

## Franklin's 4th of July Celebration Begins this Month, June 30th



By J.D. O'GARA

Starting Friday, June 30th and ending on Independence Day, Tuesday, July 4th, Franklin's Fourth of July celebration, complete with Franklin's 3rd Annual Blues Festival, summer concessions and rides, and, of course, fireworks, is poised to kick off a summertime of town fun at the Franklin Town Common. This is the 41st year of the Franklin July 4th Coalition, led by Joe Carmignani and Paul Kortick since 2017, continuing its diligence in creating a rocking 4th celebration.

The festivities aren't limited to one day, however. Fun begins on June 30th, with musical entertainment and a carnival each day and concession booths run by local nonprofit groups.



The Franklin Downtown Partnership Strawberry Stroll, a community celebration, will take place from 4-8 p.m. on June 9, 2023. Photos used courtesy of Franklin Downtown Partnership

## Kick Off a Great Season with June 9 Strawberry Stroll

The 19th Annual Strawberry Stroll is ready to go. This town favorite is set for Friday, June 9 from 4 to 8 p.m. The rain date is Saturday the 10th from 4 to 8 p.m. It will be held in downtown Franklin.

Start the summer at this popular event! Take pleasure in delicious strawberry shortcakes, listen to lively music, and have fun with the activities for your

kids. The fire department and historical museum will welcome visitors to see some interesting items. There will be 95 booths displaying the many treats downtown Franklin has to offer. Main Street will be closed for visitors to easily and safely walk.

Dean Bank's staff will be serving the signature strawberry

Sugar Ray and the Bluetones will cap off the 3rd Annual Franklin Blues Festival (Saturday, July 1st, 2023), which will take place during the Franklin 4th of July Celebration (June 30-July 4th). After this, fireworks will be set off from Franklin High School. Photo by Yves Bougardier

**CELEBRATION**

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**STROLL**

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**CELEBRATION**

*continued from page 1*

The carnival rides, run by Fiesta Shows, will run each day, with special-deal wristbands on certain times and days (see schedule).

The highlight of the week will be the Third Annual Franklin Blues Festival happening all day Saturday night, July 1st, followed by fireworks at the high school.

“We’ve ordered good weather,” jokes Carmignani, as unfortunately, the fireworks have been rained out for a couple of years. “We’ve been looking forward to having the blues fest, capping it off with the fireworks.”

“We all pray for good weather,” says Kortick. “If you are a religious person and have direct channels, pray for us!”

The Blues Festival, on Saturday night, promises to be top notch.

“We say this every year, and it’s truly true. Joe and I really try to make every year just a little better, and I think we’ve done that this year. We’ve got absolutely fantastic music for five days,” says Kortick. “If you’re a blues fan, or even if you’re not a blues fan, you’ll walk out

of there a blues fan. We pinch ourselves with how good a lot of these bands are.”

“A lot of these people play all over the world. Every band that’s playing is great,” says Carmignani, “Mikey Jr. is coming from Philadelphia to play this event; Bruce Katz is legendary. He’s on the A list of blues pianists and used to play with the Allman Brothers. He’s playing in Minnesota, Illinois, Georgia, Europe, and he’s coming here to Franklin. Sugar Ray and the Bluetones, they put on a great show last year and they were so good it was amazing. While they travel the world in May—they’re going to be in Germany, Luxembourg, Italy, and then they’re coming to Franklin. I give a lot of credit to Mike Crandall, one of the performers, who helps us put on this event. He’s played with a lot of these people for 20-30 years.”

Best of all, this event is free.

“You can go enjoy yourself and not spend any money,” says Carmignani, “Come, enjoy the music, spend the day, and have a blast. There’s not too many events where you can say that,”

adding, “The other great thing is this is obviously a non-profit organization. We receive hundreds of donations from residents and all of these local businesses. There’s no way we can do this without their sup-

port.” Residents who wish can even donate online, he says. “We added a Venmo QR code last year, so people can donate during the event.”

Supporters can also donate at the website, www.franklin4th.com, or they can send a check, payable to: Franklin July 4th Coalition c/o Dean Bank po box 307, Franklin, MA 02038

Volunteers are also appreciated. Anyone interested in helping for those five days can reach out via the website.

Organizers want to make sure to thank their local sponsors. Last year, these included: Accurate Baker Elman Plumbing Heating & Air Conditioning, Allegra Printing, Auerr, Zajack & Associates, Daddario Hardware & Supply, Dean College, D.G. Ranieri Real Estate, Fenton Financial Group, Fiesta Shows, Franklin Ford, Franklin Glass, Franklin Newcomers & Friends, Franklin Nutrition, Garelick Farms, George’s Oil, Inc., Grove Street Auto Repair, JEM Electronics, Keefe Insurance, Kelly’s Landscaping, Mass Cultural Council, Middlesex Savings Bank, Milford Daily News, Power Painting Plus, Rockland Trust, SPS Movers, Teddy Gallagher’s Irish Pub, Simon’s Furniture, and Vallee’s Jewelers.

**Franklin 4th 2023 Schedule of Events**

**Friday, June 30**

6-10 p.m.: Rides and food booths open (WRIST BANDS 6-10)  
7-10 p.m.: Duppy Conquerors

**Saturday, July 1**

12-10 p.m.: Rides and food booths open (WRIST BANDS 12-5)  
3rd Annual Franklin Blues Festival:  
12-1:15 p.m.: Ed Peabody  
1:45-3 p.m. : Neal & The Vipers  
3:30-4:45 p.m. : Mikey Junior  
5:15-6:30 p.m. : Mike Crandall Bandblues  
7-8:15 p.m. : Bruce Katz  
8:45-10 p.m.: Sugar Ray & The Bluetones  
10 p.m. : FIREWORKS / Franklin High School

**Sunday, July 2**

12-10 p.m.: Rides and food booths open (WRIST BANDS 12-5)  
12-1:30 p.m.: Padula Trio Plus One  
2-3:30 p.m.: Attleboro School of Rock  
4-6 p.m.: Zajac Brothers Band  
7-10 p.m.: Neon Wave (80s New Wave Dance)

**Monday, July 3**

Rides and food booths open 2-10 p.m. (WRIST BANDS FROM 2-6)  
7-10 p.m.: Backyard Swagger

**Tuesday, July 4th**

12-6 p.m.: Rides and food booths open (WRIST BANDS 12-5)  
12-1 p.m.: Matt Zajac  
1-2 p.m.: Jamie Barrett (solo acoustic)  
2:30-4 p.m.: Hot Acoustics  
4:30-6 p.m.: Jesse Liam Band

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**STROLL**

*continued from page 1*

shortcakes under tents in front of the bank. Fresh strawberries donated and cut by Dean College will top hundreds of shortcakes and be completed with whipped cream. Proceeds from strawberry shortcake sales are allocated to the Downtown Partnership to help fund the event.

Live music will be provided by Heath Nisbett from 4 to 6 p.m. and Dom DeBaggis from 6 to 8 p.m.

The Franklin Fire Dept will showcase their trucks and equipment on the front ramp, including an antique ladder truck. Sparky will be giving out plastic red helmets to children.

At the Historical Museum, Greenwich Bay Brass will play music on the front porch, fresh popcorn will be served, and vintage wedding dresses will be displayed.

“The Strawberry Stroll always has a ‘special vibe’ to it because it is one of the first events in town to kick off the summer season,” said Kevin Johnson, this year’s Stroll Chairman. “We ask everyone to come downtown



and enjoy strawberry shortcake, live music, great food and drink choices from local restaurants and the many interesting vendors offering goods and services.”

Franklin Downtown Partnership, the organizer of this annual tradition, is grateful for the financial support from community businesses. This year’s stroll is made possible by the support of the following sponsors.

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The Franklin Downtown Partnership is a non-profit 501©3 organization made up of more than 350 business owners, residents, and community leaders working to revitalize downtown Franklin. Residents are

welcome to join the Downtown Partnership for only \$25. The Partnership manages events like the Strawberry Stroll and the Harvest Festival, and initiatives such as beautification, streetscape design, greenspace, alley murals, and sculpture projects. For more information go to [www.franklindowntownpartnership.org](http://www.franklindowntownpartnership.org).



# Live Brass Band for Strawberry Stroll!

Bring your blanket or chair to the front lawn of The Franklin Historical Museum and enjoy the music of the Greenwich Bay Brass! Based in Rhode Island and known



throughout New England the GBB is an all-volunteer, British style brass ensemble with unique instrumentation. Consisting of a mixture of professional and highly skilled amateur musicians alike, the GBB repertoire includes a variety of music including traditional brass band pieces, orchestral transcription, jazz show tunes, holiday and popular music. The band promotes the brass band style and have been entertaining audiences at churches and unique venues in the area.

There will be two performances during the June 9th Friday night Strawberry Stroll at 4:30 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy live music and freshly popped popcorn. Stop in and explore our history and discover where Franklin’s story begins.

Visitors to the museum are encouraged to donate a non-perishable food item for the Franklin Food Pantry.

The Franklin Historical Museum is located at 80 West Central St., Franklin.

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# Franklin Will Again Celebrate with Pride on June 25th, 2023

By JUDITH DORATO O'GARA

The Franklin LGBTQ Alliance will host Celebrate with Pride 2023 in Franklin Town Common on Sunday, June 25th, 2023, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. This event will be free to the public and open to all. There will be no rain date.

Last year, an estimated 250-450 people turned out for the event, which was supported Franklin by the Franklin Interfaith Council (<https://franklininterfaith.org>), OUT Metrowest (<https://outmetrowest.org>), BAGLY ([www.bagly.org](http://www.bagly.org)), PFLAG Attleboro ([www.pflagattleboro.org](http://www.pflagattleboro.org)), and the First Universalist Society of Franklin (<https://fus.org>), most of whom joined in to attend the event.

"We had a good amount of nonprofits and religious organizations out there last year," says Amber Wilson, new president of the Franklin LGBTQ Alliance, who points out that those entities will be present again, along with a "good number of vendors and food trucks, and we're going to have a passport to encourage everyone to visit all of the sta-

tions set up. People can win some prizes." Prizes include shirts signed by members of New Kids on the Block.

Franklin Common sidewalks will be filled with fun activities, with students from local schools will helping with craft tables, says Wilson. Festivities include creating Kindness Rocks, another community weaving project, a selfie station, artists and musicians coming to perform, with an emcee lined up.

This year, Franklin LGBTQ Alliance t-shirts will sport a new logo. Wilson points out that the group was "very intentional with our design" on the new t-shirts, hoping to produce something unique to the town. Robin Baidya, a member and events coordinator of the Franklin LGBTQ Alliance, came up with a number of iterations of the design.

"We settled on the gradient, because it was all the colors coming together and (we liked) the way they meshed in together with the name of the town. We wanted it to be about us as a community," says Wilson.

The new president of the Alliance was not personally involved in last year's Celebrate with Pride on the Franklin Town Common.

"They had a stand-in last (spring), after what happened with the school committee, when some parents were yelling at students. I think that's what prompted it, initially, and that morphed into this event that was so much fun – with all the things I love," says Wilson, who had been looking to get involved in the LGBTQ community when she moved here with her then fiancée, now wife in 2019. Being in the military, neither got to truly explore the town until 2021, but when Wilson started looking for LGBTQ groups, the closest thing she could find was the Franklin Cultural Council. When she heard of the Franklin LGBTQ Alliance, Wilson says, "I was excited, but (the group) was formed, by allies, to specifically have this event." She envisioned more. "I was just like, I'm here, and I'm excited, and I'm ready to do the work." This year, the group has been more active socially, organizing table games at the Franklin Public Library the third Tuesday of each month as well as a book club. (There's also Pride Month Musical Bingo coming up at the library June 7th.)

"There's a meeting every month with a formal part of the meeting, but afterwards, we do something social," says Wilson.



Celebrate with Pride 2023 will take place on Sunday, June 25th, from 1-4 p.m. This year's logo, unique to Franklin, was created by Robin Baidya.

"We had a local baker in to tell us how to decorate cupcakes, we did a re-gift swap after the holidays, we played virtual Jackbox games and decorated Easter eggs. This month, on June first, we got permission from the town to plant 600 5" Pride flags." Now, in addition to a Facebook and Instagram page, there's a monthly email newsletter. Although the group doesn't have its own table at the upcoming Franklin Downtown Partnership Strawberry Stroll on June 9th, several organizations will present pamphlets and fundraising for the group at their tables.

The Franklin LGBTQ Alliance will also have a table at the Franklin Farmers Market on June 16th and June 23rd.

Wilson hopes for a great turnout and great weather on June

25th (as there is no rain date) for Celebrate with Pride 2023.

"Obviously, we want the members of the LGBTQ community to be there, but also our allies, especially considering that's who formed this group. It just goes to show how important it is to have strong allies who can hold a platform and give us a voice," says Wilson, "I think that love will always overshadow the hate. Any of the negativity that has shown itself has been drowned out by much more positivity," something Wilson feels is at the heart of the Franklin community.

For more information on the Franklin LGBTQ Alliance, find their Instagram ([franklingbtqalliance](https://www.instagram.com/franklingbtqalliance)) or Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/franklinLB-GTQalliance>), or email [franklingbtqalliance@gmail.com](mailto:franklingbtqalliance@gmail.com).

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WBA has been in business for 44 years. They began their ventures in Woodstock, CT and in 2018 branched out to open an office in Franklin, MA. The company made the decision to diversify and expand in Franklin at the suggestion of Architect and WBA manager Steven Keene. Keene is a resident of Franklin, so he holds the town near and dear.

Many of the homes in Franklin were built between the 1950s and 1980s. The homes are often



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in need of renovations and/or additions. WBA specializes in bathroom and kitchen renovations and additions like porches, decks and sunrooms. What Keene has noticed in his 12 years with the company is that folks in



## Business spotlight

their 30s and 40s are generally looking for updates or additions to their homes, allowing them space to expand as their families grow. Those in their 50s and 60s have generally been in their homes for an extended period of time, and look for accessible spaces like bathrooms and kitchens to be renovated, or additions of sunrooms are very popular, as they are a place that allows for great amounts of natural light and extra space for family gatherings.

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# Franklin Rod & Gun Club Fishing Derby June 3rd

By J.D. O'GARA

“For me, and I think for a lot of people, seeing a child catch their first fish, it’s an experience you can’t forget. You know that memory lasts forever,” says Jim Gianotti, President of the Franklin Rod & Gun Club, which is gearing up for its annual Franklin Rod & Gun Club Fishing Derby on June 3rd.

Each year, folks from Franklin are welcomed to the event, which will run that Saturday from 7 a.m.- 2 p.m. (Rain date June 4th). Families are invited down for an All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast for \$5, plus pizza for lunch (made by club members), free use of bait, gear, rod & reel while supplies last, and just for the day, no fishing license required. Best of all, the club will award trophies for those 16 and under. The cost is \$10 per adult, \$5 for kids 12 and under, and everyone who joins in the fish derby is entered into a special raffle.

The likelihood of catching a fish is pretty high, said Gianotti, in mid-May. “Uncas Pond has

been stocked twice so far this year,” he said, “The state comes in and does the stocking. There’s probably pretty close to 2,000 trout in there right now, and they usually try to do one more before the derby for us.”

The derby is very children-oriented, says Gianotti. “Everyone, basically, will catch a fish, so we make sure we have more than enough trophies, and there are prizes for the largest trout, and there’s a children’s division. We have over a dozen individuals on the beach helping the kids and making sure, if they catch a fish, if the parent doesn’t want to take the hook out, we do it, gingerly.” The club, he says, has more than enough equipment, including boats, life vests and bait to share, and most fish caught are returned to the pond.

Gianotti, an avid fisherman in his 20th year as a member, did a bit of research as he took the reins of president of The Franklin Rod & Gun Club, located at 53 Florence St., on Uncas Pond in Franklin.



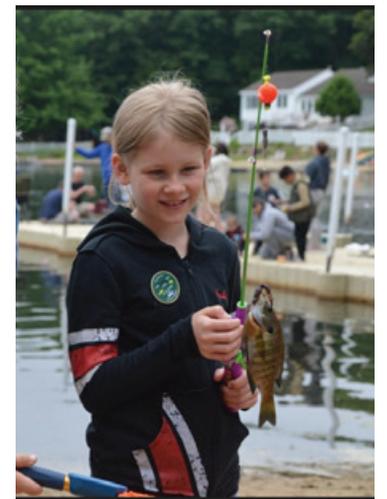
**The Franklin Rod & Gun Club annual Fishing Derby will be Saturday, June 3rd. Shown is last year’s children’s division winner Michael Luongo with FR&G Fishing Derby Chair Greg Chiklis. Photos by Laurie Gibeau.**

“It actually is one of the longest standing organizations in Franklin,” says Gianotti, who says he’s found fishing derbies going back to the 1960s, and the building itself was built in the 1930s. Back in the day, he says, “the whole town would show up at clam bakes.” Nowadays, the club has about 200 members, 165 of them active.

Fun still ensues, with the fishing derby, game nights, a family-oriented turkey shoot near Thanksgiving, and an archery range. Each third Sunday of the month, the club holds an all-you-can-eat breakfast for \$8, and the club, which sponsors Troop 99 Boy Scouts, gives out at least two scholarships a year to children and grandchildren of members.

As for the surroundings, members have access to a full kitchen and hall that can accommodate 75-80 people, with a rustic stone fireplace, and access to a landlocked Uncas Pond. Members can use club boats or keep their own rowboats, canoes, or kayaks among the ones there. The club also recently expanded public access on the left side of the building.

“You do have a million-dollar view on the deck of Uncas Pond,” says Gianotti, and humans aren’t the only creatures that visit to fish. “One of the great things sitting on the deck is (seeing) an osprey and a bald eagle catching fish in the pond.”



**Ava Carlow proudly shows off her catch last year.**

First year membership is \$125, with a \$75 initiation fee. For senior and junior members, the cost is \$75. All members are allowed to take their significant other and children down as well, says Gianotti, so a family membership isn’t necessary. “We don’t mind if the family comes down with the one membership and wants to use the boats – anything to get them outside.”

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# Dean College Holds 157th Commencement Exercises, May 6, 2023

Dean College held its 157th Commencement Exercises honoring the Class of 2023 on Saturday, May 6, 2023 at the Dean College campus in Franklin, MA.

Approximately 270 graduates representing 26 states and four countries received their degrees, with many family members and friends in attendance. The ceremony was held outside on the front lawn of Dean Hall, along Awpie Way, with livestream options for those unable to attend.

The commencement address was provided by Andrea Kremer, the multi-E Emmy Award winning sports journalist known for her roles as analyst on Amazon Prime's Thursday Night Football, chief correspondent for the NFL Network, correspondent for HBO Real Sports, and co-host on CBS Sports Network. Kremer asked graduates to reflect on the people that were most meaningful on their path to commencement, explaining that it takes a village to get where they are today.

"In sports, you hear players talk about representing the name on the back of their jerseys," she said. "Well, you all are representing the names on your degree. Today is about celebrating the journey that you've experienced with those most important in your lives."

Kremer also shared the lessons she learned along that journey that have defined her career, hoping to share thought-provoking ideas that graduates could take with them down the road.

"When I sat where you are now, graduating college, the possibility of me doing what I am doing now – and have been doing for close to 40 years – would have been unthinkable," Kremer said. She traced her journey from leaving law school to dancing ballet to writing theatre and dance reviews before finally breaking into sports journalism.

"I launched my career in sports journalism, which took off like a rocket, and I have never looked back. Some doors started to open and the rest I kicked down. I maximized being in the right place at the right time for career choices that I made and so can you," Kremer said. "I became the first female producer, director, writer and editor at

NFL Films and then ESPN's first female correspondent and then the first full-time female NFL game analyst for Prime Video's Thursday Night Football. I felt passionately about sports and storytelling and journalism. The average person spends 90,000 hours of their life at work. If

you feel passionately about what you're doing, I believe your life will take on new and important meaning and your feelings of self-worth will dominate."

Additional remarks were presented by Kenneth Elmore, J.D., president of Dean College, and Mark Boyce, chair of the Dean College Board of Trustees. Elmore also asked graduates to recognize the people that have supported them along their path, from family and friends to the faculty and staff at Dean, and congratulated the Class of 2023 on their accomplishments. "Aim high, rise, and go out there and show me what you've got," Elmore said.

Boyce shared three thoughts for graduates to take with them as citizens of the world. "Feel the love and support around you today, and remember in the ups and downs of life, don't be afraid of feelings," he said. "Speak the truth. The world is a crazy place, but you can make a difference – a Dean Difference – by simply speaking up for what is true and right in the world. Finally, do something to make the world a better place for ourselves and the people we love and care about."

Representing the Class of 2023 was student speaker Enrico Hernandez, a Sport Management major from Cypress, California.

A transfer student from Cerritos College in Norwalk, CA, where he earned an associate degree in kinesiology with honors, Hernandez has been actively involved in a number of campus activities and athletic organizations. He held positions as a community advisor, a member of the Student-Athlete Athletics Committee and a member of the football team. He was named to the 2021 and 2022 Eastern Collegiate Football Conference (ECFC) All-Academic Teams, the President's List for Fall 2021 and the Dean's List for Spring 2022 and Fall 2022. Additionally,

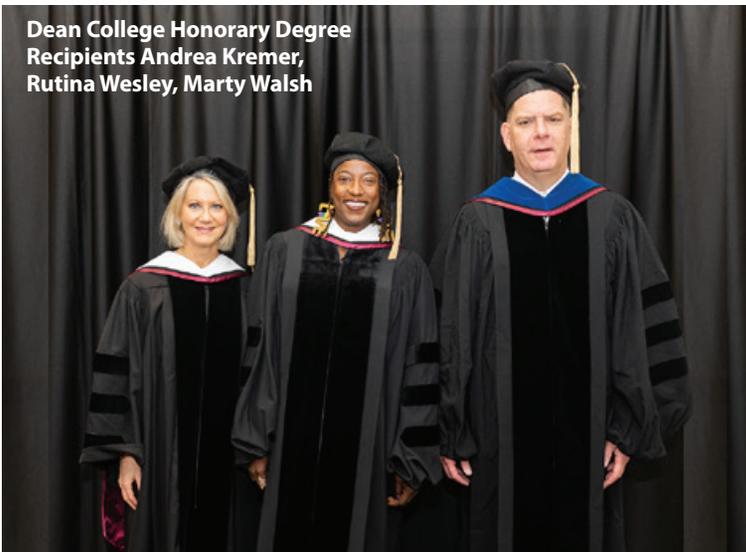
Hernandez is also a member of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year college students that he joined while at Cerritos College, and Chi Alpha Sigma, the national honor society for college student-athletes who excel both on and off the field.

Hernandez spoke about the support and sense of community he felt from everyone on campus, emphasizing how important both were as he moved across the country to start his journey at Dean. He advised his fellow graduates to not let their fears hold them back as they embark on life after Dean, so that one day they can pay it forward and help others overcome their own challenges.

"Let your faith be bigger than your fear," Hernandez said. "You are going to make it in life. Why do I know that? You may be going through struggles, stress, loss. But that is okay because that's how life works. You are going to complete what you started. You did it here at Dean, so why not do it everywhere else you want to go? Those difficulties will turn into tools, and those tools will shape you towards the future. And guess what? You will then have the ability to help others who may be in the same situation."

In addition to conferring degrees to the Class of 2023, honorary degrees were presented for the first time in the College's history to three recipients for their extraordinary accomplishments and contributions to society. Andrea Kremer, the Emmy Award-winning sports journalist, ESPN's first female correspondent, and trailblazer in the field of broadcast journalism, received a Doctor of Humane Letters; Marty Walsh, the former Mayor of Boston, former U.S. Secretary of Labor, and incoming Executive Director of the National Hockey League Players Association, received a Doctor of Public Service; and Rutina Wesley, the award-winning actress known for her roles in "True Blood," "Queen Sugar" and "The Last of Us," received a Doctor of Arts.

Prior to the Commencement Ceremony, all three honorary degree recipients addressed the



Dean College Honorary Degree Recipients Andrea Kremer, Rutina Wesley, Marty Walsh

Class of 2023, sharing experiences and advice for the graduates as they prepare to start their next chapters in life.

"There's nothing that you can't accomplish," advised Walsh. "Life's going to happen,

you're going to have obstacles. But stay focused on your dream. Stay focused on the goals that each and every one of you have today."

To learn more about Dean College, visit [www.dean.edu](http://www.dean.edu).



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# Establish Access When Things Are Good, Not When Times Turn Bad



Glenn Brown

your home as collateral - a secured line of credit. There is an underwriting approval process with a hard credit pull and home appraisal, which determine terms including duration (usually 10-15 years), variable rate benchmark (-/+ Prime Rate) and credit limit.

Most banks/credit unions allow 70% or 80% Loan-To-Value (LTV) minus mortgage balance. For example, your house now appraises for \$800K. At 70% LTV is \$560K less mortgage balance of \$400K means potential \$160K HELOC. At 80% LTV, \$640K - \$400K = \$240K HELOC.

Upon closing, you're provided a checking account to move money into and out of the HELOC as you please. If you do borrow, you will only owe interest for a monthly payment. However, keep the balance at \$0, then no interest or fees.

**And that's the strategy - keep the balance at \$0 for the "what ifs" in life.**

Take a dual-income household with slightly positive cash flow each month. When bonuses or RSUs vest, they build savings, pay cash for big expenditures, take vacations, etc. They could be approved for ~\$150K HELOC but choose not to plan and apply.

Then the following happens:  
**Job-Loss** - Instead of coming from a position of strength,

you're now at the mercy of a lender - good luck on those terms, even if approved.

**Bank Balance Sheets Gone Mad** - Fall 2008 saw banks stop issuing new HELOCs almost 2 years. Some tried to reduce, even close HELOCs, but regulators stepped as it is secured line of credit. As long as the collateral (house) and borrower uphold terms of agreement, the banks couldn't change terms - even if you lost your job. Same is not true for credit cards.

**World Gone Mad** - Remember when we'd shut down for 2 weeks to end a pandemic but instead laid off 38 million by end of April 2020? Banks stopped issuing new HELOCs and slowed new mortgages until October. And those with high limit HELOCs at \$0 balance became cash buyers of vacation homes from cash-seeking sellers. More opportunistic planning occurred using cash-out refi in 2021 on new property to lock in a low, fixed rate.

**Economic Downturn** - Banks reduce lending in anticipation of economic slowdowns. Regardless of your opinion on recession, we can all agree banks need deposits in order to underwrite new loans/lines. What's been a recent problem banks are having to maintain? Deposits. Declining deposits equals declining new lending applications.

There are more strategies to consider for HELOCs. Like using as an emergency savings

proxy to reduce opportunity costs or delay/spread out taxation from selling investments over calendar years to meet unexpected cash needs.

Talk to your Certified Financial Planner to learn more.

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

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

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Planning for the unexpected when things are good is a necessary evil.

This is true for electing work benefits, insurance, estate planning and access to equity.

When engaging in discovery with new clients, I often encounter misconceptions or bias against Home Equity Line of Credit (HELOC).

Their mindset is to seek one only when there is a large home repair or renovation project. True, it can be used for this purpose and the interest could be tax-deductible. But there's other benefits to consider in using access to the equity you've built as a tool.

Let's take a step back, make we sure understand the tool.

**What's a HELOC?** - A second mortgage that allows you to borrow money using the equity in

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# The College Affordability Talk

I wholeheartedly believe that a college education can change lives - but it is also an expensive proposition. Families should begin the process by having the "College Affordability Talk". Parents and their children should sit down early in the process and have a family budget conversation with the goal of understanding the true affordability of college. Then, when the acceptance and financial aid packages arrive in the spring, there will be no question which colleges are the right financial fit for the family. Most students like to be a part of the affordability process so that they can ultimately manage their own expectations.

## 4 College Affordability Talk Discussion Topics:

### 1. How much does college really cost?

This is a "must have" discussion. Most families do not understand the expense of college. Using Massachusetts colleges as an example, the annual full-time tuition AND housing/dining costs for a 2-year state community college is \$12K, a 4-year state university ranges from 23k- \$33K, and a 4-year private institution can cost as much as 85K. However,

keep in mind, most students do not pay the full sticker price- merit scholarships and need based financial aid will decrease the bottom line. A private college could easily end up being less expensive than a 4-year state university due to the merit/financial aid package a student receives. So, don't rule out private schools.

The following 2 tools are useful when predicting costs: The college's NPC (net price calculator) located on the college's website. The NPC provides a cost estimate based on the specific student's academic stats and family finances. Additionally, the Federal Student Aid Estimator located on the studentaid.gov website provides an early estimate of the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and eligibility for federal student aid.

### 2. How important is it to graduate on time?

It is VERY important. According to a study done at the University of Texas-Austin, students who took out loans and graduated in 4 years owed on average

40% less than students who graduated in 6 years. College is the perfect time for students to explore their interests, but it is wise to consider possible majors before leaving for college. Taking the time to assess academic interests, aptitudes, and career aspirations can provide the student with a road map of where to begin their journey and eliminate the number of times a student changes their major.

### 3. How much should a family borrow for college?

The family's number one goal should be to keep debt to a manageable level. Many financial experts suggest student loans should not exceed the student's first year's salary, postgraduate, using \$50,000 as the average salary. A helpful exercise is to develop a budget based on a \$50K salary and see what the student can afford living on their own while having some fun too. Managing parent debt is vital too. According to financial experts the same rule applies- parents should not borrow more than their annual adjusted gross income



Maryline Michel Kulewicz and Tracy Sullivan of College 101 Admissions Consultants

for all their children in total (and less if the parents are close to retirement age). Useful tool: The loan simulator on studentaid.gov.

### 4. How about attending Community College first?

This is a perfect option to reduce the 4-year cost of college. Using Massachusetts as an example, the state universities have articulation agreements with 15 approved community colleges (CC). If a student meets the requirements, they can transfer from an approved CC to one of the state universities, as a junior, and still graduate in 4 years. The state also has agreements with a dozen or

so private colleges. Students can live vibrant lives as a CC student and transfer along with many of their classmates to a 4-year state institution.

Remember that finding the right fit college is where the students' academic, social, AND financial fit provide an environment where the student will flourish!

Good luck and enjoy the journey!

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## Pre-College Summer Programs at Dean College

Is your high schooler interested in learning more about the performing arts, careers in sports or forensics while getting a taste of college life? This summer, Dean College will offer the Dean Summer Arts Institute and two pre-college programs in Sports Broadcasting and Forensics.

For students interested in dance or musical theatre, the Dean Summer Arts Institute is a week-long intensive in the performing arts. Students in the dance intensive will receive conservatory training in ballet, modern, jazz, tap and related dance techniques taught by world-class faculty. In the musical theatre intensive, students will study acting, singing and dancing with renowned faculty and guest artists while learning about auditioning, picking repertoire, acting for the

camera, self-taping and rehearsal techniques.

The Dean Summer Arts Institute will run from July 30 to August 6, 2023. For more information, visit [www.dean.edu/summerarts](http://www.dean.edu/summerarts).

The Sports Broadcasting and Forensics Pre-College Summer Programs offer a great introduction to college life. Students will earn college credit for completing the program while they learn from experts in the field and get advice on the college admissions process from a Dean College admissions counselor during a free one-on-one consultation. Students will also participate in unique real-world experiences and field trips embedded into each program, with behind-the-scenes access to program-specific venues such as Gillette Stadium

and the New England Patriots training camp. Additional experiences may include trips to a science lab and police station for the Forensics program and a baseball stadium for the Sports Broadcasting program, as well as the opportunity to call live play-by-play and host talk show programs.

Two one-week sessions of each pre-college summer program will be offered. The first session will run from July 23-28, 2023, and the second session will run from July 30-August 4, 2023. Free virtual information sessions will be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and Wednesday, May 3, 2023, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.dean.edu/summer](http://www.dean.edu/summer).

# The b.LUXE *beauty beat*

## Balayage or Highlights? Here's a Little Secret...

BY GINA WOELFEL

**Client:** "I'd like to lighten my hair today."

**Stylist:** "Great! What do you have in mind? Or better yet, did you bring an inspiration picture?"

**Client:** "No, I don't have any pictures, I just want a blonde balayage."

**Stylist:** "Ok, we can highlight your hair a number of ways. What kind of look are you going for?"

**Client:** "Oh no, I don't want highlights, I just want a blonde balayage."

Balayage or Highlights? Confused about what to ask your hairstylist for? You're not alone. If you're fretting on which service is best for you, stop worrying! Here's something I bet you didn't know:

Balayage is simply a highlighting technique to get you to the desired look you want. In recent years, though, the word Balayage has become synonymous with dark-rooted, blonde hair, and most clients that request it are actually just looking for that specific style. In reality, multiple techniques are used to attain that look. Balayage, Foilage, Baby lights, Teasylights and Foil Highlights are all just different names for coloring techniques used to lighten (and sometimes darken) your hair.

These techniques aren't just for blonding anymore. The brunette Balayage is huge this summer and the perfect way for all you darker haired beauties to boost your brown tresses.

With that, let's chat about our two most popular coloring services - Balayage and Foil Highlights.

Balayage, pronounced BAH-LEE-AHGE, means "to sweep" in French, and is, by far, the most requested color service at The b.LUXE Studio. Highlights are hand-painted directly on the hair to create a natural gradient from dark to light. The lightened pieces appear more naturally placed and lived-in, which mimics what the sun does to our hair naturally. This free-form color

application can be heavy or subtle, depending on how the stylist sections your hair. But, (and this is a big but) Balayage is not for everyone and can only lift (lighten) hair about 3-4 shades. So, if you're a dark brunette looking for light, honey-blond highlights, this technique is not for you.

But, fear not, blonde-seekers! The Balayage "look" you so desire is still well within your reach.

If your hair does need a considerable amount of lift, your stylist will need to use foil highlights.

Now, I'm sure for some of you, the word "foils" is conjuring up painful memories of the overly-streaky highlights of the early aughts. But, take a deep breath. Today's highlighting techniques and products are far superior to their predecessors and allow for precision placement and tone.

Here's a breakdown of both services:

### BALAYAGE:

- Free-hand, non-foil highlighting technique that can lift hair 3-4 shades
- Creates a soft, natural gradation of lightness, usually deeper closer to the root and lighter towards the ends, giving that beachy-blond, lived-in look.
- Takes between 2 to 5 hours, depending on the length and thickness of your hair.
- Maintenance: Every 12-18 weeks with a gloss/toner refresh around the 6-8 week mark to revive your blonde tone. With the darker root and no obvious demarcation line of regrowth, Balayage is considered a more low-maintenance highlighting technique with more time between appointments.

### FOIL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Foiling is the preferred method for that all-over, big, blonde look.
- Color is usually placed evenly along the whole section of hair, from root to tip.

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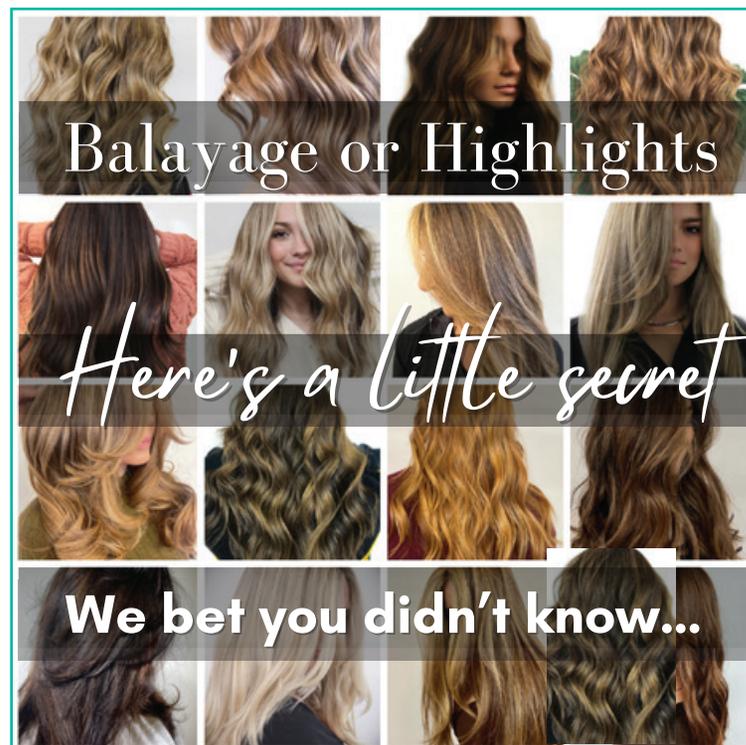


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- Sheets of foil are used as a platform for color and lighter. They encapsulate and separate highlights to boost lift while processing.
- Your stylist may choose to use one color or multiple colors for a more multi-dimensional result.
- Foil highlights take between 2 to 3 hours and are very precise and can be placed close to the root or mid-shaft to achieve a Balayage effect when hair needs to be lifted more than 3-4 shades. (See, we told you not to worry!)
- Maintenance: Every 6-10 weeks.

A few important things to remember...

You DON'T need to be well-versed in cosmetology to book a color appointment, but you do need to plan ahead. First, bring a few pictures to show your hairdresser the exact style and color you want. Why? Well, for ex-



ample, your idea of what honey-blond looks like may be wildly different than what your stylist thinks. An "inspiration photo" lets your hairdresser know exactly what you want and how they'll go about getting it.

Be flexible. Describe the "look" you want and let your stylist use their expertise to suggest what method would work best for you.

Lastly, (and we can't stress this enough), before any new color service, book a consultation. At b.LUXE, we offer them virtu-

ally or in-person, and they're always complementary. These 10 minute appointments are game-changers and give your stylist the chance to analyze your hair, gauge the timing of your appointment, and determine what it will take to achieve and maintain the hairstyle you desire.

We look forward to seeing you (and your inspiration pictures) at the studio this summer!

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# Living Healthy

## Macular Degeneration

### Causes, Symptoms, and Treatment Options

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

Macular degeneration, also known as age-related macular degeneration (AMD), is a progressive eye condition that affects millions of people worldwide. It is a leading cause of vision loss, particularly among older adults. Macular degeneration primarily affects the macula, a small area located near the center of the retina responsible for sharp, central vision. This article aims to provide an overview of macular degeneration, including its causes, symptoms, and available treatment options.

#### Causes of Macular Degeneration

While the exact causes of macular degeneration remain unknown, several risk factors have been identified. Age is a sig-

nificant factor, as the condition predominantly affects individuals over the age of 50. Genetic factors, family history, smoking, obesity, high blood pressure, and prolonged exposure to ultraviolet light are also associated with an increased risk of developing macular degeneration.

#### Types of Macular Degeneration

There are two main types of macular degeneration: dry (atrophic) AMD and wet (neovascular) AMD.

#### Dry AMD

Dry AMD is the most common form, accounting for approximately 85-90% of cases. It is characterized by the gradual breakdown of the macula due to the accumulation of drusen, yellow deposits beneath the retina. As the condition progresses, cen-

tral vision becomes blurred, making it difficult to perform tasks such as reading or recognizing faces.

#### Wet AMD

Wet AMD is less common but more aggressive than dry AMD. It occurs when abnormal blood vessels develop beneath the macula and leak blood or fluid, leading to rapid and severe vision loss. Individuals with wet AMD may experience distorted or wavy central vision, a dark spot in the center of their visual field, or rapid visual decline.

#### Symptoms and Diagnosis

The early stages of macular degeneration often present no noticeable symptoms, making regular eye exams crucial for early detection. As the condition progresses, symptoms may include:

- Blurred or distorted central vision



Normal Vision



View with AMD

- Difficulty reading or performing activities that require fine detail
- Dark or empty areas in the central visual field
- Decreased brightness or intensity of colors
- Difficulty recognizing faces

A comprehensive eye examination, including a dilated pupil examination, visual acuity test, and imaging tests such as optical coherence tomography (OCT) or fluorescein angiography, can help diagnose macular degeneration and determine its type and severity.

#### Treatment options

Macular degeneration is a progressive eye condition that affects the central portion of the retina, called the macula. Although there is no known cure for macular degeneration, there are several treatment options available that can help slow down its progression and manage the symptoms. Here are some of the common treatment options:

#### Anti-VEGF Therapy

Anti-vascular endothelial growth factor (anti-VEGF) drugs are injected into the eye to reduce the growth of abnormal blood vessels in the retina. These drugs include medications like ranibizumab (Lucentis), bevacizumab (Avastin), and aflibercept (Eylea). Anti-VEGF therapy has shown significant success in stabilizing or improving vision in many cases of macular degeneration.

#### Photodynamic Therapy (PDT)

This treatment involves the use of a light-activated medication called verteporfin (Visudyne). The medication is injected into a vein, and then a laser is applied to the abnormal blood vessels in the retina to activate the drug, causing the vessels to close and reduce their leakage.

#### Laser Therapy

In some cases, laser therapy may be used to target and destroy abnormal blood vessels in the macula. This treatment is known as focal laser photocoagulation.

#### Implantable Miniature Telescope

For individuals with end-stage macular degeneration in both eyes and severe vision loss, an implantable miniature telescope (IMT) may be an option. The IMT is surgically placed in one eye to improve central vision by magnifying the images that reach the healthy portion of the retina.

#### Low Vision Aids

These include devices such as magnifying glasses, telescopic lenses, and electronic visual aids that can help individuals with macular degeneration make the most of their remaining vision.

EYES

continued on page 13



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# Living Healthy

## EYES

continued from page 12

### Lifestyle Changes

Certain lifestyle modifications can help manage macular degeneration. These include quitting smoking, eating a healthy diet rich in antioxidants and nutrients (e.g., leafy green vegetables, fish, and fruits), exercising regularly, maintaining normal blood pressure and cholesterol levels, and protecting the eyes from harmful ultraviolet (UV) light.

### Supplements

The AREDS study conducted by the National Eye Institute and concluded in 2001. It showed that the AREDS formula can reduce patients' risk of the advanced form of AMD by about 25 percent. The formula helps protect people's central vision, which is needed for reading, driving, recognizing faces and other daily activities.

The AREDS 2 study, which concluded in 2011, tested several antioxidant nutrients that earlier research had suggested might protect the eyes: lutein, zeaxanthin, and omega-3 fatty acids. Omega-3 fatty acids are produced by plants and are present in oily fish such as salmon. Lutein and zeaxanthin are carotenoids, a class of plant-derived vitamins that also includes beta-carotene, and are present in leafy green vegetables. The body uses these nutrients to maintain the health of the retina, the part of the eye that can be damaged by AMD. The AREDS 2 research team did find that the risk of developing advanced AMD was reduced by about 18 percent in study participants who took the variant that included lutein and zeaxanthin but no beta-carotene, compared with participants who took the variant that had beta-carotene but no lutein or zeaxanthin. And those participants

whose diets were low in lutein and zeaxanthin at the start of the study, but who took a variant with lutein and zeaxanthin during the study, were about 25 percent less likely to develop advanced AMD, compared with similar participants who did not take lutein and zeaxanthin.

The researchers say that removing beta-carotene from the AREDS formula and adding lutein and zeaxanthin will result in a single formula that is safe and effective for all AMD patients. Another recent AREDS report showed that the benefits of taking the AREDS formula appear to be long-lasting. Participants in the first AREDS study who took the original formula daily for five years continue to enjoy a 25 percent lower risk of developing advanced AMD.

It's important to note that the choice of treatment depends on the type and severity of macular degeneration, as well as individual factors. If you or someone you know has macular degeneration, it's crucial to consult with an ophthalmologist or retina specialist who can provide personalized recommendations and guidance based on the specific situation.

At Milford Franklin Eye Center, we use state-of-the-art technology to treat a variety of eye problems, including macular degeneration. We are proud to have a Boston Harvard dedicated retina specialist in our practice, specializing in the treatment of retinal eye disease and AMD. With the presence of this service and equipment that rivals the best found in major teaching eye hospitals, our practice continues to provide world class eye care closer to home.

For more details, see our ad on page 12.

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## Asian Tiger Mosquito a Growing U.S. Threat

Zachary Smith, a licensed pest control professional from PestDude.com, has warned Bay Staters to be highly vigilant as the Asian tiger mosquito, a small, dark mosquito with distinctive white stripes on its legs and body, spreads across the country at an alarming pace.

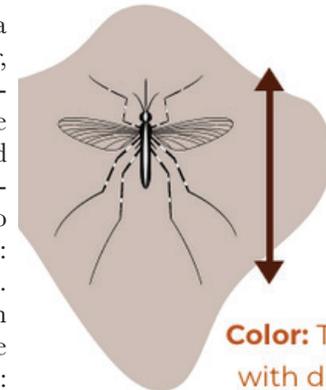
One of the key characteristics that makes the Asian tiger mosquito a concern is its ability to serve as a disease vector and transmit a number of diseases, including dengue fever, chikungunya, and Zika virus. While these diseases are not yet widespread in the US, the spread of the Asian tiger mosquito has raised concerns that they could become more common in the future. According to Smith, two factors are accelerating the insect's spread: climate change and human transportation. While little can be done in the short-term about changing weather patterns, there are actions Americans can take to stem its spread:

- One of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of the Asian tiger mosquito is to eliminate standing water around homes and businesses. The mosquito lays its eggs in standing water, so removing sources of standing water, such as flower pots, buckets, and old tires, can significantly reduce the mosquito population. Mr Smith also points out that these types of mosquitoes only need a bottle cap full of water to lay their eggs, and that these eggs can sometimes survive being dried out. He adds: "Asian tiger mosquitos are quite lazy travelers. So if you're getting bit, it most likely means you are close to the water source. So look carefully in your vicinity for those hidden spots that are holding water. It can be less obvious than you think - a soda can, an old glass bottle, garbage can lids, a tarp piled on the ground, all those things can hold enough water".
- Another effective strategy is to use mosquito repellents containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus. The mosquito is known to hitchhike on goods and materials that are transported across borders, allowing it to rapidly expand its range. Therefore, people who are travelling interstate, particularly from east to west, are encouraged to wear repellent before setting off on their journey.
- Also, it is important to support community-wide efforts to control the mosquito population. This can include initiatives such as mosquito trapping and surveillance programs, public education campaigns, and mosquito control measures such as larviciding and adulticiding.

About the Asian tiger mosquito: It is a highly adaptable species that can survive in a wide range of environments, from urban to rural areas, and from temperate to tropical climates. Unlike many other mosquito species, the Asian tiger mosquito is active during the day, with peak biting activity occurring in the early morning and late afternoon. The mosquito is particularly prevalent in southeastern states, where it has become established in both urban and rural areas.

The Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) is a small black and white mosquito with distinctive markings.

Here's how to identify it:



**SIZE:** Adult Asian tiger mosquitoes are small, about 2-10 mm in length.

**Color:** They have a black body with distinct white stripes on their legs and a white stripe down the center of their head and back.

**Shape:** They have a slender, narrow body with a pointed abdomen.

**Behavior:** They are active during the day and prefer to feed on humans.

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# Rotary Club of Franklin MA Plans Pasta Supper June 22

The Rotary Club of Franklin is happy to announce that we will host our 31st Annual Pasta Supper on June 22, 2023, at 5 p.m. at 1000 Central Park Terrace, Franklin MA. All Senior Citizens and residents of the Franklin Housing Authority are welcome to attend this event and as always, it is completely free of charge.

“My Dad, John Padula started this Rotary Service Project back in 1991. I have so many fond memories of he and my uncle Charlie, playing music and singing to entertain their guests. People were dancing in their seats and in the aisles.” said incoming Rotary President, Diane Padula. “I’d also like to mention, that we will have some special guest helpers this year and urge folks to sign up, so that you don’t miss out!”

Since then, Dan Gentile, a Rotarian for over 30 years, has taken over as Head Chef and will lead fellow Rotarians in preparing the homemade meal. “Only the freshest ingredients will be



used to make our giant pans of tomato sauce and 500 hand rolled meatballs”, said “Chef Dan” Gentile. He continued, “The Rotarians look forward to providing this home cooked meal each year and we work together to make this a special and memorable event for our Franklin’s Senior Citizens and Residents of the Franklin Housing Authority”.

Seniors are urged to enter their names on a sign-up so that no one is left out. Sign-up sheets may found at the following locations:

- Central Park Terrace, 1000 Central Park Terrace, Franklin, MA
- Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill Street, Franklin, MA

The Rotary Club International is a non-profit organization made up of a diverse group of men and women “who come together to create positive, lasting change in our communities and around the world.” <https://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary>



If you would like more information about our organization or Memberships, please contact Rotary Club of Franklin MA at [rotaryclubfranklinma@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryclubfranklinma@gmail.com) and they will make arrangements

for you to be their guest at one of the upcoming meetings. Rotary members meet the first and third Tuesday of each month at The Rome Restaurant, 4 E. Central Street, Franklin, Mass.

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# Lit Electric

After opening in October of 2022, LIT Electric has been in business for under a year; however, business grew significantly fast, offering a variety of different services. Over the 6 and a half month period that Lit Electric has been open, they have obtained contracts with property management companies, general contractors, and a great general client base in residential homes due to the hard work of owners Matt Przymierski and Alexi Martinez. Matt and Alexi are future spouses in addition to partners in an LLC by the name of "Pinky and the Brain" under which they operate LIT Electric.

"We look to keep growing and to continue to bring 'Quality work for a great price' not only to our residential customers but to any new builder or contractor we do work with in the future, whether it be residential or commercial," says Matt of LIT Electric. The business offers all different types of services, from changing single outlets or lights for customers, to wiring an entire home in a new development for one of their builders or contractors. In addition to these services, one particular type of service for which LIT Electric finds people need is the installation of EV car chargers. Of this, Matt shares, "A Lot of people are making the transition from gas to electric, and are looking to install chargers in their ga-



**Business  
spotlight**

rages or on the outside of their homes to more conveniently charge their vehicles. We enjoy being a part of this change and we do 3-5 of these on average per week."

When asked why LIT Electric stands apart from competitors, Matt shared that he has encountered many great electrical contractors and companies over the course of his career, but he believes his love for his work is key to the success of LIT Electric. "All I can say is that I truly love what I do and I truly love upgrading peoples homes or businesses and watching it all come together at the end of the project. A Lot of people no matter how good of workers they are sometimes still don't ENJOY their careers which i think loving what you do makes all the difference in the world. If I can continue to bring people in the area



quality work and continue to grow and keep the quality at the same time then that will be my goal, never to lose sight of the customers! I think that is what makes me different, and also I look for these same characteristics in my employees. I want them to be as passionate about their jobs as I am!"

Whether it be troubleshooting a problem, wiring your entire new home addition, or simply adding some new recessed lighting in your kitchen, LIT Electric will always give you great quality work for the very best price possible, it's what they strive for. With a dedicated part-

nership running the business and a team of strong, passionate individuals, Matt and Alexi are excited to continue offering their services to Franklin and surrounding towns.

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## SAFE Coalition to Host June 12th Nonprofit Meet & Greet

The SAFE Coalition will host a meet and greet for Franklin nonprofits at our office here in Franklin at the Moseley Mills. We will have light apps, refreshments, and music! Please feel free to share with anyone you feel would be interested in attending.

**DATE:** Monday, June 12

**TIME:** 3 - 5 p.m.

**LOCATION:** SAFE Office, 31 Hayward St, Unit 2-c, Franklin, MA

**FIND US:** Please take the second driveway at the Moseley Mills and follow the road until you see the SAFE sign, above Berry Insurance.

**PARKING:** Please utilize any parking lot that is not directly in front of the SAFE offices. We want to honor these limited spaces for the other businesses open during this time.



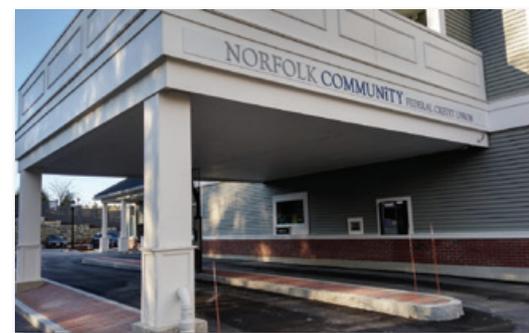
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# Cultural District Committee ... Seeking Members

The Cultural District Committee (CDC) is looking for new members! Designated in 2019, Franklin's Cultural District (map) is the specific area of Franklin where most arts and culture events happen and artists, creatives, institutions, organizations and businesses are located. While arts and culture happen throughout Franklin, the Cultural District is the featured area.

The CDC's mission is to advance and support artists & creatives and cultural enterprises and to promote local cultural development. Supporting this mission the CDC:

- Publishes the weekly *Cultural Wednesday* newsletter, which enables the reader to "visit" the websites associated with events, locate information about events, purchase tickets, register for classes, and more.
- Co-sponsors with the Town, the CDC website Franklin Culture, a community resource with detailed information about arts and culture in Franklin, as well as educational and historical resources.

- Facilitates collaborations in the Cultural District, provides information about arts and culture resources in the Commonwealth, and supports a communication platform among and between artists, arts and culture organizations, institutions, and businesses.

Please consider joining the CDC. Committee participation provides an opportunity to have an impact on Franklin's ability to grow as a regional center for arts and culture. Select info for CDC application or email the CDC: franklinculture@franklinma.gov.

Thank you! Franklin Cultural District Committee: Amy Adams, Katherine Botelho, John LoPresti, Roberta Trahan and Pandora Carlucci.

# Touching Base with the TA

Local Town Pages will discuss town updates with Franklin's Town Administrator, Jamie Hellen, each month.

"School is almost out, so let's get out and have fun," says Jamie Hellen, Franklin Town Administrator, pointing out that the beginning of "festival season" starts this month. Hellen points out that:

- The Franklin Downtown Partnership Strawberry Stroll is June 9th, from 4-8 p.m.
- Franklin Celebrate with Pride, its second Pride Festival, will take place on Sunday, June 25th on the Town Common.
- The Franklin 4th of July Celebration will run from June 30th-July 4th, on the Town Common, with the Franklin Blues Festival taking place on Saturday, July 1st, followed by fireworks at the Franklin High School.
- The Franklin Farmers Market will return Fridays, 2-6 p.m., on Town Common, starting June 2nd and running through October.

- Franklin's Concerts on the Common, run by the Franklin Recreation Dept., will begin on June 23rd, running weekly (except during the Franklin 4th celebration) through August 18th.

"It's been a tense in year in a lot of places, and people are overextended," says Hellen. "I just want to get the word out on all these great activities and just get out and have fun, and not always talk about town budgets and bureaucracy. Have some food from the food trucks, go to the Farmers Market and support your local economy. All of these events support local artists, local farmers, local acts and local vendors. People can go have fun with their local resources."

The town of Franklin's role in these events, says Hellen, is "to provide guidance on public safety and work with applicants to make sure they have fun and safe events.

"We try to do our part to assist them in bringing their ideas to fruition," says Hellen.

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# Planet Fitness Donates Cardio, Strength Equipment to Franklin First Responders

Planet Fitness is committed to supporting its local communities and first responders. In 2022, 100% of equipment from Planet Fitness' corporate clubs was either donated or resold.

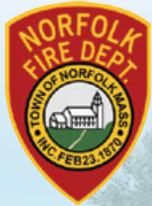
Local franchise group CDM Fitness Holdings, whose first location was Franklin, Mass., Planet Fitness, recently donated three treadmills, one stair-climber, and one stationary bike to the Franklin Fire Department.

Exercise and physical fitness are important for first responders' mental health as they experience prolonged levels of high-stress, work long shifts and may not have access to workout equipment at work or at home. During Mental Health Awareness month, we were thrilled to be giving back to local first responders.



Planet Fitness, recently donated three treadmills, one stair-climber, and one stationary bike to the Franklin Fire Department. Pictured here from left to right are: Keith Darling, Battalion Chief; Taylor Pryor, Planet Fitness; James McLaughlin, Fire Chief; Keith Schnabel, Firefighter/Paramedic; Pete Ballou, Firefighter/Paramedic; Tommy Bianco, Planet Fitness; Kevin Marshall, Captain; Jim Polito, Firefighter/Paramedic; Rich Salve, Firefighter/Paramedic

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Photo credit Matt Donovan

# Franklin Farmers' Market Open for Business throughout Summer

The Franklin Farmers' Market will once again take place at the Franklin Town Common every Friday from June 2nd through October 27th, 2 p.m.- 6 p.m. Various farmers will present their wares each week, and SNAP benefits will be accepted. In fact, the Franklin Food Pantry will be sponsoring a match program, for the first \$10 spent the Pantry will sponsor an additional \$10.

The market will also feature craft vendors from Franklin and the immediate surrounding towns.



For Information on how to become a vendor at the Franklin Farmers Market, please contact <https://franklinfarmersmarketma.com/contact-us>. For the 2023 season, however, the application period is now closed.

### Are you a nonprofit community group?

The Franklin Farmers' Market offers one 10'x10' space for non-profit, community organizations and groups that work to enhance the town, state, country, or world.

Please contact the FFM Manager with any questions at [franklinfarmersmarketma@gmail.com](mailto:franklinfarmersmarketma@gmail.com).

Visit <https://www.franklinfarmersmarketma.com/2023-community-table> for complete details.

# Music and Friendship Goal of New Partnership



The Milford Senior Center Singers and Thanks To Yanks, a local charity dedicated to serving those who serve, teamed up for a new mission. The goal is to bring music and friendship to those who live in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and long-term care housing.

In the above picture (left to right): Judy Thomas, Dot Pedroli, Maggie Budd, Peggy & Dick Testa, and Corinne & Tony diGirolamo, with Kathy Belhumeur, pianist, and George C. Brown, director, are seen at Blaire House of Milford singing a collection of patriotic songs and American

standards. Organizations pay no fee to have the singers perform, and patriotic gifts are given to all who attend. Additional performances are planned locally for May and June.

For more information, please reach out to Thanks To Yanks on Facebook .

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## The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School Receives National Recognition

The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School (BFCCPS) announced that it has been recognized as a 2022-23 Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Distinguished School. It is one of 212 middle schools across the U.S. to receive this honor for providing broad access to transformative learning experiences for students through PLTW Gateway. PLTW is a nonprofit organization that serves millions of PreK-12 students and teachers in schools.

The PLTW Distinguished School recognition honors schools committed to increasing student access, engagement, and achievement in their PLTW programs. To be eligible for the designation, BFCCPS had to:

- Have more than 50 percent of the student body participating during the 2021-22 school year;
- Have 25 percent of students advancing to high school participate in two or more units during their time at the school;
- Offer at least one PLTW Gateway unit at each grade level;

- Have strategies in place that support reasonably proportional representation with regard to race, ethnicity, poverty, and/or gender.

Research shows that the middle grades play a pivotal role in influencing high school, college, and career success. During this transitional time, it's crucial to provide students with access to relevant, engaging, and real-world learning experiences that illuminate the range of career paths and possibilities available to them. Whether designing an automated robotics system or solving a mysterious disease outbreak, PLTW Gateway students engage in critical and creative thinking, build teamwork skills, and develop a passion for and confidence in STEM subjects.

"We are proud to recognize the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School for their commitment to providing students with exceptional educational experiences while ensuring equitable access to PLTW programs," said Dr. David Dimmett, PLTW President and CEO.

For more information about PLTW's recognition program, visit [pltw.org](http://pltw.org).

## Franklin Faith Leaders Trade Places for a Day

Rabbi Tom Alpert of Temple Etz Chaim and Rev. Doreen Oughton from Franklin Federated Church traded places the weekend of May 5th-7th. Rev. Oughton gave the sermon at Temple Etz Chaim of Franklin during the Shabbat evening service Friday. Rabbi Alpert did the same at Franklin Federated Church Worship Service on Sunday morning. This long-time tradition between the two faith communities was extra special this year, as Rev. Oughton

is new to the FFC. Temple Etz Chaim is a Reform Jewish congregation incorporated in 1992 serving thirteen area towns, including Wrentham and Norfolk.



## Franklin Realtor Achieves National Diversity Certification

Ted Cormier-Leger, Realtor with Suburban Lifestyle Real Estate (Franklin) has been awarded the At Home with Diversity® certification from the National Association of REALTORS®.

Mr. Cormier-Leger joins more than 21,000 other real estate professionals in North America who have earned the certification after completing an eight-hour course addressing topics of diversity, fair housing, and business planning development. The program is designed to meet the nation's fair housing commitment by educating and equipping NAR's members with the tools they need to expand homeownership opportunities.

For more information on the At Home with Diversity® certification, visit [www.nar.realtor/ahwd](http://www.nar.realtor/ahwd).

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## Sports

# Alexander a Key Component for FHS Lacrosse Team

By KEN HAMWEY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

A faceoff specialist in lacrosse so often plays a major role in a team's success.

A capable player at that position is similar to having a great rebounder in basketball, because an effective faceoff specialist gets possessions, much like the rebounder.

The late Red Auerbach of the Celtics, the greatest coach in pro basketball, once said he'd prefer a great rebounder over a great scorer, because "you can't score without the ball."

Lou Verrochi, Franklin's boys' lacrosse coach, is on the same page with Auerbach, and that's why his faceoff specialist for the last four years has been Justin Alexander.

"Next to the goalie, the faceoff specialist is the most important player on the field," Verrochi said. "When we're winning possessions, we get more opportunities to score."

Verrochi, whose squad will be a high seed when the state tourney gets underway, believes his Panthers can contend for a state crown. "We can go deep, and Justin will play a crucial role in that effort."

"Hearing my coach say that gives my confidence a boost, and it's cool that he has that kind of trust in me," said Alexander. "It

creates some pressure but that motivates me."

A senior, Alexander has all the attributes that make a faceoff specialist outstanding.

"Justin has what we call 'fast twitch muscles' in his hands, arms and legs," Verrochi noted. "That's what enables him to react fast and win a majority of our faceoffs ... He's also got great instincts, good field vision, and mental toughness. He wins ground balls, he's elusive and he dodges effectively."

The 5-foot-7, 165-pound Alexander had a faceoff percentage last year of 71, winning 331 faceoffs in 463 attempts. He also has managed to average 8 goals and 7 assists in a three-year career, scoring and assisting by controlling the faceoff and either beating the goalie or passing to a teammate. His faceoff percentage so far this season is 77 (189 faceoffs won in 245 attempts) and he's got one goal and five assists.

"I like the role because there's different ways to win a faceoff," he said. "I can clamp the ball or swipe it (driving the ball under an opponent's stick) and if I lose a clamp, I can counter the opponent by hitting his stick. The key to success is having speed and strength, staying calm, reacting quickly at the whistle and being mentally tough."



A Hockomock League all-star last year, Justin Alexander completed his junior season by earning a scholarship to play at UMass Lowell, a Division 1 school.

The 18-year-old Alexander has proved his value on two fronts. He was selected as a Hockomock League all-star last year, and when his junior year was completed, he earned a scholarship (athletic and academic) to UMass Lowell, a Division I school.

Alexander, who missed his freshman season because COVID-19 forced the cancellation of all spring sports in 2020, awaits his final chance to help Franklin win a state title, his eyes are on the big prize, which

eluded the Panthers in his two previous seasons.

"My team goals are to win the Kelley-Rex Division title, then go deep in the tourney and win a state championship," Alexander said. "The key is taking one game at a time. My personal goals are to keep improving my faceoff percentage, contribute by scoring and assisting, and to repeat as a Hockomock all-star."

At Local Town Pages deadline, Franklin had a 13-1 record.

Alexander believes these goals are attainable, "because our team has veteran experience, it's talented, has a strong work ethic and relies on strong technique and good coaching," he emphasized. "We also have playoff experience."

A native of Franklin, Alexander says his best game came against Lincoln-Sudbury last year in the tourney. "We lost, 13-10, but I played my heart out," he offered. "I scored a goal and my faceoff percentage was 62 (16 for 26). My top thrill was selection to the league all-star team."

Alexander has high praise for his coach and admires the Panthers' four senior captains who've been prime contributors to the program's success. The captains are Jayden Consigli (attack), Luke Davis (attack), Robin Chaudhury (midfielder) and Ben Harvey (defender)

An honor-roll student, Alexander says he might major in business (marketing). He's eager and excited to be competing for a Division 1 university. "Coach (Drew) Kelleher will be in his second year when I'm a freshman," Alexander said. "He's a demanding coach who believes in a strong work ethic. He said he was pleased I chose UMass-Lowell."

Alexander's role model is his brother Jacob, who played as a faceoff specialist at Franklin and now is competing at Bryant University.

Alexander, who started playing lacrosse at six and spent eight years competing at the club level says sports has taught him about overcoming adversity, how to be a good teammate, how to be mentally tough and how to lead.

Calling the late Kobe Bryant his favorite pro athlete because of his work ethic and his mental toughness, Alexander received a tremendous endorsement during the preseason when Franklin scrimmaged Acton-Boxboro. After the match, Verrochi was talking with the Colonials' coach, Pat Ammendolia, who said "your faceoff kid destroyed us."

It's obvious that winning faceoffs helps to start rallies, build momentum and lead to triumphs. And, that's what Justin Alexander's role will involve in the playoffs.

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# Sports

## Franklin's Hess Wins USA Gymnastics State Title

By KEN HAMWEY,  
STAFF SPORTS WRITER

Emmalyn Hess is only 14 years old, but she already knows what it's like to compete for state and regional championships.

The 14-year-old gymnast is an eighth-grade student at the Annie Sullivan Middle School in Franklin, and she's been training for the last three years at the Mass. Elite Gymnastics Academy in Millis. Representing the academy, which is sanctioned by USA Gymnastics, Hess competed against 188 gymnasts and won the level-7 state championship in the all-around competition on April 1 at Fitchburg High School.

The all-around competition includes the scores from four events — vault, floor exercise, balance beam and bars. Hess earned scores of 9.375 in vault; 9.775 in floor exercise; 9.65 in balance beam; and 9.375 on bars. Her winning score was 38.175.

Competing three weeks later at the regional tourney on April 23 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield, Hess battled for the Super 7 crown against the six all-around state champs from Vermont, Maine, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire and New York. She finished third out of 12 in the Super Senior age group with a score of 37.45, and that number also earned her a No. 30 placement in a field of 159 gymnasts in the level 7 overall competition.

Winning the state all-around championship is an achievement Hess won't soon forget.

"At first, it was a shock that I was the state champion," she said. "Then, I realized how cool it was."

Hess, who started gymnastics as a two-year-old in a recreation program in Winston-Salem, N.C., before moving to Franklin, relied on a variety of skills and emotions to capture the state title.

"The key was having confidence and believing in myself," she noted. "All the training at the Millis academy and all the hard work and my passion for gymnastics paid off. Good technique

also plays a role."

Hess also listed five attributes that she believes were instrumental in her finishing No. 1. "Time management is important, and I know that self-discipline, perseverance, dedication and passion also played a role."

Hess admitted, however, that she battled some nervous moments before capturing her state title. "It was nerve-wracking at first, and my nerves got going just before I began to compete," she said. "I convinced myself to settle down and to be calm."

Hess' parents (Kristen and Chad) not only were proud of their daughter's achievements at both the state and the regional venues, but they were also "in awe of her accomplishments."

"Emmalyn trains 20 hours a week at the academy, attends school, does her homework and also participates in strength and conditioning drills and yoga," her parents emphasized. "At the regional, she competed against the best gymnasts from seven states. We're pleased at the way she handled some anxious moments and proud of the way she performed at such a high level."

An honor-roll student, Hess will enter Tri County Vocational as a freshman in the fall and is committed to courses that will focus on health careers. "My goal after high school is to compete in gymnastics (all-around category) in college," she said. "Penn State is a Division 1 college that has an outstanding gymnastics program."

Hess' said she was pleased with her efforts at the regional, which attracted gymnastics fans from the six New England States and New York.

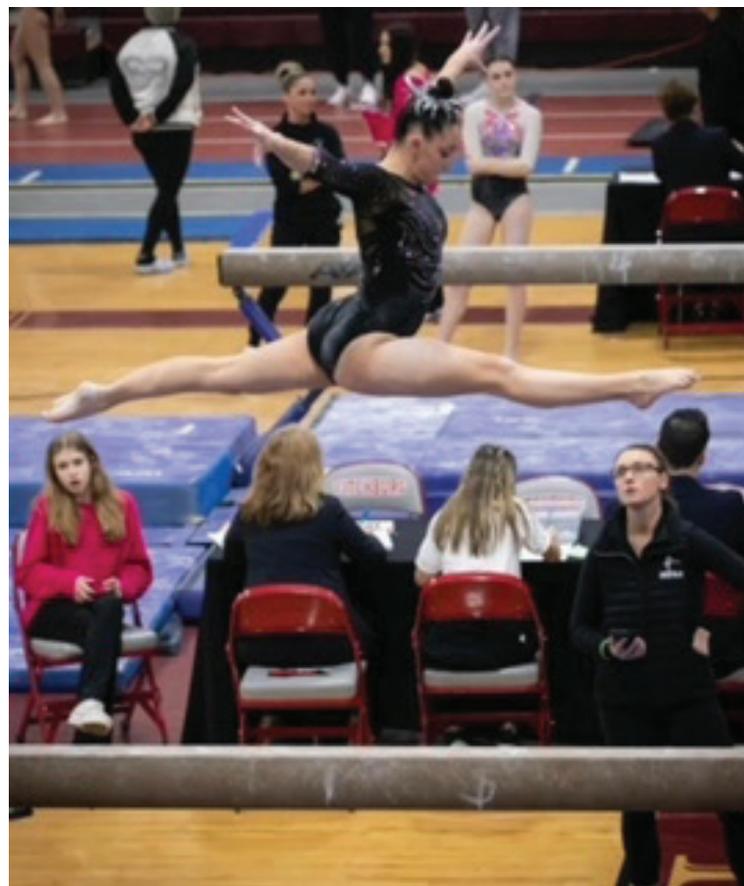
"I felt I was well-prepared and I definitely was excited to be competing at a high level," she said. "After winning the state meet, I was comfortable and confident about going to the regional, but every meet is different and anything can happen, like falling or not jumping effectively out of a tumbling pass."

The month of April was pressure-packed but also exciting and enjoyable for Emmalyn Hess. And, if she continues to demon-

strate an intense desire to excel in the next four years, she just might become an all-around gymnast at Penn State University.



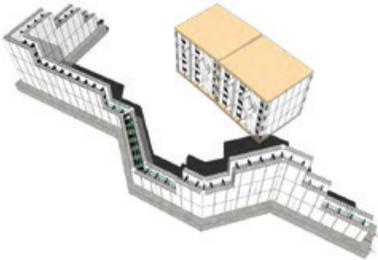
Emmalyn Hess is all smiles after winning the USA Gymnastics state title.



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# FPAC to Conclude 2022-23 Season with Violet

The Franklin Performing Arts Company (FPAC) will close out their star-studded 2022-23 season with the musical *Violet*, June 8-10 at THE BLACK BOX starring Broadway's Emily Koch and Tyrick Wiltez Jones.

Emily Koch, currently on Broadway in *Kimberly Akimbo*, will lead the cast as Violet. Koch also appeared on Broadway as Elphaba in *WICKED* and *Waitress* as Jenna. Tyrick Wiltez Jones will appear as Flick. Jones has been seen



The Franklin Performing Arts Company at THE BLACK BOX is a professional Equity theater producing musicals, plays, and more, featuring Broadway stars, professional and regional performers, and emerging artists. The 2022-23 season featured performances by Sara Jean Ford (*The Phantom of the Opera*, *CATS*, and more), Tyrick Wiltez Jones (*Hairspray*, *Finian's Rainbow*), Michael Barra

on Broadway in *Hairspray* and *Finian's Rainbow* as well as the off-Broadway cast of *Bat Out of Hell*. NYC's Robbie Rescigno will round out the principal cast as Monty.

Set to Jeanine Tesori's stunning score, *Violet* tells a gripping story. As a girl, Violet was struck by a wayward axe blade when her father was chopping wood, leaving her with a visible scar across her face. With enough money finally saved, she travels across the Deep South in 1964

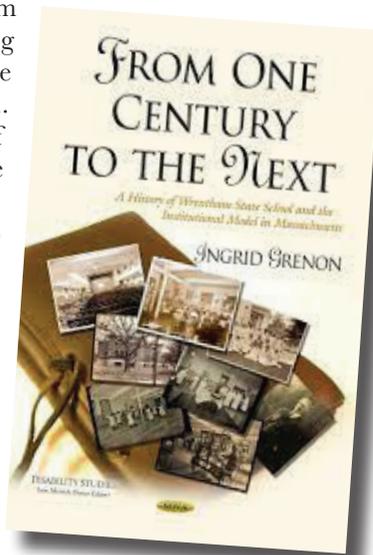
towards a miracle – the healing touch of a TV evangelist who will make her beautiful. Although she may not succeed in having the scar on her face healed, Violet is able to repair those scars that are lying deeper than her skin. On the way, she meets a young soldier whose love for her reaches far past her physical "imperfections." The production's opening night sponsor is Physician One Urgent Care and FPAC's Broadway sponsor is Dean College.

(*A Bronx Tale*), and Christopher Rice-Thomson (*Hamilton*, *Book of Mormon*, *Pretty Woman*), new choreography by Broadway dance legend Tyler Hanes, and direction by FPAC resident artists and New York guests.

For *Violet* tickets and more information, visit THEBLACKBOXonline.com or call the box office at (508) 528-3370. THE BLACK BOX is located at 15 W. Central St. in downtown Franklin, MA.

# Learn about Wrentham State School at Historical Museum

One town secret from Franklin is the sprawling complex long known as the Wrentham State School. Built in the early years of the last century, with the best of intentions, the facility brought care and help to many individuals suffering from a wide range of maladies, mostly categorizable as mental illness. But, over the years, experts sometimes got things very wrong. Or, particularly after World War II, shrinking budgets turned care into a travesty and then simply abuse.



Some from Franklin were doubtless residents. Many more found employment there, linking its story to that of our town. Indeed, the 2014 book, *From One Century to the Next: A History of Wrentham State School and the Institutional Model*, which tells the whole story – the good and the bad – was written by longtime Franklin resident, Ingrid Grenon, who spent some 33 years affiliated with the facility.

On Sunday, June 11, Grenon will present a talk, sharing her rare collection of images and unmatched knowledge of this important institution as part of the Franklin Historical Museum's Second Sunday Speaker Series. Doors open at 1 p.m. and the program begins at approximately 1:15. As always, events at the museum are free.

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# Calendar

## June 2, 2023

**Franklin Farmers Market, 2-6 p.m.**, Franklin Town Common, 2-6 p.m. Franklin AgComm (<https://www.facebook.com/FrAgComMa>) will present seed planting, touch-a-truck and more.

**Franklin High School Graduation, 6 p.m.**

## June 3

**Franklin Rod & Gun Club Fishing Derby, 7 a.m.- 2 p.m.** (Rain date June 4th), 53 Florence St., Uncas Pond, All-You-Can-Eat Breakfast, \$5, plus pizza for lunch. Free use of bait, gear, rod & reel while supplies last. No license required, Trophies for 16 and under, \$10 adults, \$5 kids 12 and under

## June 6

**Franklin Rotary Club meeting, from 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.**, at the Rome Restaurant, 4 East Central Street, Franklin, if interested in attending, contact Diane Padula at [padularotary@gmail.com](mailto:padularotary@gmail.com)

## June 7

**Franklin Sculpture Park Rededication, 5 p.m.**, (rain date June 8th, 5 p.m.) will feature refreshed sculpture "School of Fish" by Jefferson Elementary students, Franklin Sculpture Park, Panther Way, Franklin

**Pride Month Musical Bingo, 6:30 p.m.**, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

## June 8

Tricounty Regional Technical Vocational High School Graduation

## June 9

**Franklin Downtown Partnership Strawberry Stroll, 4-8 p.m.**, delicious strawberry shortcakes at Dean Bank (proceeds go back to funding the event), lively music: Heath Nisbett 4-6 p.m. and Dom DeBaggis 6-8 p.m., fun family activities, 95 booths, Sparky at Franklin Fire Department, Greenwich Bay Brass at Franklin Historical Museum

**Franklin Farmers Market, 12-6 p.m.**, Franklin Town Common

**Franklin Concert on the Common, 2-6 p.m.**, featuring Sioo, Sponsored by Franklin Cultural District and Mass Cultural Council

## June 10

**LiveArts Quartet Concert, 2 p.m.**, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

## June 11

**Presentation on the Wrentham State School, 1:15 p.m.**, doors open 1 p.m., Franklin Historical Museum, 80 West Central St., Franklin, presented by Franklin author Ingrid Grenon

## June 12

**Franklin Nonprofit Meet & Greet, hosted by SAFE Coalition, 3-5 p.m.**, 31 Hayward St., Unit 2-c, (take second driveway until you see SAFE sign above Berry Insurance), nonprofit groups welcome

## June 14

**Micro-Adventures in Massachusetts, 7 p.m.**, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin

## June 16

**Last Day of School (tentative),** Tricounty Regional Technical Vocational High School and Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School

**Franklin Farmers Market, 12-6 p.m.**, Franklin Town Common

**Franklin Concert on the Common, 2-6 p.m.**, featuring Paradise Flyer (<https://www.youtube.com/@paradiseflyer2447>), Sponsored by Franklin Cultural District and Mass Cultural Council

## June 17

**Bystander First Aid, 2 p.m.**, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, with Laurie A. Kaye, Lieutenant/Paramedic, from the Franklin Fire Department! (A great start for new babysitters!)

## June 20

**Last day of school,** Franklin Public Schools

**Draft 2023 Franklin Open Space and Recreation Plan Review Public Hearing,** visit [www.franklin.gov/conservation](http://www.franklin.gov/conservation) for latest information.

**Franklin Rotary Club meeting, from 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m.**, at the Rome Restaurant, 4 East Central Street, Franklin, if interested in attending, contact Diane Padula at [padularotary@gmail.com](mailto:padularotary@gmail.com)

**MetroWest Boston Visitors Bureau Annual Meeting, continental breakfast 7:30-8:30 a.m.**,

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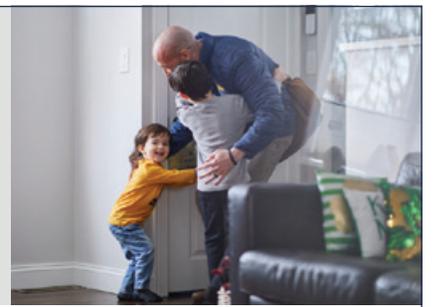


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## June 27

**Franklin Public Library Book Club, 7 p.m.**, *The Lioness of Boston*, by Emily Franklin.

## June 29

**Genealogy Club, 6:30 p.m.** Is that one person or two? How do identify and separate people of the same name, with Marian Pierre-Louis, Franklin Public Li-

brary, 118 Main St., Franklin

## June 30

**Franklin 4th of July Celebration begins, Rides & Carnival 6-10 p.m., Duppy Conquerors, 7-10 p.m.** Franklin Town Common. [www.franklin4th.com](http://www.franklin4th.com), (Runs through July 4th, with 3rd Annual Blues Festival and Fireworks July 1st)

followed by meeting from 8:30-10 a.m., Warren Conference Center and Inn, 529 Chestnut St., Ashland, Mass., visit [https://www.metrowestvisitors.org/annual\\_meeting/](https://www.metrowestvisitors.org/annual_meeting/) to register. \$20 member ticket, \$30 nonmember, speakers Sen. Karen E. Spilka and Framingham State University President Nancy Nieimi

## June 21

**Inside Earth's Neighborhood: Exploring the Sun, Moon and Mars, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.**, Franklin Public Library, 118 Main St., Franklin, with astronomer and educator Alex Trunnell

## June 22

**The Rotary Club of Franklin MA 31th Annual Pasta Supper, 5 p.m.**, 1000 Central Park Terrace, Franklin Mass. All Senior Citizens and residents of the Franklin Housing Authority are welcome, free event. Seniors can sign up at Central Park Terrace, 1000 Central Park Terrace, Franklin, or at Franklin Senior Center, 10 Daniel McCahill Street, Franklin, to learn more email [rotaryclubfranklinma@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryclubfranklinma@gmail.com)

## June 23

**Franklin Farmers Market, 12-6 p.m.**, Franklin Town Common; 3-5 p.m., Franklin Public Library's Kick Off to Summer Reading.

**Concert on the Common, 3:30-5:30** Mike Tarara, 6-8 Jesse Liam Band, includes food trucks and entertainment sponsored by Franklin Recreation Dept.

## June 25

**Celebrate with Pride 2023, 12-4 p.m.**, Franklin Town Common, email [franklinlgbtqalliance@gmail.com](mailto:franklinlgbtqalliance@gmail.com) for more information.

# CONCERTS

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## SCHEDULE

### June 23

3:30pm - 5:30pm Mike Tarara  
6:00pm - 8:00pm Jesse Liam Band

### July 14

3:30pm - 5:30pm Jennifer Tefft  
6:00pm - 8:00pm Paradise Flyer

### July 21

3:30pm - 5:30pm Kendo  
6:00pm - 8:00pm Northeast Groove  
8:10pm - 10:00pm [Movie: Finding Nemo](#)

### July 28

3:30pm - 5:30pm It's a "J" Thing  
6:00pm - 8:00pm FSPA & Electric Youth

### Aug 4

3:00pm - 5:00pm Steve Poirier  
5:30pm - 7:30pm Frank Padula Band  
8:00pm - 10:00pm [Movie: Back to the Future](#)

### Aug 11

3:00pm - 5:00pm Matt Zajac  
5:30pm - 7:30pm Pub Kings

### Aug 18

3:30pm - 5:00pm Bus-14  
5:30pm - 7:30pm The Reminiscent  
7:50pm - 9:50pm [Movie: The Incredibles](#)



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# FSPA Summer 2023 and Fall 2023-24 Enrollment Open

Franklin School for the Performing Arts (FSPA) is now enrolling for Summer 2023 and Fall 2023-24. The school encourages new families to explore their options for both Summer and Fall.

Proudly serving more than 500 students annually from 45 communities in Massachusetts' Metro West region, the Franklin School for the Performing Arts (FSPA) is committed to quality education in the arts with exceptional curriculum, outstanding professional faculty, and unwavering dedication to each and every student enrolled. Founded in 1985 by Director Raye Lynn Mercer, FSPA is a unique place where students of all ages and levels of ability participate in an array of music, dance, and drama programs with professional instruction and extraordinary performing opportunities. With broad-based and varied curricula, FSPA guides students in the development of technique, creativity, and artistic expression to last a lifetime. FSPA's faculty boasts outstanding professional artists, performers, and teachers. Their impressive credentials are indicative of the excellent instruction available in all programs. FSPA instructors strive to meet the individual

needs of each student, working to develop each student's abilities to his or her own potential.

In addition to the Summer Session weekly classes, FSPA will hold one week camps including Creative Kids, Acting, Broadway, Little Music School Experience, Rock Out!, and Voice. FSPA will also offer 5 weeks of Summer Theater. Students can sign up for one or more of the offerings. The more students participate, the more they save. July 19-21 for grades 5-12 is Broadway Boot Camp. Broadway Boot Camp brings Broadway's brightest talents to FSPA for song and dance master classes and coaching on individual performance skills. July 24-26 is the Cabaret Show for grades 5-12. Students will hone their skills and tap into their potential with a focus on performance skills, including repertoire choices, song interpretation, and presentation. The week concludes with a cabaret-style revue at THE BLACK BOX, showcasing solo and small ensemble pieces that have been workshopped during the week. Week 3, July 31-August 4 is a one week intensive for grades 4-8 and 8-12 that will focus on the rehearsal and preparation of a play that will be performed at THE BLACK BOX. The



plays will be selected for each age group based on enrollment. Weeks 4 and 5, August 7-18, culminate with the production of Musical Theater Scenes staged at THE BLACK BOX. Grades 4-8 and 8-12.

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

performance skills. A rigorous schedule of classical ballet technique, pointe, modern, dance history, and character is provided. Students will be divided by their current ballet level for technique, pointe, select variations and choreography to ensure and maintain a challenging curriculum for every dancer. Additional disciplines may vary depending on enrollment and teacher availability. This intensive is for FSPA Conservatory Levels III/IV/V/VI, or by audition for ages 12+. It runs June 26-July 20 (4 weeks) Monday-Friday 9:30-3:00. The three-week "Young Intensive" program is designed to challenge and motivate the young dancer. Instruction in classical ballet technique, pre-pointe, character, modern and dance history is offered. Additional disciplines may vary depending upon enrollment and teacher availability. The Young Dancers Program caters to FSPA Conservatory Levels I (2nd year)/II/III, or by audition ages 8-11. It runs July 5-20 (3 weeks) Monday-Thursday 9:30-3:00.

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

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# Real Estate Corner

## 1st Quarter Mortgage Activity and Property Sales Drop from 2022 to 2023

Norfolk County Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell reported that Norfolk County recordings for the first quarter of 2023 (January-March 2023) indicate a continued decrease in overall real estate activity, with significant drops in mortgage activity and property sales as compared to the first quarter of 2022.

"During the recently completed 2023 first quarter, real estate activity fluctuated in line with seasonal trends, but showed an overall decrease compared to the first quarter of 2022," said Register of Deeds William P. O'Donnell.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds recorded 22,704 documents in the first quarter of 2023. This was 34% less than the first quarter of 2022.

"Property sales have decreased compared to the previous year, however, they are trending closer to the numbers that were

seen prior to the pandemic, with property sales in the first quarter of 2023 being 4% lower than the first quarter of 2019," said Register O'Donnell.

The number of deeds for the first quarter of 2023, which reflect real estate sales and transfers, both commercial and residential, was 3,252, a decrease of 18% from the first quarter of 2022.

Register O'Donnell noted, "The lack of available real estate inventory is one likely reason why property prices are still higher than they were before the pandemic." O'Donnell added, "Another reason for current property prices is the desire for individuals to live in Norfolk County communities."

Sale prices for the first quarter have decreased compared to the first quarter of 2022. The average sale price in the first quarter was \$892,783, a 29% decrease

from the first quarter of 2022. The total dollar volume of commercial and residential sales is down, decreasing 47% from the same period a year ago.

"The steady drop in the number of mortgages recorded at the registry may indicate that homeowners who took advantage of lower interest rates in 2020 and 2021 are hesitant to make moves with average mortgage interest rates significantly higher," O'Donnell added, "Although average sales prices are declining, current homeowners and first-time buyers may be holding out hope for lower interest rates. Also, the higher interest rates drive up the cost of purchasing a home, which affects not just first-time buyers but all buyers of real estate."

Overall lending activity showed a continued downward trend for the first quarter. A total of 3,190 mortgages were

recorded this quarter, 52% less than the first quarter of 2022.

"According to the data, we are recording significantly fewer mortgages than in the past, which can be attributed to a number of factors that the country is experiencing right now, such as the rising cost of living and a spike in mortgage interest rates," explained O'Donnell. "These aspects of the economy can affect the local real estate market."

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has been closely monitoring the foreclosure market. In the first quarter of 2023, there were 16 foreclosure deeds recorded as a result of mortgage foreclosures taking place in Norfolk County, whereas in the first quarter of 2022, there were 20 recorded. However, in the first quarter of 2023, there were 103 notices to foreclose, the first step in the foreclosure process, significantly more than the 56 recorded

in the first quarter of 2022.

"The substantial increase in the number of these notices is troubling. It suggests that more of our neighbors may have financial difficulties in the future," said O'Donnell. "We will continue to monitor these figures."

For the past several years, the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds has partnered with Quincy Community Action Programs (617-479-8181 x376) and NeighborWorks Housing Solutions (508-587-0950) to help anyone facing challenges paying their mortgage. Another option for homeowners is to contact the Massachusetts Attorney General's Consumer Advocacy and Response Division (CARD) at (617) 727-8400.

"If you are having difficulty paying your monthly mortgage,

### ACTIVITY

*continued on page 26*

## The Summer Market is Expected to be **HOT HOT HOT!**



**Eileen Mason**  
508-330-4234  
emason4234@gmail.com

"Eileen was wonderful to work with and I would definitely recommend her to family and friends. She is extremely knowledgeable and helped us find our home in a very competitive market."  
~Tim & Julie

619 Lisa Lane  
Franklin \$600,000



Susan Morrison

11 Bristol Pond Drive  
Norfolk \$1,250,000



Eileen Mason

12 Taft Drive  
Franklin \$825,000



Susan Morrison

555 Pleasant Street  
Franklin



SOLD  
Eileen Mason

397 Oakland Parkway  
Franklin \$700,000



Susan Morrison

3 Aspen Way  
Franklin



SOLD  
Eileen Mason



**Susan Morrison**  
617-686-8178  
susan.morrison1@comcast.net

"I highly recommend Susan Morrison for your realtor needs. As a seller, I found Susan exceptional in her expertise to sell our home. She thoroughly explained every step of the process and was available to us whenever we had questions."  
~Julie L.

Call us for your complimentary market analysis.

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308 West Central Street, Franklin, MA 02038 | 508-520-9696

# Real Estate Corner



**Jim Hanewich**  
 NMLS #: 23315  
 Cell: 508-878-5385  
 James.Hanewich@bankfive.com  
 www.jimhanewich.com



## CONTACT JIM FOR ALL YOUR MORTGAGE NEEDS

Jim Hanewich's 30 years of experience can assist you with First-Time homebuyer, FHA, VA, portfolio, conventional and jumbo loans.

Set up an appointment with Jim at 40 South Street, Suite 1, Wrentham, MA 02093.

MEMBER FDIC. MEMBER DIF. NMLS #525575

## Coming Up at Bellfodge Arts Center

The following events are free, but registration is encouraged. Visit <https://bellfodge.org>.

### Pride Celebration

Saturday, June 10, 12-7 p.m.  
 Bellfodge Pride is a joyful event honoring the equality, visibility, and acceptance of our LGBTQ+ community members and allies. All are welcome at this family-friendly, fun and free celebration. Live music will range from alternative to indie to pop; lineup coming soon!

### Juneteenth Celebration

Saturday, June 17, 12 -7 p.m.  
 All are welcome to join us for our annual Juneteenth Celebration at Bellfodge, an afternoon of art and music that showcases and celebrates Black excellence. There will be live performances of rising New England talent, homegrown DJs keeping the

beat strong all day long, and community vendors offering retail, food, and beverage.

### Summer Sounds

Wednesdays, June 21 & June 28 (runs all summer), 5-8 p.m.  
 Summer Sounds is the perfect mid-week getaway right in our own backyard. Join us after work until dusk for a free evening of food trucks, beer garden vibes, lawn games, and live music performances from rising homegrown bands and artists. All ages, Wednesdays, all summer.

### To Get to Bellfodge Arts Center:

Take Rt. 27 to Hospital Road. Make a left on Hospital Road, then a left on Service Drive.

**If using Google Maps or Waze:** Use 1 Service Drive, Medfield in your GPS

**If using Apple Maps:** Use 45 Hospital Road, Medfield in your

### GPS

You will turn in to the hospital grounds when you see the school buses. Drive up the hill, where

you will find several available parking lots on your left. Bellfodge is on the right (walk between the brick buildings) with events located outside on the grounds of the former Chapel.

For more information, visit [bellfodge.org/events](https://bellfodge.org/events).

## MetroWest Boston Visitors Bureau Meeting June 20th

The Annual Meeting of the MetroWest Boston Visitors Bureau will take place on Tuesday June 20th from 8:30 – 10 a.m. Please mark your calendar, as we hope you will be in attendance! You will hear from our featured speakers, Senate President Karen E. Spilka and Framingham State University President Nancy Niemi. There will also be an update from our team with regard to increasing travel and tourism throughout the MetroWest region.



## ACTIVITY

*continued from page 25*

please consider contacting one of these non-profit agencies for help and guidance," said Register O'Donnell.

Register O'Donnell concluded, "The first quarter of 2023 revealed a real estate market fluctuating in line with seasonal trends and a market that

is showing declining property prices likely due to high mortgage interest rates limiting the number individuals who can afford to buy a home."

To learn more about these and other Registry of Deeds events and initiatives, "like" us on Facebook at [facebook.com/norfolkdeeds](https://facebook.com/norfolkdeeds). Follow us on Twitter and Instagram at @norfolkdeeds.

The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds, located at 649 High St., Dedham, is the principal office for real property in Norfolk County. For more information, visit [www.norfolkdeeds.org](https://www.norfolkdeeds.org). Residents in need of assistance can contact the Registry of Deeds Customer Service Center at (781) 461-6101 or email [registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org](mailto:registerodonnell@norfolkdeeds.org).

## THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING?

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# Summer is Here! & the Market is **HOT!**

## Don't wait till it **Cools** Off...

### Call Lorraine Kuney Today for your Free No-obligation Market Analysis

45 Silver Fox



51 Palomino



13 Tia



5 Wellington



8 Meadow



6 Longobardi



24 Crystal Way



10 Magnolia Drive



72 Jefferson



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[lorrainekuney@gmail.com](mailto:lorrainekuney@gmail.com)

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# WELCOME



# SUMMER



COMING SOON



PENDING



PENDING



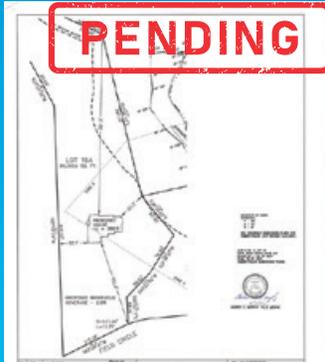
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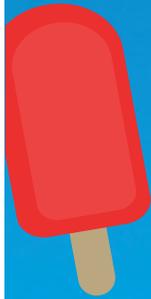
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SOLD



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Tammy Todaro  
508-277-2977  
todaroteamhomes.com



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