean power production, including offshore wind, solar, storage and networked geothermal, while also creating thousands of new jobs and economic profits.

This bill includes the utilization of the offshore wind industry in Massachusetts.

This legislation creates a Massachusetts Offshore Wind Industry Investment Program,

administered by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC), which consists of annual tax incentives, grants, loans, and other investments through the fund, and assistance from MassCEC in accessing other state or federal economic investment programs.

Additionally, this bill creates the Massachusetts Offshore Wind Industry Investment Trust Fund, which can be used to further the manufacture, fabrication, and assembly of domestic supply chain components of the offshore wind industry, increase financing for permanent manufacturing facilities, advance clean energy research and innovation,

and prepare people for offshore wind careers.

Furthermore, the legislation modifies the price cap in order to set clear standards to allow for offshore wind project proposals that are cost-effective and promote economic development in Massachusetts and make the state's offshore wind bidding process more competitive.

Under this legislation, the price cap, which is a kind of economic regulation that sets a limit on the prices that a utility provider can charge, will be removed if three or more offshore wind developers submit bids, and if less than three companies bid, a modified price cap would remain in place.

The legislation also establishes a commercial fisheries commission to voice feedback on optimal practices for lowering the amount of and mitigating impacts to the wildlife near offshore energy generation and transmission.

It also confiscated control over awarding offshore wind energy contracts away from companies like Eversource and National Grid and instead, offered it to

the state Department of Energy Resources.

This bill adds to the Next Generation Climate Roadmap bill, which was passed earlier this legislative session and serviced the state's climate laws by putting Massachusetts on track to reach net-zero limit on greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

State Representative of the 10th Norfolk District Jeff Roy shared his thoughts on the state reaching the net-zero limit goal.

"We will need a lot of clean energy to reach that ambitious goal. As such, Massachusetts must develop a source of affordable and abundant clean energy on our own shores — or rather, off it," he said.

Roy continued, "Offshore wind is a huge opportunity for Massachusetts. It is a large and growing source of clean energy around the world and is poised for rapid growth."

Roy noted Massachusetts waters have the largest technical offshore wind potential of any state in the contiguous U.S. He said the Commonwealth is "uniquely prepared to capitalize" on the

nation's budding offshore wind industry and become the "Saudi Arabia of offshore wind."

He touched on the importance of clean energy, noting the negative impact climate changes have had on the Earth.

"Clean energy is important because in February, the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a report showing that climate change is rapidly reshaping the world, including New England. It noted that we are on the front lines of the climate crisis and reminded us that if we are to minimize irreversible impacts, we must make unparalleled changes, including the creation of clean energy," said Roy.

Roy highlighted how, last November, voters in Maine approved a ballot measure that interfered with plans to develop a transmission line to deliver hydroelectric power from Canada to Massachusetts and the rest of the region, halting a strong supply of clean energy.

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**CLEAN**  
continued on page 13

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**CLEAN**

*continued from page 12*

He touched on current world events, such as the War in Ukraine and how Russia is making threats to gas supplies, which alerted the legislatures of the critical need for energy independence.

Roy added, “Our clean energy and offshore wind bill is carefully calibrated to provide robust clean energy, attract world-class manufacturing facilities, foster intensive workforce training initiatives, and provide the investments necessary to prepare our electric distribution system for the energy needs of the future. It builds on the power of wind not only to supply clean energy, but to provide robust economic development as well.”

State Representative Michael Soter, R-Bellingham, voted in favor of the measure.

Representative Soter noted that the conference committee report removes a controversial gas fee proposal contained in an earlier version of the bill that would have implemented a charge of 14.65 mill per therm

on gas customers until 2032 to support the Renewable Energy Trust Fund. He had spoken out against the fee since it was first proposed, calling it unfair to the state’s ratepayers.

Representative Soter was also happy to see changes were made to a provision establishing a pilot program that would allow up to 10 communities to require the use of fossil free fuel in all new construction projects. House Bill 5060 would limit participating communities to those who have already achieved a 10% affordable housing target and would also provide an exemption for health care facilities and life science labs.

According to Representative Soter, House Bill 5060 also makes changes to the state’s procurement cap on offshore wind, which currently requires each successive wind proposal to be less expensive than the previously selected bid. The conference committee report amends the statute by allowing a modified cap to remain in place if only two bids are received but removes the cap if three or more bids are submitted.

# Hopedale Unitarian Parish to Host Benefit Event for Ukraine

On Saturday, September 24, the Hopedale Unitarian Parish will be hosting an auction and benefit concert to support the relief efforts in Ukraine. The concert will be headlined by the Poucette-Dart Band, an American soft rock group that began in the 1970s in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Doors will open at 7pm and the charity event will end around 10pm. The Parish is located in the center of town at 65 Hopedale St.

From 7-8 p.m., there will be an auction in the Parish Hall, including Red Sox tickets, four-somes of golf at the Hopedale & Franklin Country Clubs, and Bobby Orr’s signed autobiography. There will also be light snacks and beverages at the cash bar during this time. The concert will begin at 8pm in the Sanctu-

ary of the church. Hopedale Unitarian Parish will cover all costs associated with the event so that 100% of ticket sales will go to *Sunflower of Peace*, a local nonprofit that provides aid directly to Ukraine. Tickets to the event, including the auction and general admission seating to the concert, are \$30 and can be purchased at [www.hopedaleunitarian.org](http://www.hopedaleunitarian.org).

The Poucette-Dart Band was a mainstay of album radio, a favorite on the college circuit, and became one of the busiest touring groups in the country, working with such acts as The Eagles, Bonnie Raitt, James Taylor, and Journey, to name a few. Although the original band broke up in the 1980s, Jon Poucette-Dart has continued performing nationally and writing steadily to this day. Various members of the band

have reunited and performed with him over the years. To learn more about the band, you can visit [www.pousette-dart.com](http://www.pousette-dart.com).

*Sunflower of Peace*, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization headquartered in Massachusetts, will receive 100% of ticket sales raised by the Hopedale Unitarian Parish. This will help fund humanitarian efforts in Ukraine, specifically mobilizing support and aid for Ukrainian orphans, internally displaced persons, and those most affected by the war. To learn more about this organization, visit [www.sunflowerofpeace.com](http://www.sunflowerofpeace.com).

Please direct any questions to Hopedale Unitarian Parish’s Event Coordinator, Tracy Anderson, at [tracylanderson@verizon.net](mailto:tracylanderson@verizon.net) or (508) 962-0235.





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# Decades of Service to the Community and 2 New Providers

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

Milford-Franklin Eye Center has been providing excellent eye care to the community for decades. With much excitement, we are happy to announce that we have grown to a dedicated group of 8 physicians and Optometrists. In September of 2022 Dr. Purvi Patel, OD will join our team in our state-of-the-art medical offices in Franklin, Milford and Millis. Dr. Patel is a comprehensive optometrist offering the latest in comprehensive eye care for the entire family. Dr. Bryan Hong will also join our team as our practicing vitreoretinal specialist. Dr. Hong will see patients every Monday in our Franklin office.

With offices located in Milford, Franklin and our new office in Millis, our own award-winning surgery center in Milford and a support staff of 50, we are proud to be the leading medical and surgical eye care center in the area and one of the major eye care centers in the State. We are also one of the rare ophthalmology practices to own and operate our own surgical center, the Cataract Surgery Center of Milford. No more need to travel miles and hours to have cataract surgery! Three experienced eye physicians/ surgeons and 4 optometrists are here to provide comprehensive and excellent eye care for the entire family. If your eyecare provider is still asking you to travel for eyecare to far away practices and surgery centers, be aware of this provider financial bias and call us for a second opinion.

Dr. Roger Kaldawy is an experienced eye physician and surgeon and the area's only full-time specialist in corneal diseases. Having completed his training in Ophthalmology at University of Rochester and his fellowship in Cornea and Refractive Surgery at the prestigious Department of Ophthalmology of the University of Iowa, Dr. Kaldawy served as Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Boston University where he was Director of the Cornea and External Disease program and trained fellows

and residents in Ophthalmology. Some of his trainees are now in academic and private practices in Massachusetts and around the world. Dr. Kaldawy published research articles in peer-reviewed academic journals and has been invited as a guest speaker to many prestigious academic programs in the US and around the world including University of New York, Stanford University and University of Wisconsin, Madison. Dr. Kaldawy is proud to be the first surgeon in central Massachusetts and among a handful of surgeons in the State to have performed DSAEK corneal transplantation. With special interest in cataract surgery, Dr. Kaldawy has performed over 30,000 procedures and surgeries and was the first surgeon in the area to offer the highly advanced accommodating implants. Dr. Kaldawy was the first surgeon in the area to offer bladeless laser-assisted Femto cataract surgery. This laser procedure is offered locally at the Cataract and Laser Surgery Center of Milford.

Dr. John Hatch is the only

Dr. John Hatch is the only



fellowship trained pediatric ophthalmologist in the area, and is a skilled surgeon with training in the latest techniques for straightening misaligned eyes. Dr. Hatch earned bachelors and master's degrees in engineering from Boston University and Dartmouth College. He completed his medical degree at the University of Massachusetts Medical School in 1988, followed by residency in Ophthalmology at Yale-New Haven Hospital and fellowship in Pediatric and Neuro-ophthalmology at Duke University. Returning to his home state in 1993, Dr. Hatch joined the Milford-Franklin Eye Center where he focuses on comprehensive pediatric and adult ophthalmology and adult strabismus.

Dr. Bryan Hong is our practicing vitreoretinal specialist. Dr. Hong is a graduate of Yale College and Yale School of Medicine. He completed his ophthalmology residency at the University of Southern California Eye Institute and the Doheny Eye Institute in Los Angeles, CA. He then went on to complete an intensive vitreo-retinal disease fellowship at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Hong will be providing retina care in our practice starting September 2022, and specializes in eye surgery, laser surgery, and diseases of the retina, including macular degeneration, macular diseases, vitreo-macular interface abnormalities, retinal vascular diseases, diabetic retinopathy, trauma, retinal detachments, uveitis, and cataract complications. His research interests include retinal imaging, novel surgical techniques, and medical cost-efficacy analyses.

Dr. Perriello Consigli received her Bachelor of Science degree from Clark University in 1987. She went on to earn her Doctor of Optometry degree from New England College of Optometry in 1991. Dr. Consigli has over twenty five years of experience, spending several years in private practice. In February 2019, Dr.

Consigli joined Milford-Franklin Eye Center. She enjoys seeing patients of all ages. She is proficient in routine eye care, contact lens fitting, and diagnosing and treating various eye disease.

Dr. Adams, graduated from John Carroll University, Bachelors of Science, summa cum laude, in 1995. He completed his Masters in Biochemistry from The Ohio State University in 1997. In 2003 he received his Doctorate from the New England College of Optometry. Dr. Adams has advanced training in corneal pathology, specialty contact lenses, ocular disease and laser refractive surgery.

Dr. Mai-Khuyen Nguyen joined Milford-Franklin Eye Center from the New England Carpenters Benefit Fund - Vision Center, where she served as Head of Optometry. She has over 10 years of experience in comprehensive eye exams for adult, geriatric, pediatric, and special needs populations. Her experience includes performing contact lens fitting and managing contact lens complications. Dr. Nguyen is also experienced in glasses fitting and lens edging. Her charitable activities include participating in Boston Cares program and the Boston Special Olympics.

Dr. Donald L. Conn, OD will join our team in our state-of-the-art medical offices in Franklin, Milford and Millis starting August 2022. Dr. Conn is a comprehensive optometrist offering the latest in comprehensive eye care for the entire family. Dr. Conn earned his Bachelor of Science from College of the Holy Cross in 2016. He then went on to earn his Doctor of Optometry degree from New England College of Optometry in 2021. He has completed a residency in ocular Disease and Primary care at the Bedford VA in June 2022. His clinical experience also includes clinical rotations at Lahey Hospital & Medical Center, Boston Medical Center and South Boston Community Health Center. Dr. Conn will join our team in August of 2022. He is experienced in providing care to patients of all ages including adults, geriatrics and pediatric populations. Outside of work



## MILFORD - FRANKLIN EYE CENTER



Roger M. Kaldawy, M.D.



John F. Hatch, M.D.



Bryan Hong, M.D.



Michael R. Adams, O.D.



Caroline Perriello Consigli, O.D.



Donald L. Conn, O.D.



Dr. Mai-Khuyen Nguyen, O.D.



Dr. Parvi Patel, O.D.



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# Coming Up at the Bellingham Senior Center

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

**SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND:** September 22nd, 6:30-8 p.m. Please call the Center to reserve your seat.

**DRIVE-BY LUNCHESES:** Available Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m. through December. \$3 per meal for Bellingham residents; limit of 35 seniors per day.

**ZUMBA GOLD:** Coming to the Center on Fridays at 11 a.m. beginning September 16.

**TED TALKS:** Third Thursday of the month, starting September 15, join us for informative 15-20 minute presentations with lots of time at the end to discuss. Hosted by Senior Center Director Josie Dutil.

**RAINBOW CAFÉ:** Are you a member or ally of the LGBTQ+ community? (An ally is a friend in the community or family member who has your best interests at heart.) Come join us and like-minded people September 8th at 2 p.m. for coffee, conversation, and friendship. Please call ahead to attend.

**WALKING CLUB** steps off every Friday morning at 8 at the SNETT on Center Street. You're invited to join in! Sign up by calling the Center at (508) 966-0398.

**MEMORY CAFÉ:** This popular – and free – program provides seniors with dementia or any kind of cognitive impairment an opportunity to socialize. The first Tuesday of each month from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. is when the Memory Café will be open, and it will be at the Bellingham Library.

**BELLINGHAM ELDER SERVICE GROUP YARD SALE,** September 10, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**2022 NEPONSET VALLEY WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S:** Join the Senior Center's team! September 24 at 10 a.m. at Gillette Stadium in Foxboro. Contact Team Captain Terri Graham at (508) 657-2710 or [tgraham@bellinghamma.org](mailto:tgraham@bellinghamma.org)

**MEDICARE ANNUAL ELECTION:** Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts will be presenting Medicare Health Plan Options on Thursday, September 1st from 1 to 2 p.m. Health Plan Options is a 45-minute presentation geared towards individuals on Medicare or approaching Medicare who

may have questions about their health plan or other available plan types. The presentation will focus on the differences between Medigap and Medicare Advantage plans and explain when enrollees can switch plans. All are invited to attend regardless of insurance coverage.

**CRAFT FAIR:** The Craft Fair is progressing nicely and on schedule -- vendors are in place, donations are being received and, of course, with more to do because we have many plans and meetings to continue getting ready for November 5. Please bring donations to the Senior Center -- remember we cannot accept shoes, clothing, and electronics!

**MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING:** Coming November 29 and December 1 from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

**OSTEOPOROSIS:** Join us for a presentation on October 13 at 1 p.m. given by a medical science liaison from Amgen.

**MEDMINDER:** Pharmacy Medication. Packaging Options. The right meds at the right time, organized and delivered to you. Presentation on September 23, 11 a.m.

# Golf Tournament to Benefit Nonprofit Programming for Youth Mental Health

Hopkinton based nonprofit, Mental Health Collaborative (MHC), will hold its first charitable golf tournament on Monday, October 24th, 2022 at the Hopkinton Country Club. The "MHC Fall Classic" features 18 holes of scramble golf followed by a cocktail reception and awards dinner. Support the cause of mental health literacy among teens and young adults

by registering as a golfer or sponsor of this tournament. All of the proceeds from this event directly fund the development and implementation of MHC programming in schools and communities across Massachusetts and beyond.

To learn more about MHC or to register, please visit [www.mentalhealthcollaborative.org](http://www.mentalhealthcollaborative.org).

# Bethany House Holiday Décor & Gift Sale to Benefit Ministry

Get an early start for the holidays (Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas). Huge selection of decorations, gifts and more at incredibly low prices! Saturday September 10, 2022, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., St Thomas Hall 974 Main Street (Route 109), Millis. (Park across the street).

Bethany House is 501c3 organization whose mission is to cre-

ate a compassionate, and healing environment of hope for all who are in need. We provide physical, emotional, and spiritual support for all people who may be facing challenges in life, especially those impacted by the harsh realities of homelessness and prison.

Questions please call Bethany House at (508) 376-9923.

## EYE

*continued from page 14*

Dr Conn enjoys long distance running and spending time with friends and family.

Dr. Purvi Patel, OD originally from the tri-state area, received her bachelor's degree from The College of New Jersey in 1996 and her Doctor of Optometry from the State University of NY College of Optometry in 2000 through a joint accelerated B.S.-O.D. program. She then completed a residency in Ocular Disease and Special Testing. In 2003, Dr. Patel joined the New England College of Optometry as Clinical Assistant Professor. Through her role as Director of Eye Care Services at Whittier Street Health Center and then The Dimock Center, one of the largest community health centers in Boston, Dr. Patel brings with her teaching and leadership experience. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, with a history of publishing,

presenting and lecturing. During the last 10 years, Dr. Patel has transitioned to direct care and worked in collaboration with ophthalmology. Most recently, Dr. Patel completed a postdoctoral certificate for the treatment & management of glaucoma. Dr. Patel has clinical interests in diabetes, glaucoma, community-based eye and vision care, public health & epidemiology. Dr. Patel currently lives in Dover, MA with her husband and 3 daughters. She enjoys traveling abroad, reading and tennis.

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at 1 a.m. if there is a need for our care. Our focus is you, your vision and excellent results. We are available, in your backyard and proud to offer world class cataract surgery closer to home: Here in Milford! Our optical shop has its own dedicated lab and can cut and finish your glasses while you wait. We offer after-hours, same day emergency appointments and Saturday appointments. We have great management focused on quality customer care. 90% of our staff has been with us for over 5 years! Excellent retention of staff means outstanding loyalty and training. Eight providers dedicated to the best in eye medicine and surgery closer to home. Is your eyecare provider still recommending you travel hours to other practices and remote surgery centers? Call us: We are available for a second opinion.

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# Bellingham Historical Commission Announces Fall Hours for the Ernest A. Taft, Jr. Historical Museum

The Bellingham Historical Commission is pleased to announce our fall hours for the museum. If you missed our Grand Opening in May, or even if you attended and want to spend more

time exploring our collection, we encourage you to stop by to check out our renovated and re-organized museum!

- Starting September 19th, open the third Monday of the month from 6-7 p.m.
- Starting October 8th, open the Second and Fourth Saturday of the month from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- In addition, starting after Labor Day, the museum will be open on various Wednesday mornings from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Check our Facebook page for updates on the dates: <https://www.facebook.com/Bellingham-HistoricalCommissionMA>
- And as always, if our schedule is not convenient for you, contact us at [athistory@bellinghamma.org](mailto:athistory@bellinghamma.org) and we'll schedule a time to be open by appointment for you!



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# Soter Speaks Out on Recent Bills

State Representative Michael Soter (R-Bellingham) recently voted to support an \$11.3 billion transportation infrastructure bond bill, House Bill 5151, *An Act relative to Massachusetts' transportation resources and climate*, also known as the MassTRAC bill, that will provide funding for MBTA safety improvements, planning and design costs associated with the East-West Rail project, and hundreds of local transportation and climate resiliency projects across Massachusetts.

Rep. Soter also recently supported the Senate Bill 3075, *An Act relative to military spouse-licensure portability, education and enrollment of dependents* (aka, the SPEED Act), legislation to assist military personnel and their families with accessing education benefits and meeting professional licensure requirements.

Soter also voiced his disappointment with the Judiciary Committee's decision to send the Dangerousness Bill, filed by the Baker-Polito administration, to study.




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# Bellingham Senior Center to Take Place September 10th

By DAVID DUNBAR

Whether you collect old dolls, cat figurines, vintage telephones, or postcards from the 1920s, visit enough yard sales and you're bound to strike gold. Plus, you get to enjoy the thrill of the hunt, which is a large part of the fun for most of us.

And there's a fun one coming up at the Bellingham Senior Center, 40 Blackstone Street, on September 10th when the doors open at 9 a.m. Admission is free, and the event runs until 3 p.m.

"Our storage shed is full of fun items," says Eva Gamache, who runs the yard sale for the Bellingham Elder Service Group (BESG). "Helping the Senior Center is our biggest objective," adds BESG President Bill Eltzroth. The BESG is the fundraising arm of the Center.

And that's where the proceeds go from the annual yard sale. "We started five years ago," reports Eltzroth, "and we sold about \$250 worth of stuff. Last year, it was more than \$600."

Items include bikes/tricycles, suitcases, household goods, electronics (still in their original boxes), games, toys, and more. "They're priced from 25-cents to \$10, and we have hundreds of items," says Gamache.

"I come to the sale, because I find little treasures and very interesting things," comments long-time yard sale attendee Yvonne Bartlett. "I found a baby

blanket one time that was perfect for my great granddaughter. You'll be missing something great if you don't come!"

Collecting "stuff" for the annual yard sale is a year-round project. "We always accept donations," explains Gamache. If you have something you would like to donate now, it will be accepted as late as the date (September 10) of this year's sale. Bring it/them to the Senior Center at 40 Blackstone Street in Bellingham. What they cannot accept is furniture, clothing, shoes, or things that should be thrown out.

More than a dozen volunteers help to organize and run the yard sale. Gamache is hoping for "hundreds" of attendees. This year's event will be held indoors and outdoors at the Senior Center. So, rain or shine, it is on.

In one seven-day period recently, the website www.garagesalefinder.com reported 61 garage, yard, and estate sales in Massachusetts. The "World's Longest Yard Sale" – at 690 miles long stretching from Alabama to Michigan – ran for a week early last month. It's actually hundreds of little sales in hundreds of front yards.

Back in Bellingham, "It's a great feeling," says BESG board member Gail Milgram, "seeing people come in and shop and find just what they need."



The Yard Sale Storage Shed at the Bellingham Senior Center, filled with items that will go on sale. From left, Eva Gamache, BESG board member and coordinator of the Yard Sale, BESG President Bill Eltzroth, and board member Gail Milgram.

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3. Everett and Emma hate their math teacher and post disparaging lies about the teacher on social media. The teacher finds out and sues Everett and Emma's parents. Will their parents' liability coverage on their homeowners insurance protect them?

Answer 1: No, Kieran would need renters insurance. Answer 2: Yes, and your agent should shop the policy when adding a newly licensed driver. Call me if you need help. Answer 3: Only if their parents have Personal Injury Protection on the policy.

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# Bellingham Woman Joined Falmouth Road Race with Team BIA-MA in Daughter's Honor

The Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA) is pleased to announce that Sue Fleurette was scheduled to run in the 50th Falmouth Road Race on Sunday, August 21st with Team BIA-MA.

Sue Fleurette decided to run in the Falmouth Road Race for the second year in a row in honor of her daughter, Ali. Ali was living out her dream as a Physical Education teacher, field hockey, track coach, Kids Ministry Director, and Zumba instructor when she sustained a severe TBI. Sue, an avid runner, was excited to run the course again from Woods Hole to Falmouth. To learn more or to donate visit <https://ra->

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The Falmouth Road Race was established in 1973 and has become one of the premier running events of the summer season with over 10,000 runners. Each year the race draws an international field of Olympians, elite, and recreational runners out to enjoy the iconic 7-mile seaside course. The nonprofit Falmouth Road Race organization, "Numbers for Nonprofits Charity Program", is committed to promoting health and fitness through community programs and philanthropic

giving. To support Team BIA-MA in the 2022 Falmouth Road Race, please visit the Team BIA-MA Race Roster page.

"We are excited and thankful to have another incredible team of runners who are determined to help us raise awareness for brain injury," BIA-MA Chief Executive Office Nicole Godaire said. "It is inspiring to watch our runners accomplish their personal milestones. They embody hope and determination throughout the community of brain injury survivors we support every day."



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## MassBay Biotech Student Lands Lab Position

After Karoll Montalvan Palma of Bellingham, Mass., graduated from Brookline High School in 2015, she decided to take some time away from school before continuing her education, so she joined the workforce. “In 2017, I enlisted in the United States Army Reserves while working in different healthcare-related jobs. I discovered I liked working in the healthcare setting, and biotech research piqued my interest. I found MassBay’s biotechnology program and thought this would be a good starting point into the industry, so I decided to enroll,” said Karoll.

In the fall of 2021, Karoll dove into her studies in biotech and biomanufacturing and enjoyed her classes. “I worked full-time at a lab in Westborough while taking classes part-time. Those experiences sparked me to continue laboratory work as a career. With the encouragement of Professor Nirmal Singh in MassBay’s biotech program and assistance from Brenda Egan in the STEM

department, I applied to work as a lab tech at Azena Life Sciences in Cambridge. I was hired in May 2022 and have been working on genetics sequencing. It has been an amazing experience. I can’t believe I’m already working in the biotech field. Working in the lab has taught me so much and I’m able to understand my lab assignments quickly due to what I learned in Professor Singh’s biotechnology classes. In turn, my lab work will help me prepare and be knowledgeable in my classes. I feel as if I’m on the right career track,” Karoll added.

Karoll participated in MassBay’s STEM Mentor Program, which paired her with a local biotechnology professional for career direction and advice.

Karoll is scheduled to graduate from MassBay in May 2023 with an Associate of Science degree in Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing. Her goals include transferring to a four-year university to earn a bachelor’s degree.

## State Awards BVT \$150K Skills Capital Grant

### New Equipment for Training in Health Services, Dental Assisting Programs

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School (BVT), in Upton, was recently awarded a \$150,000 Skills Capital grant from the Baker-Polito Administration. The grant will allow the school to purchase new industry-grade equipment to advance its goals of increasing diversity among the student population and enhancing training for entry-level positions in health care and dental care.

BVT is one of 70 educational institutions to receive a portion of \$22 million in Skills Capital grants to update equipment and enhance vocational training. The Baker-Polito Administration has awarded these grants as part of their multi-year effort to address skills gaps in growing industries.

Governor Baker announced \$22 million in Skills Capital grants awarded to 70 educational institutions and an additional \$10 million awarded to 23 vocational schools to expand programs for young people and adults as part of the Career Technical Initiative (CTI). This round of CTI grants will help train more than 1,600 people for new careers in

construction, manufacturing, and other trades with growing workforce demands.

The Skills Capital grant program was launched in 2015 with the goal of replacing outdated equipment and technology, mainly at vocational-technical high schools and community colleges. Since then, the program has evolved into a crucial component of local workforce training efforts by expanding the number of young people and adults trained and experienced with the newest technologies used by local employers.

“Since our administration launched these critically important programs, high schools, colleges, and other educational institutions throughout the Commonwealth have created and expanded numerous training programs with Skills Capital Grants and developed new training opportunities for young people and adults with the Career Technical Initiative,” said Governor Charlie Baker. “We are very proud of the lasting impact these grants will have on the Massachusetts workforce and the

future of the Commonwealth as they prepare the next generation of innovative leaders in cutting-edge industries.”

The school will implement new equipment to support hands-on learning activities within the Health Services and Dental Assisting shops. These vocational classrooms resemble clinical facilities where students develop advanced skills using equipment that directly resembles what employers are utilizing. Instructors are excited to prepare students with the direct care skills needed for future employment opportunities in Health Services and Dental Assisting fields that address pressing employment gaps in our region.

“The Skills Capital grants align with our efforts to continue providing students with exciting and rewarding career exploration opportunities and advanced skill development,” said Superintendent-Director Dr. Michael F. Fitzpatrick. “As well as our commitment to finding additional funding, to invest in the most up-to-date equipment to give our students an advantage when they continue in their chosen field or area of study.”

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# Circle of Friends to Present Free Show September 24th

## Mass. Cultural Council Funds 1st Show at Coffeehouse Since Shutdown

It has been quite a while since our last concert in February 2020! There is still a lot of uncertainty, to be sure, but we are welcoming the community back to the Circle of Friends Coffeehouse with a free concert on Saturday, September 24th, supported by grants from the Mass Cultural Council.

### "POWER OF PROTEST SONG: OUR SHARED HISTORY & PRESENT DAY"

Part performance and part presentation, this family-friendly public event will explore the origin stories and lineages of protest songs, how their meanings and

impacts continue to transform through time and space, and how they have inspired – and continue to inspire – movements and cultural shifts within the realms of racial and social justice.

Pamela Means is a multi-talented performer, singer, songwriter, composer and producer. Her multiple honors include being named Falcon Ridge Folk Festival's "# 1 Most Wanted New Artist," "Wisconsin Folk Artist of the Year," "Wisconsin Female Vocalist of the Year," and her politically provocative album, *Single Bullet Theory*, was voted 2004's "Outmusic

Outstanding New Recording." Pamela Means was twice voted "Best Acoustic Act" of the year in her hometown of Milwaukee, WI; and after setting up shop in the bustling 'burbs of Boston, Mass., Pamela was nominated for an "Outstanding Contemporary Folk Artist" Boston Music Award. Means's latest album, *Precedent*, elegantly addresses a range of themes from the state of the union to the state of the heart. *Curve Magazine* calls her "one of the fiercest guitar players and politically-rooted singer-songwriters in the music industry today." She performed at the last Franklin Cultural Festival and has appeared at the Circle of Friends Coffeehouse. <https://www.pamelameans.com/>

**Proof of vaccination required. Masks strongly suggested.**

This is a FREE concert, but seating is limited.

Please email [coftix@gmail.com](mailto:coftix@gmail.com) to reserve seats.

The Circle of Friends Coffeehouse is a non-profit organization affiliated with Franklin's First Universalist Society. Please visit <http://www.circlefolk.org/> for more information.




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# Representative Soter Appointed to Economic Development Bill Conference Committee

House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr. (R-North Reading) has announced his appointment of State Representative Michael Soter (R-Bellingham) to serve on a six-member conference committee that will review legislation designed to promote economic development, tax relief and COVID-19 recovery efforts throughout Massachusetts.

House Bill 5034, An Act relating to economic growth and relief for the Commonwealth, was engrossed by the House of Representatives on July 14, while the Senate version of the bill, Senate Bill 3030, was passed on July 21. Both bills call for significant investments in state programs and local projects, using a combination of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money, surplus state budget dollars, and bond proceeds.

“As a legislator who has also run a successful business, Mike has made economic development and jobs creation one of his top priorities,” said Representative Jones. “His background and expertise in these areas will be an asset to the conference committee as it works to negotiate a final compromise proposal that can be sent to Governor Baker before the end of formal legislative sessions.”

A centerpiece of both bills is a nearly \$1 billion tax relief package that includes one-time rebates of \$250 for individual taxpayers earning between \$38,000 and \$100,000 a year and \$500 for married couples earning between \$38,000 and \$150,000 a year. Both bills also call for raising the rental deduction cap from \$3,000 to \$4,000; expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit from 30% to 40% of the federal credit; and increasing the child/dependent tax credit from \$180 to \$310 per child, while also eliminating the current cap on the number of children who are eligible for this tax

credit.

The House and Senate have taken different approaches on other tax relief proposals, however. For example, House Bill 5034 would increase the maximum senior circuit breaker tax credit to \$1,755, while Senate Bill 3030 would set the cap at \$2,340. Also, while both branches have approved an increase in the estate tax threshold from \$1 million to \$2 million, the House has proposed taxing only the amount that falls above the \$2 million threshold and imposing higher rates on those estates worth more than \$5 million, while the Senate bill would provide a uniform tax credit of \$99,600 to all estates above \$2 million. The Senate bill also makes these tax changes effective for the 2022 tax year, while the House bill pushes them off to the 2023 tax year.

Joining Representative Soter on the conference committee are House Ways and Means Chairman Aaron Michlewitz (D-Boston), Representative Mark Cusack (D-Braintree), Senate Ways and Means Chairman Michael Rodrigues (D-Westport), and Senators Eric Lesser (D-Longmeadow) and Patrick O’Connor (R-Weymouth).

Representative Soter currently serves as the Ranking Minority Member on both the House Committee on Global Warming & Climate Change and the Joint Committee on Revenue. He is also a member of the Joint Committee on Economic Development & Emerging Technologies and the Joint Committee on Cannabis Policy.

A former member of the Bellingham Board of Selectmen, Representative Soter was first elected to the House of Representatives in November of 2018. He represents the Eighth Worcester District, which is comprised of the towns of Blackstone, Millville, Uxbridge and Bellingham.

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# MetroWest Conference for Women Names Cass & Maruska Keynote Speakers

## September 15th Event – Theme Will Be “Limitless”

The MetroWest Conference for Women will be hosting its sixth annual event on September 15, 2022. Leading the speaker line-up is habit transformation coach, Derith Cass, as well as Sedruola Maruska, a Business Consultant and Podcast host. Each will provide a keynote ad-

dress to the anticipated 300-plus attendees. The conference will highlight topics that align with the key trends of the day that matter most to local MetroWest women. Erica Ayisi, Journalist and Entrepreneur will emcee the daylong event.

The MetroWest Conference for Women remains affordable for as many women as possible with a ticket price of \$52, which includes breakfast, lunch, swag bag and afternoon celebration with a female DJ and complementary wine and hors d'oeuvres following the full-day conference. Sponsors for the event include TJX, Avidia Bank, MutualOne, Wegmans, Definitive Healthcare, and more.

Derith Cass has been described as a “lover of life, fitness, and the human connection.” As a Habit Transformation coach she spends her time focusing on inspiring others to live a healthy lifestyle, and to fall in love with movement. Though she is a former athlete and coach by trade, she also puts a large emphasis on teaching positive behaviors and habits as well. Learn more about Derith here.

can Boutique called “Akosua’s Closet” on the side. She has been an exhibitor at She’s Local events for many years. Learn more about Erica here.

For more information on our keynote speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, and panelist, go to: [sheslocal.org/metrowest-conference-for-women](https://sheslocal.org/metrowest-conference-for-women). Tickets are on sale as of today - Monday, August 1st.

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The Curtis Apartments is a brand-new, 250 unit rental apartment community located on 161 Mechanic Street in Bellingham, MA. There will be 63 affordable apartments ready for occupancy starting in Fall of 2022. All affordable apartments will be rented to households with incomes at or below 80% of the area median income through this application process. This community is located on approximately 15 acres and will include 5 residential buildings along with an amenities-rich clubhouse, pool, playground, a dog park, a fire pit and grilling stations and outdoor dining areas for residents. Apartments will feature stainless-steel appliances, solid surface countertops and in-unit washer and dryers. Each building will have an elevator, and affordable units are evenly dispersed across each building.

Interested households should email [TheCurtis@jmcandco.com](mailto:TheCurtis@jmcandco.com) or call (339) 235-4666 to obtain a Waiting List Application. As applicants reach the top of the Waiting Lists, they will be contacted by the Leasing Office to move forward in filling out a Lease Application.

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For more information, a waitlist application or reasonable accommodation, please contact the leasing office. For TTY services dial 711. Free translation available. Traducción gratuita disponible.

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### About She’s Local

She’s Local creates conferences for women with a shared objective to support, connect and inspire one another, close to home. We set the stage for local women to connect. They are the women that we meet every day who have unique stories to share and relevant words of wisdom for others facing similar challenges. Our mission is to provide accessible platforms for all women in local communities. Offering world-class conferences, highlighting local women and resources, at an affordable price.

As an Author, Speaker, and Personal Development coach, Sedruola Maruska has dedicated her life to helping women set intentional goals, and change the trajectory of their lives. As a cancer survivor, she brings a unique perspective on perseverance and “rediscovering our lost selves.” Learn more about this inspiring speaker before the event here.

Erica Ayisi will be taking over as emcee for the annual conference, with an expansive background in journalism and entrepreneurship. Erica is a freelance multimedia journalist, while also running an Afri-

## Local Women’s Chamber Ensemble Resumes

Exsultet! A Celebration of Voices is thrilled to announce that we are getting back to work this fall. We started up a year ago and did manage to get in some great Alexander Technique training, but COVID shut us down again by wintertime. With plans to persevere through the entire 2022-23 season, we will soon be dusting off the cobwebs and preparing ourselves for live performances once again.

We are excited to share that we will be performing for you live and in person the weekend

of December 3 and 4, 2022 – they will be our first concerts in three years! Current plans are for performances in both Holliston and Dedham, Mass.

The group held auditions in late August. If you are interested in joining us, please check our website ([www.exsultet.us](http://www.exsultet.us)) for more information.

Exsultet! A Celebration of Voices is an auditioned women’s chamber ensemble combining great music and poetry to inspire audiences with adventurous and innovative concerts.

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# Register O'Donnell Reports on July Real Estate Activity in Norfolk County

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reported that the July 2022 numbers relative to Norfolk County recordings indicate a continuing decrease in overall real estate activity compared to the July 2021 numbers but show a marked increase in average sale prices.

"Our data indicates that the Norfolk County real estate numbers in July demonstrate a continued slowdown in the market compared to 2021 and a slight decrease from the month of June," noted Register O'Donnell. "There were 10,884 documents recorded at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds in July, a 35% decrease from July, 2021 and a decrease of 16% from June, 2022".

"The number of deeds for July 2022, which reflect real estate sales and transfers, both commercial and residential, show a decrease of 26% from July, 2021 and a decrease of 21% from the previous month. However, sale prices continue to rise. The average sale price in July was \$1,220,594, a 20% increase compared to July 2021 and a slight 3% increase from June. Total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales is down, decreasing 11% from one year ago and decreasing 19% from last month," noted the Register.

Overall lending activity show a pronounced trend downward for the month of July. A total of

1,886 mortgages were recorded during the month, a significant decrease of 45% compared to a year ago and a decrease of 19% from June. "It appears that the increase in the mortgage interest rates and the fact that many consumers have already refinanced continue to impact mortgage activity," noted O'Donnell.

A continuing cause for concern in Norfolk County is the number of pending foreclosures. The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has been closely watching the foreclosure market. In July, there were 9 foreclosure deeds recorded as a result of mortgage foreclosures taking place in Norfolk County, four more than in July, 2021 and two more than in June. However, there were 21 Notices to Foreclose, the first step in the foreclosure process, recorded in July, up significantly from only 5 recorded in July 2021. "The dramatic increase in the number of these notices is alarming. It indicates that more of our neighbors are facing financial challenges going forward", said O'Donnell. "We will continue to monitor these numbers."

To learn more, find Norfolk County Register of Deeds on [Facebook.com/NorfolkDeeds](https://www.facebook.com/NorfolkDeeds) or follow them on [twitter.com/NorfolkDeeds](https://twitter.com/NorfolkDeeds) and [Instagram.com/NorfolkDeeds](https://www.instagram.com/NorfolkDeeds), or visit [www.norfolkdeeds.org](http://www.norfolkdeeds.org).

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# Sports

## BHS Football Squad Aims to Overcome Inexperience

### Strong Work Ethic Key to Playoff Berth

BY KEN HAMWEY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Bellingham High's football team has competed in the playoffs for the last three years, but to make it four straight berths will be a challenge.

Although the 2022 edition of the Blackhawks has some key strengths — like athleticism, a good football IQ, a strong work ethic, speed, a capable offensive line, and a coachable nature — there are concerns. Coach Dan Haddad, who's in his seventh year at the helm, lists inexperience as the team's No. 1 drawback.

"We lack experience and size," he said. "Our quarterbacks, running backs and receivers haven't played together. We're a sophomore-junior team that lacks in-game experience. We lost nine seniors and have only five experienced players. It is a rebuilding year, but I hate to use that word because our players have the ability to surprise people."

The 59-year-old Haddad has three goals for his squad, which opens its season at home against Blackstone-Millville on Saturday, Sept. 10.

"We want to get the players in-game experience, improve

daily and qualify for the playoffs," he emphasized. "A playoff berth may be a lofty objective, but we can achieve that goal because the kids aren't afraid to work hard."

A solid work ethic is a plus for any team, and the Blackhawks' captains are a good starting point in that regard. The leadership team includes seniors Ethan Silva and Michael Spera and juniors Corey Perkins and Donovan Turner. "They're not rah-rah guys, but they lead by example," Haddad said. "They're take-charge players who know how to execute."

Although the offensive unit will need time to mesh, there is talent at the skill positions. Junior Dasha Domercant and sophomore Zach Berkeley will battle for the quarterback job. "Both are smart, have good arms, throw accurately and are very athletic," Haddad said. "Their running ability also makes them a threat."

Perkins will start at halfback and be counted on heavily. "Corey is tough and shifty," Haddad said. "He can run inside and to the outside and he does a good job as a blocking back."



Bellingham football coach Dan Haddad believes this will be a rebuilding year for his team.

Other backs include senior Gian Vaccarella, sophomore Gabe Egan, and freshman Michael Demers. "All three are hard-workers who hit the hole hard and make good decisions," said Haddad.

There is experience and depth at wide receiver. Key wideouts include Spera, juniors Jeremiah Domercant and Connor Kelley, and sophomore Mason Jacques. "All of them run good routes, have great hands and they're tough," Haddad noted. "And they've got break-away speed after the catch."

Other wideouts who'll compete for playing time are senior Steve Crummett, junior Anthony DaSilva, sophomore Max Gamble, and freshman Wyatt Callery.

The offensive line is more than capable. The lineup will include Silva (senior tackle); Sean Dutremble, (junior guard); Turner (senior center); Isaiah Tobin (junior guard); and Connor Lalonde (senior tackle). "They're strong, technically sound and effective as either run or pass blockers," Haddad said. "They coachable and have a high football IQ."

Other linemen aiming for playing time are junior Connor Bernard, sophomore Jack Davidson, and seniors Phil Ghazali and Jeff Caruso.

On defense, there'll be Silva at tackle, Lalonde at nose tackle, and Turner, Ghazali and Davidson at defensive end. Others who'll provide depth include Caruso, Bernard and Dutremble. "They're all physical and have good technique," said Haddad. "There's not a lot of size but they're strong, nevertheless."

The linebacking corps will feature senior Brady Pelletier, Tobin, Kelley, Vaccarella and Callery. "They're physical, quick and their downhill pursuit is excellent," said Haddad. "They're strong hitters who are instinctive and able to read and react quickly."

The cornerbacks include DaSilva, sophomore Ryan Cochrane, Gamble, Egan, and Spera. "There's no clear-cut starter yet, but they're all coachable, work hard and improving their technique," Haddad offered. "They're instinctive and still learning."

The safeties are Jeremiah Domercant, Perkins, Crummett and sophomore John Doucette. "This group includes great tacklers who've got good recovery speed," Haddad said. "They recover quickly on a mis-read. They're also athletic and coachable."

Crummett will be the Blackhawks' prime special-teams player. He'll be punting, kicking off and lining up field goals. "Steve loves everything about kicking," Haddad emphasized. "He's got good leg strength, an incredible work ethic, high energy, and confidence. He spent the off-season fine-tuning his game and focusing on accuracy."

The Blackhawks will play five games in the Tri Valley League's Small Division (Dover, Medway, Millis, Dedham and Norton) and four non-league encounters (Blackstone-Millville, Westwood, Medfield and Ashland). Two contests will be against either playoff squads or non-playoff contingents. "The teams to beat in the Small Division will be Norton and Dover," said Haddad. "They're talented, they've got numbers and they're well-coached."

Relying on a coaching philosophy that stresses reaching one's potential and enjoying one's athletic journey, Haddad believes that winning will be the by-product if those ingredients are in the mix. "The key is to reach your potential by being competitive," he emphasized.

The personable Haddad also is a firm believer that valuable life lessons can be learned by playing football and he's got an impressive list. "Some life lessons football teaches are overcoming adversity, learning how to be a leader and a good teammate, setting goals, building character and managing time," he said.

Bellingham's assistant coaches are Chris Haddad (defensive coordinator), Dan Haddad (offensive coordinator), Derek Fernandes (quarterbacks/safeties), Pat McGovern (both lines), Dan Gavin (linebackers/sub-varsity), John Imparato (sub-varsity), Parker Silva (linebackers/sub-varsity), and Jamie Dutremble (sub-varsity).

Haddad and his assistants will face a challenging schedule. Qualifying for a playoff berth won't be easy. Some might rank that chore as a Herculean task. But, don't count the 2022 edition of the Blackhawks out.

They may be inexperienced, but they've got some valuable attributes.

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## Sports

# Bellingham Native Helping Dana Farber Because He Can

BY CHRISTOPHER TREMBLAY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

The Pan Mass Challenge (PMC) is a Massachusetts based bike-a-thon that raises more money than any other single athletic fundraising event in the country. The two-day event that takes place during the first week of August funds the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, the world leader in adult and pediatric cancer treatment and research.

After losing his mother to melanoma at the age of 49, Billy Starr organized the event in 1980 with 36 riders and 10 volunteers. Although many got lost during that inaugural ride, they still accomplished what they set out to do – raise funds for cancer research, \$10, 200 that year. Today, the PMC boasts more than 6,800 riders and another 300 volunteers having raised \$831 million for the Dana Farber Jimmy Fund.

Bellingham's Jeff Scornavacca rode in his 19th PMC this year. While many riders get involved with the PMC when a friend or loved one succumbs to cancer, Scornavacca didn't have anyone affected by the disease when he first jumped on his bike to raise money for the trek from Sturbridge to Wellesley.

"I had a friend who had been riding for many years, and she suggested I get involved," the Bellingham resident said. "I had seen people going through cancer diagnosis, so I thought that this would be a good idea."

Scornavacca had done his fair share of distance biking riding before taking on the two-day event, so he was prepared for the mileage he was getting himself into.

"Bike riding just so happened to be a sport that I was involved in, so it wasn't a big deal to me," Scornavacca said. "It's the fundraising that has been a bit of a challenge, but I've been lucky enough to have a group of people who have been gracious with their donations year after year allowing me to reach Heavy Hitter status for 15 of my 19 years."

Scornavacca has raised \$152,000 for the Dana Farber Cancer Institute since he first

joined the cause in 2004. During his inaugural ride, he was able to complete the two-day event with his riding team, The Minuteman Road Club. Through the years, he has also gotten to ride along side of some celebrities, such as Tour de France star Lance Armstrong.

Riding from Sturbridge each year, Scornavacca knows that the route will take him through his hometown of Bellingham, and he always tries to be the first person through the town. While he hasn't been able to do it on a regular basis, the Bellingham native has been able to do it three times over his first 18 years.

One of the more exciting parts of the ride is the people and volunteers that line the routes with water and well wishes for the riders.

"It's absolutely amazing. The ride is broken up into neighborhoods where people like to do different things to show their support," he said. "It's a great feeling knowing that you've done a lot of work and preparation for this event, and then you get on your bike and begin riding, people are everywhere and so appreciative. I've been doing this so long that I've watched a lot of kids along the way grow up over the years."

Scornavacca also acknowledged the support of all the local police departments that keep the event moving at a steady pace while keeping them safe.

Over his numerous years riding the PMC, Scornavacca has been lucky that, for the most part, he has not had to deal with harsh weather over the weekend ride.

"It was a running joke that it never rained on the PMC until it did; that Saturday was a totally wash out, but Sunday had some breaks in the sky. You were pretty much drenched by the 30th mile, so you figured you couldn't get any wetter," he said. "We also had a couple of incredibly hot days as well over the years. It seemed to get hotter the closer you got to Bourne, but if you just keep on riding your body temperature will stay cool and you'll be ok."



Bellingham's Jeff Scornavacca rode in his 19th PMC this year.

Scornavacca, since he began as a PMC rider, has since lost an aunt to the deadly disease, and he has a friend who continues to battle.

"I had visited my friend on couple occasions where, when I left him, I was convinced that it would be the last time that I would see him, but the people at Dana Farber continue to do amazing things, and he's still alive," Scornavacca said. "He is one of the main reasons that I keep on riding. I know that I can raise the money and do the mileage so it's all about seeing the results. Dana Farber is so inspiring."

The Dana Farber Cancer Institute can only do as much research as the funds they receive, and if not for people like Jeff Scornavacca raising those donations for the PMC, they wouldn't have much to go on.

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# Bellingham Library News & Events for September

For updates to library programs and services, please see the library website, [www.bellingham-library.org](http://www.bellingham-library.org). Click on the red alert banner on the top of the page for details.

## Library Hours Expanding to 8 p.m. on weeknights starting September 6th!

Monday - Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Friday 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The library is closed on Monday, September 5th for the Labor Day Holiday.

The library is closed on Saturdays until September 10th.

## Special Programs

### Mass. Memories Road Show Planning Meeting, Wednesday, September 7th at 6 p.m.

The Mass. Memories Road Show is coming to Bellingham on November 5th! Join us for this planning meeting to help make this opportunity to record Bellingham history in photographs a great success. Volunteers are needed for the event in November.

The Mass. Memories Road Show is a statewide, event-based participatory archiving program that documents people, places, and events in Massachusetts history through family photographs and stories. Archivists and public historians in University Archives and Special Collections in the Joseph P. Healey Library at UMass Boston collaborate with local planning teams and volunteers to organize free public events

where individuals bring photographs to be copied and included in a digital archive. Contributors are invited to describe the photographs in their own words. In addition, they may choose to share "the story behind the photos" on video, have their own "keepsake photo" taken, receive advice on caring for their family photos, and learn from one another about their community's history.

Since its launch in 2004, the Mass. Memories Road Show has digitized more than 12,000 photographs and stories from across the state, creating an educational resource. Visit <https://blogs.umb.edu/massmemories/> to learn more. Registration preferred but not necessary.

### Red Cross Blood Drive, Saturday, September 10th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Register at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org)

### Latina Heritage Author Panel - Virtual Event, Tuesday, September 13th at 7 p.m.

Authors Isabel Canas, Romina Garber, Priscilla Oliveras, and Caridad Pineiro will talk about their journeys to becoming published authors, keeping in mind their diverse Latinx backgrounds. They will discuss how their heritage has influenced their writing, characters, publishing power, and fan base. This program is in collaboration with the Ashland Public Library, and is sponsored by the Friends of the Ashland Public Library. Please register to receive the Zoom link to this virtual event: register:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/1016577260717/WN\\_m9IYRUx\\_TiG5FemrxL-rVqQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/1016577260717/WN_m9IYRUx_TiG5FemrxL-rVqQ)

### Planning for Medicare - Countdown to 65, Monday, September 19th at 6:30 p.m.

If you're getting close to Medicare eligibility, this seminar is for you! A knowledgeable Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts representative will lead the presentation. Registration preferred.

### Catherine Marengi, Author Event - Monday, September 26th at 6:30 p.m.

Catherine Marengi, Milford native and author of *Glad Farm: A Memoir*, will read from her new book, *Our Good Name* (Arch Street Press, 2022). Based on her Italian immigrant ancestors, this historic fiction tells a rarely told side of the Italian American experience, the hard realities of immigrant life, and the courage required to make a home in the "New World." Leaving behind their beloved village in northern Italy, the family arrives in Milford, Mass. in the late 1890s, leading simple lives against a backdrop of tectonic social change. Violent labor union strikes. Threats from the KKK. The famously biased Sacco & Vanzetti trial - Sacco was also from Milford and is a key voice in this story. Please register.

### Art Show, ddDesigns by Devin A. DiChiara, Wednesday, September 28th at 6 p.m.

Join us for the opening of an art exhibit of Devin A. DiChiara of ddDesigns, Norfolk, MA. The exhibit will remain on display through November. One of Devin's professors called Devin the "Whimsical Artist" concentrating on bright, bold, vivid colors in her abstract canvas paintings using multiple mix mediums. She has an MFA from the Institute of Art & Design of New England College and a BFA from Colby-Sawyer College.

### For Kids

Our After School Programs resume on Tuesday, September 6th. We have two programs for

kids in grades 4+. Both programs are Monday through Thursday. The library closes at 3 p.m. on Fridays.

- After School Kids (ASK) - for grades 4-6. When school is in session, ASK meets Monday-Thursday from 2:30 -4:45p.m. Stop by the Community Room after school to make crafts, use a Chromebook, play on the Wii, play board games and hang out with friends! Registration IS required. Questions? Contact Diane Nelson, [dnelson@cwmars.org](mailto:dnelson@cwmars.org). Parents/caregivers of all registrants are signed up for our Constant Contact Newsletter.

- Teen Room Activities - for grades 7-12. When school is in session, Teen Room Activities are available Monday-Thursday from 2-4:45 p.m. Stop by the Teen Room to use computers, play on the WiiU and Xbox1, play board games and hang out with friends! No registration required. Please note: Throughout the school year our children's programs will follow the mask policy set by the Bellingham Public Schools, so please plan accordingly. Questions? Contact Amanda Maclure, [amaclure@cw-mars.org](mailto:amaclure@cw-mars.org).

### Daniel Tiger Party, Thursday, September 8th at 10:30 a.m.

For families, with a Daniel Tiger story, activities, crafts and swag! Please sign up in advance.

### Pirate Party, Monday, September 19th, two sessions, 1 p.m. for Homeschoolers and 4:30 p.m. for all

For buccaneers of all ages. September 19 is Talk Like a Pirate Day, and we are going to celebrate with a PIRATE PARTY! Get ye signed up and join us for some yo ho ho fun.

### Abbreviated Alphabits, Saturday, September 24th at 10 a.m.

For ages 2-5. On one Saturday morning per month, we will

have an abbreviated version of Alphabits, our popular weekly ABC story time. Please sign up so we know to expect you.

### Who Was Wednesday, Wednesday, September 28th at 4:30 p.m.

Best for ages 7+. Each class in this monthly program will focus on an individual person who is written about in the Who Was? book series. Please sign up for each class individually that you plan on attending.

## Other Children's Programs

Details on the programs below are available on the library website (<https://www.bellinghamma.org/library/kids>) and calendar (<https://bit.ly/3xMECCt>)

Ongoing programs include: AC/BC Book Club (formerly the Mother-Daughter Book Club), Alphabits (resumes starting on September 12th), Baby Time, Graphic Novel Book Club, Picnic Stories, PJ Story Time, and Ring a Ding

## Other Adult Programs

Additional details of these programs are available on the library calendar (<https://bit.ly/3xMECCt>)

- Book Club generally meets on the first Monday of the month, email Reference Librarian Cecily Christensen at [cchriste@cw-mars.org](mailto:cchriste@cw-mars.org) for details.

- Friends of the Library generally meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Email [library@bellinghamlibrary.org](mailto:library@bellinghamlibrary.org) for details.

- Library Board of Trustees generally meets on the second Thursday of the month at

7 p.m. Email [library@bellinghamlibrary.org](mailto:library@bellinghamlibrary.org) for details.

- Adult Writing Group generally meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Email [marjorie@marjorieturner.com](mailto:marjorie@marjorieturner.com) for details.

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# Calendar

## September 2

Last day for early voting in Massachusetts State Primary at the Municipal Center

## September 5

Last day for early voting in the Massachusetts State Primary at the Town Clerk's office

## September 6

Massachusetts State Primary, vote at Bellingham High School gymnasium

## September 7

Mass. Memories Roadshow planning meeting, 6 p.m., Bellingham Public Library. Mass. Memories Roadshow is a statewide, event-based participatory archiving program that documents people, places, and events in Massachusetts history through family photographs and stories

## September 10

Bellingham Senior Center Yard Sale, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., 40 Blackstone Street, Bellingham

Bellingham Town Common 25th Anniversary Celebration, 11 a.m.- 2 p.m., Entertainment by "Two of a Kind Crooners," Robert and Joseph Oliver. There will be pony rides, pizza, cake, soda, and snacks.

Red Cross Blood Drive, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, visit redcrossblood.org

Franklin Cultural Festival, 12-6 p.m., Franklin Town Common

Bethany House Holiday Extravaganza, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., St Thomas Hall 974 Main Street (Route 109), Millis. (Park across the street). Proceeds benefit Bethany House Ministry, a 501 c3.

Electronics Recycling Day, 8 a.m.- noon, The First Congregational Church of Milford, 4 Congress St., Milford, all computer monitors, computers, parts and accessories, faxes, copiers, printers, scanners, and TV's can be recycled for \$5-\$35 per item. Cell phones can be recycled at no charge and will be wiped and donated to charities that recycle and reuse them.

## September 11

Bellfodge Dance Festival, 12 - 5pm, FREE, Former grounds of Medfield State Hospital. Take Rt. 27 to Hospital Road. Make a left on Hospital Road, then a left on Service Drive. www.bellfodge.org

## September 13

Latina Heritage Author Panel - Virtual Event, Tuesday, 7 p.m., through Bellingham Public Library in collaboration with Ashland Public Library, register: [https://us06web.zoom.us/j/1016577260717/WN\\_m9IYRUx\\_TiG5FemrxLrVqQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/1016577260717/WN_m9IYRUx_TiG5FemrxLrVqQ)

## September 17

Martin Sexton with special guest Pete Muller & The Kindred Souls, 3 - 6:30pm, FREE, Former grounds of Medfield State Hospital. Take Rt. 27 to Hospital Road. Make a left on Hospital Road, then a left on Service Drive. www.bellfodge.org

## September 19

Planning for Medicare - Countdown to 65, 6:30 p.m., Bellingham Public Library

## September 24

Society of St. Vincent de Paul Friends of the Poor Walk, 9 a.m. rain or shine, Blaise Church, 1158 S. Main St., Bellingham, Registration begins at 8:30 am. Walkers may register online @ [www.fopwalk.org](http://www.fopwalk.org) or register the actual day of the walk. Pledges may be made in a specific walker's name or directly to the Bellingham conference. Walk is 1.5 miles. Beverages, snacks and t-shirts provided. Funds go to Bellingham residents in need regardless of faith.

Hopedale Unitarian Parish Concert to benefit Ukraine, featuring Poucette-Dart Band, 7 p.m., 65 Hopedale St., Hopedale, tickets at [www.hopedaleunitarian.org](http://www.hopedaleunitarian.org)

## September 26

Catherine Marengi, Milford native and author of *Glad Farm: A Memoir*, will read from her new

book, *Our Good Name*, 6:30 p.m., Bellingham Public Library, please register

## September 28

Art Show opening, ddDesigns by Devin A. DiChiara, 6 p.m., Bellingham Public Library

## October 1

Franklin Harvest Festival, presented by Franklin Downtown Partnership, 12-5 p.m. on Main Street, Dean Avenue, West Central Street, and Depot Street, as well as the large parking area behind Rockland Bank. Local entertainment, food from local restaurants, kids' crafts, painting and balloon art, specials from downtown merchants, artwork and crafts by area artisans, over 150 vendors booths, [www.franklindowntownpartnership.org](http://www.franklindowntownpartnership.org)

Oktoberfest, Bellfodge Arts Center, 12-6 p.m., Free, Former grounds of Medfield State Hospital. Take Rt. 27 to Hospital Road. Make a left on Hospital Road, then a left on Service Drive. www.bellfodge.org

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